



# The Catholic Lighthouse

The Cradle of Texas Immigration

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JULY 2018



A statue of St. Methodius at Ascension of Our Lord in Moravia. (Photo by TCL Staff)



Sts. Cyril and Methodius Church in Dubina is one of the Painted Churches of Texas. (Photo by TCL Staff)

## Czech and German Cultures Visible in Painted Churches

By Sarita Villafranca Richmond, Editor

The well-known Painted Churches of Texas attract thousands of people a year, from all over the world. Many of them are nestled in the heart of the Diocese of Victoria. On a recent visit to a few of the Painted Churches, I couldn't help but be in awe of these beautiful places. Our "tour" to see the Painted Churches was extra special, as we also learned about the Czech and German history of our own diocese.

More than two centuries ago, Czech and German immigrants left their beloved "old country" for reasons including famine, disease, and poverty, and came in search of abundance and a new life. Many entered through the ports of Galveston and Indianola and settled in the central part of Texas. They named their towns after the places they'd left—Praha, Schulenburg, Dubina, and Moravia. These thriving communities prospered by working hard, helping one another, and praying together. In line with their faith, one of the first things they did was build Catholic churches in their communities. The architecture mirrored the churches of their homeland. The churches were built with ornate structures, gold fixtures, and intricately stained glass windows. These early settlers painted the walls, altars, and arches of their simple wooden sanctuaries in painted marbling, hand stenciling, staining and colorful patterns.

Our first stop of the day was to Immaculate Conception Church, also known as St. Mary. It is located in the St. Mary community, outside of Hallettsville, on FM 340. It is considered the oldest rural Catholic parish in Texas and was settled in 1840, before the Texas War for Independence. Although it is not usually open for tours, we were lucky to see the inside of the church. The first thing

that caught my eye, besides the stenciled art above the side tabernacle, were the stained glass windows with Czech writings. This was a visible sign of the Czech heritage. One of them read "Ku cti sv. Jana Nep. Jan a Josefa Matula" meaning, "To Honor St. Jan Nepumuk by Jan and Josefa Matula."

Our next stop was Ascension of Our Lord Church, in Moravia. It was designed in February of 1913, by pastor, Reverend Emil Schindler and built by Koch and Sons. Two years later, Donecker and Sons completed the interior work, which included the murals and painting. The walls were painted by hand to look like marble, and above the altar, Christ ascending into heaven is painted. Janis Hrmcir, a parishioner and resident of Moravia for 30 years, unlocked the church for us, as it remains locked unless tours or

See *Czech and German Cultures*, pg. 16





## Bishop Brendan Cahill A Shepherd's Message

### Celebrate Our Catholic Culture

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

In this issue of the *Lighthouse*, you will see the announcement (page 3) that I'm forming a local chapter of Catholic Rural Life in our diocese. I've asked Father Stephen Vacek to be the Director and Deacon Larry Hoelscher to be the chairperson of this new chapter. My hope as we begin is that this organization can help us celebrate even better Catholic faith in our agricultural area. Since I've been in the Diocese of Victoria and visited the churches and the people of our area I've been filled with gratitude for the hard work and love of so many involved in farming, ranching, shrimping, and many careers close to the land and sea.

The past few issues of the *Lighthouse* have highlighted individuals and families who live out our faith in a variety of ways. One of my favorite things to do as I read the *Lighthouse* is to look at the pictures and offer my prayer for the men and women of the diocese reflected in the faces on the page. In a variety of ways each of us accepts that all we have is a gift of God and we desire to serve and love the Lord each day and in our particular way.

Another article (page 12) in this issue highlights the ongoing process of the V Encuentro. With the leadership of Sr. Miriam Perez, MCSH, a team of leaders from around the diocese have been meeting

and listening to members of our Hispanic community. Sharing stories of our brothers and sisters, and most especially praying with one another, we have experienced the beauty and value of each person called to form the Catholic Church in this area.

Similar to Catholic Rural Life, the V Encuentro celebrates our Catholic faith in our particular area. My hope as we continue this process is that more and more we can discover our similarities in the midst of the diversity of our experiences.

From many different perspectives, Jesus has called each of us to form a Catholic Culture in the world. Jesus calls each of us to be a missionary disciple of His mercy. The heart of our Catholic Culture is the celebration of the Eucharist. The bread and wine that we offer in the Eucharist are the fruits of our labor and come to form us as one Body, one Spirit in Christ.

May God bless you and your families. Again, I want to particularly thank each of you who have committed to pray the Rosary for the gift of peace in the world and for the family, I believe we can maintain our confidence in the power of this prayer – more than we ever know! Let's keep each other in prayer.

+Brendan

## What is Catholic Rural Life?

Catholic Rural Life (CRL) is a national, Catholic nonprofit organization dedicated to the vitality of the American countryside. Since 1923, CRL has been applying the teachings of Jesus Christ for the social, economic, and spiritual development of rural America, strengthening and sustaining the Church in the countryside by educating and inspiring leaders and advocating on their behalf.

Headquartered in St. Paul, Minnesota, CRL is a membership-based organization, that has a rich history spanning 90 years. It is comprised of dedicated bishops, laity, and religious who are joined in a common effort to serve the rural Church, rural people, and their communities. Bishop Brendan Cahill is one of the Board of Directors for CRL.



**CATHOLIC RURAL LIFE**  
Applying the teachings of Jesus Christ for the betterment of rural America

## ¿Qué es Vida Rural Católica?

La vida rural católica (CRL) es una organización sin fines de lucro dedicada a la vitalidad del campo Americano. Desde 1923, CRL ha estado aplicando las enseñanzas de Jesucristo para el desarrollo social, económico y espiritual de la América rural, fortaleciendo y sosteniendo a la iglesia en el campo, educando e inspirando líderes y abogando en su favor.

Establecido en San Pablo, Minnesota, CRL es una organización basada en la membresía, que tiene una rica historia que abarca 90 años. Está formada por obispos dedicados, laicos y religiosos que se unen en un esfuerzo común para servir a la iglesia rural, a la población rural y a sus comunidades. El Obispo Brendan Cahill es uno de los miembros de la Junta Directiva de CRL.



## Obispo Brendan Cahill Mensaje del Pastor

### Celebra Nuestra Cultura Católica

Queridos Hermanos y Hermanas,

En esta edición del *Lighthouse* verá el anuncio (página 3) de que estoy formando un capítulo local de Catholic Rural Life (Vida Rural Católica) en nuestra diócesis. Le pedí al Padre Stephen Vacek que fuera el director y al Diácono Larry Hoelscher para que presida este nuevo capítulo. Mi esperanza al comenzar es que esta organización puede ayudarnos a celebrar aún mejor la fe católica en nuestra área agrícola. Desde que estuve en la Diócesis de Victoria y visité las iglesias y la gente de nuestra área, me siento lleno de gratitud por el trabajo duro y el amor de tantas personas involucradas en la agricultura, la ganadería, el langostino y muchas carreras cerca de la tierra y mar.

Los últimos ediciones del *Lighthouse*

han demostrado las personas y las familias que viven nuestra fe en una variedad de formas. Una de mis actividades favoritas al leer el periódico es mirar las imágenes y ofrecer mi oración por los hombres y mujeres de la diócesis reflejados en las caras de la página. En una variedad de formas, cada uno de nosotros acepta que todo lo que tenemos es un regalo de Dios y deseamos servir y amar al Señor cada día y de manera particular.

Otro artículo (página 12) en esta edición destaca el proceso continuado del V Encuentro. Con el liderazgo de Hna. Miriam Pérez, MCSH, un equipo de líderes de toda la diócesis se ha estado reuniendo y escuchando a los miembros de nuestra comunidad hispana. Compartiendo historias de nuestros hermanos y hermanas, y espe-

cialmente orando unos con otros, hemos experimentado la belleza y el valor de cada persona llamada formar la Iglesia Católica en esta área.

Así como Catholic Rural Life, el V Encuentro celebra nuestra fe católica en nuestra área particular. Mi esperanza al continuar este proceso es que cada vez más podemos descubrir nuestras similitudes en medio de la diversidad de nuestras experiencias.

Desde muchas perspectivas diferentes, Jesús nos ha llamado a cada uno de nosotros para formar una Cultura Católica en el mundo. Jesús nos llama a cada uno de nosotros a ser un discípulo misionero de Su misericordia. El corazón de nuestra Cultura Católica es la celebración de la Eucaristía. El pan y el vino que ofrecemos en la Eucaristía son los frutos de nuestro trabajo y vienen a formarnos como un solo Cuerpo, un Espíritu en Cristo.

Que Dios te bendiga a ti y a tus familias. Una vez más, quiero agradecer especialmente a cada uno de ustedes que se han comprometido a rezar el Rosario por el regalo de la paz en el mundo y para la familia. Creo que podemos mantener nuestra confianza en el poder de esta oración, ¡más de lo que nunca pensamos! Mantengamos uno al otro en oración.

+ Brendan



## Bishop Cahill's Schedule

- July**
- 7** Priestly Ordination for the Missionaries of St. Charles - Scalabrinians (CS) at St. Leo the Great, Houston
- 8** 2:00 p.m. Mass and Jubilee celebration for IWBS Sisters at Incarnate Word Convent, Victoria
- 9** 2:00 p.m. Interfaith Meeting
- 11** 4:30 p.m. Supper with IWBS Sisters in the infirmary, Victoria
- 12** 6:30 p.m. Knights of St. Gregory Bishop's Charity Dinner, Victoria Country Club, Victoria
- 14** Mass with Carmelite Sisters, Sts. Peter and Paul, Meyersville
- Noon Catechist Rally, Our Lady of Victory Cathedral Center, Victoria
- 15** 8:00 a.m., 10:00 a.m., and noon Mass at Our Lady of the Gulf, Port Lavaca
- 16** Noon Mass with Missionary Catechists
- 6:00 p.m. Feast Day of Mt. Carmel at Sts. Peter and Paul, Meyersville
- 17** 6:30 a.m. Relevant Radio, Morning Air show
- 19** Archdiocese of Galveston - Houston Prayer Breakfast, Houston
- 19-28** Trip to Ghana

**29-31** Pro-Life Director's Meeting, Phoenix, AZ

### August

- 2** 8:00 a.m. Mass for new teachers, Cathedral of Our Lady of Victory, Victoria
- 3** Lunch with the IWBS Sisters, Victoria
- 3-4** Nazareth Academy Fishing Tournament, Port O'Connor
- 6** Mass for Sr. Rosario's renewal of vows, IWBS Convent, Victoria
- Noon Mass with Missionary Catechists
- 8** 1:30 p.m. Pension Board Meeting, Chancery

## Official Announcements



*Father  
Stephen Vacek*



*Deacon Larry  
Hoelscher*

Friday, June 22, 2018, Catholic Rural Life (CRL)-Victoria was officially formed in the Diocese of Victoria. CRL-Victoria is a local chapter of the national organization and is the first chapter established in the State of Texas. Father Stephen Vacek has been appointed Director and Deacon Larry Hoelscher has been appointed Chairperson by Bishop Brendan Cahill. \*See: 'What is Catholic Rural Life? Pg.2.



**PRIESTLY ANNIVERSARY OBSERVED**—On Friday, June 1, 2018, Bishop Cahill attended a June Jamboree honoring Msgr. Arnold Anders, who served for many years in the Diocese of Victoria. His last pastoral assignment was at the Church of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary, in Ganado. Msgr. Anders is currently residing at Padua Place in Helotes, Texas. Pictured are Msgr. John Peters, Bishop Brendan Cahill, and Msgr. Arnold Anders at the celebration.

*"You are a priest forever  
according to the order of Melchizedek."*

~ Hebrews 7:17

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

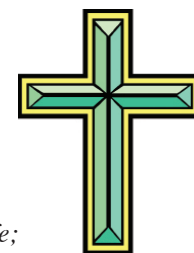
Rev. Gabriel Maison	07/01/1978	St. Joseph Church, Moulton
Rev. Charles E. Otsiwah	07/07/1985	Immaculate Conception Church, Goliad
Rev. Peter Yeboah-Amanfo	07/10/1983	Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary Church, Nada
Rev. Dominic Antwi-Boasiako	07/11/1981	St. Mary Church, Victoria
Rev. Gabriel Bentil	07/14/1984	Holy Family of Joseph, Mary and Jesus Church, Victoria
Rev. Gabriel J. Mensah	07/15/1990	St. Peter Church, Blessing
Rev. Samuel Appiasi	07/17/1983	St. Patrick's Church, Bloomington
Rev. Clement Quainoo	07/17/1982	St. Andrew Church, Hillje
Rev. Augustine Nsiah Asante	07/18/1998	St. Anthony Church, Columbus
Rev. Charles Owusu Dwomoh	07/19/1986	St. John the Baptist Church, Hungerford
Rev. Albert Yankey	07/20/1980	Our Lady of Lourdes Church, Victoria
Rev. Johnson Owusu-Boateng	07/27/1985	St. John Bosco Church, Vanderbilt
Rev. Barnabas Kyeah	07/29/1995	St. Joseph Church, Inez

*"No vocation is born of itself or lives for itself.  
A vocation flows from the heart of God and blossoms in the good soil of faithful  
people. Did not Jesus say: "By this all men will know you are my disciples,  
if you have love for one another." (John 13:35)  
~ Pope Francis – January 16, 2014*

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

Rev. Alfred Hoenig, OSB	07/12/1994
Rev. Msgr. Stanely Petru	07/25/2013

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



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**DEADLINE IS THE 15th OF THE PRECEDING MONTH**

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## Seminary Endowment Fund

Seminary Endowment Fund (formerly known as Seminary Burses) is a permanent fund used for the education of future priests for the Diocese of Victoria. The goal of each burse is \$15,000. The **interest from this amount** is applied yearly to the education of seminarians. The burses are in memory of or in honor of an individual priest or layperson, living or deceased. Publication of the burses will appear periodically when new contributions are received.

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

June 22, 2018

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

*Acolyte*

In honor of Rev. Msgr. Arnold Anders' 68th anniversary of priestly ordination by Ed and Betty Rotter

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

*Lector*

In honor of Rev. Philip Brune's 4th anniversary ordination to the priesthood by Lambert and Carol Brune

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

*Lector*

In honor of Rev. Daniel Kahlich on Priest Appreciation Day by Verlene Kuntschik

• **Rev. Jacob Koether, St. Joseph Parish, Yoakum Seminary Burse**

*Lector*

In honor of Rev. Jacob Koether's 3rd anniversary of priestly ordination on June 6, by Larissa Migl

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

*Acolyte*

In honor of all living and deceased members of the Louis and John Matula Families by Charles and GERALYN Klimitchek

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

*Acolyte*

In memory of Vernon Matussek by Marilyn Matussek  
In honor of Rev. Msgr. John Peters for Pastor's Appreciation Day by Sacred Heart School faculty, staff, and students

*Priest*

Donation in honor of Rev. Michael Rother

• **Rev. Charles Sonnier Seminary Burse**

*Lector*

In memory of Marie Harrell by Mary Rainosek

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



**NEW SEMINARIANS**— Father Tommy Chen, Vocations Director and Bishop Brendan Cahill are proud to introduce new seminarians for the Diocese of Victoria. Pictured (left to right) are Joey Sablatura from Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary in Ganado; John A. Le from Immaculate Conception in Goliad; and Shane Goetz from St. Mary's of the Assumption in String Prairie. (Photo by TCL Staff)

### Prayer for Vocations

God, the source of creation and love, You invite each of us to serve you through the life which is your gift. May your grace encourage men and women to heights of holiness through service to the church as priests, sisters, brothers, and lay ministers. Make me an instrument to encourage others to give of themselves and challenge me to do the same.

**Amen.**

## Education of Seminarian Fund

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

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

### Lector

Paz & Andrea Morales  
in Memory of Fr. Dan Morales

Edward Schneider  
in Honor of Fr. Greg Korenek's Anniversary

John & Virginia Korenek  
in Memory of Dorothy Hoffmann

Joe F. Staff Family  
in Memory of Dorothy Hoffmann and Gladys Gavranovic

### Acolyte

### Candidate

St. Ann Society, High Hill  
in Memory of Fr. Dan Morales

### Transitional Deacon

### Priest

Vincent & Barbara Warzecha

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

**AIR CONDITIONED!**  
**Yoakum Community Center**  
**Picnic Stew, Sausage & Trimmings**  
Tickets: \$9 p/p  
Serving begins at 10:30 A.M.  
Drive-thru or dine-in!

**ST. JOSEPH PARISH**  
**YOAKUM, TEXAS**

**Picnic**

**August 5, 2018**

**Register for 21 Raffle Prizes!**  
**Total Value: \$18,000.00**

**MEXICAN FOOD**  
available in the afternoon!

**Stew will also be for sale.**  
**Soft drinks & refreshments available.**

**Country Store • Kids' Korner Games • Cake Walk • Pantry Wheel**

**AUCTION**  
**12:30 P.M.**  
\*Cheese & poppyseed roll pyramid  
\*Arts & crafts  
\*Antique furniture  
\*and many more items!





## Carmelite Sisters Bring Order to Texas

By Sarita Villafranca Richmond, Editor

MEYERSVILLE—Sister Maria of Divine Mercy and Sister Mary Ruth of the Eucharist, members of a Carmelite Monastic Community in Wahpeton, North Dakota, felt called to establish a new monastery following the Ancient Observance of Carmel. When Bishop Cahill received a letter from them expressing this call, he was able to respond. He spoke with Bishop John Folda of the Diocese of Fargo, who offered support for this discernment. He also spoke with Bishop Frank Dewane from Florida, who had personally visited with the Sisters. Based on their recommendations, he invited the Sisters to come to Victoria to visit and the rest is now history, hopefully in the making.

Sister Maria of Divine Mercy is no stranger to Texas. Her father, Charles Afflerbach grew up in Yoakum. Her family still resides in Yoakum and in the Crossroads. Her cousin, John McQuillen is a long-time member of the Serra Club of Victoria. She was raised in Austin and attended Reagan High School. She then attended the University of Texas and graduated with a Bachelor of Science in Medical Technology and a Bachelor of Arts in Microbiology. It was after four years of working that she realized life didn't feel complete. She shared, "When discerning my vocation, I was drawn to the cloistered life because I wanted to give EVERYTHING to God. This was a way to live totally for Him and also draw others to Him by my prayers. The Carmelite Nuns of the Ancient Observance, in particular, attracted me because their roots go way back, physically and spiritually. It began 800 years ago on Mount Carmel in the Holy Land and it lives in the spirit of Saint Elijah, the Prophet of Mount Carmel, who lived always in the presence of the Lord God. Also, the rising at midnight to pray and the Gregorian chant used in the Liturgy strongly attracted me."

Sister Mary Ruth of the Eucharist, a native of Wichita, Kansas, went to Catholic school from kindergarten to 12th grade and graduated from Kapaun Mt. Carmel High School. She attended Fort Hays State

University for three years then, entered the Carmelite Order. She shared, "I had a longing for the silence of Carmel as well as a deep love for the liturgy. It was this combination of profound silence and a solemn celebration of the Liturgy of the Hours, sung in Gregorian chant, and also the midnight rising, which drew me specifically to the Ancient Observance of Carmel. In general, it was a desire to bury myself in the Heart of the Church, in order to love God supremely and to save souls, that led me to seek out the life of a cloistered nun."

Bishop Cahill shares, "I greatly admire and love the openness of the Catholic Community of Meyersville to receive the Sisters during this time of discernment. I know their prayers have been effective for the good of the people of our entire diocese."



The staff of *The Catholic Lighthouse* was able to interview the Sisters and learn more about their order.

### Interview

Staff: *What makes your order unique?*

Sister Mary Ruth: You will find certain elements common to all religious orders, but each order has a unique way of living those elements, based on its history and spirituality. The Order of Carmel is the only still-existing religious order in the Church that began in the Holy Land, and the only religious order that began specifically on Mount Carmel. Our Lady of Mount Carmel is the Patroness, Mother, and Sister of Carmelites. Saint Elijah, the Old Testament Prophet, is the Leader and Father of Carmelites. Mount Carmel, Mary ever Virgin, and Elijah give the Order of Carmel its identity.

Staff: *Describe what you mean by the Ancient Observance of Carmel.*

Sister Mary Ruth: The Ancient Ob-



Sister Maria of Divine Mercy and Sister Mary Ruth of the Eucharist are pictured praying at Sts. Peter and Paul Church, in Meyersville. (Contributed Photo)

servance of Carmel is the original branch of the Order of Carmel, founded around the year 1200. Three hundred years later Saint Teresa of Avila began the Discalced Reform of Carmel in Spain. The Discalced Reform was a particular way of living the Carmelite life that grew and became a second branch of Carmel. Discalced Carmelites refer to Saint Teresa as "Holy Mother" and Saint John of the Cross as "Holy Father," and are formed to see everything through the eyes of Teresa and John. This gives Discalced Carmelites a certain depth of vision. The older branch of Carmel, the Ancient Observance, has instead a certain breadth of vision, being formed in a broader monastic context and able to appropriate Carmelite sources and spirituality apart from a specifically Teresian way of viewing them.

Staff: *What is the Medieval Heritage?*

Sister Mary Ruth: By Medieval Heritage, we mean a way of approaching God, of worship, of praying, of living the faith, that was characteristic of the Church in the Middle Ages. Religious orders that began in that time period reflect that approach to the spiritual life. Over the centuries, different approaches to living religious life developed and religious orders formed after the Middle Ages naturally reflect the characteristics of the time in which they were formed.

Staff: *Describe the "tradition" of midnight rising.*

Sister Mary Ruth: The midnight rising is a tradition common to Medieval Orders. They chose to rise at midnight, after a few hours of sleep, in order to pray Matins, the first hour of the Liturgy of the Hours. Afterwards they slept a few more hours

before rising for the day.

Staff: *How many Carmel Sisters are currently in the Order of Carmel?*

Sister Maria: There are about 800 nuns in the Order of Carmel across the world.

Staff: *How many monasteries are there? The one in North Dakota and any others?*

Sister Maria: There are four monasteries of the Ancient Observance of Carmel in the U.S., with 23 nuns.

Staff: *When would you consider the Meyersville location an actual monastery?*

Sister Maria: We are currently staying in the rectory of Saints Peter and Paul Church in Meyersville. This is a temporary set-up until the time is opportune to obtain a place that will be suitable for a proper monastery. Where or when that takes place will depend on the Holy Spirit, and will require our discernment with Bishop Cahill.

In the meantime, we are living the monastic life as fully as is possible at the rectory. We follow a prayer schedule and live the spirit of enclosure, leaving the premises only when necessary. We are dividing rooms, so that the rectory will be able to house four Sisters, so we have room to grow even now.

Staff: *How does St. Simon fit into your order?*

Sister Mary Ruth: Saint Simon Stock was one of the first Prior Generals of the Ancient Observance of Carmel, that is, he was the Superior of the entire Order. Ac-

See *Carmelite Sisters Bring Order to Texas*, pg. 14

### DSA update

#### 2018 Diocesan Services Appeal

Diocesan Goal: \$ 2,054,129.00  
Parish Pledge Totals: \$ 679,174.64  
Parish Contribution Totals: \$ 570,736.64  
Number of Parish Families Participating: 2,388

Updated June 26, 2018





## SISTERLY THOUGHTS

By Sister Mildred Truchard, IWBS



### Where Have All the Flowers Gone?

One day a visitor to our gift shop asked, "What is the matter with your roses?" Now, I had thought that the sparse leaves and flowers were caused by some long-term effects of Hurricane Harvey so I didn't pay too much attention. Then one morning someone asked, "Did you just trim back the calendulas and daylilies?" So I looked and they, along with some hibiscus and other plants, had been neatly trimmed down. All the flowers, buds, and tender tops of the plants were missing. Even some small seedlings were missing or had been trampled. Initially, I had blamed some stray dogs or possibly a friendly possum visitor for digging up the flower beds. Now it was clear that our neighborhood deer were the culprits in all this mischief. During the drought, they were desperate enough to come into our courtyard to dine at our delicious "salad bar." Now, I couldn't get

too upset because they are God's beautiful creatures and need to eat; however, they are a nuisance when they destroy our gardens.

What about our own spiritual lives? Do we, as the saying goes, "Bloom where we are planted"? Do others witness the flow-

ering of faith in our relationship with our God and one another? Are the blossoms of joy radiant in our lives? Does the aroma of charity accompany our interaction with others? Is the soothing ef-

fect of peace evident in our words and in our actions? Are the varied hues of virtue blended in each of us as we bloom where we are planted? Wonderful! May we all blossom forth together and may nuisances, no matter how beautiful they may be in their own right, not interfere with our efforts to radiate God's beauty wherever we are planted.

Bloom Where We  
Are Planted



**VCAM RECEIVES DONATION**—KJZT Society #101, Victoria, recently made a donation of \$1,500 to the Victoria Christian Assistance Ministry (VCAM) from proceeds of a bake sale at Holy Family Church. Presenting the money to Marc Hinojosa, executive director (center) are (left to right) Rosie Olsovsky, Irene Brosch, Carolyn Nevlud, and Lillian Berger.

### Journeys of Faith with Ceci

2018 TRIP TO CZECH REPUBLIC! **LAST CHANCE!**



#### A Czech Heritage Pilgrimage to Prague

Endorsed by K.J.Z.T. and the K.J.T

with Bishop Zurek and Fr. Bob Knippenberg

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## Letter to the Editor

### ACTS Retreat Experience Leads to a Different Passion -Volunteerism

Dear Lighthouse Readers,

Volunteerism is the policy or practice of volunteering one's time or talents for charitable, educational, or other worthwhile activities, especially in one's community.

For a couple of years prior to my first ACTS retreat, life was me-centered and dominated by my personal recovery from decades of self-destructive behavior. That all changed one weekend in February 2006. An intense encounter in the early hours of Sunday morning with a mystifying and previously unfamiliar presence caused a conversion of my heart. I can say, now, it was like I had lived in darkness my entire life, and suddenly in that inexplicable moment, someone had turned on a light. The overall transformation was not immediate and forceful, yet I can see now that a gradual life change occurred, as if the Lord had taken me by the hand and led me along a profoundly different path, one that I would never have joined on my own.

The first years of this new journey were centered around involvement with the ACTS movement and accepting invitations to serve on several retreat teams. The intensity of that initial moment has never been encountered again, yet each retreat offered a glimmering recollection of my own moment as I experienced first-hand the conversion of other hearts around me.

The deep yearning for that initial encounter continued to compel my volunteerism. Quite by chance, in the Fall of 2010, I found myself on an ACTS team of a slightly different kind. Everything was the same with one slight variance – this retreat would be held in prison with convicted felons as retreatants. Team formation was similar in all aspects with the addition of submitting to a criminal background check and paperwork to authenticate your true desire was not to bring contraband into the prison. There were specific rules that had to be adhered to and you had to accept being under the ultimate supervision of the correctional staff at all times during the event.

Each day of the crusade, the team enters the prison unit in the morning and is escorted out of the prison in the evening. The ministry formats and overall daily schedules are modified from that of the "free-world" ACTS structure as demanded by the prison setting, as every facet is conducted inside a gymnasium. Despite the challenges of an uncontrolled environment, the evangelistic focus and seed-planting

interaction between volunteers and offenders, in all respects is the same as a customary retreat.

As a result of the early retreats, and perhaps out of a self-regarding inclination for a more comfortable, air-conditioned, and acoustically pure space at the prison, a group was established to examine the possibility of offering a building to the prison specifically for this purpose. A bit of research showed that privately funded chapel buildings had indeed been constructed on state prison units, and in fact were encouraged by the Texas prison system.. The Stevenson Unit Chapel Development Corporation was granted tax-exempt status by government entities in 2013 whose sole purpose is to fund the construction and outfitting of a non-denominational chapel and education building at the prison unit in Cuero. I have maintained involvement with the SUCDC and now find myself the leader of the non-profit group aimed at fundraising for the construction project.

The initial selfish passion for a more comfortable space for retreats at the prison has given way to a more vital motive for the building. Throughout these retreat experiences, I have encountered countless men who find themselves incarcerated as a result of unfortunate and mostly uncontrollable life circumstances paired with a short series of ruinous attempts at individual decision-making. The prevalent misfortune in most cases is the lack of a respectable father figure in their own lives, and so this vicious cycle continues at the hands of the criminal justice system. By incarcerating low-risk non-violent criminals, we take these men away from their families.

A 2016 study showed that 1.7 million children in the United States have a parent in prison. Many states are beginning to look at the growing body of research that shows that having an incarcerated parent usually results in a destabilizing of the family unit and the children are more likely to experience developmental and learning disabilities. In 2016, the TDCJ released approximately 67,000 offenders from prison. Unfortunately, statistics show that a full third of them within three years will find themselves back in prison as a result, once again, of making bad choices.

It is the hope of the SUCDC, with the construction of the chapel and education building at the Stevenson Unit, to assist the state in providing the resources and programs needed to reduce the number of

men that reoffend after release. It seems like the Lord's hand-holding through this twelve-year journey of mine has resulted in what seems now as the primary purpose for my life, and all this, a result of that one mystical experience during an ACTS retreat in 2006.

The Stevenson Unit Chapel Development Corporation is hosting a fundraiser concert on August 4, 2018, featuring the Isaacs at the Cuero ISD Performing Arts Center (See ad page 6). Proceeds from ticket sales will be utilized to continue the search for philanthropic donors to fund the construction project at the prison. More information about the goals of the corporation and concert tickets can be found at [www.chapelfund.org](http://www.chapelfund.org).

Sincerely,  
Leslie Rabke

*\*The work of the Stevenson Unit Chapel Development Corporation is an independent project not endorsed by the Catholic Church or the Diocese of Victoria in Texas.*



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Connor P. received a blessing from Msgr. John Peters, pastor of Sacred Heart Parish, on the final day of school in May. He has been accepted to the TAMS program at the University of North Texas. Connor is the son of Brian and Lori P. of Hallettsville.

## Sacred Heart Student to Attend TAMS

HALLETTSVILLE—Each year at the University of North Texas, the Texas Academy of Math and Science, also known as TAMS, selects 200 gifted high school students out of approximately 500-600 applicants, to participate in a two-year residential early entrance college program. TAMS was established in 1987 by the 70th Texas Legislature, in order to provide high school students an opportunity to take advanced coursework in math, science, and engineering. TAMS differs from other state-supported residential math and science schools in that the academy offers students the opportunity to complete two years of college concurrently with the last two years of high school. Students are admitted from every region of the state

through a selective admissions process using a holistic approach and modeled on those of most colleges. Multiple criteria are assessed, including academic records from 7th - 10th grades, an academy mathematics diagnostic test, a student essay, demonstrated interest in science and mathematics, teacher recommendations, SAT scores and a personal interview. This year, Connor P. was one of the students selected to attend this accelerated program. Connor will be completing his junior and senior years at the University of North Texas campus in Denton. He will be attending classes with UNT college students and will have up to 60 hours of college credit at his graduation in May of 2020.

## Youth and Young Adult Ministry

### Camp David 2018



Camp David, a fun-filled retreat for elementary and junior high students, was held in June at the Spiritual Renewal Center. The junior high students were able to enjoy one of two overnight sessions that were offered, while elementary students stayed for a day session. What a blessing for the Office of Youth and Young Adult Ministry, along with a group of adult and high school leaders, to share the love of God with over 180 young people!

## The Emmaus Center



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

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## Bishops Vote, Revisions to Charter, Other Actions at June General Assembly

FORT LAUDERDALE—The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) approved several action items today at their Spring General Assembly taking place in Fort Lauderdale, Florida, June 13-14.

The full body of bishops voted to approve the revised *Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People* by a vote of 185-5-1. The revisions are a culmination of work by the USCCB Committee on the Protection of Children and Young People, the National Review Board, the Committee on Canonical Affairs and Church Governance, General Counsel, and the Committee on Clergy, Consecrated Life and Vocations.

The revisions seek to build upon the work of dioceses in the United States to prevent the sexual abuse of minors, and to provide outreach and healing to victims/survivors of abuse.

The bishops also voted to approve the formal statement *Encountering Christ in Harmony: A Pastoral Response to*

*Our Asian and Pacific Island Brothers and Sisters* by a two-thirds majority vote of 187-2-2. The pastoral response provides a framework that dioceses and parishes can use as guidelines to create or integrate into their own pastoral plans addressing the pastoral ministry to and among Asian and Pacific Island (API) Catholics in the United States. The vote will now allow for publication and implementation of *Encountering Christ in Harmony* by the bishops' Cultural Diversity Subcommittee on Asian and Pacific Island Affairs. The committee will begin distribut-

ing the pastoral response widely throughout Catholic dioceses of the United States.

The Latin Church members today also approved by a two-thirds majority vote of 177-4-2 in favor of the ICEL Gray Book translation of the 2014-2016 *Roman Missal and Liturgy of the Hours Supplement* for use in the dioceses of the United States. The Latin Church members of the USCCB also voted 175-6-2 in favor of the ICEL Gray Book translation of the *Liturgy of the Hours: Proper of Time* for use in the dioceses of the United States. The vote required two-thirds of the Latin Church members with subsequent confirmation by the Congregation

of Divine Worship and Discipline of the Sacraments.

The bishops also approved by majority vote, the revised text of Part Six of the *Ethical and Religious Directives for Catholic Health Care Services* by a vote of 183-2-2. The vote will implement modifications to Part Six of the *Ethical and Religious Directives for Catholic*

*Health Care Services* regarding collaborating with non-Catholic partners.

The bishops also authorized the production of two new and additional elements: (1) a short letter to inspire prayer and action regarding public life and (2) a short video and other secondary resources—to complement, rather than to replace, the existing *Forming Consciences for Faithful Citizenship* document and to apply the teaching of Pope Francis to our day. The authorization passed with a simple majority vote of 144-41-2.



A prelate prepares to vote June 14 during the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops' annual spring assembly in Fort Lauderdale, Fla. (CNS photo/Bob Roller)



**SCHOLARSHIP PRESENTED**—Knights of Columbus Council #4307, Blessing, presented their annual scholarship and Knights of Columbus Bible to a graduating senior for the academic year of 2017-2018. Shown above is John Lawrence Hickl along with council chaplain Rev. Gabriel J. Mensah and members of Council #4307. The presentations were made on May 13, after Mass at St. Robert's Church in Markham.



### BISHOP VISITS

**MARINERS**—In July of 2017, Bishop Brendan Cahill was appointed bishop promoter of the Apostleship of the Sea, in the United States. Bishop Cahill is dedicated to visiting different ports when he travels around the country. He recently visited Port Everglades in Florida, while at the spring meeting of the U.S. Conference of Bishops. He is pictured with mariners (top) and climbing stairs of a ship in Florida (right). He always reminds us to keep the mariners and their families in prayer.



## Texas Knights Donate Millions to Charity

AUSTIN—For the 4th consecutive year, Texas has topped the field for volunteer hours and charitable donations among all the areas where the Knights of Columbus are active. In 2017, members in Texas volunteered almost 5 million hours in service to their parishes and communities and donated nearly \$10 million to charity. Almost \$1 million went directly to our Bishops' designated diocesan ministries.

From all across the organization, almost 2 million members in 17 nations volunteered over 75 million hours and donated over \$185 million to charitable causes, setting new record highs in 2017.



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**INSTALLATION OF OFFICERS**— The Knights of Columbus Council #1329 of Victoria, installed new officers for the 2018–2019 fiscal year on June 12, 2018, by District Deputy, Jeremy Martin. Installation occurred after Mass celebrated by Rev. Stephen Vacek, Council Chaplain. Pictured (front row, left to right) are Silvano Silva, Chancellor; Juan Lara, Deputy Grand Knight; Michael Nevlund, Grand Knight; Joe Rainosek, Recorder; Richard Gutierrez, 3rd Year Trustee; (back row, left to right) Jeremy Martin, District Deputy; Ernest Rosas, Outside Guard; Chris Krejci, Treasurer; Michael Starnes, Inside Guard; Dave Kouba, Lecturer; Allen Rather, Advocate; Rev. Vacek, and Loren Hackbarth, 2nd Year Trustee. Not shown are Donald Shellenbarger, 1st Year Trustee; James Wilson, Warden; and Gary Buckler, Financial Secretary.

## KJZT Society Helps Underprivileged

GANADO—KJZT Society No. 43 of Ganado presented a \$100 donation to the Assumption BVM Parish Matthew 25 Ministry. The ministry provides assistance to the underprivileged in Ganado. The donation was provided by the state office of the Catholic Family Fraternal of Texas-

KJZT to be used for parish or community work projects. The fraternal participates in many events and volunteers man hours to Texas communities to help those in need in their hometowns.

Steve Labay, president of Matthew 25, accepted the donation.

## KRAM PROJECT RECEIVES DONATION

— The staff of the Father Charles Kram Project, promoting the process of canonization of Father Charles W. Kram Jr., gave a short presentation at the recent meeting of the Catholic Daughters of the Americas, Court St. Paul #1604 in Shiner. JCDA Court President Delynn P. attended the meeting and presented a donation on behalf of the JCDA Court to the project staff. Pictured (left to right) Janet Pohl, Karen Roznovsky, Delynn P., Deacon Joe Machacek, and Hazel Pfeil.



## Texas Alliance for Life Walk for Life

AUSTIN—Catholic Family Fraternal of Texas – KJZT (CFFT-KJZT) was a supporting sponsor for the Texas Alliance for Life (TAL) who held their annual “Walk for Life” this past Saturday, June 9th at 5 locations in the Austin and surrounding community. Approximately 200 plus walkers participated and through the kind support and generous donations of the walkers’ sponsors, over \$50,000 was raised to assist with this organization’s pro-life beliefs. CFFT-KJZT strives to show support of all Pro-Life initiatives and was honored and

pleased to provide working volunteers and refreshments the day of the walk.

As a faith-based, non-profit, CFFT-KJZT’s mission is to assist families with financial planning and then, in turn, use the profits to give back. The Fraternal supports causes and charities endorsed by the Catholic Church. According to Joe Pojman, Executive Director of the Texas Alliance for Life, “Texas Alliance for Life is one of the pro-life organizations that work very well together with The Texas Catholic Conference of Bishops.”

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**YOUNG ADULTS RECEIVE CONFIRMATION**— Bishop Brendan Cahill celebrated Mass and confirmed the students of Our Lady of Mount Carmel (OLMC) in Wharton, on April 11. The parish will celebrate 70 years of foundation on July 16, the Feast Day of Our Lady of Mount Carmel. Father Antonio Perez is the pastor of OLMC.

**FISHING FOR NA**—The Knights of Columbus Holy Family Council #9088 and Nazareth Academy of Victoria will be co-hosting the Annual Readin' - Ritin' - Reelin' Fishing Tournament on August 3-4 in Port O'Connor. All proceeds will benefit Nazareth Academy. Taking part in the tournament will be (first row, left to right) Cole F., Holden H., and Oliver S.; (second row) Hayden H., Dylan L., Brady F., and Abigail F.; and (back row) event sponsor Gary Moses; Knights of Columbus members Fred Kubesch, and George Wenzel; Sister Ann Meletio, Nazareth Academy; Deputy Grand Knight Manuel Gonzales, III, and Grand Knight Bob Sobczak.







Margie Simmons of Austin submitted the following letter to the Father Charles Kram email address, in response to the article, "Quadriplegic Priest, if Sainted, Would Become First in U.S." This article was originally published in the Victoria Advocate April 13, 2018, and written by Jennifer Preyss-Mathlouthi. Correspondence may be emailed to fathercharleskram@gmail.com.

Dear Father Charles Kram Project,

I was so delighted when my sister sent us the Victoria article on Father Charles Kram.

My name is Margie (Nell) Simmons of Austin, Texas, originally from Shiner, Texas. My father Mason Simmons and mother Albertha moved to Shiner in the late 1940's and became sharecroppers for Mr. and Mrs. Kram. We always referred to his father as Mr. Kram and his mother as Mrs. Kram. When I was a child, my mother would take us to Mr. and Mrs. Kram's house to house clean. She would take some of my older siblings to help Mrs. Kram with her day to day activities. We met Charles, his son who was quadriplegic from polio. I remember as a young child, Charles would show us his equipment as he communicated with his mouth with people all over the world. This was amazing to witness as a young child and extremely motivated me as a kid. When I first saw this, this was just amazing to me and motivated me to strive for the best. He taught me then that being disabled does not hinder an individual. He was an amazing man and always welcome us within the house as well as Mr. and Mrs. Kram.

My father lived on the Kram's farm for over 20 years in Shiner, Texas as a sharecropper. The Krams were wonderful and loving people. Mr. Kram and my father had a great working relationship. Mr. Kram accepted my father as his own and never denied my father of anything.

We knew Charles since he was in his 20's and until his death. Charles always kept in contact with us and he knew the births of all my siblings, which were 10 of us. Charles knew me before I was born. He always knew us, when my siblings were born, when they were married, when we were in college, when they were in the military, and where we worked. He always was in contact with my father and mother during his entire life. After my father passed and his parents passed, he relocated to Yoakum as the Chaplain and we remembered when he became a priest. My mother and I visited him on many occasions and he showed us his office and introduced us to some of the staff at the nursing facility in Yoakum. We were so proud of him and extremely happy and pleased of his great accomplishment.

Charles never let his disability hinder



him in serving God. He had a heart of gold steel. His parents and the entire Kram family accepted us as African Americans and never saw skin color, they only saw the heart of people. During the times when there was so much racism and resentment toward Blacks, the Krams never mistreated us nor denied us on the color of our skin. My family lived on their property and shared the earning with Mr. and Mrs. Kram for over 20 years until we moved to Victoria.

I am the youngest of 10 and I relocated to Austin to find employment and further my education. When my mother was alive I always took her to visit Charles, I mean Father Charles in Yoakum and he never forgot about us and would always ask me how my job was going in Austin. Well, if he was living today, I would tell him that I have been working consistently for the

State of Texas for 39 years today which is my anniversary. I know that his prayers and blessings are still being answered. I am a living proof and so also with my family. He never forgot about us. I know and feel that his prayers and blessings were always with us and continue to be with us today. Some of my siblings have passed on but his prayers and blessing remain with my family.

We were extremely saddened when he passed and my mother was devastated. We know that God has him and his parents in the bosom of Jesus Christ. Father Charles was a determined man and he never let his disability hinder him from serving God. He served God for his entire life and has encouraged many in Christ. I am extremely proud that he's been considered for Sainthood. Even

See Father Charles Kram Korner, pg. 13

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Father Eddie Winkler is pictured with Encuentro representatives from his parish in Flatonia.

## The Journey to the Encuentro

**By Sr. Rosario Resendez, IWBS**

The United States Bishops called all Catholics to become Missionary Disciples: witnesses of God's love, when they initiated the V Encuentro process, in 2015. The V Encuentro process calls all Catholics to go out to the peripheries where many Catholics live feeling abandoned, unheard, desolate, and oftentimes disaffected. It is the means of including all Catholics and becoming one church and one body, of engaging Catholics in a process of listening and consultation.

V Encuentro provides an opportunity to announce Jesus Christ and his message to Hispanic/Latinos with new methods and new expressions. It is utilized as a process of communion in which we can respond to God's call as missionary disciples by sharing faith in Jesus Christ, celebrating the sacraments, and affirming the many ways in which we experience God.

### Encuentro Initial Steps

In the Diocese of Victoria, Cesar Hernandez was one of the first delegates. He recalls the day Bishop Brendan approached him about being a delegate. He shared, "En el año 2015 el Obispo Cahill me informó que deseaba que yo sería uno

de los delegados para el V Encuentro. La formación de delegados iba ser los días 14 y 15 de noviembre del 2015 en San Antonio en MACC - Mexican American Catholic College. Con mucho gusto acepté." (It was in 2015 when Bishop Cahill told me that he wanted me to be a delegate for the V Encuentro. Training for the delegates was to take place November 14 and 15 in San Antonio at MACC - Mexican American Catholic College. I gladly accepted.)

The V Encuentro training was conducted by the Most Rev. Joe S. Vasquez, Bishop of Austin, Father Hector Madrigal of Amarillo, and Julio Beltran of Beaumont, among others. Julio Beltran presented the process of the V Encuentro explaining that the first Encuentro took place in 1972 and since then, four Encuentros have taken place. "Fue un curso bastante intenso pero muy interesante," Cesar added. (The training was intense but interesting.)

The training was to challenge the participants to grow in the evangelization of the church. The training focused on Pope Francis' Joy of the Gospel where we are to reach out to the peripheries and look for the needs of our neighbors first. Pope Francis invites us to carry the words of the Gospel and become joyful Missionary

Disciples. Cesar also said, "Después del entrenamiento compartimos con el Obispo Cahill de lo que discutimos y el les invitó a mas personas a participar como delegados y miembros del equipo V Encuentro Diocesano." (After the training we informed Bishop Cahill of what was discussed and he invited other people to participate as delegates and team members of the Diocesan Encuentro team.)

The Diocesan Encuentro team is made up of Sr. Miriam Perez, MCSH (coordinator), Arturo and Carolina Lara, Deacon Ed Molina, Sr. Maria del Rosario Resendez, IWBS, Brunilda Ortiz, Cesar Hernandez, Gloria Gonzalez, Maria Nunez, Margaret Pruett, Michelle Chavez, and Hermes and Magali Silva.

### Encuentro Kick-off

The Diocesan Encuentro team organized a kick-off celebration that was held March 5, 2017, at Holy Family Church, in Victoria, with over 80 people in attendance, from all over the Diocese of Victoria. Each participating parish then began a five-week experience of reflection, evangelization, and consultation guided by five themes inspired by Pope Francis' Joy of the Gospel:

- Called to a loving encounter with Jesus in the church.
- With words and actions do it!
- Walking together with Jesus.
- Bearing fruit of new life.
- Celebrating the joy of being missionary disciples.

After each parish completed the five-week process they were asked to hold a Parish Encuentro to report on the findings from the five-week process— the first step of the overall national process.

### Parish Encuentro

Sacred Heart Church, in Flatonia, completed the process and held their Parish Encuentro. Claudia Vasquez, a parishioner of Sacred Heart Church had the following to say about the V Encuentro process, "The V Encuentro process has impacted my life in so many ways, most of all it has helped me discern that God doesn't want division but unity. Many long to hear the Word of God in Spanish and as a community, we come to church as one in the body of Christ. Our Parish Encuentro was held on November 18th at Sacred Heart in Flatonia. The ones that came were very happy to hear that we cared about their needs and that this process was to better the communication between Hispanics and the church. To see them involved inside as well as outside. Stepping outside the pews, they became aware on how important it was to get the youth involved, to form them into the disciples that God needs them to be so that they can be a bridge to others. They



Cesar Hernandez (right) of the Diocese of Victoria is pictured with Julio Beltran of Beaumont, at the Regional Encuentro.

are our future."

Father Eddie Winkler pastor at Sacred Heart shared, "I was impressed with V Encuentro in two very important ways. First, the process rose up and developed new leadership in the parish. It is always good to see fresh faces in parish ministry. Second, these new leaders took hold of what the Encuentro process intended: to experience parish ministerial development as we better serve the Hispanic community. This was an exercise in developing parish unity, not in segregating our lives."

### Diocesan Encuentro

After two years of preparation the V Encuentro diocesan team held the Diocesan Encuentro at St. Robert's Church in El Campo, Texas on Saturday, February 17, 2018, with Bishop Cahill's support and Father Philip Brune's welcome. Parishes that participated were: St. Joseph, Yoakum; Sacred Heart, Flatonia; Our Lady of the Gulf, Port Lavaca; St. Anthony, Columbus; St. Robert, El Campo, St. Agnes, Edna, and Our Lady of Guadalupe, Bay City.

Participants shared successful practices from their parish, rated and identified highest recommendations, and highest rated pastoral areas, which will be shared at

*See The Journey to the Encuentro, pg. 14*





## Sunday Readings from July 8 - August 12

July 8 ~ Fourteenth Sunday  
in Ordinary Time

Ezekiel 2:2-5

Psalms 123:1-2, 2, 3-4

2 Corinthians 12:7-10

Mark 6:1-6

July 15 ~ Fifteenth Sunday  
in Ordinary Time

Amos 7:12-15

Psalms 85:9-10, 11-12, 13-14

Ephesians 1:3-14 OR 1:3-10

Mark 6:7-13

July 22 ~ Sixteenth Sunday  
in Ordinary Time

Jeremiah 23:1-6

Psalms 23:1-3, 3-4, 5, 6

Ephesians 2:13-18

Mark 6:30-34

July 29 ~ Seventeenth Sunday  
in Ordinary Time

2 Kings 4:42-44

Psalms 145:10-11, 15-16, 17-18

Ephesians 4:1-6

John 6:1-15

August 5 ~ Eighteenth Sunday  
in Ordinary Time

Exodus 16:2-4, 12-15

Psalms 78:3-4, 23-24, 25, 54

Ephesians 4:17, 20-24

John 6:24-35

August 12 ~ Nineteenth Sunday  
in Ordinary Time

1 Kings 19:4-8

Psalms 34:2-3, 4-5, 6-7, 8-9

Ephesians 4:30—5:2

John 6:41-51

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

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## Father Charles Kram Korner

Continued from pg. 11

though he's gone, his legacy will remain in my family and will never be forgotten. Yes, we love the Krams and have been knowing them all of our lives. We were blessed to have Mr. and Mrs. Kram as our employers and doubly blessed to meet and spend time with Charles, a remarkable and smart man. Charles was always extremely bright and always remained busy with his communication equipment interacting with people all over the world. Yes, he was a people's person and extremely social, kind, devoted, loving and accepted people of all ethnic backgrounds. That I do know because he accepted us regardless of the color of our skin during a time when hatred of blacks

was so prevalent. I am so blessed to have known Charles and the entire Kram family.

I know he prayed his entire life for our well-being and our success in life. My family is doing well. May God bless the Kram family with the Saint of one of his children. What a remarkable family who has never been forgotten by the Simmons' family formerly of Shiner, Texas.

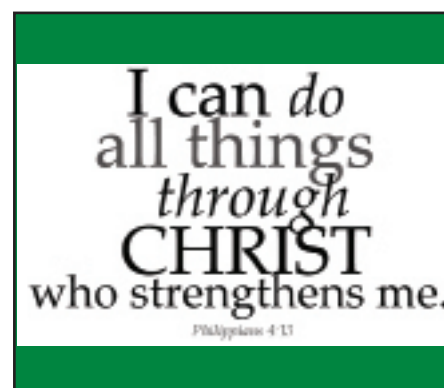
Please keep me informed of the status of his sainthood for our own Rev. Father Charles Kram Jr. God bless all.

Respectfully submitted,

Margie N. Simmons, on behalf of the  
Simmons Family



**BISHOPS PRAY AT PARKLAND SCHOOL FLORIDA**—Bishop Brendan J. Cahill of Victoria, Texas, Archbishop John C. Wester of Santa Fe, New Mexico, Mary Elizabeth Sperry, associate director for the U.S. Bishops' Permissions and New American Bible, Romanian Catholic Bishop John M. Botean of the Eparchy of St. George in Canton, Ohio, pray June 14, outside Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, Florida. The prelates, who were in Florida for the USCCB annual spring assembly, prayed outside the school for the 17 victims of the February 14 shooting. (CNS photo/Bob Roller)



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**Sts. Peter & Paul Catholic Church**  
**FRELSBURG, TEXAS**  
**COUNTRY FESTIVAL**  
**Sunday August 5**  
Holy Mass 8:45AM

★ Silent Auction ★ Raffle  
★ Country Store ★ Ice Cream  
★ Religious Articles ★ Ring Toss  
★ Gift Card Walk ★ Cake Walk  
★ Kid's Games

**BINGO 12 PM TO 4 PM**  
Under the tent

**FRELSBURG'S DELICIOUS FRIED FISH**  
with Buttered Potatoes, Hush Puppies, Cole Slaw, Pinto Beans, Bread, Pickles & Tea  
Meal Tickets: Large \$11.00 Small \$7.00 - Drive Thru Line: Plate-to-Go \$11.00  
Meal Served @ 11:00am (Hamburgers, Nachos & Snacks available after 3 PM)

**AUCTION 1:00 PM**  
Inside Air Conditioned Hall  
Featuring...  
Quilts, Handmade Items, Antiques, Plants, Pastries  
Home Canned Foods, plus many more items!

**MUSIC BY**  
**LARRY SODEK & Friends**  
**10AM TO 1PM**  
**FREE DANCE**  
**THE LOST CAUSE BAND**  
Inside the Hall after AUCTION

FOR MORE INFORMATION CALL (979) -732-3430 OR (979) -732-0257

## Child and Vulnerable Adult Abuse Reporting Procedures



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

### If Church Personnel Is Involved In Alleged Abuse:

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

**Step Two:** Contact one of the following:

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

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





## The Journey to the Encuentro

Continued from pg. 12

the regional conference to be held in San Antonio. When asked about the blessings coming from the Encuentro process, Sr. Miriam Perez, MCSH, said, "The fire of our baptismal call to be missionary disciples has definitely been ignited and is waiting to spread throughout the diocese, embracing the cultural diversity of all of our brothers and sisters."

### Regional Encuentro

The Encuentro for Region X was held from April 13-15, 2018, at La Cantera Resort and Spa in San Antonio. Delegates from the Diocese of Victoria were chosen from volunteers who expressed interest at the Diocesan Encuentro. Those who attended were Angelica Fortanelli, Claudia and Juan Vasquez, Elia Marta Olachia, Heriberto Castillo, Jessica Resendiz, Mary

and Ramon Moreno, Mauricio Santiago, Raquel Manzano, Silvia Hernandez, Silvia Rodriguez, and Yesenia Vasquez along with members from the diocesan team. These delegates represented parishes from Yoakum, El Campo, Columbus, Flatonia, and Port Lavaca.

At the Region X Encuentro a total of 800 delegates attended from Arkansas, Oklahoma, and Texas including 18 bishops. During this Encuentro the gathering of information was done at a much larger scale and delegates from different dioceses gathered together to discuss what can be done to reach the people in the peripheries. It was there where we took note on which ministries were in most need, such as prison and youth ministry. This information would then be taken to be discussed at the National Encuentro to be held in

September in Grapevine, Texas.

The Encuentro process and the participation of the Diocese of Victoria are important to Bishop Cahill. He shared with us, "At the Regional Encuentro in San Antonio, I sat at a discussion table with eight people from Arkansas, Oklahoma, and across Texas (including El Campo!). Speaking in Spanish we discussed ways to communicate the Gospel to all people in our community. The experience enriched my vision and was very hopeful. The presence of so many delegates in their 20's, 30's, and 40's at the conference also added energy. At the end of the weekend, I felt renewed in my hope – and returned with very practical steps to follow in our diocese. A key for me will be to trust some new, young leaders and offer what I've learned from my prayers and experience over the years."

### National Encuentro

Sr. Miriam Perez was asked what could be expected at the National Encuentro, where seven delegates from the Diocese of Victoria are invited. She answered, "A Pastoral Document considering the recommendations and needs taken from the grassroots up to the national level will be

available in the year 2020, with hopes that it will be implemented throughout all the parishes and dioceses of the United States. This is to increase the leadership and participation of all cultures and ethnicities in the church."

Thinking about the fruits to come, Sister Miriam added, "As a people of God who have suffered, one of the strongest fruits is developing resilience based on love, faith, and charity when embracing the cross of Jesus on this journey as missionary disciples." Participants yearn for not only the clergy, but all the church leaders to have 'the smell of sheep' as Pope Francis says. Only in an encounter with the other can a sense of being welcomed, loved and attended to, both spiritually and/or materially, turn into a deep Christian relationship.

*'I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you clothed me, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me.'*

Mt. 25:35-36



Sr. Rosario Resendez, IWBS, is pictured with a group of Encuentro delegates at the Regional Encuentro. (Photo courtesy of Today's Catholic, San Antonio)

## Carmelite Sisters Bring Order to Texas

Continued from pg. 5

cording to a venerable legend, he prayed to Our Lady, begging her protection of the Order, whose continued existence was threatened on all sides. She then appeared to him with the brown scapular as a sign of her protection.

Staff: *If someone wanted to visit who would they contact?*

Sister Maria: Contact Sister Maria at (361) 277-8972 or the website at maryevervirgin.org.

Staff: *What would each of you say to a young lady discerning religious life?*

Sister Maria: Do not be afraid. Listen to the Holy Spirit in prayer. Draw close to Our Lady. Seek counsel from a trusted priest or director. Do not be afraid to hear God calling you; do not be afraid to give everything to him. You will have no regrets because he always gives back more than we can ever give him, in this life and especially in the life to come.

Sister Mary Ruth: To a young lady discerning religious life, I would say, find a way to make space for God. Religious life

is not something we choose. Rather, God chooses us. Spend a little time learning about the different Orders of religious life. Spend some time with Religious Sisters. Talk to a priest. Find moments where you can be silent with God. Do not be afraid to give him everything. Once we are free enough to give him everything, once we are free enough to accept his will, whatever it may be, he is free to make known to us his will, or at least to guide us to it. And you will be amazed at his grace working in you, accomplishing in you what you could not do on your own.

The Sisters will be praying a novena to Our Lady of Mount Carmel July 7-15 and welcome prayer intentions. Please send intentions to: Carmelites of Mary Ever Virgin, 11220 FM 237, Meyersville, TX 77974 or submit on website: maryevervirgin.org.

They will also be having Mass on July 16, the Feast of Our Lady of Mount Carmel at 6:00 p.m. in Meyersville. Bishop Cahill will be presiding. All are invited.

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**Edward Jones**  
(361) 576-0178  
kenny.french@edwardjones.com





## Meals • Picnics and More

### July

**Moravia**—Ascension Parish Picnic July 15 with a stew and fried-chicken dinner at \$10 p/p with dine-in or drive-thru plates-to-go available. Auction, bingo, cakewalk, games, water slip-n-slide, country store, and music by Mark Halata & Texavia and the Moravians. See ad on pg. 7.

**Victoria**—Knights of St. Gregory annual Bishop's Charity Banquet, Thursday, July 12 at Victoria Country Club. Beginning with a social at 6:30 p.m. followed by dinner. Proceeds benefit Bishop Cahill's special charity. Tickets are \$100 p/p (limited to 250). Reservations can be mailed to Knights of St. Gregory, P. O. Box 5725, Victoria, TX 77903.

### August

**Port O'Connor**—KC's #9088 and Nazareth Academy Fishing Tournament, Aug. 3-4. See ad on pg. 10.

**Yoakum**—Annual St. Joseph Alumni Reunion, Aug. 4 with Mass at 5:00 p.m. followed by a reception and dinner at St. Joseph Family Center. Tickets are \$15 for adults and \$5 for children under 12. Call the Pastoral Center at (361) 293-3518 for more information.

**Yoakum**—St. Joseph Parish Picnic Aug. 5 at the Yoakum Community Center. A stew and sausage meal served starting at 10:30 a.m. at \$9 p/p. See ad on pg. 4.

**Frelsburg**—Sts. Peter and Paul Country Festival, Aug. 5 beginning with a Mass at 8:45 a.m. A fried fish meal at 11:00 a.m. at \$11 p/p large and \$7 p/p small. For more information call (979) 732-3430 or (979) 732-0257. See ad on pg. 13.

**Victoria**—KJZT Society #101 Mass for living and deceased members Aug. 12, 7:30 a.m. at The Cathedral of Our Lady of Victory. Following Mass a breakfast will be served in the Cathedral Center (St. Gabriel Hall). RSVP by calling Irene at (361) 573-2669.

**Weimar**—St. Michael Harvest Feast Picnic, Aug. 12, begins with a Polka Mass at 10:30 a.m. with Father Wayne Flagg and Lost Cause Band at the church. Following Mass at the Veterans Hall will be the picnic with music by Lost Cause, Shiner Hobo Band, and Chris Rybak.

**Praha**—161st Prazska Pout/Praha Picnic Aug. 15. A 10:00 a.m. Mass with Bishop Cahill at St. Mary's Church. From 11:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m. stew and fried chicken dinner will be served. Music from 11:00 a.m.-10:00 p.m. There will be a cakewalk, games, country store and more throughout the day. Auction at 1:00 p.m.

**Hillje**—St. Andrew Summer Festival, Aug. 19 at the Parish Hall. A prime beef barbecue and sausage dinner at 11:00 a.m. with dine-in or drive-thru plates-to-go available both at \$10 p/p. Indoor auction at 12:30 p.m. There will be a country store, bake sale, cakewalk and more along with some music.

### September

**Cuero**—Our Lady of Guadalupe Jamaica, Sept. 2

**Fayetteville**—St. John Church Picnic, Sept. 2

**Hallettsville**—Sacred Heart Parish Picnic, Sept. 2

**Nada**—St. Mary's Parish Festival & Homecoming, Sept. 2

**Shiner**—Sts. Cyril and Methodius Picnic, Sept. 2

**Vanderbilt**—St. John Bosco Festival, Sept. 2

## Ministries • Ongoing Activities

**Catholic Family Services**—To find Catholic organizations which focus on family, visit the Catholic Association of Catholic Family Life Ministers at [www.nacflm.org](http://www.nacflm.org).

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

**Emmaus Center**—Offers individual, couple, family, adolescent and children's counseling as well as specialized support groups for men, women and those afflicted by grief. Spiritual direction is also available on request. Appointments may be made by calling (361) 212-0830. For more information see pg. 8.

**Engaged Encounter—2018 Dates: September 21-23 and November 16-18**, registrations are on a first come, first serve basis. Fee must accompany registration form. For more information, call (361) 573-0828 or visit [www.victoriadiocese.org](http://www.victoriadiocese.org).

**Gabriel Project**—Helps women experiencing a crisis pregnancy- an alternative to abortion. **Victoria**: Meets the 2nd Tuesday of each month at 6:30 p.m. at 101 W. Convent. Light supper included. For angel workshop/training dates, contact Barbara at (361) 649-1612 or

## 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.: July 7, August 4, and September 1. All are invited to attend.

**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://jpiihealingcenter.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](mailto:pat623@icloud.com).

**Port Lavaca**—9th Annual Charismatic Spiritual Conference in spanish at Our Lady of the Gulf Church (415 W. Austin St.) July 21. Registration begins at 7:00 a.m. at St. Jude Hall. The day will include adoration, healing Mass, confessions, praise and worship music. Keynote speakers will be Father Roberto Guerra and Catholic Evangelist Carlos Velez. Healing Mass celebrated by Father Roberto Guerra. No entry fee. Meal tickets available. The theme is "El Señor es mi pastor, nada me faltará El es nuestra paz y justicia." For more information call Mary Moreno 361-553-9594.

**ACTS Retreats**—For information, visit [www.actsmissions.org](http://www.actsmissions.org).

**Victoria**—Our Lady of Lourdes holds Healing Mass and Prayer the 1st Saturday of each month at 10:00 a.m. at 105 N. William St. with Father Phi Nguyen, chaplain of IWBS Convent. For more information, contact Sr. Louise Marie Jones at [iwbsvoc2@yahoo.com](mailto:iwbsvoc2@yahoo.com).

**Tivoli**—Our Lady of Guadalupe Church celebrates the Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament the 1st Friday of each month at 6:00 p.m. Mass begins at 7:00 p.m. at 501B William St. with Father Paulson Panakal. For more information, call (361) 237-3634.

[barbaramccain85@yahoo.com](mailto:barbaramccain85@yahoo.com); **Meyersville**: Sts. Peter and Paul, meets the 3rd Tuesday of each month at 6:00 p.m. (during the school year) at 11220 FM 237 (77974), the coordinators for DeWitt Chapter are Wayne and Margie Smith (361) 564-3742; **Lavaca County**: Meets 6:00 p.m. (during the school year), contact Julie Kubena Lavaca County Coordinator at (361) 798-3579 for dates and location. See ad on pg. 9.

**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 [id-916victoria@gmail.com](mailto:id-916victoria@gmail.com).

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

**Mothers of Grace**—A new mothers' group at the Cathedral of Our Lady of Victory. For more information contact Jennifer Ruiz at [jenniferschobey.ruiz@yahoo.com](mailto:jenniferschobey.ruiz@yahoo.com).

**Natural Family Planning**—NFP is the only church-approved form of family planning. For the CREIGHTON MODEL Fertility Care System (CrMS) featuring NaPro TECHNOLOGY™ contact Susanne Koch in Wharton at (505) 710-0903 or [susannekoch614@gmail.com](mailto:susannekoch614@gmail.com).

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

**Retrouvaille**—Retrouvaille, meaning rediscovery, is a marriage-healing ministry offered in the diocese to couples in difficult marriages. Contact John and Jennifer Vincent at [jbvjov@sbcglobal.net](mailto:jbvjov@sbcglobal.net) or (361) 580-2770; call (800) 470-2230; or visit [www.helpourmarriage.org](http://www.helpourmarriage.org) or [www.retrouvaille.org](http://www.retrouvaille.org). See ad on pg. 8.

### Pilgrimages

**Holy Land Pilgrimage** with Very Rev. Charles Otsiwah, pastor of Immaculate Conception, Goliad. Walk the footsteps of our Lord Jesus Christ on April 29– May 9, 2019. Some locations visiting are Jerusalem, Mount of Olives, the Room of the Last Supper, Bethlehem, Old City of Jerusalem, Holy Hour in Gethsemane – Dead Sea, walk the Way of the Cross, Nazareth, Cana, Acre, Caesarea, Jaffa, and Tel Aviv. For a full itinerary, please contact Dora Silva at (361) 550-0103 or [Dsilva4415@gmail.com](mailto:Dsilva4415@gmail.com). Cost is \$3,599 – includes airfare, hotels, breakfast, and dinner.





Czech and German Cultures  
Visible in Painted Churches

*Continued from pg. 1*

Masses are scheduled. She beamed with excitement as she proudly shared the history of not only her church, but the history of the area. She explained that the church is one of the only churches built in the shape of a cross, and that long ago men sat on one side of the church and women on the other. She said, “I walk into the church and I’m home. It is nice to take a breath and settle down.” We wrapped up our visit by checking out the choir loft, where the original bell with pull rope still hangs. Needless to say, I had never seen a bell with a pull rope. I definitely took the opportunity to ring the bell, something I had always wanted to do!

The next stop was 17 miles up the road to Sts. Cyril and Methodius in Dubina. We waited for Father Wayne Flagg, pastor, to arrive to open the gates that remain locked inside the church. This church is on the Painted Churches of Texas Tour, so others were also arriving. The original church was destroyed by a hurricane and re-built in 1912. Father Wayne explained that around 1950, to modernize the church, all the stenciling and all the painted walls of the church were whitewashed. In 1980, parishioners decided to restore the church to its original

designs. They began a special project and carefully uncovered the old designs. Unlike the other painted churches, the Dubina church does not have stained glass windows. This allows natural light to shine in, which highlights the stenciled oak leaves, angels, and painted walls. While in Dubina we also learned the history and importance of Sts. Cyril and Methodius to the Czech and Slavic people. These two brothers wrote the Cyrillic language and translated the bible into the Cyrillic language. No doubt why they are known as the “Apostles of the Slavs”.

We left Dubina and headed down Piano Bridge Road towards High Hill. The last stop of the day was Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary Church in High Hill, also known as “St. Mary.” Established more than 150 years ago, this church is the most ornate of the Painted Churches and has earned the name, “Queen of the Painted Churches.” As we arrived, two tour buses were already in the parking lot. Inside, we could see the architectural influence of the German-Czech heritage. There were statues of saints hung on the center pillars of the church, intricate paintings, and a beautiful chandelier hanging in the center aisle.

As we drove through the bluebonnet and wildflower-filled countryside that day, traveling from church to church, we saw first-hand how generations of Czech and German families have come to call Texas home. There are 30 Painted Churches in the



*Janis Hrncir, long-time resident of Moravia and parishioner of Ascension of Our Lord, shared the history of the parish.*

State of Texas and nine of those are located in our diocese. If you have never seen the Painted Churches, I invite you to take a short road trip to experience for yourself, the rich culture of the Czech and German people that is so alive in the northern part of the Diocese of Victoria.

The Schulenburg Chamber of Commerce provides guides for tour groups or individuals are welcome to enjoy a self-guided tour. For more information visit [www.schulenburgchamber.org/painted-churches-tour](http://www.schulenburgchamber.org/painted-churches-tour).



*Ever wonder what these are in the old churches? They were used to hang the men’s hats.*

*All photos by TCL Staff*



*Ascension of Our Lord Church, Moravia*



*Immaculate Conception Church, St. Mary*



*Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary Church, High Hill*



*Sts. Cyril and Methodius Church, Dubina*

