



The Catholic Lighthouse

The Cradle of Texas Immigration



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APRIL 2018



Father Philip Brune, Martha and Al Shimek are pictured in front of the combine during harvest.

Farmers Embody Faith in Divine Providence

By Sarita Villafranca Richmond, Editor

Rice farming in Texas can trace its origins to 1685, when rice first came to the United States from Madagascar, according to the Texas State Historical Association. The USA Rice website states that the upheavals of the Civil War, combined with the ravages of hurricanes and competition from other crops, pushed rice agriculture westward. It was during this time that rice became a major crop in Arkansas, Texas, Louisiana, and Mississippi.

According to the Lower Colorado River Authority (LCRA), "Texas usually ranks as the nation's fourth or fifth highest producing rice-growing state, producing about 7 percent of the nation's supply. Most Texas rice is grown near the Colorado River in Colorado, Wharton, and Matagorda counties. Texas rice farmers count on this water to irrigate land along the Gulf Coast." They

begin planting each year in the spring, cultivate in the summer, and harvest in the fall. This process can be nerve wracking and arduous for farmers, as they rely on Mother Nature to cooperate. Rice is grown by flooding it in 6-8 inches of water until just before harvest. The rice is ready to be harvested when the grain turns yellow and starts to drop. The water is drained and harvest begins. The harvester, or combine, then cuts the rice and separates the rice from the stalk.

Farmers from the Diocese of Victoria are among these coastal rice farmers. For 31 years, Al and Martha Shimek's family has been growing rice around Garwood, in the Diocese of Victoria and decided to help the Share The Harvest Foundation.

See Farmers Embody Faith, pg. 20



Larry Marek, left, and Tommy Treybig, right, unload a pallet of rice into the storage facility. The rice will later be transported to locations where it is being donated.



Bishop Brendan Cahill A Shepherd's Message

The Spiritual Battle of Our Liberation

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

During the first week of Lent I received a thank you note from one of the members of our diocese. In the note the person wrote that for Lent he committed to write one thank you note each day and he wanted to begin with me. I've been thinking to myself and now I share with you – what a beautiful witness to a common spiritual advice – the best way to combat evil is to work on building up virtue. The Catechism of the Catholic Church #1803-1876 offers teaching of the Church concerning virtue and sin. As is typical with the teaching found in the Catechism the footnotes contain teaching that comes directly from the Bible and/or the Tradition of the Church.

One of the footnotes, #138 refers to a writing of Pope St. Gregory the Great. He was Pope from 590-604 and wrote several spiritual classics. The one referred to in this footnote was a commentary on the Book of Job. This footnote specifically refers to his

commentary on Job 39:24-25, in which the Lord is responding to Job. In the passage the Lord talks about His power in creation, proclaiming that the Lord gives the war horse his strength: "Even from afar he scents the battle, the roar of the chiefs and the shouting." Pope St. Gregory the Great took this image to refer to the spiritual warfare that each soul battles, and the enemies to be fought he identified as the seven sins of pride.

Pope St. Gregory wrote:

"For pride is the root of all evil.... But seven principal vices, as its first progeny, spring doubtless from this poisonous root, namely, vain glory, envy, anger, melancholy, avarice, gluttony, lust. For, because He grieved that we were held captive by these seven sins of pride, therefore our Redeemer came to the spiritual battle of our liberation, full of the spirit of sevenfold grace." (Morals on the Book of Job: Vol. 3, pp. 489-490. Oxford; London: John Henry Parker; F. and

J. Rivington) [1]

The primary enemy is pride. The battle of our liberation begins with the acceptance of God's grace, and God gives us the weapons for our fight. The practical experience of receiving a Thank You note taught me a lesson about how to fight the battle. As a person grows in gratitude, the person begins to realize more and more each day that all we have – even the breath we breathe and the sun in the sky – is a gift of a gracious God. God gives each one of us, each day, in our particular circumstances the opportunity to grow in grace or to choose what one writer called a "bitter ingratitude." In this holy Easter season, as we are reflecting on the power of Christ's victory over sin and death let us re-commit ourselves to the virtuous life overflowing with gratitude.

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

[1] *Saint Gregory the Great. (1847–1850). Morals on the Book of Job (Vol. 3, pp. 489–490). Oxford; London: John Henry Parker; F. and J. Rivington.*

Don't Lose Confidence in Our Bishops' Pro-life Zeal

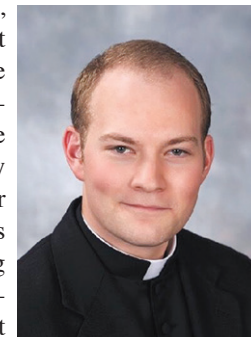
By Rev. Max Landman

Sometimes things that go without saying need to be said anyway. For a reasonable person, it goes without saying that the taking of an innocent life in the womb is contrary to our nature. For a Catholic, it goes without saying that this is an offense that cries out to heaven, that it is the most horrifying injustice of our time, and that we must do all we can to make abortion a thing of the past.

When the Texas Catholic Conference of Bishops informed the state's parishes February 22 that they ought not participate in the activities of the organization Texas Right to Life, it left some people wondering if it still goes without saying that our bishops are wholehearted in their dedication to the defense of the unborn. True, it does not look good when one reads that the bishops have severed ties with a pro-life organization. However, something is amiss if our first reaction is to question our shepherds rather than a political organization with which they are at odds.

After all, for faithful Catholics, there is another thing that ought to go without saying: Christ Himself gives His bishops their authority to teach us. They are the successors of the Apostles, so when they issue a stern warning, we have an obligation not only to hear, but to heed them. What they are telling us is that a certain political group, while claiming to be zealously pro-life, has refused to cooperate with either the bishops themselves, or the state's other leading pro-life organizations, and has chosen instead to push its own political agenda.

It is not the ultimate goal of Texas Right to Life with which the bishops take issue, but rather its tactics. In their advisory to parishes across the state, the bishops outlined three major concerns. First, Texas Right to Life was not partnering with the Texas Catholic Conference of Bishops and other groups in advocating for incremental legislative reforms that would steadily improve the status quo with respect to



Obispo Brendan Cahill Mensaje del Pastor

Batalla Espiritual de Nuestra Liberación

Queridos Hermanos y Hermanas,

Durante la primera semana de Cuaresma recibí una nota de agradecimiento de uno de los miembros de nuestra diócesis. En la nota la persona que escribió para la Cuaresma se comprometió a escribir una nota de agradecimiento cada día y que quería empezar conmigo. He estado pensando y ahora quiero compartir con ustedes – lo que es un hermoso testimonio de un consejo espiritual común – la mejor manera de combatir el mal es trabajar en la construcción de la virtud. El Catecismo de la Iglesia Católica # 1803-1876 ofrece la enseñanza de la Iglesia sobre la virtud y el pecado. Como es típico en la enseñanza que se encuentra en el Catecismo

contienen las notas al pie de enseñanza que viene directamente de la Biblia y / o la Tradición de la Iglesia.

Una de las notas a pie de página, # 138 se refiere a un escrito del Papa San Gregorio Magno. Él fue Papa de 590-604 y escribió varios clásicos espirituales. El que se hace referencia en esta nota era un comentario sobre el libro de Job. Esta nota se refiere específicamente a su comentario sobre Job 39: 24-25, en la que el Señor está respondiendo a Job. En el pasaje el Señor habla de su poder en la creación, proclamando que el Señor da el caballo de batalla de su fuerza: "Incluso desde lejos, que olfatea la batalla, el estruendo de los jefes y los gritos" Papa

San Gregorio Magno tomó esta imagen para referirse a la guerra espiritual que cada uno batallas del alma, y los enemigos a los que luchaban que identificó como los siete pecados de orgullo.

El Papa San Gregorio escribió:

"Pues el orgullo es la raíz de todo mal Pero siete principales vicios, como su primera progenie, sin duda surgen de esta raíz venenosa, principalmente, la vanagloria, la envidia, la ira, la melancolía, la avaricia, la gula, la lujuria. Pues, porque El Afligido que estuvieron cautivos por estos siete pecados de orgullo, por lo tanto, nuestro Redentor vino a la batalla espiritual de nuestra liberación, lleno del espíritu de gracia de siete veces." (Moralen el libro de Job: Vol. 3, pp. 489-490 Oxford; London: John Henry Parker; F. y J. Rivington) [1]

El enemigo principal es el orgullo. La batalla de nuestra liberación comienza con la aceptación de la gracia de Dios, y Dios nos da las armas para nuestra lucha. La experiencia práctica de recibir una nota de agradecimiento me enseñó una lección sobre cómo luchar contra la batalla. A medida

Ve Batalla Espiritual, pg. 18

See Don't Lose Confidence, pg. 5



Bishop Brendan's Schedule

April		24	11:00 a.m. Mass for Texas Catholic Correctional Ministers at the Spiritual Renewal Center
7	4:00 p.m. Confirmation Mass at St. John Nepomucene Church, New Taiton	25	6:30 p.m. Confirmation Mass at Sacred Heart, Hallettsville
8	10:00 a.m. Confirmation Mass at Holy Cross, East Bernard 3:00 p.m. Confirmation Mass at St. Rose of Lima, Schulenburg	26	7:00 p.m. 8th grade Bishop's awards at The Cathedral of Our Lady of Victory, Victoria
11	Noon Memorial Mass for Joe Cahill at The Cathedral of Our Lady of Victory, Victoria 6:00 p.m. Confirmation Mass at Our Lady of Mt. Carmel, Wharton	27-29	Knights of Columbus 114th Annual State Convention, Houston
12	6:30 p.m. Mother Ann Seton Awards, Shiner	30	Noon Mass with Missionary Catechists, Victoria 2:00 p.m. Interfaith Meeting
13	7:00 p.m. Confirmation Mass at St. Robert Bellarmine, El Campo		6:00 p.m. Diocesan School Advisory Committee Strategic Planning Meeting
14	Regional Encuentro, San Antonio	May	
15	8:00 a.m. Confirmation Mass at St. Procopius, Louise 2:00 p.m. Confirmation Mass at The Cathedral of Our Lady of Victory, Victoria Texas Conference of Catholic Bishops Meeting, San Antonio	1-2	Texas Catholic Conference of Bishops School Accreditation Committee meeting, Austin
16	6:30 p.m. Confirmation Mass at St. John, Hungerford	4	7:00 p.m. Confirmation Mass at St. Anthony, Palacios
17	10:15 a.m. School Mass and visit at St. Joseph High School, Victoria	5	6:00 p.m. Confirmation Mass at Ascension of Our Lord, Moravia
18	10:00 a.m. Priests and Deacons continuing education conference 4:00 p.m. Building Board Meeting, Chancery Office 7:00 p.m. Confirmation Mass at St. Michael, Weimar	6	10:30 a.m. Confirmation Mass at St. Agnes, Edna 6:00 p.m. Confirmation Mass at Holy Cross Catholic Church, Bay City
20	7:00 p.m. Confirmation Mass at Our Lady of Guadalupe, Bay City		
21	5:00 p.m. Confirmation Mass at St. Joseph, Yoakum		
22	3:00 p.m. Confirmation Mass at Sts. Cyril and Methodius, Shiner		

Bishop Fellhauer's Schedule

April	
14	6:00 p.m. Confirmation Mass at Holy Family, Victoria
22	10:00 a.m. Confirmation Mass at Holy Family, Wharton
29	9:15 a.m. Confirmation Mass at St. Mary, Hallettsville
May	
6	10:00 a.m. Confirmation Mass at St. Philip, El Campo

In Memory of... Joseph Cahill, father of Bishop Cahill

HOUSTON—Joseph (Joe) Michael Cahill, 88, passed away on February 24, in Houston. Joe was a devoted husband, caring father and a retired oil executive. Born in Brooklyn, New York, Joe attended St. John's College Preparatory where he wrote for the student newspaper. He earned a B.S. in Chemistry from Niagara University and a Ph.D. in Physical Chemistry from Purdue University. He married Mary Joan Dempsey on June 6, 1953; the couple settled in Houston, Texas, in 1971. During his 31-year career at Exxon, Joe worked in research and held executive positions internationally and in Houston. A dedicated member of the St. Cecilia Catholic Community, Joe chaired the committee that built the church, served as president of the Saint Cecilia St. Vincent de Paul Society and founded the Saint Cecilia Well Baby Clinic in 1995. In



addition, Joe worked as an advisor for the Sisters of the Incarnate Word. In 1997, he received a Papal Medal for his service to the Catholic Church. Joe and his wife were active in the Holy Name of Mary Catholic Guild. His children's favorite memories of him include tailgating at the Astrodome for the "Luv Ya Blue" Oilers, watching the Los Angeles Dodgers, and coaching his children's baseball and softball teams.

He is preceded in death by his son, Owen, and sister, Elizabeth (Betty) Cahill of Brooklyn.

Joe is survived by his wife of 64 years Joan; children Rob Cahill and wife Laura, Clare Thomeer and her husband Bart, Steve Cahill, May Cahill, and Bishop Brendan Cahill; grandchildren Meghan, Anne Marie, Madeline, Gina, Nick, Joe and Jack; and three great grandchildren Rory, Mara, and Rosalind.

A funeral Mass was held Friday, March 2, at St. Cecilia's Catholic Community. Donations may be made to the St. Vincent de Paul Society at St. Cecilia's Catholic Community.



A Memorial Mass for Mr. Joseph Cahill will be held at the Cathedral of Our Lady of Victory on Wednesday, April 11, at noon. All are invited to attend.

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

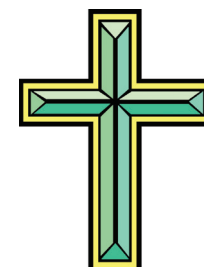
Rev. Timothy Kosler	04/23/1971	St. Rose of Lima Church, Schulenburg
Rev. Msgr. John Peters, VG	04/26/1974	Sacred Heart Church, Hallettsville

"Let us pray for more vocations to the priesthood"

"Dear young people, do not bury your talents, the gifts that God has given you! Do not be afraid to dream of great things!" -Pope Francis

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

Rev. Msgr Michael Harrold	04/02/2015
Rev. Henry Rachunek	04/03/2013
Rev. Msgr. Edward Bartsch	04/04/2010
Rev. Peter Kaplinski	04/07/2003
Rev. Michael Malloy, O.Ss.T.	04/12/1986
Rev. Henry Pscencik	04/14/1989
Rev. Msgr. Thomas C. McLaughlin	04/17/2017
Rev. Charles Sonnier	04/22/2016



"Eternal rest granted unto them, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them. May they rest in peace."



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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 >.

March 16, 2018

• **Most Rev. Brendan J. Cahill, Bishop of the Diocese of Victoria Seminary Burse**

Lector

In memory of Joseph Cahill by:
M/M Victor Dvorak, Jr.
George and Bobbie Wenzel

Acolyte

In memory of Joseph Cahill by:
John McQuillen
Knights of Saint Gregory
Monroe and Mary Margaret Rieger

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

Lector

In memory of Sanford Q. Schmid by
Darry and Barbara Meyer
In memory of Sanford Q. Schmid by
M/M Victor Dvorak, Jr.

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

Acolyte

Donation by Court Daughters of the Holy Family #2665, Victoria

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

Lector

Donation in thanksgiving

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

Lector

In memory of Helen Stryk Muras by
Daniel Stryk

Acolyte

In memory of Helen Stryk Muras by
M/M Andrew Stryk

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

Lector

In memory of Mrs. Georgia Ann McBride by
Lillian Besetzny, Mary Akers, Joanie Kriskhke, Andy Besetzny, and Ralph Besetzny

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

A Note of Thanks from Bishop Cahill

Thank each of you for your prayers and consolation for me and my family this past month. We especially felt lifted up and encouraged by our Catholic faith. There is no greater prayer than the sacrifice of the Mass - the offering of Jesus for the forgiveness of our sins. I want to offer a special thanks to my brother priests and the women religious who participated in the funeral Mass back in Houston - all us Cahills love you and will keep you in our grateful prayer. May my father Joe and the souls of the faithfully departed rest in peace.

+ Brendan Cahill and the Cahill Family

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

Murlene Enke
In Memory of Joseph Cahill

Johnny & Joan Prihoda
In Memory of Joseph Cahill

Hardy & Joann McCullough
In Memory of Joseph Cahill

Glenn & Deborah Machicek
In Memory of Joseph Cahill

Paz & Andrea Morales
In Memory of Father Dan Morales

Pete & Susana Moya
In Memory of Lawrence Kowalik

Laureate Alpha Omicron
In Memory of Lawrence Kowalik

CDA Court St. Michael #559

Acolyte

Freddie Kloesel

Candidate

Transitional Deacon

Priest

Catholic Union of Texas, KJT

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

St. Patrick's Catholic Church

Annual Spring Festival

Sunday, April 29, 2018

BBQ Brisket Plate Sale \$10
Plates includes 1/2 lb. brisket, potato salad, beans, bread and dessert
In-side serving begins at 10:30 a.m.
Plates-to-go at 10:00 a.m.
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For more information or to volunteer, please call the church office at (361) 897-1155 • parish hall (361) 897-1398



KJT SUPPORTS DIOCESAN CHARITIES — Kevin D. Kana, State Secretary/Treasurer of the Catholic Union of Texas, recently presented checks to Bishop Brendan J. Cahill and Father Gary Janak, Vicar General/Chancellor, of the Diocese of Victoria for ongoing recovery efforts from Hurricane Harvey, donations for the Priest and Religious Retirement Fund, and Education of Seminarian Fund. These funds were donated from the many KJT societies located within the Diocese of Victoria.



Chrism Mass

2018



"Forever I will sing the goodness of the Lord!"

~ Psalm 89

Don't Lose Confidence in Our Bishops' Pro-life Zeal

Continued from pg. 2

abortion law. Rather, they were working to advance legislation that was destined to be struck down in federal court. Additionally, Texas Right to Life had misrepresented legislation that the bishops had endorsed regarding end-of-life issues, according to the advisory. Finally, the bishops said that Texas Right to Life released a voter guide that did not accurately represent legislators' voting records.

These are reasonable concerns, and cutting parish ties with a group that uses these strategies is a reasonable course of action. All the faithful owe a huge debt of

gratitude to those who have labored in the cause of defending the rights of the unborn and other vulnerable persons. The zeal of those in the trenches of the pro-life movement is admirable and essential.

In order for it to be effective, it must also coexist with prudence, patience, and cooperation. It is our bishops who have the authority to guide us in ensuring that all these values are aligned.

Our culture is filled with traps that prevent these values from taking root. We are increasingly distrustful of legitimate authority, have a tendency to merely read

headlines rather than thoroughly inform ourselves, and oftentimes overvalue our attachment to political ideologies and organizations at the expense of our commitment to the teachings of Christ.

These are tools of the evil one, and we must battle these inclinations both within our society and ourselves.

In the meantime, let us have confidence that the power of Christ is far stronger than the enemy's powers. Let us ask our Blessed Mother's prayers, especially for our bishops, that they may be strong and faithful. Finally, may we have confidence

that it goes without saying: our bishops are all in for the pro-life cause, and as our rightful shepherds, they would gladly give their lives so that their sheep, born or unborn, would never be subject to a violent and legally protected demise.

Father Max Landman is parochial vicar at Sacred Heart Catholic Church, in Hallettsville, in the Diocese of Victoria, Texas.



The new Incarnate Word and Blessed Sacrament Leadership Team for 2018-2024 are, left-right, Sister Andrea Hubnik, Treasurer General, Sister Leonita Barron, 3rd Councilor, Sister Clare Underbrink, 2nd Councilor, Sister Kathleen Goike, General Superior, Sister Stephana Marbach, 1st Councilor, and Sister Stephanie Marie Martinez, 4th Councilor.

New IWBS Leadership Team

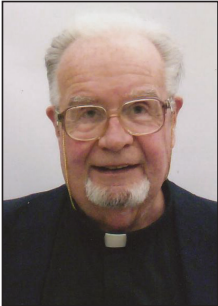
Following a process of discernment and prayer during the Incarnate Word and Blessed Sacrament Sisters Fourteenth General Chapter of Elections held March 21 – 25, in Victoria, they elected a Leadership Team who will direct them over the next



six years, 2018-2024. The theme of the Chapter was: Living the Incarnational Presence: Many Hands, One Heart, One Future. Installation of the New Leadership Team will be June 15, 2018.

In Memory of ...
Rev. Gabriel Franks

Father Gabriel Franks, age 90, of Victoria passed away Monday, March 19, 2018. He was born November 27, 1927, in San Antonio to the late Walter A. Franks and Wilhelmina Winckler Franks. He grew up in Corpus Christi. After graduating from the Corpus Christi College Academy, a Benedictine institution, he joined the Benedictine monastery of New Subiaco, Subiaco, Ark. He was ordained a Catholic priest in 1952. He subsequently went to study in Rome and remained in Europe for four years without returning, in that pre-jet plane era. While there, he picked up a good working knowledge of German, French, and Italian- languages he added to the fluent Spanish he had learned in Texas and Mexico. He received a Doctorate in Philosophy from Rome's Collegio di Sant' Anselmo in 1956. From 1957 to 1978, he worked as professor of philosophy at New Subiaco Abbey, at Conception Seminary, Conception, Mo., and at St. Mary's University, San Antonio. He got into hospital



ministry in Chicago, in 1980, and in 1998, he came to Victoria to serve as Catholic Chaplain in the Victoria hospitals. Father Franks has published two books and many articles, both popular and scholarly. He traveled, mainly independently, in more than seventy-five countries on all the continents. More recently, he has served as chaplain on cruise ships in the Caribbean, the Mediterranean, the South Pacific, and the Far East. Father Franks is a former board member of The Victoria Bach Festival, and the former President of Victoria Music Club. He is survived by his sisters, Lillian Hatch of Harlingen, Barbara (John) Hicks of Uvalde, Joan Benys of Kingsville and Mary (Ricky) Baird of San Antonio. He is also survived by his niece, Cindy Simon, caregiver, and good friend Josie Garza, caregiver. He is preceded in death by his parents and sisters, Patricia Norvell and Margaret Johnson. The funeral Mass was celebrated Saturday, March 24, at The Cathedral of Our Lady of Victory. Burial took place at Seaside Cemetery in Corpus Christi. Memorials may be made to donor's choice.

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SISTERLY THOUGHTS

By Sister Mildred Truchard, IWBS

Let Us All Sing Alleluia

Happy Easter Season! By the time you read this all nature should be showing signs of rejoicing during this joyful season. With the help of La Nina (the predicted phenomenon producing warmer, drier spring weather), vegetation should be really blossoming up and covering many of the scars left by Hurricane Harvey.

The emphasis on accompanying the suffering Jesus in our neighbor during Lent has erupted into the glorious time of discovering the Risen Savior. So, like Mary Magdalen and the disciples on the road to Emmaus let us open our eyes and see Jesus in those about us.

Moreover, let us remember that Jesus has said that whoever suffers with Him shall rise with Him. Belief in the Resurrection should be a consolation to all of us who suffer in this life, as we realize the redemptive power

of our suffering when we join our suffering with that of Jesus. So, as we celebrate the Easter Season, may we rejoice with our Risen Savior, who suffered so that we might have eternal life.

The bursting forth of the life of spring is a powerful image of the Resurrection and the eternal life which follows it. May you be reminded of the power of Jesus triumphing over death every time you see a tree budding forth and setting fruit. May your heart sing an alleluia every time you drive through the wild flowers as they raise their faces toward their Creator. May the birds join you in rejoicing; may your gardens continue to illustrate the phenomenon

of new life emerging from the death (of the seed). May all these signs strengthen your faith in the Risen Jesus.

Happy Easter Season!



In Memory of... Sr. Marietta Hajdik, IWBS

Sister Marietta Hajdik, IWBS, 86, passed away March 16, 2018. She was born December 29, 1931, in Sealy, Texas, to the late Louis and Emily (Orsak) Hajdik. She was the second of seven children - four girls and three boys. Her sister, Sister Carola, followed her into the IWBS Congregation. She attended public schools and Immaculate Conception School in Sealy and graduated from Nazareth Academy. She entered the postulancy at Nazareth Convent on November 27, 1949; received the habit on September 3, 1950 and pronounced her first vows on September 4, 1951. She received her Bachelor of Science degree in home economics from Incarnate Word College in San Antonio and a Master of Education, majoring in educational administration from Southwest Texas State University. Sister Marietta's years of ministry included serving as principal and/or teacher at St. Michael School in Weimar, Sacred Heart School in La Grange, St. Agnes School and Blessed Sacrament School in San Antonio, St. Ludmila Academy and St. Paul High School in Shiner, Our Lady of Perpetual Help in Selma, Our Lady of Victory School and Nazareth Academy in Victoria, and Sacred Heart School in Hallettsville. She assisted in parish ministry at St. Leo's Church in San Antonio and served as Director of Religious Education and the RCIA program at Assumption of



the Blessed Virgin Mary in Ganado for 18 years. During her later years she served as Director of the Sisters in the Annual Vows program. Her kind, gentle, and peaceful spirit were a constant inspiration. She is preceded in death by her parents and brother-in-law, Henry Jurecek. She is survived by her sisters, Helen Jurecek, Clara (Steve) Kubena, Sister Carola Hajdik; brothers, Bernard (Vivian) Hajdik, Louis (Barbara) Hajdik, Eugene (Mary) Hajdik and many nieces, nephews, grandnieces and grandnephews.

On Tuesday, March 20, 2018, 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, Hospice of South Texas, or donor's choice.

Office of Youth & Young Adult Ministry

The Diocese of Victoria (DOV) is looking for an Associate Director for the Office of Youth & Young Adult Ministry. Must be a practicing Catholic and in good standing with the Church. Application deadline is April 30, 2018. For more information visit: www.victoriadiocese.org/current-job-postings.

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY



SISTERS CELEBRATED—During the National Catholic Sisters Week (NCSW), the Office of Catholic Schools hosted the 2nd Annual Luncheon, in thanksgiving for the sisters who serve the Diocese of Victoria. The orders represented were the Sisters of the Incarnate Word and Blessed Sacrament (IWBS), Missionary Catechists of the Sacred Heart of Jesus and Mary (MCSH), and Vietnamese Dominican Sisters (OP). NCSW is an annual celebration that takes place from March 8-14. During this week events were held to bring greater focus to the lives of these incredible women.





Letter to the Editor

How Disciples on the Journey Impacted A Single Soul!

Proverbs 14: 31 He who oppresses the poor blasphemes his Maker, but he who is kind to the needy glorifies HIM.

Dear Lighthouse readers,

Let me take this opportunity to introduce myself to the Diocese of Victoria community. My name is Dolores Wilkes. I am from the Pasadena/Clear Lake area of Houston, Texas. My husband Bill and I moved away from the hustle and bustle of the city. In 2010, my husband was getting ready for retirement, so we moved out to Fayette County to enjoy country life in the peace and beauty of God's nature.

My youngest son was away at college in Florida. This move would be a big sacrifice. The hardest part of the move for me was leaving most of my family in Pasadena / La Porte area and not being able to see them as often. Adjusting to life in a very small town was incredibly challenging.

It's been 7 ½ years now and looking back, I realize that we all want to belong somewhere. One of the challenges when moving to a new community is finding a church home. It was difficult, but after many visits, we finally settled at St. Rose of Lima Church in Schulenburg. Many good things have happened there, and also some difficult experiences, but that's anywhere we live. I attended an ACTS retreat, and there, God broke open my wounds. I was able to meet new ladies that were also transplants to this area.

One of those ladies asked if I wanted to go with her to someone's house for *Disciples on the Journey*. I said yes and found myself a stranger in someone's home; I didn't know anyone but the person that extended the invitation; however, I was welcomed. *Disciples on the Journey* made such impact on my life at that time! I was so happy at the opportunity to share with others. I thank God for the person who invited me on that amazing journey. I am also very grateful to the hostess, Phyllis Venghaus for having a stranger in her home. Since then, I have opened my own home two times for a *Disciples on the Journey* small group.

This year I was asked to coordinate groups from St. Rose of Lima Parish, and as it turned out, four small faith-sharing groups transpired for this Lenten resource! The Living as Disciples Section on the 2nd

Sunday of Lent had so many actions to select. However, I decided to select the first action: the Corporal Work of Mercy - Feed the Hungry. This act wasn't unfamiliar to me. In the area where I lived before moving to the country, and after the tragic loss of my oldest son, I volunteered my time at our



church in the Christian Action Office. In that office I was able to give food and clothing to the needy of that community.

Recently because of the nice weather, I suddenly decided to take a trip to Houston to spend some time with the grandkids at the zoo. I called my daughter-in-law to ask if she would meet us there instead of us driving all the way into Dickinson. She gladly agreed to meet us at the zoo.

The day before, my husband Bill approached me and asked out of the clear blue, "What are we going to do with the four dozen eggs from our chicken?" I responded, "Let's call Casa Juan Diego and ask if they cook there? Will they take eggs?" Yes, indeed they did. Bill and I donate to this cause by mail, but have never had the privilege to find out where they are located. Once we reached Houston, we discovered that this place was not easy to find crowded in by new high-rise buildings and busy street traffic.

A young lady who volunteers her time and writes in the Houston Catholic Worker Publication greeted us. She wrote a piece in the Jan. - Mar. Edition. We gave her the eggs and spent 45 minutes visiting with her while she was in the middle of helping folks that walked in for help. Her smile was as big as her heart; the light of Christ was shining right through her. This lady, Julia Gallaher, spoke very good Spanish and of course English. She gave us a tour of the main eating area and the tiny Chapel where Mass is celebrated every morning. When we were getting ready to say good-bye, we

hugged each other.

We did manage to leave on time to meet with our daughter-in-law at the zoo, although the zoo was twenty-nine minutes away. It was amazing how the day turned out all because we were doing one of the suggested actions in *Disciples on the Journey* "Feed the Hungry"! Bill, being a veteran, got all the tickets with a 50% discount; the weather was perfect, the grandchildren got to feed

the giraffes and we saw the baby elephant.

I love the country but will always be a city girl; however, living as a disciple on the journey and giving God all the glory for what He has allowed me to do, I will find joy in every aspect of my life. God has placed some beautiful women of God, the Sisters of the Incarnate Word and Blessed Sacrament, in my path and they have produced a Lenten Program that is truly a blessing. The *Disciples on the Journey* booklets are distributed nationally, and the Sisters give away the unused books to inmates in various prisons. We are called to help them with this mission because we are Christ's body in today's world called to minister to the

poor, the forgotten and the ones in prison.

I personally want to THANK ALL the Sisters of the Incarnate Word and Blessed Sacrament, the whole team, the Editorial Staff, Core Team, Spanish Translation, Text Proofer and Design and Layout, especially Sister Digna Vela for her encouragement and direction. Above all, I give the Glory to The Almighty! We still have a way to go before we complete *Disciples on the Journey*. I can't wait for what lays ahead.

I will close with this Scripture from the Bible, John 8:31 Jesus then said to those Jews who believed in him, "if you remain in my word, you will truly be my disciples."

A Disciple on a Journey,
Dolores D. Wilkes

Editor's Note:

What Is Casa Juan Diego?

Casa Juan Diego was founded in 1980, following the Catholic Worker model of Dorothy Day and Peter Maurin, to serve immigrants and refugees and the poor. From one small house it has grown to ten houses. Casa Juan Diego publishes a newspaper, the Houston Catholic Worker, six times a year to share the values of the Catholic Worker movement and the stories of the immigrants and refugees uprooted by the realities of the global economy. See their website at <https://cjd.org>

Journeys of Faith with Ceci FOR YOUR PILGRIMAGE EXPERIENCE



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.



~ Make Plans for Your Pilgrimage in 2019 ~

Italy for Epiphany singing with Anna Nuzzo ~ January 2-12

Holy Land with Father Pat Knippenberg ~ January 30 - February 9

Holy Land with Father Michael Sparough ~ May 14-26

Poland and Czech Republic with Father Dan Cambra ~ September 18-29

Central Italy with Father Victor Perez ~ October 14-24

Advent in Holy Land singing with Anna Nuzzo ~ November 29 - December 9

Ceci Triska · (979) 543-8575 (leave message)
ceci.triska@gmail.com · www.selectinternationaltours.com
You can follow Journeys of Faith with Ceci on Facebook!



HISTORY RELIVED—Each year, Our Lady of Victory 7th grade students present a Living Museum. They thoroughly research someone from history or who has accomplished something of interest. They dress and speak from the perspective of that person, as they explain the details of their life and accomplishments. This year, some included: Beverly Cleary, Mary Lou Retton, Clara Barton, John Deere, Nelly Bly, Ghandi, and many others.



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 and Young Adult Ministry, weggert@victoriadiocese.org ; (361) 573-0828 ext. 2232.



SACRED HEART STUDENTS PARTICIPATE IN DIOCESAN CKB—The Diocese of Victoria Catholic Knowledge Bowl has become a popular event, and this year, twenty-eight teams gathered at St. Mary's Activity Center, in Victoria, on Sunday, February 25. Sacred Heart Catholic High School students have always participated and have come away with many awards. Win or lose, their enthusiasm hasn't dampened. Those participating were Ty H., Austin K., Connor P., and Darren S., calling themselves "Tank's Theologians." This year they took 4th place, but will come back next year with the goal of taking 1st place. Congratulations to Tank's Theologians. Also to be commended is the girls team, Anna Marie B., Macy H., Audrey R., and Stacie S. named "Servants of St. Kateri" who fared well.

Camp David Registration Now Open!!



Junior High Camps: Grades 6th - 8th

Session 1: June 10-12

Session 2: June 13-15

Cost: \$75 and \$10 for a t-shirt \$25 deposit to secure a spot. Registration will close once all spots are filled.

Elementary Camp: Grades 3rd - 5th

June 13

Cost: \$25 per person and \$10 for a t-shirt

For more information call (361) 573-0828
www.victoriadiocese.org/camp-david



PREPARING FOR SACRAMENTS—St. Joseph, Inez, second graders attend a retreat preparing for their first reconciliation and first Communion.

**Stocks ■ Bonds ■ CDs
Mutual Funds ■ IRAs**



Kenneth J. French, Sr.

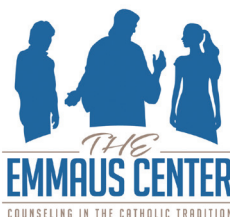
1501 E Mockingbird,
Ste 102
Victoria, TX 77901

Edward Jones

(361) 576-0178

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.



Office of Catholic Schools Years of Service

5 Years

Paula Raney SJ, Yoakum
Terese Arnecke SJHS, Victoria
Patty Zapalac SJHS, Victoria
Raquel Simmons OLV, Victoria
Nancy Ives OLV, Victoria
Teresa Childress OLV, Victoria
Danette Cantu SAS, Columbus
Shanna Collins SAS, Columbus
Josephine Hermis SRS, Schulenburg
Jaime Rainosek SRS, Schulenburg
Julia Hollek SMS, Weimar
Myra Schaefer SMS, Weimar
Erik Danna SPS, El Campo
Theresa Harton SPS, El Campo
Natalie Janik SPS, El Campo
Denise Prochazka SPS, El Campo
Maria Desoto OLG, Port Lavaca
Lisa Malik SCS, Shiner
Elaine Cesarz SCS, Shiner
Kayla Natho SCS, Shiner
Debrah Bluhm NA, Victoria
Diane Bollom NA, Victoria
Amy Gwosdz NA, Victoria
Sarah Goebel SMS, Cuero
Jennifer Powell SMS, Cuero
Dusty Tweedle SMS, Cuero



10 Years

Sheila Klimitchek SJ, Yoakum
Sister Clare Underbrink SJHS, Victoria
LuLu Gonzales OLV, Victoria
Heather Taylor OLV, Victoria
Ann Barlow SMS, Weimar
Roy Irving SMS, Weimar
Virginia Olsovsky SMS, Weimar
Donna Cunningham SPS, El Campo
Sandi Rod SPS, El Campo
Sonya Crawford SCS, Shiner
Neely Yackel SCS, Shiner
Ana Henke SH, Hallettsville
DeeDee Uresti NA, Victoria
Dr. John Quarry OCS, Victoria

15 Years

Sherry Pavlicek SJ, Yoakum
Karen Frazier OLV, Victoria
Jennifer Moeller SRS, Schulenburg
Stacy Oeding SRS, Schuleburg
Carolyn Osina SRS, Schulenburg
Sandra Muras SMS, Weimar
Theresa York SP, El Campo
Richard Chen OLG, Port Lavaca
Shannon Siegel SCS, Shiner
Dana Beal-Sestak SCS, Shiner
Sr. Ann Meletio NA, Victoria
Connie Boedeker SMS, Cuero

20 Years

Janice Cox SPS, El Campo
Betty Reck SPS, El Campo
Brenda Etzler SH, Hallettsville
Kim Henke SH, Hallettsville

25 Years



Sr. Colette
Kouba, IWBS
SH
Hallettsville



Deborah
Machicek
SJHS
Victoria

35 Years



Andy
Kocian
SCS
Shiner

30 Years



Jennifer
Hessler
OLV
Victoria

45 Years



Michael
Boyle
SJHS
Victoria



OLV STUDENTS QUALIFY FOR PSIA STATE COMPETITION—Our Lady of Victory Catholic School hosted the 2018 Private Schools Interscholastic Academic (PSIA) District 7AA Meet on Saturday, February 17. Thirty students from Our Lady of Victory qualified to compete in 39 events at the PSIA State Meet on Saturday, April 28, at Texas Christian University in Fort Worth. These students qualified by placing first or second individually in one or more contests at the District Meet. State qualifiers are: bottom row (l-r): Mandeep J., Quinn R., Jacob P., Benji C., Jordan Y., Evan C., Luis R., Hayden L.; 2nd row: Jonah C., Hailey U., Gabe W., Paula S., Mackenzie S., Rebecca F., Sarah Y., Lauren T.; 3rd row: Cecilia O., Bodie M., Kylee S., Mia M., Carly D., Oliver J., Cole W.-J., Joaquin O.; top row: Kevin C., Thomas C., Emmett L., Addison H., and Thomas T.; not pictured is Heidi T.

It takes a big
heart
to help shape
little
minds.

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Blessed Sacrament
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Inspirational Gifts**



21st Annual Bishop David Fellhauer Invitational Golf Tournament

May 11

1:00 p.m.



The Club at
Colony Creek
~ Victoria ~

The tournament is sponsored by the Knights of Columbus Council #9088. Funds from the tournament will benefit youth and vocation programs that have enriched the spiritual lives of many young people of our diocese. The average cost to educate one seminarian for a year is \$35,000. This year, again, the diocese has 12 seminarians! With this blessing also comes great responsibility; as we are reminded by Pope Francis, "I urge all the faithful to assume their responsibility for the care and discernment of vocations The Christian community is always present in the discernment of vocations, in their formation and in their perseverance."

Sponsorships may be mailed to:

Diocese of Victoria • P. O. Box 4070 • Victoria, TX 77903

Deadline May 4, 2018

For more information, contact:

Ron Sitka, tournament chairman

(361) 550-1314

Sponsorship levels:

Bishop ~ \$1,000

Monsignor ~ \$500

Priest ~ \$200

Deacon ~ \$100

Seminarian ~ \$50



Bishop David Fellhauer Invitational Golf Tournament

Bishop Sponsor

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Name Here

is proud to sponsor

Name of seminarian and short
biography of seminarian selected.

Seminarian
Photo
Here



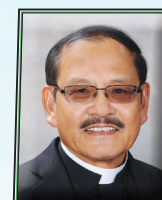
James Dvorak
Pastoral Year



Dalton Ervin
Pastoral Year



Chase Goodman
Pastoral Year



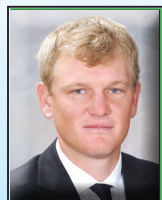
Tran Dinh
Theology II



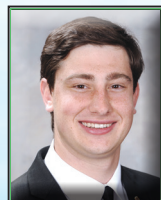
Nick Aparicio
Theology I



Luke Prihoda
Pre-Theology II



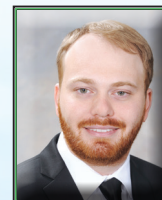
Adam Shimek
Pre-Theology II



Ryan Kapavik
College IV



Aaron Padilla
College IV



Scott Dornak
Pre-Theology I



Philippe Dubourdieu
College II



Caleb Kriskche
College II



Come join Bishop David Fellhauer and friends for an afternoon of fun and games.

Office of Catechetical Ministry

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.



Mary: God Chooses the Poor and Lowly

Sr. Digna Vela, IWBS – Instructor

Tuesdays 9:15 – 11:30 a.m. Dates: May 8, 15, 22, 29

Thursdays 7:00 – 9:15 p.m. Dates: May 10, 17, 24, 31

Locations: Chancery, Victoria Distant Learning sites: TBA

A four-week course on Mary, our Blessed Mother will be offered for all adult Catholics on Tuesday mornings and Thursday evenings. Pope Paul VI says: Mary is "truly our sister, who as a poor and humble woman who fully shared our lot." As a Jewish woman in a relatively poor, politically oppressed first-century peasant society, Mary was a friend of God and a prophet. She encourages us to develop an ever-deeper relationship with God and a compassion for those in situations of poverty, prejudice, and violence today. This course will explore Mary through Scripture, liturgy, and ancient Christian preaching. Register online at www.victoriadiocese.org. Fee \$20.

Save the Date

Second Annual Catechist Rally • Saturday, July 14, 2018
Cathedral Center, Victoria

All clergy, parish catechetical leaders, catechists, and others who are involved in the evangelization and catechetical formation of students involved in the parish catechetical programs are invited to attend. More information will come soon.



FRIENDLY COMPETITION—The Catholic Knowledge Bowl (CKB) was held February 25, 2018. Adult, teen, and family teams were tested on 35 multiple choice questions for three rounds of competition to test their knowledge of the Catholic faith. Pictured above is the 1st place adult team, Sister Act 4. The winners are listed below:

Adults

Sister Act 4 - Our Lady of Sorrows, Victoria — 1st Place

Explorers on the Journey - St. Michael's, Cuero — 2nd Place

Theologians II - Immaculate Conception Church, Goliad — 3rd Place

Family

Catholic Crusaders - Immaculate Conception Church, Goliad — 1st Place

Biblical Bernsens - Sts. Peter and Paul, Plum — 2nd Place

Saints in the Making - St. Robert, El Campo — 3rd Place

Teens

Mariner Master Minds - Our Lady of the Gulf, Port Lavaca — 1st Place

The Marvelous Mariners - Our Lady of the Gulf, Port Lavaca — 2nd Place

Jay-walkers - Our Lady of the Gulf, Port Lavaca — 3rd Place



CWV COLLECT ITEMS FOR GABRIEL PROJECT—In keeping with Bishop Brendan Cahill's work priority of upholding Human Life and Dignity, the Catholic War Veterans (CWV) St. John's Post #1269 and the Unit Auxiliary conducted a drive among its members during January and February to collect items for newborn infants in support of the Victoria Gabriel Project. The CWV and Auxiliary also donated a combined \$500 to further the Gabriel Project's mission. The items and monetary donations were presented on February 23, 2018, at the CWV Post Home. Pictured are Auxiliary President Lupita Martinez and Post Commander Juan Benavidez presenting checks and donated items to Gabriel Project representative Cathy Rojas, in the center of the photo. Supporting the Commander and President are a few members of the CWV and Auxiliary.



ALTAR SOCIETY RECOGNIZES COUPLES—Our Lady of Victory, Altar Society members helped at the parish wedding anniversary celebration on February 11. Members serving were, left to right, Sandy Munoz, first vice; Lillian Turk, Irene Brosch, Sandra Genoway, Lillie Martinka, Donna Wesley, and Carolyn Love, second vice.



HURRICANE RECOVERY—The Cathedral of Our Lady of Victory continues, after seven months, to make repairs to the church after Hurricane Harvey. The new roof will be completed soon.

Marriage Help Program

A program called Retrouvaille, for couples with marriages in distress will be held in Victoria, August 3-5, 2018, at the Spiritual Renewal Center.

Retrouvaille (pronounced retro-vi with a long i) is a Christian-based program that provides couples the tools needed to help put their marriage in order again. Retrouvaille has helped tens of thousands of couples worldwide who were experiencing marital difficulty at all levels of distress including disillusionment and deep misery.

Retrouvaille of Victoria is a non-profit organization. The presenting teams are made up of people who have gone through the program themselves and overcome significant obstacles in their own marriages.

Some couples feel frustrated or angry in their marriage. Many find that talking about it only makes it worse. Some couples experience coldness and simply shut down. Other couples have severe conflict and angry arguments. Most don't know how to change the situation or even talk with

their spouse about it.

There is a registration fee; however, no couple is ever denied the chance to heal their marriage because of lack of funds. At the end of the weekend, each couple is given a blank envelope and asked to make an anonymous "pay it forward" donation to help cover the cost of the program for future weekends. This request for a donation is made only once.

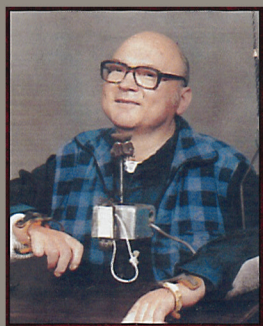
The program includes post sessions for the six weeks immediately following the weekend to support and guide couples as they make significant changes in the way they interact with each other. Registration deadline for the August 2018 weekend is Friday, July 27, 2018.

For confidential information about or to register for the August 2018 weekend, call John/Jennifer Vincent at (361) 580-2770 or email: jbvjov@sbcglobal.net or visit the Retrouvaille International web site at HelpOurMarriage.com

HelpOurMarriage.com
RETROUVAILLE
A LIFELINE FOR MARRIED COUPLES



TRADITIONAL LATIN MASS—Bishop Brendan Cahill preached the sermon (inset photo) at the Traditional Latin Sung Mass (the Missa Cantata) on the 4th Sunday of Lent, March 11, at Sts. Peter and Paul Church in Frelsburg. The Msgr. Peter Gury Knights of Columbus Council #5157 provided a meal after Mass. The Traditional Latin Mass is offered every Sunday at 12:30 p.m., on First Fridays at 6:00 p.m., First Saturdays, at 8:00 a.m., and holy days of obligation at Sts. Peter and Paul Church, celebrated by Father Michael Lyons, pastor.



1929-2000

*Father
Charles Kram
Korner*

Second Sunday of Easter; Faith and Fellowship

The following homily was written by Father Kram for the second Sunday of Easter.

Birds of a feather flock together. An old saying that expresses the fact that creatures of the same kind tend to keep company.

There is a balance in Nature by which all living things, including humans, regulate one another. In nature, natural enemies prevent overpopulation by any given species. Without enemies, a species goes out of control -take, for example, the fire ant and all the harm it has done to the wildlife population in just a few short years. In the world of microbiology, germs control each other, and when you kill off too many with antibiotics a new and worse infection may result.

Indeed, we live in a world in which no creature is an island, in which all of us are interdependent, and in the case of us humans, a world in which the freely chosen actions and omissions of each of us help or hinder the rest of us. In fact, it is especially in the world of humans that we find the greatest variety of rivalries and competitions and balancing acts.

We humans like to belong, we do not like to sit at home alone. Living in the spiritual world as well as in the material, we need each other more than any other species. We fight on two fronts and our position can bring out the best in us or the worst.

But our Christian calling impels us to serve the needs of one another. Jesus made this very clear one day when he settled an argument among his followers about who was to be the greatest in his kingdom. He told them that anyone who wished to be great among them must serve the rest.

Let us consider a few examples. Sooner or later any one of us could come to the point of being ill or disabled or broke, dependent on others for many things that we were used to doing for ourselves. We don't like

the thought of it.

Dependency can be harder to bear than the ailment that caused it. Having to rely on others can turn a bully into a crybaby. It can make you bitter or make you better. It can make you a great sinner or a great saint. Those who have to depend on others might well consider that many a good deed would forever have to be left undone, were it not for such special needs. Gracious acceptance promotes devoted service. A famous quote from the poet John Milton says, "He also serves who only stands and waits."

We can all help ourselves and one another to live and grow by DIRECT help, but we must also seek strength through our prayers. So let's consider the activity in which we are now engaged, namely going to church.

Some say, "I don't like to go to church because I don't get anything out of it. Actually, the reason why we have public worship together is NOT to entertain or to thrill~ but rather, to pay group worship to God, to whom we owe so very much. A little plaque in the old hospital said, "I.O.U. Lord, for everything." Those who say that they get nothing out of Mass should ask themselves, "What am I putting into it?"

We owe God PRIVATE worship, for example, by saying our morning and evening prayers at home, but as members of God's family we also owe him public group worship. If Mass bores you, don't quit going, especially when you are off at college or on your own somewhere. A much more appropriate solution would be a wholehearted attention and devotion in assisting at, rather than just attending the public worship of God's people.

Try to hear the Lord speaking to you through the Scriptures. There is more in the readings than you see in the Missalette. Listen past your daydreams. Make the prayers of the Mass your own. Make your



JCDA members and guests are pictured at Father Charles Kram Project presentation. Members learned about the process required for canonization.

Youth Learn About Father Kram

YOAKUM—The Junior Catholic Daughters #206 in Yoakum met on Sunday, March 4, at the St. Joseph Parish Hall for their monthly meeting. The staff of Father Charles Kram Project gave a presentation about his incredible joyful journey through life despite enormous suffering. Father Kram, who was born on September 30, 1929, contracted the dreadful polio disease in 1952, at the young age of 23. He became a quadriplegic priest who served for nearly 25 years as the Yoakum hospital chaplain doing what he enjoyed most in life: serving God and neighbor with an enormous amount of love. The staff shared memories of this well-known man who touched numerous lives in the small community of Yoakum, Texas. Author Deacon Anthony Warzecha chronicled a biography in 2015 titled, *Gladly Will I Glory*, to describe the priest's journey and struggles and most importantly, to promote the process of Father Charles W. Kram Jr.'s canonization. Members learned about the lengthy process required for someone to at-

tain sainthood. Father Kram embodied the very virtues necessary for this sainthood. Two copies of the book were autographed and donated to the JCDA organization for the members to take turns reading. Attending JCDA members and guests are pictured. Presenting the Kram Project with a donation check is JCDA President Christian G., Father Kram Project staff members Deacon Joe Machacek, Deacon and author Anthony Warzecha, Janet Pohl, and Karen Roznovsky. Junior Catholic Daughters Chairmen are Desiree Muenich and Jennifer Jahn.

Anyone wishing to help preserve the memory of Father Charles Kram and encourage the promotion of his cause for sainthood, direct your support to: Father Charles Kram Project, 306 South Avenue F, Shiner, TX 77984. This is a 501(c)(3) non-profit corporation. Additional copies of the book can also be found at the Yoakum Community Hospital Auxiliary Gift Shop.

Communion a personal meeting with the Lord Jesus. It will work if you do.

Sometimes we see people hurrying out of Church right after receiving Holy Communion because they have places to go and things to do. What's their rush? Remember how in the Garden of Gethsemane Jesus asked his sleepy disciples, "Could you not watch one hour with me?"

How appropriate it would be for someone to run with lighted candle alongside the fleeing participants to escort them and their Divine Guest to the car.

If you happen to be one of those hurried Christians who must rush out right after receiving Holy Communion because you have places to go and things to do, think of what you are doing. Consider how appropriate it

would be to take a lighted candle with you to escort your Blessed Savior with fitting reverence, to your car.

In conclusion, speaking for ourselves and for all the other creatures that surround us, we strive to live as servants for the honor and glory of God and for our own mutual well being and happiness.

Lord, Jesus, thank you for all the love and inspiration you have given us, the Father's family. Help us to realize ever more clearly our need for you and for one another. Grant that through our loyalty to you and our support of each other, we might bring to fulfillment every purpose for which our world was made. Amen.



***Humanae Vitae* — Proclaiming God's Gifts of Love and Life to Husband and Wife**

The Papal Encyclical, *Humanae Vitae* (HV) written by Blessed Pope Paul VI in 1968, provides beautiful and clear teaching about God's plan for married love and the transmission of life. July 25, 2018, marks the 50th Anniversary of *Humanae Vitae*. Throughout this anniversary year, dioceses around the country have been celebrating and reflecting on *Humanae Vitae* with conferences, days of reflection, special events, and Masses where homilies reflect *Humanae Vitae* and the Church's teaching on conjugal love and responsible parenthood.

The Diocese of Victoria and Bishop Brendan Cahill will celebrate a Mass in observance of the 50th Anniversary of *Humanae Vitae* on Sunday, May 13, 2018, at 9:00 a.m. at the Cathedral of Our Lady of Victory.

NEW 4TH DEGREE KNIGHTS— Pictured above are 29 members of the Knights of Columbus who became Fourth Degree Knights at an Exemplification hosted by Assembly #1126 and Holy Family Council #9088, at Holy Family Church, in Victoria, on February 24, 2018. (right) The Most Reverend David E. Fellhauer, Bishop Emeritus of the Diocese of Victoria, was honoree for the Exemplification. The award was presented to Bishop Fellhauer by Joe Rodriguez, Master, Texas Second District, Our Lady of Guadalupe Province.



Office of Communications

The deadline for submitting photos etc. to *The Catholic Lighthouse* is the 15th of the preceding month. If submitting photos to be published, please make sure they are in a large format. A large format may be a huge picture in size at 72 dpi's or it may be a picture that is 10 inches wide at 300 dpi's. The Lighthouse staff converts all photos to 300 dpi's for the pictures to be crisp in print and web media.

Matthew 5:16 "In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven."

FLAG POLE DEDICATED—Victoria Christian Assistance Ministry (VCAM) had a dedication on Saturday, March 17, to honor the donors of the new flagpole that complements the VCAM facility at 108 N. Liberty. Donors who contributed to the purchase of the flagpole include: Dr. Kurtis and Debbie Krueger, Knights of Columbus Council #9088.



Prayer for Life

*Father and maker of all,
you adorn all creation
with splendor and beauty,
and fashion human lives
in your image and likeness.
Awaken in every heart
reverence for the work of your hands,
and renew among your people
a readiness to nurture and sustain
your precious gift of life.*

*Grant this through our Lord
Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you in
the unity of the Holy Spirit,
God, for ever and ever.
Amen.*



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Sunday Readings from April 8 - May 13

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

April 29 ~ Fifth Sunday of Easter

Acts 9:26-31

Psalms 22:26-27, 28, 30, 31-32

1 John 3:18-24

John 15:1-8

April 15 ~ Third Sunday of Easter

Acts 3:13-15, 17-19

Psalms 4:2, 4, 7-8, 9

1 John 2:1-5A

Luke 24:35-48

May 6 ~ Sixth Sunday of Easter

Acts 10:25-26, 34-35, 44-48

Psalms 98:1, 2-3, 3-4

1 John 4:7-10

John 15:9-17

April 22 ~ Fourth Sunday of Easter

Acts 4:8-12

Psalms 118:1, 8-9, 21-23, 26, 28, 29

1 John 3:1-2

John 10:11-18

May 13 ~ The Ascension of the Lord

Acts 1:1-11

Psalms 47:2-3, 6-7, 8-9

Ephesians 1:17-23

Mark 16:15-20

For daily and Sunday readings, as well as a daily reflection video, visit

www.usccb.org/bible/readings.

Brought to you by: Catholic Communications Campaign



Blessings of Human Life and Dignity

In February, the Lighthouse staff asked Diocese of Victoria high school students to submit a short article on: "What does evangelization mean to me? or What does Human Life and Dignity mean to me?" These are two of the five priorities that the United States Catholic Conference of Bishops and Bishop Cahill are focusing on for the next few years throughout the nation and their dioceses.

We thank CeeCee Y., a homeschool sophomore and parishioner of Holy Cross Church in Yorktown who responded. She is our April guest writer. If any other high school students are interested please contact srichmond@victoriadiocese.org for more details.

By CeeCee Y.

Human life and dignity are gifts that we all receive at the moment of conception from God. We are all blessed with the right of life and dignity. God created all of us in his own divine image. We were created to serve the Lord and our neighbor. He granted us the grace of free will so that we can choose the path we take towards him. Human life and dignity is a right, a blessing, and a grace from God that no one in this world has the power to take away.

God gave us life. He bestowed this beautiful blessing upon us out of love for us. He made the earth, the creatures that inhabit it, the water, the skies, and everything we see through our eyes as a gift not only for us, but for Himself as well. He is our Omnipotent King of Perfection. To Him, the world would not be complete if He didn't create us.

Today, we face the horrible endeavor of abortion. It is the murder of an innocent child in the womb. God gave that child life as he did to all of us. It is terrible that some children don't get to live out their lives like we do. Some people believe that a child is not a child until it is born or until it has been conceived for a certain amount of time. This is completely false. At the moment of conception, the baby is a living being. It is a child. This child has dignity. It has the right to life. This blessing was given to it by our Lord. No one can erase a child's life when it was given to them by God. No one has the authority to take away a precious life. People cannot just take away what

was given to us by our creator. No one's authority is above God's.

Dignity is the quality of being worthy. All of us are worthy, for God makes us worthy. We are all born with dignity. We all sin, and it is through our dignity we have gone into the confessional that we are forgiven. We are all worthy of God's forgiveness. No matter how terrible the sins we commit, God is never angry at us; however, filled with joy that we have the dignity to repent. Just like life, no one can take away our dignity, for it was given to us by God.

Everyone is important and everyone is worth something. There is not a single human in this world who is worthless, alone, or unimportant. There is also no one in this world who was not given the rights to life and dignity and no one in this world is given the right to take away someone's life and dignity. These two things were given to all of us, and we must embrace and use them. Through these blessings of life and dignity, we find ourselves, and we find God.

Divine
Mercy
Sunday
April 8



1st Annual Roast and Toast

SATURDAY, MAY 12

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2ND SUNDAY OF EASTER: DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY
READING II – 1 JOHN 5:1-6

A reading from the first Letter of Saint John: Beloved: / Everyone who believes that Jesus is the Christ is begotten by God, / and everyone who loves the Father / loves also the one begotten by him. / In this way we know that we love the children of God / when we love God and obey his commandments. / For the love of God is this, / that we keep his commandments. / And his commandments are not burdensome, / for whoever is begotten by God conquers the world. / And the victory that conquers the world is our faith. / Who indeed is the victor over the world / but the one who believes that Jesus is the Son of God? ¶ This is the one who came through water and blood, Jesus Christ, / not by water alone, but by water and blood. / The Spirit is the one that testifies, / and the Spirit is truth.

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E J W I U O T K R J T A N E L A T
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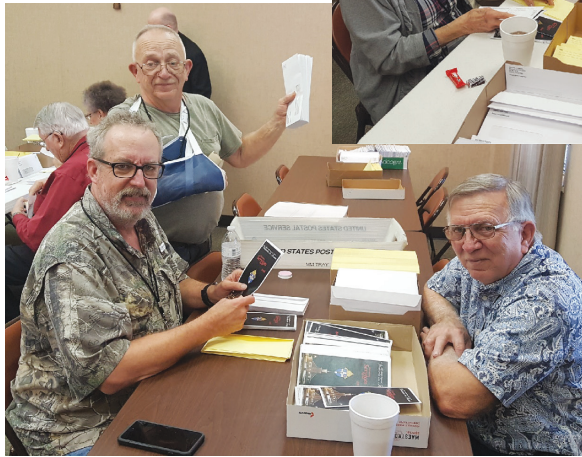
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Although the above material is copyrighted and copying of it is prohibited by law, the author does offer use of the material for educational purposes under an Educators Program. If you are interested in using this puzzle or book for educational use or for more information, contact Elie’s Spiritual Treasures at (361) 894-7274, elies_spiritual_treasures@yahoo.com or visit www.searching-for-jesus.com.

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.


Thank
you



Thank you to the many volunteers who assisted with the Diocesan Services Appeal (DSA) mail out! The Chancery staff is grateful for your support and assistance with this annual project.

Thanks to those who volunteered their time on March 22 to help stuff envelopes for the Holy Thursday Collection ~ Education of Seminarian Fund mail out. This project was completed quickly with their help.





Child and Vulnerable Adult Abuse Reporting Procedures

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

If Church Personnel Is Involved In Alleged Abuse:
Step One: Contact Civil Authorities, if individual is a minor.
Step Two: Contact one of the following:

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

We will also help you bring your concerns to Church officials outside the diocese if the abuse occurred elsewhere and you now reside in the Diocese of Victoria. For further assistance please contact Vicki L. Pyatt.



Statement Concerning the Serial Bombings in Central Texas

Statement from Archbishop Gustavo García-Siller, MSps, of San Antonio and Bishop Joe S. Vásquez of Austin

“Our thoughts and prayers are with the victims and the families and friends of all those affected by the package explosions which have taken place this month in Austin and San Antonio, the latest of which occurred early this morning. These appalling attacks have killed and injured innocent people, young adults, and children who were in their homes, bicycling on the street, and working at their jobs.

The randomness of these attacks and their increasing frequency are perhaps meant by their perpetrator to spread fear and cause division in our communities. However, as we have seen time and time again, tragedies such as these strengthen our bonds and bring our communities together in prayer and recognition of the sanctity and preciousness of life.

We know that law enforcement agencies are diligently striving to solve these

cases and bring those responsible to justice. We place our trust in the Lord, as it states in Joshua, ‘Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go.’

We ask all people in our dioceses to remain vigilant, and to pray and work for peace.”

Prayer for Protection from Violence

Lord God, your Son was delivered into the hands of his persecutors, yet he prayed for them and overcame hatred with the blood of the Cross. Relieve the sufferings of our brothers and sisters and grant eternal light and peace of mind and a renewed faith in your protection and care.

Keep us safe from acts of violence and restore us to tranquility and peace. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Commemoration of Dr. King’s Assassination

The National Civil Rights Museum celebrated the 50th Anniversary of Martin Luther King’s assassination on April 4, 2018 with “A Day of Remembrance”. Bells tolled, the community gathered for a ceremony, liturgy musicals and spoken tributes and remarks were given from civil rights icons. The National Civil Rights Museum writes, “Our nation’s greatest peacemaker was snatched from us by a sniper’s bullet. It occurred at the Lorraine Motel, 450 Mulberry Street in Memphis, Tennessee, now, the location of the National Civil Rights Museum.” That shot would reverberate throughout the world, and on April 4, 2018, the world remembers the event that occurred at approximately 6:01 p.m. CT. The National Civil Rights Museum wants to help the world reflect, but not linger on the past, but instead use that horrific event to propel us forward. MLK50: Where Do We Go From Here? is the theme for the year-long commemoration of Dr. King’s assassination. In 2018, our desire is not simply to reflect and recount the history,

but to connect the history to contemporary issues; this forward looking theme is most appropriate for this commemoration.”

We recall the words of Pope Francis as we remember Dr. Martin Luther King.

“True peace means working so that everyone has a solution to the problems, to the needs, that they have in their land, in their homeland, in their family, in their society.” ~Pope Francis

“The ultimate measure of a man is not where he stands in moments of comfort and convenience, but where he stands at times of challenge and controversy.”

~Martin Luther King, Jr.

“Darkness cannot drive out darkness; only light can do that. Hate cannot drive out hate; only love can do that.”

~Martin Luther King, Jr.



Pope Francis talks with Archbishop Diarmuid Martin, of Dublin, as he meets an Irish delegation of families during his general audience in St. Peter’s Square at the Vatican, March 21. At the audience, the pope confirmed that he will visit Ireland, August 25-26, for the final days of the World Meeting of Families. (CNS photo/Paul Haring)

Pope Confirms Plans to Attend World Meeting of Families in Dublin

**By Carol Glatz
Catholic News Service**

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Receiving a delegation from Ireland and blessing an icon of the Holy Family, Pope Francis confirmed his intention to visit Dublin for the final days of the World Meeting of Families.

“On the occasion of the next World Meeting of Families, I plan on going to Dublin from August 25 to 26 this year. I thank the civil authorities, the bishops, the archbishop of Dublin and all those who are helping prepare this trip. Thank you,” he said.

The delegation, led by Archbishop Diarmuid Martin of Dublin, president of the world meeting, included two families from Ireland: the Tobin family from Newbridge in County Kildare; and the Bushell family, who moved to Rome in 2016 from Knocklyon, outside Dublin. Cardinal

Kevin Farrell, prefect of the Dicastery for Laity, the Family and Life, also was part of the group meeting the pope.

The Holy Family icon, which has been carried across Ireland to help parishes prepare for the Aug. 21-26 world meeting, was brought to Rome for the pope’s blessing during his weekly general audience in St. Peter’s Square March 21.

When the pope greeted the iconographer, Romanian artist, Mihai Cucu, the pope gave him an approving thumbs-up and later gave him a special blessing.

Pope Francis chose the city of Dublin to host the world meeting, which will reflect on the theme, “The Gospel of the Family: Joy for the World.” Held every three years, the event brings families from around the world to celebrate, pray and reflect upon the importance of marriage and the family as the cornerstone of people’s lives, of society and the church.

Puerto Rico Still Suffering; Extension Campaign Aims to Help its Parishes

CHICAGO (CNS) — Six months after Hurricane Maria wreaked unprecedented devastation on Puerto Rico, the island is still suffering, and much of the relief and recovery help people have received has come from Catholic parishes. To help those parishes continue “their spiritual and corporal works of mercy and serve their communities,” Catholic Extension in Chicago has launched a new campaign called “Patrons of Puerto Rico. Puerto Rican parishes have been so inspiring in their response to the recent hurricanes,” Catholic Extension said in a March 20 statement. “Often operating out of badly damaged buildings and celebrating Mass in temporary quarters, parishes have rallied armies of volunteers to distribute relief supplies and provide community and connection for the elderly and most vulnerable,” it said. The Chicago-based papal society is inviting individual donors, parishes and church groups to partner with it and “adopt” a parish. At its webpage www.catholicextension.org/patron, an interactive map features examples of Puerto Rico’s Catholic communities helping their neighbors.



Papa pide a jóvenes que ayuden a rejuvenecer la iglesia

Por Cindy Wooden
Catholic News Service

ROMA (CNS) — La Iglesia Católica necesita el entusiasmo, el atrevimiento y la esperanza de los jóvenes para que pueda predicar el Evangelio enérgicamente y responder a las preguntas que hombres y mujeres plantean hoy, el papa Francisco dijo a unos 300 jóvenes adultos.

“Necesitamos reencontrar en el Señor la fuerza para recuperarnos de los fracasos, avanzar y fortalecer la confianza en el futuro” dijo el papa el 19 de marzo durante una reunión de apertura para la preparación del Sínodo de los Obispos en octubre.

La mayoría de los jóvenes reunidos con el papa en el Colegio Maria Mater Ecclesia de los Legionarios de Cristo en Roma fueron elegidos como delegados por las conferencias nacionales de obispos en sus países. Otros representaban una variedad de movimientos o ministerios católicos,

incluso la vida religiosa. Pero el Vaticano también invitó a delegados de otras iglesias cristianas, otras religiones, incluido el islam, y jóvenes que se describen como no creyentes.

El papa Francisco les dijo que ellos son los que pueden ayudar a la iglesia a combatir “la lógica de ‘siempre se ha hecho así’”, que describió como “un veneno dulce, porque te tranquiliza el alma y te deja como anestesiado”.

La iglesia y sus miembros deben seguir saliendo, seguir preguntando qué pide Dios, a qué los llama y continuar buscando nuevas formas de responder, dijo el papa.

Por supuesto, dijo, todos deben estar atentos a “las raíces” de la iglesia y preservar sus enseñanzas esenciales, pero también deben encontrar formas creativas de compartir esas enseñanzas y reflexionar sobre cómo el Evangelio responde a las preguntas de la gente de hoy.

El papa Francisco escuchó a 10 de los jóvenes, que representaban a todas las regiones del mundo.

Uno de ellos fue Nick López, un ministro de la Universidad de Dallas y delegado elegido por la Conferencia de Obispos Católicos de los Estados Unidos, quien se dirigió a la sesión de apertura con el papa y se enfocó en las etapas de transición por la que pasan los jóvenes en camino a ser adultos: “Mover, elegir, experimentar, fallar, tener éxito, temer y esperar que los próximos pasos que demos sean los pasos que Dios nos está llamando a hacer”.

Muchos jóvenes hoy, dijo, ya han decidido que la iglesia no es relevante para ellos. Pero todavía están buscando, y los miembros de la iglesia deberían salir a su encuentro y ayudarlos a ver que Cristo es la respuesta a muchas de sus preguntas, dijo.



El papa Francisco pronuncia la homilía mientras celebra Misa en el Santuario de San Pío de Pietrelcina en San Giovanni Rotondo, Italia, el 17 de marzo. (Foto CNS-Paul Haring)

Batalla Espiritual de Nuestra Liberación

Continuado de, pg. 2

que una persona crece en agradecimiento, la persona empieza a darse cuenta más y más cada día en el que todo lo que tenemos - incluso el aliento que respiramos y el sol en el cielo - es un regalo de un Dios de gracia. Dios le da a cada uno de nosotros, cada día, en nuestras circunstancias particulares la oportunidad de crecer en la gracia o de elegir lo que un autor llama una “ingratitude amarga.” En este tiempo de Pascua Santa, como estamos reflexionando sobre el poder de la victoria de Cristo sobre el pecado y la muerte nos permiten a nosotros mismos volver a comprometernos a la vida virtuosa lleno de reconocimiento.

Una vez más te 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 invita a orar con fidelidad, creo que podemos mantener nuestra confianza en la eficacia de esta oración - más de lo que sabemos! Que Dios bendiga a ustedes y sus familias, vamos a mantener entre sí en la oración.

+ Brendan

Footnote: [1] San Gregorio Magno. (1847 a 1850). Morales en el libro de Job (Vol. 3, pp. 489-490). Oxford; Londres: John Henry Parker; F. y J. Rivington.

Declaración sobre los bombardeos en serie en el centro de Texas

Por Arzobispo Gustavo García Siller, MSps, de San Antonio y Obispo Joe S. Vásquez, de Austin

“Nuestros pensamientos y oraciones están con las víctimas, así como con las familias y amigos de todos los afectados por las explosiones de varios paquetes que han tenido lugar este mes en Austin y San Antonio, el último de los cuales ocurrió temprano esta mañana. Estos atroces ataques han matado y herido a personas inocentes, adultos jóvenes y niños que estaban en sus casas, montando en bicicleta en la calle y trabajando en sus centros de labor.

La aleatoriedad de estos ataques y su

frecuencia cada vez mayor quizás hayan sido previstos por su autor con la intención de diseminar miedo y causar división en nuestras comunidades. Sin embargo, como hemos visto una y otra vez, tragedias como estas fortalecen nuestros lazos y unen a nuestras comunidades en oración, a la vez que las llevan a reconocer la santidad de la vida y su preciosa dignidad.

Sabemos que las agencias de aplicación de la ley se esfuerzan diligentemente para resolver estos casos y llevar a los responsables ante la justicia. Ponemos nuestra confianza en el Señor, como dice en el libro de Josué: ‘Yo he mandado que seas fuerte y valeroso. No temas ni te acobardes, porque el Señor tu Dios estará contigo dondequiera que vayas’.

Pedimos a todas las personas en nuestras diócesis que permanezcan vigilantes, que oren y que trabajen por la paz”.

Oración por la protección contra la violencia

Señor, Dios nuestro, pese a que tu Hijo fue entregado en manos de sus perseguidores, oró por ellos y venció el odio con la sangre de la Cruz. Alivia los sufrimientos de nuestros hermanos y con tu protección y cuidado, concédeles la luz perpetua, la paz mental y una fe renovada. Manténnos a salvo de actos de violencia, restaura nuestra tranquilidad y danos la paz.

Te lo pedimos por Cristo nuestro Señor. Amén.



The Diocese of Victoria welcomed the Region 10 Hispanic Ministry Directors, from Texas, Oklahoma, and Arkansas, who held their meeting at the Chancery.



Meals • Picnics and More

April

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.

Blessing—St. Peter Catholic Daughters Court #2546 will have a Chicken Spaghetti dinner April 15, at the parish hall. Serving begins at 11:00 a.m. until sold out. Plates are \$8 p/p (dine-in or to-go). A raffle will also be held in the afternoon. Proceeds benefit scholarships and charities.

Victoria—St. Mary's Altar Society Games Party April 24, 11:30 a.m.-4:00 p.m. in the Activity Center. Cost is \$8 p/p includes lunch. RSVP to Dorothy at (361) 573-3569 or Eunice at (361) 576-1856.

Bloomington—St. Patrick's Spring Festival April 29, starting at 10:30 a.m. (inside) and 10:00 a.m. (to-go) a BBQ brisket (1/2 lb.) plate at \$10 p/p. With a country store, games, refreshments and more. There will be a silent and live auction at 11:30 a.m. at the parish hall located at 13316 State Hwy. 185. Pre-order whole cooked briskets at \$10 per pound by calling Thomas Pribyl at (512) 657-1795 or Marshal Lange at (361) 676-0365 by April 14. See ad on pg. 4.

May

Victoria—Knights of Columbus Council #1329 Mom's Night Off First Annual Spaghetti Dinner will be held on Thursday, May 3 at the KC Hall, 3610 N. Ben Wilson from 3:30-6:30 p.m. Spaghetti, salad, garlic bread and dessert plates are \$8 p/p with drive-thru or dine-in available. PRE-SALE TICKETS ONLY. Proceeds benefit The Cathedral of Our Lady of Victory Youth Group. For more information call (361) 649-2023.

Victoria—Holy Family Festival May 6, at the Community Center. BBQ brisket dinner will be served beginning at 10:30 a.m. Dine-in or take-out is available at \$10 adults/\$6 children. Live auction begins at 1:00 p.m. There will be games, silent auction, and country store.

Victoria—Bishop David Fellhauer Invitational Golf Tournament, May 11. For more information see pg. 11.

Victoria—Emmaus Center Roast and Toast, May 12. See ad on pg. 15.

Hallettsville—Sacred Heart Parish Picnic, May 27 at the KC Hall.

Shiner—Sts. Cyril and Methodius Picnic, May 27 at the KC Hall.

June

Port Lavaca—Catholic Daughters Court #2267 of Our Lady of the Gulf annual games party on June 10. For more information and/or table reservations, please call Margaret (361) 552-3233; Doris (361) 987-2387, or Georgia (361) 552-6844. More information in next months Lighthouse.

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.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: 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.

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; **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. 15.

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. 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. See article on pg. 12.

Conferences • Masses • Retreats

Port Lavaca—The Traditional Latin Mass (Extraordinary Form of the Roman Rite) will be offered at Our Lady of the Gulf by Fr. Tommy Chen on the following dates at 9:00 a.m.: April 21, May 5, June 2, July 7, August 4, and September 1. All are invited to attend.

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.

El Campo—St. Philip the Apostle Church is hosting a Healing the Whole Person retreat, led by the John Paul II Healing Center, on July 12-14. Learn more, and register for this amazing retreat at <http://jpaihealingcenter.org>. Early registration opens on April 9, and online registration closes on July 2. For local questions you may contact Pat Hoelscher at pat623@icloud.com.

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

Silent Guided Day Retreat—April 28, 9:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m. Retreat theme: "Rolling Away the Stone." Given by Father Scott Hill. Retreat will include two presentation, Liturgy of Eucharist or prayer service with ample time for private prayer, walking and reflecting. A \$5 box lunch will be available or you may bring your own. The suggested donation for the retreat is \$25 or a love offering. Please park in the front parking lot.



Farmers Embody Faith in Divine Providence

Continued from pg. 1

The founders, Jacko and Nancy Garrett of Danbury, Texas have been growing rice for the sole purpose of donating it to feed the hungry, through the Houston Food Bank. After 20 plus years and countless pounds of rice donated, Jacko's health forced him

them and the farmers in the area. Last year, he blessed 200 gallons of water that were sprayed by a crop duster over the rice fields. He also had the privilege of sitting in the combine during the first harvest. Father Philip shared, "Farmers are at the mer-



to stop growing the acres necessary to sustain the Houston Food Bank and Share the Harvest goals. Before the 2017 season, the Shimeks decided to help and grow 120 acres of rice. The average cost to grow an acre of rice is \$1,000.00. Various donations included: land (Dobson Foundation), half-price flying (Lissie Flying Service), and a cash donation from American Plant Food. Shoppa's Farm Supply, donated the combines for harvest, Gold Trucking, Garwood donated half of the first crop hauling/trucking cost, and the Eagle Lake Rice Dryer donated the drying of the rice. The Shimeks grew the crop and harvested from start to finish. The field produced 10,500 lbs./acre of dry rice which milled to 18 loads of rice at 42,000 lbs. each or 7.6 million servings. "Whatsoever a man soweth, so shall he reap." (Galatians 6:7)

The Shimek family has recently do-

cy of the rainfall. These farmers embody faith in Divine Providence - that God will provide for them. They don't have any control over the weather."

Bishop Brendan Cahill was informed of the generous donation of rice and reached out to the Knights of Columbus Council #9088 asking for help dispersing the rice. He knew that Council #9088 had already been doing a Rice Project for the past five years with Victoria Christian Assistance Ministry (VCAM), and that Tommy Treybig, one of the KC members, was very familiar with the rice business.

Tommy grew up in the Garwood area in a rice farming family. He shared, "My parents were rice farmers. When we weren't in school, my three siblings and I were farming; the work was hard. You are plowing, planting, and flooding the rice with water. As young as six years old, I was driving a tractor." He volunteered to organize a committee and be the Chair of the new project. Tommy coordinated different areas of the diocese by city. Mike Bludau, a KC member, generously donated a climate-controlled storage facility to store the rice. Tommy explained, "I was happy to organize the project because of the good that it does for others."

The Knights are grateful for the Shimek family rice donation, as they will not have to purchase the rice for their semi-annual Rice Project to VCAM. They have been purchasing rice in 50 pound sacks for VCAM. Twice a year, about twenty-five volunteers (members and wives of Council #9088) spend a few hours at VCAM, where they take the 50 pound bags of rice and prepare two pound portions with instruction labels. These thousands of labels are made by Ed Lehnert. Ed shared, "Doing

Pictured below, Father Philip Brune sits in combine during rice harvesting. Left, is Schimek family harvesting rice.



projects gets people involved in charitable work. People need to find a purpose."

According to Marc Hinojosa, the Executive Director of VCAM, approximately 1,800 families are fed per month by VCAM. He explained, that rice is one of the most common commodities available at the pantry. The pantry is a self-serving pantry for the VCAM clients, that works like a mini grocery store. Clients select what they want and the quantity is based on the size of their family. Marc shared, "The KC's Rice Project means a lot to us; it goes way beyond the donation. It is a process that they do. The Knights of Columbus store the rice, deliver it to us by trailer, unload it with a fork lift they provide, and package it in two pound portions for us." Their next delivery of 6,000 pounds to VCAM is scheduled for May 23, 2018.

In two weeks, twenty-four deliveries have been made, totaling 13,350 pounds of rice. Some of those deliveries included: Christ's Kitchen of Victoria, eleven of the thirteen Catholic Schools, Incarnate Word and Blessed Sacrament Convent, six parishes, the Spiritual Renewal Center and more. Tommy said, "Our goal is to have the rice completely given out by September 2018, which is six months after receiving it. We have it and we are looking for people to share it with! This will be an ongoing project; we hope to get a truckload again in October of 2018, and start the process all over."

To qualify for rice, an organization has to be a nonprofit that gives food to the needy or cooks food and gives it to the needy. Twenty-four thousand pounds of rice are still available for nonprofits in the Crossroads Area. The Knights of Columbus will deliver the rice but are now working to find a "point person" in each town, so that rice delivery can be a continuous and organized process.

Editor Note:

To request rice for a charitable organization or persons that prepare food or donate meals to the needy, please contact Holy Family Council #9088, Community Director, Tommy Treybig at (361) 575-4052. The committee members are Thomas Treybig, Ed Lehnert, George Wenzel, Fred Kubesch, Harvey Kocian, Mike Brown, and Mike Bludau.



Knights of Columbus #9088 members and their wives work at VCAM preparing 2 pound portions of rice.

120
Acres
Rice =  7.6 Million
Servings

nated 37,500 pounds of rice to the Diocese of Victoria to provide a year's supply for all of the Diocese of Victoria Catholic Schools and the Incarnate Word and Blessed Sacrament Convent. They also wanted to donate it to charitable organizations. Their good friend, Father Philip Brune, Pastor of St. Robert Bellarmine, in El Campo, has experienced some unique moments with