



# The Catholic Lighthouse

The Cradle of Texas Immigration



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Joey Sablatura assists altar servers at Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary, in Ganado, as they dress in the cassock and surplice.

(TCL photo by Regina Janak)

## Religious Educator Frontline to Youngest Catholics

**Sarita Villafranca Richmond, Editor**

GANADO—Joey Sablatura pretty much grew up at Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary Catholic Church in Ganado. He made his First Holy Communion, was confirmed by Bishop Charles Grahmann, and has been the Youth Minister and Director of Religious Education for almost six years. Joey learned his Catholic faith by example. His parents and grandparents taught him how to pray and instilled in him the importance of attending Mass every weekend. Little did Joey know as a child, that this early foundation would form his life and lead him back to his roots to serve the very church where he was raised.

Joey and his three siblings, Mike, Gina,

and John were raised by their parents, Joe and Jean (now both deceased), in Ganado, surrounded by many cousins and family members. He shares, “Mom and dad planted that seed of faith in all of us kids; they believed in going to Church every Sunday. My dad was really the strong one in the faith. Dad prayed every morning, before and after every meal, every time he got in the car for a trip (we kids knew to be quiet), and at night dad would go to his room, kneel on the side of the bed, pray, and then kiss the feet of Jesus on his crucifix hanging on the wall of their room.” His father’s faith came from Joey’s grandpa. Joey recalls learning to pray the rosary from his Grandpa Steve. He loved spending the night with his Grammy

and Papaw. He recalls, “We would lay in bed and pray the rosary. Papaw also led the rosary at church on Sunday mornings. Now, I have been doing that for the past 5 years.”

He has great memories of their vacations to Canyon Lake, where they would go camping every summer. Joey remembers, “Growing up, we kids knew that on summer vacation, no matter where we went (even camping in a tent), we better pack Sunday clothes. We would arrive at our destination, and the first thing dad would do is look up the closest Catholic church in the phone book. Then we would all have to drive with him to make sure he knew the route. He was not going to miss church or be late!”

Like many kids from a small town, Joey sought work outside of Ganado as soon as he graduated from high school. He lived in Victoria, Houston, and Seattle before returning to Ganado to work for Travel Centers of America (TA) truck stop. In 2005, he attended a Men’s A.C.T.S retreat. He shares, “That retreat changed my life completely; before it, I wasn’t active in church at all. I began to help my brother Mike, who was the current Director of Religious Education with the high school Life Teen Program.” In 2010, Joey was transferred with his job to Dallas, where he immediately felt a huge void, and realized he was too far away from home and the things that really mattered to him. He recalls, “I thought that more money and a promotion would be great, but I wasn’t satisfied. That’s when my brother resigned his position at the church, and I applied for the job of Youth Minister; Father Michael Lyons hired me and I moved back to Ganado. I took a huge cut in pay, but I enjoy so much what I do; I don’t feel like it is work.”

Regina Janak and I travelled to Ganado to visit with Joey and to witness his work on a “typical Wednesday”. As we walked into the R.O.C. (Rite of Confirmation) room, *Bless the Lord*, by Matt Redman, played in the background. Joey beamed nervously as we asked him questions about his work at the church. He explained that as the Director of Religious Education and Youth Minister, he also teaches the kids to altar serve, conducts the Teen ACTS retreats, teaches

*See Religious Educator, pg. 16*





## Bishop Brendan Cahill *A Shepherd's Message*

### Repent and Be Changed

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Once again this year on Palm Sunday and Good Friday we will be proclaiming the Gospels from the Passion Narratives in all of our churches across the diocese. The Passion Narratives are the stories in each Gospel that follow the account of the final hours of the life of Jesus passing through His Crucifixion to His Resurrection from the dead. These stories are traditionally believed to be the first parts of the Gospel written and clearly record the strong memory of the first believers. This strong

memory remains the foundation of our Christian faith and way of living.

Saints Peter and Paul proclaimed these events in the first recorded preaching in the Acts of the Apostles: "Let all the house of Israel therefore know assuredly that God has made him both Lord and Christ" (Acts 2:36). As they preached the Good News they taught a new way of life: "Repent therefore, and turn again, that your sins may be blotted out, that times of refreshing may come from the Lord" (Acts 3:19). Repentance is a key to the experience of the

Christian life – as a Christian I am called to constantly re-think, re-evaluate my life in light of the witness of Jesus recorded in the Gospels.

A couple of years ago I invited us in the Diocese of Victoria to experience the celebration of Holy Week from the perspective of Jesus and Mary walking the path of Calvary. In the context of the Year of Mercy this walk focused on the "lynx-eyes of faith" that led even a Roman centurion to acknowledge Jesus as Lord and God. The experience of walking the path of Calvary with the eyes and heart of Jesus and Mary show us what a different life we are called to live – to try and make their words and actions on that journey our own.

Just one example of this call comes from some of the last words from the lips of Jesus – "Father, forgive them for they know not what they do" (Lk. 23:34). When I imagine these words from Jesus and the compassion he felt for those who were persecuting him I begin to realize and

acknowledge how often my own words fall into petty negative words against someone I disagree with. These small instances can create an environment that allows hurtful language and even condemnation of others. The love of the Lord, who desires the salvation of even His enemies, should challenge each of us each day to turn away from this type of pettiness.

There are so many more practical examples to be followed from the attentive listening to these foundational stories in Holy Week. I pray that for you and your family Holy Week may be a time of deeper personal encounter with Jesus. As we reflect on the mercy that flows from the heart of Jesus may our words and actions of each day be His words for the salvation of the world.

May God bless you and your families, thank you for your beautiful witness to God's Love and Mercy every day!

+Brendan



## Obispo Brendan Cahill *Mensaje del Pastor*

### Arrepentirse y ser Cambiado

Queridos Hermanos y Hermanas,

Una vez más, este año el Domingo de Ramos y el Viernes Santo se proclamará el Evangelio a partir de los narrativas de la pasión en todas nuestras iglesias a través de la diócesis. Los narrativas de la pasión son las historias en cada Evangelio que siguen la cuenta de las últimas horas de la vida de Jesús que pasa a través de Su crucifixión a la resurrección de entre los muertos. Estas historias se cree tradicionalmente que las primeras partes del Evangelio escrito y claramente graban el fuerte recuerdo de los primeros creyentes. Esta fuerte memoria sigue siendo el fundamento de nuestra fe cristiana y forma de vida.

San Pedro y San Pablo anunciaron estos eventos en el primer registro de la predicación en los Hechos de los Apóstoles: "Que toda la casa de Israel sepan con certeza que Dios lo ha constituido Señor y Cristo" (Hechos 2:36). Como anunciaban la Buena Nueva enseñaban una nueva forma de vida: "Arrepiéntanse

y sean convertidos, para que sus pecados sean borrados, que los tiempos refrescantes vengan de parte del Señor" (Hechos 3:19). El arrepentimiento es una clave para la experiencia de la vida cristiana - como cristiano estoy llamado a constantemente re-pensar, re-evaluar mi vida a la luz del testimonio de Jesús en los evangelios.

Hace un par de años que nos invitaron en la Diócesis de Victoria a experimentar la celebración de la Semana Santa desde la perspectiva de Jesús y María recorriendo el camino del calvario. En el contexto del Año de la Misericordia este camino se centró en los "ojos de lince de la fe" que llevaron incluso un centurión romano a reconocer a Jesús como Señor y Dios. La experiencia de caminar el camino del calvario con los ojos y el corazón de Jesús y María nos muestra una vida diferente que estamos llamados a vivir - para tratar de hacer que sus palabras y acciones en ese viaje sean nuestra.

Sólo un ejemplo de esta llamada provi-

ene de algunas de las últimas palabras de los labios de Jesús - "Padre, perdónalos porque no saben lo que hacen" (Lc 23,34.). Cuando imagino estas palabras de Jesús y la compasión que sentía por aquellos que lo estaban persiguiendo comienzo a comprender y reconocer la frecuencia que mis propias palabras caen en palabras poco negativas en contra de alguien cual no estoy en acuerdo. Estos pequeños casos pueden crear un ambiente que permita un lenguaje ofensivo e incluso la condena de los demás. El amor del Señor, que quiere la salvación, incluso de sus enemigos, debe desafiar a cada uno de nosotros cada día a alejarnos de este tipo de mezquindad.

Hay tantos ejemplos más prácticos que deben seguirse de escuchar atentamente estas historias fundacionales en la Semana Santa. Oro por usted y su familia que la Semana Santa puede ser un momento de profundo encuentro personal con Jesús. Al reflexionar sobre la misericordia que fluye del corazón de Jesús que nuestras palabras y acciones de cada día sean Sus palabras para la salvación del mundo.

Que Dios los bendiga y a sus familias, gracias por su hermoso testimonio de amor y misericordia de Dios todos los días!

+ Brendan

### Happy Birthday to Our Seminarians

Chase Goodman is in his Pastoral Year at



Sts. Cyril and Methodius Church in Shiner. Chase's hometown is Victoria. His birthday is March 22. Write to Chase at: Sts. Cyril and Methodius Church, 306 S Avenue F, Shiner, TX 77984.

James Dvorak is in his Pastoral Year



at the Cathedral of Our Lady of Victory. James' home town is Felsburg. His birthday is March 24. Write to James at: Cathedral of Our Lady of Victory, 1309 E Mesquite Lane, Victoria, TX 77901.

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

Matthew 4:18-22

**¡Cómo el rezo potente es! Podemos nunca soltar el  
coraje para decir: Señor, dénos su paz.  
~ Papa Francisco**



## Bishop Brendan's Schedule

<b>March</b>		
2-4	Weekend of Recollection at Holy Trinity Seminary, Dallas	24 Texas State Pax Christi Meeting, Houston
4-7	Cultures of Formation Conference, South Bend, IN	25 9:00 a.m. Palm Sunday Mass at the Cathedral of Our Lady of Victory, Victoria
8	6:00 p.m. Installation Mass for Father Philip Brune at St. Robert Bellarmine, El Campo	11:30 a.m. Presidio La Bahia Reenactment, Goliad
10	5:00 p.m. Confirmation Mass at Queen of the Holy Rosary, Hostyn	27 10:00 a.m. Chrism Mass at the Cathedral of Our Lady of Victory, Victoria
11	12:30 p.m. Homilist at the Traditional Latin Mass at Sts. Peter and Paul, Frelsburg	28 6:45 p.m. CCD visit at Sts. Cyril & Methodius, Shiner
12-13	USCCB Pro-Life Activities meeting, Washington, DC	29 6:30 p.m. Holy Thursday Service at the Cathedral of Our Lady of Victory, Victoria
14	2:30 p.m. Finance Board Meeting at the Chancery, Victoria	30 12:15 p.m. Stations of the Cross and Good Friday Service at Santissima Trinidad, Victoria
16	6:00 p.m. Feast of St. Patrick Mass at St. Patrick, Seadrift	31 8:00 p.m. Easter Vigil at the Cathedral of Our Lady of Victory, Victoria
17	8:30 a.m. 2018 ACIES – Legion of Mary - Houston Senatus at Co-Cathedral of the Sacred Heart, Houston	<b>April</b>
19	Noon Mass with Missionary Catechists, Victoria	1 9:00 a.m. Easter Mass at the Cathedral of Our Lady of Victory, Victoria
20	6:00 p.m. Clergy and Religious Appreciation dinner at the KC Hall, Victoria	2-6 Vacation
21	10:00 a.m. Presbyteral Council at the Chancery, Victoria	7 4:00 p.m. Confirmation Mass at St. John Nepomucene, New Taiton
	6:00 p.m. CCD Visit at St. John the Baptist Church, St. John and Ascension of Our Lord, Moravia	
22	11:30 a.m. Mass for Principal Retreat at Spiritual Renewal Center, Victoria	
	6:00 p.m. Christ Brings Hope Award Dinner honoring the Texas State Council of Knights, Austin	

## Official Appointment



Father Mathew Kessler, CSSR, was appointed as the parochial vicar for Holy Cross Catholic Church in East Bernard, Texas on December 21, 2017.

## Official Announcements



Bishop Cahill is pleased to announce that Father Scott Hill, who serves as parochial vicar at Our Lady of the Gulf Catholic Church in Port Lavaca, will begin his studies in canon law in June, at the Catholic University of America in Washington, D.C., as the diocese addresses current and future ministerial needs. He will be a student in the five year Juris Canonici Licentia (J.C.L.) summer program. Let us join together in offering our support to him and the assurance of our prayers.

## Consecrated Life Day Celebrated at Incarnate Word Convent

On Sunday, February 4, 2018, the Missionary Catechists of the Sacred Hearts of Jesus and Mary, the Sisters of Charity of the Incarnate Word, the Vietnamese Dominican Sisters, the Vietnamese Sisters of the Incarnation, Consecration, and Mission, along with the Carmelites of Ancient Observance, and the Sisters of the Incarnate Word and Blessed Sacrament observed Consecrated Life Day at Incarnate Word Convent Chapel with a special Mass celebrated by Bishop Brendan Cahill and Father Phi Nguyen. The Mass was followed by a reception in the Sisters' dining room.

In 1997, Pope Saint John Paul II had instituted an annual day of prayer for women and men in consecrated life. This celebration is attached to the Feast of the Presentation of the Lord on February 2nd. This Feast is also known as Candlemas Day; the day on which candles are blessed symbolizing Christ who is the light of the world. So too, those in consecrated life are called to reflect the light of Jesus Christ to all peoples. The celebration of World Day

for Consecrated Life is transferred to the following Sunday (this year) in order to highlight the gift of consecrated persons for the whole Church. (<http://www.usccb.org>)



*Please remember in prayer the priests of the Diocese of Victoria.*

*God our Father, thank you for our Priests and for calling the Diocese of Victoria Seminarians to prepare for priesthood and grant them the grace to grow closer to You through daily prayer. Help them to form their personality as a credible witness to others. Bless them while they study Your word and the teachings of the Church and give them a generous heart to serve Your people. Amen*

*Please remember in prayer the priests of the Diocese of Victoria, who died during the month of March.*

Rev. Msgr. Michael O'Shaughnessy 03/02/2013

Rev. Daniel Giorgi 03/22/2007

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

**Lent comes providentially to reawaken us,  
to shake us from our lethargy.**

**~ Pope Francis**



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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 >.

February 21, 2018

• **General Seminary Burse**

*Lector*

In memory of Eugene Jirkovsky by  
Dan Jemelka and Family

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

*Acolyte*

Special intention by  
Allan and Cynthia Stryk

• **Rev. Michael Rother Seminary Burse**

*Transitional Deacon*

Donation in honor of Rev. Michael Rother

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

*Lector*

In memory of Janell Kruppa by  
CDA Court St. Ann #369

• **Rev. Wayne Flagg Seminary Burse**

*Candidate*

In honor of Rev. Wayne Flagg by Michael  
and Julie Koch

• **Rev. Scott Hill Seminary Burse**

*Lector*

In memory of Oscar Martin Medina, Jr. by  
Daryl and Joan Hill

• **K of C #9088 – Holy Family Church – Victoria Seminary Burse**

*Candidate*

By K of C #9088 in memory of:  
Gregorio De Los Santos, Jr.  
Benedict (Bennie) M. Vitek  
David Johnston  
George A. Totah  
Joe Kahanek, Jr.  
Leslie W. Janssen  
Samuel Eugene Wood  
Vincent M. Barletta

• **KJZT – Catholic Family Fraternal of Texas Seminary Burse #2**

*Priest*

Donation from members and friends of  
Societies in the Diocese of Victoria and  
State Office Contributions (2016 and  
2017) to support the education of the  
young men studying for the Priesthood  
in the Victoria Diocese.

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

*Lector*

In honor of Rev. Philip Brune's birthday  
celebration by:

Mark and Sharon Kubicek  
Robert and Carol Schertz

In memory of Rev. Msgr. Lawrence Matula  
by Deacon Michael and Bonnie Vieira

*Acolyte*

In honor of Rev. Philip Brune's birthday  
celebration by St. Ann's Altar Society,  
Frelsburg

• **Rev. Msgr. Arnold Anders Seminary Burse**

*Priest*

Donation for the men in priestly formation  
in our diocese by  
Rev. Msgr. Arnold Anders

• **Rev. Daniel P. Kahlich Seminary Burse**

*Lector*

In honor of Rev. Daniel Kahlich for  
Christmas by the KJZT Society #23,  
Hostyn

• **Rev. Charles Sonnier Seminary Burse**

*Lector*

In memory of Hubert J. Smolik by  
Lillie Janak

• **Henry A. Schoenfeld Seminary Burse**

*Candidate*

Donation in memory of Henry Schoenfeld  
from Bernice Schoenfeld and Children

• **St. John the Baptist Church, St. John In Memory of Rev. Brian Crookes Seminary Burse #2**

*Lector*

In memory of Agnes Schramek by:  
Eugene and JoMarie Krupala  
Albert and Dorothy Olsovsky  
In memory of Ladik Valicek by:  
Albert and Dorothy Olsovsky  
Eugene and Joe Marie Krupala  
Pam and Robert Besetsny

• **Rev. Msgr. James C. Brunner Seminary Burse**

*Candidate*

In memory of Rev. Msgr. James Brunner  
by Leroy and Betty Brunner

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

*Lector*

In memory of Willie C. Migl by:

Ed and Peggy Scherer  
Larry and Doris Grubert, Jr.

Donation in honor of Rev. Msgr. John  
Peters by Soila Sanchez (*three times*)

In memory of Lucille Werner by  
Larry and Doris Grubert, Jr.

In memory of Victoria Orsak by  
Larry and Doris Grubert, Jr.

In memory of Michael Chovanetz by  
Larry and Doris Grubert, Jr.

In memory of John Jr. and Tillie Peters by  
Deacon Joey and Mary Targac

In memory of Franklin Billimek by  
Bernard and Mary Grahmann

Anonymous donation in memory of  
Charles and Lena Stock and Mary  
Stock

*Acolyte*

In honor of Rev. Msgr. John Peters at  
Christmas by Sacred Heart Catholic  
School faculty and staff

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

• **Rev. Timothy Kosler Seminary Burse**

*Lector*

In memory of Valeria Anders Tumis by  
Alvin J. Anders

*Acolyte*

In honor of Rev. Timothy Kosler by  
Harvey Michna

• **CDA of the Americas Court Our Lady Queen of Peace #1374 Seminary Burse**

*Acolyte*

Donation by CDA of the Americas Court  
Our Lady Queen of Peace #1374

## In Memory of Sister Rachel Gomez, IWBS

Sister Rachel Gomez, IWBS, 86, passed away February 18, 2018. She was born January 8, 1932, in Selma, Texas to the late Cosme and Alejandra (Ayala) Gomez. She was the eighth of twelve children – six girls and six boys.



Sister Rachel attended Our Lady of Perpetual Help School in Selma. On August 17, 1955, she entered Nazareth Convent in Victoria and made her first profession of vows August 6, 1957.

She enjoyed reaching out to share her many gifts through her sunny optimistic disposition. She served God in the convent by doing domestic work, such as cooking, laundering, and housekeeping. She enjoyed playing the recorder and was always ready to entertain the Sisters. She also loved the outdoors and taking care of plants.

Sister Rachel was an excellent cook, especially in pastry preparation. Her cooking skills and household duties took her to Hallettsville and Mercy Hospital in Jourdan for 18 years. In 1977 she stepped into the kitchen of the Sisters at Incarnate Word Convent and became the main cook until 2012. She continued to reach out wherever she could even after she moved into the IWC Healthcare Center.

She is survived by two brothers, a sister, and many nieces, nephews, grandnieces and grandnephews.

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.

Memorials may be made to Incarnate Word Convent or donor's choice.



Have you received your 2018 DSA brochure? If not, visit [www.victoriadiocese.org/diocesan-services-appeal](http://www.victoriadiocese.org/diocesan-services-appeal) or call René at (361) 573-0828.





**“YOU ARE DUST AND TO DUST YOU WILL RETURN”**—Rev. Augustine N. Asante, right, Pastor of St. Anthony Church in Columbus, Colorado County, places ashes on the forehead of a parishioner during Ash Wednesday services. Photo Courtesy Vince Leibowitz/The Colorado County Citizen



Faithful gather for Ash Wednesday at the Cathedral of Our Lady of Victory. (TCL photo by Sarita V. Richmond)

## DSA update

### 2017 Diocesan Services Appeal

Diocesan Goal: \$ 1,994,298.00  
Parish Pledge Totals: \$ 1,127,418.63  
Parish Contribution Totals: \$ 106,193.63  
Number of Parish Families Participating: 3,173  
*Updated February 22, 2018*



**CHINESE LUNAR NEW YEAR CELEBRATED**—Our Lady of the Gulf Catholic School, Port Lavaca, students and staff celebrated the Lunar New Year on Friday, February 16, with four dancing dragons and special dance performances by 1st and 8th grades choreographed by the Dominican Sisters. New Year gifts for all the students were given out by Father Tommy Chen. It was a wonderful celebration! To see more pictures and videos of this event, visit the Our Lady of the Gulf Catholic School Facebook page.



**DEACONS GATHER**—The Permanent Deacons of the Diocese of Victoria held their annual retreat at the Spiritual Renewal Center from February 9-11. Bishop Brendan Cahill was retreat master for 31 deacons along with 27 spouses who attended.



**FISCAL MANAGERS FROM THREE STATES MEET**—The Diocese of Victoria was honored to host visitors from Arkansas, Oklahoma and Texas for the annual Region 10 Fiscal Manager Retreat/Meeting from February 18-20, at the Spiritual Renewal Center. (TCL photo by Sarita V. Richmond)

### LAST EUROPE TRAIN TRIP IN 2018

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## SISTERLY THOUGHTS

By Sister Mildred Truchard, IWBS



### Recognizing the Suffering Jesus in Our Neighbor

The church in its wisdom provides us with liturgical seasons which help us pause and reflect upon our relationship with our God and with one another. Lent is such a season; as we remember, it calls us to conversion through prayer, fasting, and giving alms.

Let us explore how these activities address the woes of our suffering neighbors. For example, we can pray for the victims of adverse conditions. Through praying, we can strengthen our relationship with God, by repeatedly giving praise, asking for favors, and then giving thanks for favors that we have received, even though they may have been different from the favors for which we had prayed. Moreover, let us not underestimate the power of prayer; even scientific research has shown that hospital patients who have been prayed for have quicker recovery rates and less complications than patients who have not had anyone praying for them.

Along with prayer, we are called to fast during this penitential season. Now, some of us might not meet the age requirements for fasting from food; however there are many ways all of us could deprive ourselves or refrain from anything that may be endangering our relationship with God and one another. We may also want to deny ourselves legitimate goods or desires. Foregoing some such pleasurable but non-essential things or experiences, done in a spirit of penance, can illustrate our solidarity with those who are experiencing diffi-

cult times. Moreover, the money and time we can save through this self-denial lead us to the third means of conversion, that of alms-giving. There are many among us who desperately need help. Let us give in a spirit of love and remember, "Whatsoever you do . . ." (Matt 25:40) Consequently, we may ask ourselves, "Do we exhibit that love for those we encounter daily in our homes, the office and neighborhood? Are we willing to offer our hands of friendship to those who are "different"? Are we sensitive to the needs of those suffering around us? Are we willing to walk with the poor or excluded to help them? Are we willing to patiently listen to those in distress? Are we willing and brave enough to speak out in support of the disadvantaged or helpless?"

So, as we recognize and reach out to the "Suffering Jesus" in our neighbor, let us make this penitential season be a time of continuing conversion as we embrace prayer, fasting, and alms-giving as a means of deepening our self-sacrificing love for God and one another.



Sister Callista Mares, IWBS, celebrated her 100th birthday with a Mass and reception surrounded by many Sisters, priests, family, and friends.

### Celebrating Sister Callista Mares' 100th Birthday

On Sunday, February 4, 2018, Sister Callista Mares, a Sister of the Incarnate Word and Blessed Sacrament, celebrated her 100th birthday at Incarnate Word Convent with many Sisters, priests, family, and friends. The grand celebration began with a Mass celebrated by Bishop David Fellhauer, Emeritus, Msgr. John Peters, and Father Phi Nguyen. It was followed by a reception in the dining room at the convent.

Sister Callista says that some of her greatest memories are from teaching children over her many years in the classroom. She recalls them singing and radiating God's love through their lives. She says, "I praise and thank God for my life as I remember my students, family and many friends, especially all my helpful loving Sisters these last years; I have been so blessed."



**KNIGHTS SERVE AS HONOR GUARD**—The Knights of Columbus, 4th Degree served as Honor Guard for the Most Rev. David Fellhauer, Bishop Emeritus of the Diocese of Victoria, during the Confirmation services at Sacred Heart Church, in Flatonia. Sir Knights were from St. Michael Assembly #1527 of Flatonia, Schulenburg, Weimar. Pictured left to right-front row: Sir Knights Hank Novak, Flatonia; Jack Muggli, Weimar; David Fike, Flatonia; Bishop Fellhauer, Victoria; Father Eddie Winkler, pastor of Sacred Heart, Flatonia; Richard Schacherl, Flatonia; Doug Baker, Flatonia; and Jimmie Bertsch, Schulenburg.

#### Incarnate Word & Blessed Sacrament Gift Shop



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at The Cathedral of  
Our Lady of Victory  
at 10:00 a.m.





## Holy Cross to Host the Maroney's on Divine Mercy Sunday

BAY CITY—Holy Cross Church and the Divine Mercy team, welcome Joan and Dave Maroney, who will be in Bay City giving a retreat, the weekend of April 6 - 8, to celebrate Divine Mercy Sunday.

Joan and Dave travel the country spreading the awesome mercy of God, through the powerful prayer of the Divine Mercy Chaplet. The first Holy Hour will be on Friday, April 6, at 7:00 p.m., which will include a presentation, the Chaplet, and Adoration.

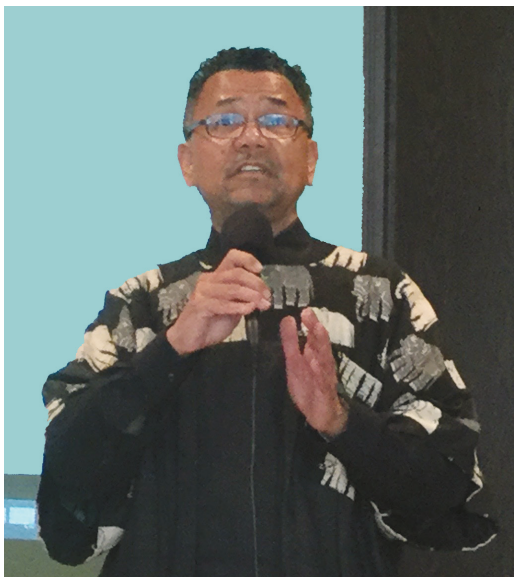


Holy Cross Divine Mercy Group will begin the Divine Mercy Novena on Good Friday, and recite it daily until Divine Mercy Sunday, April 8. Please make Divine Mercy part of your Lenten Journey.

To attend the Saturday retreat, please call Sandra Thompson at (979) 245-6379, or email her at [hc3\\_office@holycrossbaycity.org](mailto:hc3_office@holycrossbaycity.org). To learn more about the Maroney's, visit their website at [divinemercyforamerica.org](http://divinemercyforamerica.org).



**KJZT MEMBERS SUPPORT SEMINARIANS FUND**—Catholic Family Fraternal of Texas - KJZT is pleased to present a check for \$4,216.82 from their Clerical Endowment Fund. The Spiritual Bouquet is a way of honoring a living or deceased loved one in a monthly Mass. The KJZT Clerical Endowment Fund of Catholic Family Fraternal of Texas is a permanent Fund. The Fund is apportioned according to contributions through KJZT Societies in the respective dioceses and donated to the dioceses towards the Seminary Endowment Fund. Pictured, left to right, Catholic Family Fraternal of Texas State Chaplain Very Rev. Gary Janak, State Director Joyce Kurtz, and Bishop Brendan Cahill.



**BLACK HISTORY MONTH RECOGNIZED**—The Diocese of Victoria Chancery staff recognized Black History Month with a lunch presentation, and song sung by Superintendent, Dr. John Quarry.

## Letters to the Editor

God Bless You And Thank You from the Victoria Gabriel Project!

“Do not fear I am always with you” (Isaiah 41:10)

The Victoria Gabriel Project celebrated 15 years of help, love, and support to women in a crisis pregnancy and her unborn child across the Crossroads of Texas in 2017!

Since 2002, there has been an ecumenical movement among all Christians and churches to help the anxiety and fear many women face in a crisis pregnancy. Through your wonderful donations of material and monetary items, the Crossroads of Texas has made help available to these families. In 2017 the Gabriel Project served 144 Moms and their babies. Imagine the life you made a difference in or perhaps a life you saved!! The Board of Directors wants to take this time to THANK YOU and all our wonderful volunteers that give so selflessly of their time to help the “little ones”. “Let the little children come to me and do not hinder them for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such” (Matt. 19:14). From conception to natural death, this is what these “little ones” deserve – a right to LIFE, just like you and me. Since Roe vs Wade approximately 60 million babies have been aborted – it must STOP! Our helpline continues to receive calls from Moms that want to put their baby up for adoption! Why not give that innocent life a chance with a loving family!! Through the Gabriel Project a Mother in a crisis pregnancy has an Alternative to Abortion! As we look to the future and what God has planned for the Gabriel Project – perhaps a Maternity Home! With your continued help, whether it is time, material, monetary, love and prayers, we can continue to help these Moms and their babies and see what God has planned!

May God Bless You and his perpetual light shine upon you!

Barbara McCain Williams

Member, Victoria Gabriel Project Board of Directors



**The Chancery Office will be closed for  
Holy Thursday, Good Friday,  
and Easter Monday  
March 29 - April 2**

**Will re-open Tuesday, April 3  
at 8:30 a.m.**

## *Journeys of Faith with Ceci* 2018 TRIPS TO HOLY LAND AND MORE!



### **Faith of the Irish Pilgrimage with Rev. Bob Knippenberg**

**May 1 - 11, 2018** ~Space is limited!

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

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



### **Holy Land & Jordan with Rev. Michael Rother**

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



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## Pastoral Institute

### C.A.F.E.

#### **Continuing Adult Faith Enrichment (4-week course)**

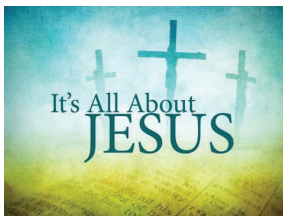
Adult faith formation, by which people consciously grow in the life of Christ through experience, reflection, prayer and study, is the central task of catechesis for discipleship and mission. Understanding and living the Catholic faith is a life-long commitment to grow continually and respond openly in life to the mission of Jesus Christ.



## Basic Elements of Faith

In this course, we will look at what is essential to understanding and living the Catholic faith based on Sacred Scripture and the Tradition of the Church. We will focus on the role of faith; the difference between faith, theology and belief, and the hierarchy of truths will be pointed out.

Tuesdays 9:15–11:30 a.m.      Thursdays 7:00–9:15 p.m.  
April 10, 17, 24, and May 1      April 12, 19, 26, and May 3



For more information on the Pastoral Institute courses contact the Office of Catechetical Ministry at (361) 573-0828 ext. 2224 or visit the website [www.victoriadiocese.org/pastoral-institute-1](http://www.victoriadiocese.org/pastoral-institute-1).

## Presidio La Bahia



### 2018 Goliad Massacre Reenactment and Living History Program

The 32nd Annual Goliad Massacre Reenactment and Living History Program will take place on March 24-25, 2018 at Presidio La Bahia in Goliad, Texas. Re-enactors and Living Historians from across Texas will gather to recreate the final days of Colonel Fannin's command. For more information call (361) 645-3752 or visit <https://www.victoriadiocese.org/presidio-la>

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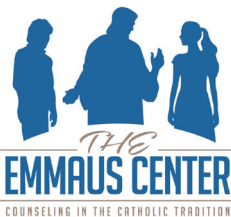
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Ste 102  
Victoria, TX 77901

**Edward Jones**

(361) 576-0178  
[kenny.french@edwardjones.com](mailto:kenny.french@edwardjones.com)

## The Emmaus Center



The Emmaus Center provides individual, marital, and family counseling services from a Catholic perspective, as well as spiritual direction.

Grief Groups will be offered soon in Victoria and Hallettsville. The groups will meet weekly and run for approximately 8 weeks.

For more information or to schedule an appointment please call (361) 212-0830.

## Youth and Young Adult Ministry



### Rocky Mountain High Retreat in Pagosa Springs, CO July 7-15, 2018

This unique, week long retreat, in the heart of the San Juan Mountains in Southern Colorado, is an opportunity for high school age young people to take time away from their daily routine. They will experience the wonder and grandeur of the great outdoors (courtesy of Sonlight Camp), spending time reflecting on important issues of life, faith, family, and friends. A trained staff of qualified adults, from throughout the diocese, offers caring relationships to assist our youth on their journey. Small group discussions, presentations on key topics, unique prayer and liturgical experiences, plus a wild and crazy rafting trip on the Animas River in Durango, help make this an unforgettable week.

**Registration deadline is Friday, May 25, 2018, although this retreat typically fills up before the deadline date. For more information contact: The Office of Youth Ministry, [weggert@victoriadiocese.org](mailto:weggert@victoriadiocese.org) ; (361) 573-0828 ext. 2232.**

## Looking For a Few Young Men

The Columbian Squires is the official youth organization Sponsored by the Knights of Columbus for young Catholic men ages 10-18 years. Being a member of the Squires enables you to better serve your parish, help those in need, grow your faith and have fun in some of the Order's most successful and fun youth programs.

Why join the Squires? The Squires is designed to develop young men as leaders who understand their Catholic religion, who have a strong commitment to the church and who are ready, willing and capable of patterning their lives after the Youth Christ.

A Squires circle is sponsored by the Knights of Columbus, but is run by and for young men, under the guidance of several Knights, who serve as counselors. Squires are to be leaders, thus, to the degree they are able, and they are given the opportunity to lead, by running their own meetings, investing their own members, setting their circle's agenda and implementing their program of activities.

For more information on joining, contact Donald Shellenbarger at (361) 649-9556, Joe Rainosek at (361) 550-3113 or [kcsquiresvictoria@gmail.com](mailto:kcsquiresvictoria@gmail.com).



**Knights of Columbus  
SQUIRES**  
Youth Organization





## Catholic Schools Week 2018 Celebrated in Diocese



Sacred Heart, Hallettsville, recognized religious vocations during Catholic Schools Week. Bishop Brendan celebrated Mass and visited classrooms.



Students at Nazareth Academy listened to Dalton Ervin's vocation story and met his friend "the Ermine" during Catholic Schools Week.



Sr. Rebecca Janacek, IWBS, shared some of the experiences she had during her time as a missionary in Africa, to students at St. Michael School, Weimar. She showed them a necklace that is worn in Africa.



Sacred Heart High School, Hallettsville, first place winners in their annual Catholic Knowledge Bowl. Winning with 48 points was team "Papa John's."

## CSW Concludes with Knowledge Bowl

HALLETTSVILLE—2018 Catholic School Week reached its climax Friday, February 2, closing with the Catholic Knowledge Bowl for junior high and high school students. Over 100 students filled the gym floor with 27 teams of four, to vie for honors, by showing how much of their faith they have learned and remembered. This event was back by popular choice for the sixth year. Those who didn't sign up in time for the competition, could still participate in the bleachers, marking their answers on the card given them and checking their own as answers were projected

after each of the three rounds. All were ready for the excitement to begin.

Msgr. John Peters and Father Max Landman shared reading the questions as they were projected.

First place in high school went to "Papa John's Team" with 48 points. The proud winners were John C., Carley H., Ella H., and Shelby H.

"Quade's Quads" jumped for joy when they learned they won first in junior high with 43 points. Members were Quade H., Garrett R., Dallas L., and Matthew R.



During Catholic Schools Week, in celebration of the 100th day of school, students of Our Lady of Victory Catholic School, (OLV) each were invited to donate "100 coins for Puerto Rico" to help with hurricane recovery efforts. Pennies, nickels, dimes, quarters and dollars filled the collection containers. Bishop Brendan Cahill joined the students to receive over \$1,500, which he will forward to the bishop of Puerto Rico on behalf of the children of OLV. (TCL photo by Regina Janak)



**KC'S AND AMERICAN LEGION SUPPORT EDUCATION**—During Catholic Schools Week, and following a patriotic presentation to the student body of St. Rose School by the Schulenburg American Legion, members of the Schulenburg Knights of Columbus Council 2902, who are also members of the Schulenburg American Legion, presented a \$5,000 check to Rosanne Gallia, Principal of St. Rose School. Shown left-right, Harvey Schindler, James Brossmann, Robert Hranicky, Roseanne Gallia Principal of St. Rose School, Ken Berger, Grand Knight of Council 2902, Father Ty Bazar, parochial vicar of St. Rose, and Leonard Korenek.



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**N.E.T. VISITS HALLETTSVILLE**—Sacred Heart Catholic Church and School welcomed the National Evangelization Team (NET) to Hallettsville for a week of retreats. The team led a day-long retreat for the junior high students in the parish Family Center and an evening retreat for the CCD students. The Sacred Heart High School students attended a day-long retreat at St. Mary's Church. The NET team members come from many states and other countries. They volunteer a year of service and travel throughout the United States holding retreats to enrich the spiritual lives of Catholic youth. The church and school would like to thank the families that hosted these young people while they were visiting Hallettsville.



**DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI RECOGNIZED**—Congratulations to the 2018 Distinguished Alumni Award recipients. The Diocese of Victoria and Office of Catholic Schools thank you for your service and dedication to Catholic education. God bless you! Back row left to right: John Hybner (Shiner Catholic School), Charles H. Leopold (Sacred Heart Catholic School), Robert Sokol (St. Joseph Catholic School), Charles Herzik (St. Michael Catholic School), Kirk Carr (Holy Cross Catholic School), Ed Nevlud (St. Joseph High School), Jimmie Triska (St. Philip Catholic School), Kenneth Miksch (St. Rose of Lima Catholic School). Front row left to right: Patsy K. Warzecha (St. Michael Catholic School), Yvette Alexander (Nazareth Academy Catholic School), Dr. John Quarry, Bishop Brendan Cahill, Lucy Ann Rodriguez (Our Lady of Victory Catholic School), and Sharon Hall (St. Anthony Catholic School). (TCL photo by Regina Janak)

## A Note from the Superintendent of Catholic Schools

According to the Congregation for Catholic Education: The Catholic School on the Threshold of the Third Millennium, "The Catholic school participates in the evangelizing mission of the Church and is the privileged environment in which Christian education is carried out. In this way 'Catholic schools are at once places of evangelization, of complete formation, of inculturation, of apprenticeship in a lively dialogue between young people of different religions and social backgrounds.'"



Dr. John Quarry  
Superintendent

As we continue to "participate in the evangelizing mission of the Church," our students have continued to do so through events and celebrations that have ushered in a brand new year: 2018. Though we're only two months into 2018, the Catholic schools of the diocese are chocked full of festivities and happenings! I am so proud of our students and families for their accomplishments, zeal, service, and committed presence of Christ throughout our 15 schools on 13 campuses. Here is just a sampling of what our students and school communities have been doing over the past couple of months.

In January, thanks to the campuses who featured MLK programs and recognitions to honor Dr. King. As the month drew to a close, all of our schools joined millions of students nationwide to celebrate Catholic Schools Week with so many varied special days and experiences, including the first Many Gifts, One Nation Day of Giving to Catholic schools. Our schools and the Office of Catholic Schools collected more than \$15,000 toward this inaugural event sponsored by the National Catholic Educational Association and FACTS Tuition Management Company. We're proud of our first efforts toward this worthwhile cause of giving to our Catholic schools.

February was a month of Black History celebrations on our campuses and at our Chancery office. Thank you for honoring the accomplishments and legacy of so many African Americans and others who have toiled for equality and freedom for all.

Let us continue to pray for our students and their families who are blessed with the experience of a Catholic school education.

Dr. John Quarry

## STJ High School Now Accepting Applications to Scholars Program

St. Joseph High School, in Victoria, is now accepting applications for the newly-established St. Joseph Scholars Program, a merit-based scholarship program for students interested in attending St. Joseph High School (STJ). All area 8th graders interested in attending STJ for high school, are invited to apply to receive one of five \$4,000 scholarships given based on academic merit. The scholarships are renewable each year and recipients will receive automatic admission into STJ's Pre-AP and Honors programs.

St. Joseph Scholars will be chosen based on report cards from 7th and 8th grade, the student's score on the High School Placement Test, and an interview with the STJ Head of School. To apply, students should



sign up and take the High School Placement Test which will be administered at STJ on March 3 and March 24. Any student scoring in the 75th percentile will qualify for an interview with the STJ Head of School. To sign up to take the exam call or email Jen Korinek, STJ Director of Admissions, at (361) 573-2446 ext. 217 or jkorinek@stjvictoria.com.

Information is available at [www.stjvictoria.com/admissions/stjosephscholars.cfm](http://www.stjvictoria.com/admissions/stjosephscholars.cfm).





## The Lord In Our Midst

*The following homily was written by Father Kram for the third Sunday of Lent, Cycle A.*

St. Augustine said that God has made us for himself alone and that our hearts will be restless until they rest in him. Like the woman at the well, we are all thirsting and searching.

If there is any one thing for which everyone is searching, it is happiness. Although different people have different notions as to what happiness is, we all want our share.

Although it would seem that the more we have of what we enjoy, the happier we will be, but the fact is that excess so quickly turns to pain. Overeating makes your stomach miserable and makes you fat. When King Henry VIII died at the age of 49 he had a waistline of 52 inches. Or take the case of the alcoholic or the drug abuser. Their lives eventually revolve around a drink or a fix. The rich and the famous have all the money and power and influence they could want but in reality they are a pitiful bunch.

To put it simply, in our search for happiness, there is no rest for either the good or the wicked.

Yet no one can deny that God, in whom our true happiness lies, is very much with us every day. He made us, he conserves us in existence, he provides for us. The

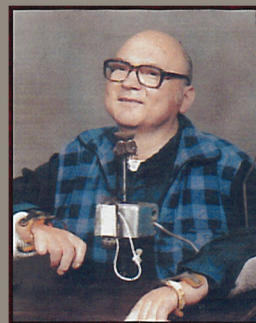
evidence of his loving presence surrounds us. Once I said to a patient that nothing exciting had happened that day. He corrected me and pointed out the birds and the trees and flowers and how they were all exciting evidence of God's nearness. How true.

In fact, from all corners of creation there rises up to God a continuous chorus of praise from all such silent creatures, which have no mind to think with and no heart to love with, but which by their order and their beauty and their very existence cry out to God night and day, "How great thou art. How bleak and sad the world would be without the glories of Nature."

Besides merely having God near us in his works, we also have him dwelling within us by Sanctifying Grace. We are living Temples of the Holy Spirit.

As if this were not enough, God has made himself visible and touchable in the person of Jesus Christ. In the divine person of Jesus are forever united the eternal nature of God and a human nature just like ours except for sin.

Jesus is gone now, ascended to heaven in his risen and glorified body, elusive and hard to find in the flesh. But his word to us is, "Love one another as I have loved you." Jesus is all around us in the men, women and children we meet, waiting to be treated with love. Just recently one of the nurses was giving me breakfast and the nurse who



1929-2000

*Father  
Charles Kram  
Korner*

was assigned to me came in and smiled and hugged the other nurse and said, "Thank you, thank you"; and then they said, "I like to take care of Father." We can think of many ways in which to express our love for others. Try ending your conversation some time by saying, "Oh, by the way, I love you."

Another test of Christian discipleship is to help heal the hurt in those who endlessly complain or those who are afraid or depressed. A simple word of encouragement can go a long way.

Now one more example. Just recently I heard of a "pass it on" group. The members make a pledge that every time they have a favor done for them, they will pass it on by doing a favor for someone else.

Seeing how much the Lord is in our midst, we might well say, "Gosh, I never saw so many Christs in my life."

As I have mentioned before in the

chapel, some years ago, when the "God is dead" fad swept the country, someone scribbled a graffiti on the wall which read, "God is dead", and signed it, "Nietzi". Nietzi was the German philosopher who supposedly started the "God is dead" idea. Someone else wrote underneath the first graffiti, "Nietzi is dead", and signed it, "God".

And he was right. Nietzi IS dead and God IS very much alive~ He is very much with us and He is the End of our search for happiness.

*Lord Jesus, thank you for coming to remain always in our midst.*

*Help us to understand ever better what true happiness is and where it can be found.*

*Grant that one day our search for happiness may end in final rest with you. Amen.*

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By Sarita Villafranca Richmond, Editor

## Chase Goodman

Chase Goodman, a seminarian for the Diocese of Victoria explains that he had a “real eureka” moment that helped confirm his decision to pursue the vocation to the priesthood. He shares,

“In October of 2012, my first nephew, Dominic, had a difficult birth, and a priest came to visit my brother and to bless the newborn baby. When talking to my brother over the phone, he said that when the priest made the Sign of the Cross on Dominic’s forehead, that the baby *leaned into it*. I was struck in the moment by that image, and I couldn’t stop thinking about it. I could see this priest and my brother, both loving this child, both being a father to this child. I saw a father by nature and a father by grace, and I felt called to imitate the latter. I couldn’t shake that thought from my mind until I started my explicit discernment.”

Chase was born in Victoria, but his family moved out to 21 acres, in Nursery, when he was 7 years old. His dad raised animals in Future Farmers of America when he was young, and wanted his boys to grow up with the same appreciation that he had for hard work. Chase shared, “My father, Mark, was a cradle Catholic, but my mother, Julie, actually went through RCIA while she was pregnant with me. I was born the Friday before Palm Sunday, so she missed being received into the church



at the Easter Vigil. So, I’ve been in Catholic school from pre-K-3, through high school, a break for undergrad, and then I’m back in Catholic school as a seminarian; and I was even going to school in utero with Mom!”

Chase is the youngest of three boys. His oldest brother,



Blake, is an Emergency Doctor in Shreveport, Louisiana, and he and his wife, Tanya, have three children: Dominic Michael (5), Grace Marie (3), and Jonathan Gabriel (1). His older brother, Rhett, is a Mechanical Engineer in Midland, and he and his wife, Kathryn, have two children: Elliott Miles (2), and Caroline Marcella Lea (3 months). Chase is the godfather to Grace, Jonathan, and Caroline. Chase and his brothers attended Our Lady of Victory and St. Joseph High School. His parents were active in the parish and schools while they were growing up, and ensured that the boys were active as well. Chase played football 6th through 12th grade and was very proud that they were undefeated during his time at OLV. In high school, he was on the swim team and powerlifting team, a senior retreat leader, active in raising animals, and in the Victoria County Ambassadors programs for 4H. During the summers, he would work in the warehouse or screen printing shop at the family business, Jerry Lenz Sports. During his senior year of high school,

Chase wasn’t sure what he wanted to do with his life. He knew he wanted to go to Texas A&M University, like his brothers, and that he wanted to help people. Chase shares, “I thought about going into medicine like my brother, but I didn’t feel like that was right for me. While speaking with my dad, he showed me how he was able to help people in his own work; he owned a business, gainfully employing over 20 people; he provided sports equipment for many schools; and he was charitable with his own time and wealth. I liked his perspective; I liked business in general, and I liked the industry in which I grew up.” Chase chose to study business and earned a Bachelor’s Degree in Business Administration; his major was Management Information Systems. Looking back now, he knew that a business degree would allow flexibility with his job options, but he



didn’t anticipate that parish administration would be the end goal.

When asked about when he first considered the priesthood, he said, “My brothers and I were altar boys growing up, and became very disciplined at it, since we held each other accountable for any slip-ups. When you serve often and well, you hear little old ladies telling you that you should be a priest; I never really gave it much thought growing up, although it was somewhere in the back of my mind.” Chase recalls as he was working through his senior year of college, going to career fairs and graduate school fairs, everything seemed shallow and hollow. He liked his

major, but couldn’t see himself being happy continuing down that path. The only place he felt solace was going to Mass on Sunday, and thinking about what the priest was doing.

Chase let his family know about his discernment in January of his senior year at Texas A&M, and asked them to help him with any questions about his vocation that he should consider. Chase mentioned, “They were all very supportive. They mostly provided good questions for me, including questions I would never think of, like “Can a priest own a dog?” (they can). I told God when I started that I believed this is right for me and that he would have to throw something very heavy at my head to show me this wasn’t right! So far, I have only been affirmed of my vocation, good times and bad.”

Chase has been inspired by many priests that he has had the honor of knowing throughout his life. He shares, “Above all, Monsignor Michael Harrold and Father Dan Morales of blessed memory were the greatest images of what it meant to be a priest.” The morning before his interview with Bishop Fellhauer, Chase recalled the

words of Monsignor Harrold. He said, “Monsignor Harrold was my pastor growing up, and the only priest I knew for the first half of my life. He had a very deep matter-of-fact Irish faith that never ceased to amaze me. I related to him that I was afraid of discerning out, and that I was terrified that I was hearing God’s call right now, but that I might not persevere for whatever reason. He bluntly told me not to second guess myself, and his approval of my discernment was extremely encouraging.” Father Dan was Chase’s vocation director for the first three years of discernment. Chase has great memories of spending time with Father Dan.

He shared, “He showed me more of the life of a priest than I could have ever imagined. He shared his joys and his sorrows with us seminarians, and he was truly a father to us.”

Chase has now been in the seminary for almost 5 years. He describes seminary as “long days, short weeks.” He spent the first two years at Holy Trinity Seminary in Irving, Texas, studying philosophy, and the past two years studying theology at the Pontifical College Josephinum in Columbus, Ohio. Chase looks back and says,

See *Meet a Seminarian*, pg. 14



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## Most Reverend Joseph A. Fiorenza Receives Catholic Extension's "Spirit of Francis Award"

HOUSTON—On Saturday, February 24, 2018, Archbishop Joseph A. Fiorenza was presented with *Catholic Extension's 2018 Spirit of Francis Award* at a dinner at the Houstonian Hotel in Houston, Texas. Honorary co-chairs for the event were Cardinal Daniel DiNardo, Judge Ed and Gwen Emmett, and Mayor Sylvester Turner.



*Catholic Extension's Spirit of Francis Award* recognizes an individual or group that has significantly impacted the Catholic Church's mission in America through service or philanthropy. Recipients of the award are laudable for their commitment to reach out to the margins of society in the spirit of St. Francis of Assisi, Pope Francis, and the founder of Catholic Extension, Father Francis Clement Kelley. This award is accompanied by a grant to a mission diocese that is served by Catholic Extension. Proceeds from this event will be dedicated to the Diocese of Beaumont, Texas, the hometown of Archbishop Fiorenza to help rebuild and repair the 18 churches and schools damaged by Hurricane Harvey.

As the award recipient, Archbishop Joseph A. Fiorenza has dedicated his life to serving the Catholic Church. Pope John Paul II named him the Bishop of San Angelo on September 4, 1979, and

he served in that West Texas diocese until 1985 when he was named the Bishop of Galveston-Houston, a diocese which now has 1.4 million Catholics and is the tenth largest diocese in the United States. He became Galveston-Houston's first Archbishop on December 29, 2004. Archbishop Fiorenza's lifetime of accomplishments include protesting segregation with Dr. King in Selma, helping establish the Coalition for the Homeless in Houston, advocating for affordable health care, establishing a Diocesan AIDS ministry, serving as Chair of the Catholic Campaign for Human Development, and powerfully voicing the need for immigration reform.

"I am honored to be a part of this event recognizing Archbishop Fiorenza for his influential lifetime of service and philanthropy in Houston and surrounding areas," said Houston Mayor Sylvester Turner.

"We are delighted to recognize Archbishop Fiorenza for the impact he has made on mission dioceses in Texas," Father Jack Wall, Catholic Extension president, said. "He is undoubtedly regarded as a pillar in the community, and Catholic Extension recognizes his lifetime commitment to service and philanthropy."

All proceeds from awards ceremony dedicated to rebuilding Diocese of Beaumont.

## Father Rolheiser Returns in April to Spirit Wind Ministry

Father Ronald Rolheiser will be speaking on April 20-22, at the Spiritual Renewal Center, Victoria at the Spirit Wind Ministry Retreat. The theme *Living with Less Fear in our Lives – Living Under a Prodigal, All-Loving, Fully-Emphatic, Truly Understanding God.*

Father Ronald Rolheiser, a Roman Catholic priest and member of the Missionary Oblates of Mary Immaculate, is President of the Oblate School of Theology in San Antonio, Texas. He is a community-builder, lecturer, and writer. His books are popular throughout the English-speaking world and have now been translated into many languages. His weekly column is carried by more than 80 newspapers worldwide. Prior

to this present position, he taught theology and philosophy at Newman Theological College in Edmonton, Alberta, for 16 years, served as Provincial Superior of his Oblate Province for six years, and served on the General Council for the Oblates in Rome for six years. He has been at Oblate School of Theology since 2005.

For additional information on Father Rolheiser visit his website at [www.ronrolheiser.com](http://www.ronrolheiser.com). The retreat begins Friday evening and ends with lunch on Sunday. Space is limited. This retreat is open to men, women and couples. For additional information contact Susan Oakley at (361) 649-6391 or email: [smoak53@msn.com](mailto:smoak53@msn.com).



## Sunday Readings from March 4 - April 8

*March 4 ~ Third Sunday of Lent*  
Exodus 20:1-17  
Psalms 19:8, 9, 10, 11  
1 Corinthians 1:22-25  
John 2:13-25

*March 11 ~ Fourth Sunday of Lent*  
2 Chronicles 36:14-16, 19-23  
Psalms 137:1-2, 3, 4-5, 6  
Ephesians 2:4-10  
John 3:14

*March 18 ~ Fifth Sunday of Lent*  
Jeremiah 31:31-34  
Psalms 51:3-4, 12-13, 14-15  
Hebrews 5:7-9  
John 12:20-33

*March 25 ~ Palm Sunday of the Lord's Passion*  
Mark 11:1-10  
Isaiah 50:4-7  
Psalms 22:8-9, 17-18, 19-20, 23-24  
Philippians 2:6-11  
Mark 14:1—15:47

*March 27 ~ Chrism Mass*  
Isaiah 61:1-3A, 6A, 8B-9  
Psalms 89:21-22, 25, and 27  
Revelations 1:5-8  
Luke 4:16-21

*March 29 ~ Holy Thursday*  
Exodus 12:1-8, 11-14  
Psalms 116:12-13, 15-16BC, 17-18  
1 Corinthians 11:23-26  
John 13:1-15

*March 30 ~ Good Friday of the Lord's Passion*  
Isaiah 52:13—53:12  
Psalms 31:2, 6, 12-13, 15-16, 17, 25  
Hebrews 4:14-16; 5:7-9  
John 18:1—19:42

*March 31 ~ The Resurrection of the Lord - At the Easter Vigil in the Holy Night of Easter*  
Genesis 1:1—2:2 (Reading 1)  
Psalms 104:1-2, 5-6, 10, 12, 13-14, 24, 35  
Genesis 22:1-18 (Reading 2)  
Psalms 16:5, 8, 9-10, 11  
Exodus 14:15—15:1 (Reading 3)  
Exodus 15:1-2, 3-4, 5-6, 17-18  
Isaiah 54:5-14 (Reading 4)  
Psalms 30:2, 4, 5-6, 11-12, 13  
Isaiah 55:1-11 (Reading 5)  
Isaiah 12:2-3, 4, 5-6  
Baruch 3:9-15, 32C4:4 (Reading 6)  
Psalms 19:8, 9, 10, 11  
Ezekiel 36:16-17A, 18-28 (Reading 7)  
Isaiah 12:2-3, 4BCD, 5-6  
Romans 6:3-11 (Epistle)  
Psalms 118:1-2, 16-17, 22-23  
Mark 16:1-7 (Gospel)

*April 1 ~ The Resurrection of the Lord - The Mass of Easter Day*  
Acts 10:34A, 37-43  
Psalms 118:1-2, 16-17, 22-23  
Colossians 3:1-4  
John 20:1-9

*April 8 ~ Sunday of Divine Mercy*  
Acts 4:32-35  
Psalms 118:2-4, 13-15, 22-24  
1 John 5:1-6  
John 20:19-31

For daily and Sunday readings, as well as a daily reflection video, visit  
[www.usccb.org/bible/readings](http://www.usccb.org/bible/readings).

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## Meet a Seminarian ~ Chase Goodman

*Continued from pg. 12*

“These years have passed in the blink of an eye. My favorite class so far was probably bioethics, which I took as a graduate elective while I was at Holy Trinity. It was taught by a medical doctor. The professor was a great teacher; he demonstrated three basic philosophical positions that bioethical arguments tend to take, and how we can approach these various issues with the mind of the Church.”

In his apostolate year at the Josephinum, Chase and another seminarian were assigned to help with Bethesda Healing Ministry, a community that provides comfort and healing for those who are suffering from the effects of an abortion. Chase found this ministry incredibly rewarding. He explained, “This ministry showed me a side of being pro-life that is woefully secret: the wounds that abortion has caused to the millions of mothers and fathers in our country. I’ve seen men and women wrestling to know and accept God’s love from a sin that they’ve committed 10, 20, 30 years ago; a horrible sin that they have long since confessed, but still terribly suffer its effects. And yet, in spite of this suffering, and perhaps because of it, I have met some of the holiest people I’ve ever known through this ministry.”

Chase is currently in his pastoral (internship) year at Sts. Cyril and Methodius in Shiner, Texas. He is teaching 7th grade religion and 11th grade CCD, and adult catechesis classes throughout the year. During Lent, he is teaching a lunch hour class on the “Seven last words of Christ,” and how it fits with seven deadly sins and seven lively virtues.

This fall, he will return to the Josephinum for two more years of study. He describes the last two years of seminary as a lighter course load, and more focused on practical classes, such as how to celebrate the Sacraments. He should be ordained a transitional deacon in the summer of 2019 before ordination to the priesthood in the summer of 2020.

For anyone who thinks they may hear God calling them to the priesthood, Chase’s advice is to be courageous! He shares, “I spent a couple of months mulling over the idea in my head, and Googling how someone becomes a priest. Ultimately, I didn’t get anywhere, until I finally called a

priest and asked him if I could talk to him about my discernment. Ultimately, the only way you’ll know if God is calling you to become a priest is if you give it a chance. I’ve known a number of men in my time in the seminary; some have stayed in, some have discerned out; but I can’t name one Catholic man who has not benefited from discerning God’s call to the priesthood.” Chase believes in “meeting people where they are in life”. He mentioned Pope Francis’ quote “The church is a field hospital”, and knows he is called to be in the field with the people. What a blessing he will be to the Diocese of Victoria! Remember to pray for all vocations.



### Chase’s favorite bible verse:

*If the Lord does not build the house,  
in vain do its builders labor;  
if the Lord does not watch over the city,  
in vain does the watchman keep vigil.*

*In vain is your earlier rising,  
your going later to rest,  
you who toil for the bread you eat,  
when he pours gifts on his beloved while  
they slumber.*

*Truly sons are a gift from the Lord,  
a blessing, the fruit of the womb.  
Indeed the sons of youth  
are like arrows in the hand of a warrior.*

*O the happiness of the man  
who has filled his quiver with these arrows!  
He will have no cause for shame  
when he disputes with his foes in the  
gateways.*

**Psalm 127**

## Organizations Help Flooded Seminary



As part of an annual statewide raffle, the Louisiana State Council of the Knights of Columbus recently presented a check for \$13,000 to Saint Joseph Seminary College President-Rector Father Gregory Boquet, O.S.B. The generous donation will go towards the Seminary College’s Mission Immersion program, in which seminarians live and work alongside an underprivileged community in Guatemala. Father Gregory and the seminarians travel each year during the Thanksgiving, Christmas, and Mardi Gras breaks. St. Joseph Seminary College is located in St. Benedict, La., a few miles north of Covington. The Diocese of Victoria currently has six seminarians attending St. Joseph Seminary College.



The Ladies Altar Society from St. Louis King of France in Baton Rouge, who after learning that their church would close, decided to donate \$2,300 to flood recovery efforts at St. Joseph Abbey. They presented the check to Abbot Justin Brown, O.S.B.



### 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](http://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](mailto: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

## March

**Frelsburg**—K of C Council #5157 Fish Fry every Friday through March 23 at Sts. Peter and Paul Diamond Center 5:30-8:00 p.m. All you can eat catfish dinner at \$12 p/p and plates to go at \$11 p/p. Homemade desserts available by St. Anne's Altar Society.

**Port Lavaca**—K of C Lenten Fish Fry every Friday during Lent at St. Jude's Hall. Serving begins at 5:00 p.m. with fried fish, German potatoes, green beans and slaw at \$9 p/p.

**Blessing**—K of C Council #4307 Lenten fish fry, auction, and raffle March 11, St. Peter's Parish Hall. Fried catfish dinner will be served from 10:30 a.m.-1:00 p.m. Plates - \$10 p/p (includes dessert and tea/coffee). A live auction and raffle will also be held during the event. The proceeds will benefit Knights of Columbus scholarships and charities.

**Victoria**—KJZT Society #101 will have a bake sale on March 17-18 following Mass at Holy Family. Proceeds to benefit VCAM.

## April

**Cuero**—Cuero Knights of Columbus (KC) Council #1682 Annual Shrimp Dinner, April 8, from 10:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at St. Michael's Church Hall. The meal will include fried shrimp, rice, cole slaw, and hushpuppies. Plates are "to-go" only. Advance tickets for \$10 are available at the church office, or from any KC member. At the door is \$10. Proceeds for the KC scholarship program and special projects for St. Michael's Church and School. For more information call Gerald Clark at (361) 243-1914.

## Conferences • Masses • Retreats

**Bay City**—Holy Cross to host Joan and Dave Maroney on Divine Mercy Sunday weekend starting Friday, April 6. For more information contact Sandra Thompson at the church office at (979) 245-6379, or email her at hc3\_office@holycrossbaycity.org. See story on pg. 7.

**Victoria**—Tu, Yo y Cristo (You, Me and Christ) couples retreat, April 14-15 at St. Mary Activity Center (401 S. Liberty St.). Tu, Yo y Cristo is a 2 day retreat that includes daily life topics and real testimonies that will give couples the tools to refresh, rekindle and deepen their relationship with each other and most importantly with God. Retreatants are encouraged to invite Christ to be the center of their home which is critical to deepen their Faith and therefore become better spouses, parents and Catholic Christians. For more information and an application, contact Maria Hernandez (361) 648-5791 or Linda Perez (361) 655-9358 or St. Mary's rectory at (361) 573-4328.

**Victoria**—Father Ronald Rolheiser will be speaking on April 20-22, at the Spiritual Renewal Center, at the Spirit Wind Ministry Retreat. The theme *Living with Less Fear in our Lives – Living Under a Prodigal, All-Loving, Fully-Emphatic, Truly Understanding God*. For additional information contact Susan Oakley at (361) 649-6391 or email: smoak53@msn.com. See story on pg. 13.

## 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](http://www.nacflm.org).

**Courage**—Ministers to persons with same-sex attractions and their loved ones. The ministry also has an outreach, EnCourage, which ministers to relatives, spouses, and friends of persons with same-sex attractions. It is a Roman Catholic Apostolate endorsed by the Pontifical Council for the Family. For more information, visit [www.couragec.net](http://www.couragec.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. Appointments may be made by calling (361) 212-0830.

**Engaged Encounter—2018 Dates: April 13-15, June 1-3, September 21-23, and November 16-18**, 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](http://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 Barbara at (361) 649-1612 or [barbaramccain85@yahoo.com](mailto:barbaramccain85@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 coordinator 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. 13.

**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. 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. 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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:jenniferschobey.ruiz@yahoo.com).

**Natural Family Planning**—NFP is the only church-approved form of family planning. For the CREIGHTON MODEL Fertility Care System (CrMS) featuring NaPro TECHNOLOGY™ contact Susanne Koch in Wharton at (505) 710-0903 or [susannekoch614@gmail.com](mailto: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](http://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](mailto:jbvjov@sbcglobal.net) or (361) 580-2770; call (800) 470-2230; or visit [www.helpourmarriage.org](http://www.helpourmarriage.org) or [www.retrouvaille.org](http://www.retrouvaille.org).

## Amor Meus

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website: [www.amormeusspiritualitycenter.org](http://www.amormeusspiritualitycenter.org)

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**Spirituality Center Lenten Vespers**: March 4, 11, 18, and 25. Vespers is the Liturgical Evening Prayer of the Church and concludes with Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament at 5:00-5:45 p.m. in Convent Chapel. For more information contact Sr. Emilie Eilers.

**On-going opportunities**: Guidance and discussion on one's spiritual journey are available with experienced spiritual directors. Call for appointment. Amor Meus Spirituality Center, 1101 N.E. Water St., Victoria, TX 77901; (361) 575-7111.

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# Religious Educator Frontline to Youngest Catholics

*Continued from pg. 1*

confirmation, helps organize material for the 25 adult catechists who assist with the program, teaches 3rd, 6th, and 7th graders, and does anything else that is needed around the church. As 3:30 p.m. rolled around, the children began to arrive from school for religious education. Joey quickly went to the front door and greeted them each by name as they entered the building. We could see the joy and excitement on their faces as he welcomed them with a “high five”.

Joey describes his job as rewarding. He explains, “To me, the most rewarding part of Youth Ministry is seeing the face of a 2nd grader receiving First Holy Communion and seeing the excitement when they want to share the prayers they just learned with me. Also, when a teen shares that they see Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament. These are the unforgettable moments. I am so blessed that God has placed me in this ministry to be a part of a student’s experience.” He really enjoys teaching new altar servers. He shared, “I love being an example to the kids by serving with them at their first Mass. It helps them build confidence. I didn’t serve as a kid. Ten to twelve years ago, I went on a pilgrimage to the Holy Land with Father Michael Lyons, and he asked me to help serve; so I learned. I love it!” One of the children who has been altar serving with Joey for 2 years said, “I like that I am not just sitting there, but I’m helping to do stuff in church and serve the Lord.”

Father Kirby, the current pastor described Joey as wearing two hats. He

said, “He is the front line to our youngest Catholics in the church; not only education of faith, but spiritual practice of the faith. He’s a man of prayer. He altar serves with students, assists at funerals; it’s a whole approach.” Joey Sablatura is committed to serving the church through its young people. He strives to instill the Catholic faith, love, and respect in the students and hopes that they find peace for one hour a week in a world that races with noise and violence. His favorite bible verse is from Phil 4:13, “I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.” He adds, “The one reason I am here as Youth Minister is through Christ who gives me strength to be here. On my own, I could not do this.” We asked one of his students what she had learned from him and she said, “When we get a little loud, he always reminds us that God is good all the time, and all the time, God is good!”

Joey’s story is just one example of the many religious educators who serve throughout the Diocese of Victoria. Let us extend gratitude and pray for the catechists who have answered the call to share their gifts, by teaching the Catholic faith to the future of the church: our children and young people.



*“I can do all things through  
Christ who strengthens me.”  
Phil 4:13*



TCL photos by Regina Janak and  
Sarita Richmond