The Rosary: A Spiritual Weapon in My Daily Life

By Leslie Book

When your son’s small, three-year-old voice asks to “play the rosary” from the backseat on a nearly three hour car ride to Grandma’s house, you can’t refuse. At least that is how I felt, so I dutifully attached my phone, opened the YouTube app, and selected “The Rosary with Scripture” performed by Kate and Mike Catholic Crusade. Often this version plays on our car radio as I repeat the words of the Hail Mary and soak in the life of Christ and his beloved Mother one verse at a time.

As a devotion, the rosary has surfaced, subsided, and resurfaced throughout my life. When I was in high school and college, I prayed the rosary out of a sense of duty. At that time, the rosary felt difficult; I was scrupulous in thinking I had to pray it with perfect reverence every time. So, later, I fell out of practice as my days were filled with unending childcare, heftier household chores, or work related responsibilities. It felt impossible to give it the prayerful attitude it deserved. I didn’t understand how the rosary could apply to my everyday, work-filled life.

As I’ve grown in my faith, I’ve come to realize that Mary wants to be invited into my daily activities. And she, in turn, will invite me into the life of her son. Praying the rosary is a meditation on the Gospel (see The Mysteries of the Rosary on page 5) the counting of beads and repetition of Hail Marys carries me to a place of quiet in the midst of my duties. It is not reserved for only tranquil, perfect moments. I can pray one decade at a time or with the companionship of a YouTube video. I can pray with my children asking questions from the back seat. As long as I pray it with devotion in my heart, it will be fruitful.

Some may see the rosary as old-fashioned, unnecessarily repetitious, or intimidating in length, reserved for only the most pious grandmothers and religious. But Saint Padre Pio called the rosary a weapon: “the weapon against the evils of the world today.” Pope Pius XII echoed this: “We put great confidence in the Holy Rosary for the healing of evils which afflict our times.” Mary herself, at Fatima, implored us: “Pray the rosary every day in honor of Our Lady of the Rosary.

See The Rosary, pg. 20

One can learn to pray the rosary at any age. These young children prayed a decade of the rosary with their mother at the Incarnate Word and Blessed Sacrament prayer garden in front of the Blessed Mother statue. Diocese has many prayer gardens that one can spend time praying the rosary. Praying the rosary is a very powerful weapon.
Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Last month I visited the CCD classes at St. Agnes in Edna. That evening the Junior High and High School students met together and I was able to talk with them about some questions they had previously written down on some cards. The questions covered a variety of topics, and I noticed that several asked me about my personal faith. One question in particular that I’ve been thinking and praying about is: “In one word, describe your relationship with God!”

I’ll share with you here the answer I gave that evening – “Surrender”. A few weeks later I still think that answer stands, as the more I try to grow in faith the more I realize that the most important daily task for me is to surrender to God’s will. God created this world in love, God sustains this world in love, and God gives me the breath I breathe each morning. Every day is a gift that God gives each one of us. The proper response in gratitude to the power and love of God is simply to listen to God’s word and trust – this is much easier said than done!

There are a couple of events in the diocese this month that I hope can help us specifically on our spiritual journey. During the week of October 6-13 we will be celebrating a Diocesan Rosary Congress. On October 19 we will be hosting our annual Catholic Conference.

During the Diocesan Rosary Congress men and women all across the diocese will be spending time in Adoration of Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament and in praying the Rosary. The two devotions of Eucharistic Adoration and the Rosary both speak of surrender to God’s will. Often when I look at Jesus during the Mass or times of Adoration my eyes see Jesus reconciling the world to Himself. I can think of all the people I may have seen in a day and pray for them to be reconciled to God through the sacrifice of Christ on the Cross. By that I mean the experience of what St. Paul wrote about in his letters to the Ephesians, Colossians and Philippians. Imprisoned and physically suffering and seemingly defeated St. Paul would boldly proclaim “I can do all things through him who strengthens me!” (Phil. 4:13) and that he knew the mystery of God’s will, “a plan for the fullness of time, to gather up all things in Christ, things in heaven and things on earth” (Eph. 1:10). Our faith in Jesus and surrender to His will can give us the same power and confidence in God.

During one of her messages to the children at Fatima we believe Mary offered words of assurance that her Immaculate Heart would be victorious. In our Catholic spirituality we believe that we can offer our heart to Jesus through Mary. I still find it hard to express adequately in words, yet the Rosary as a prayer has the power to lead us more deeply into the mystery of God’s saving plan in Jesus Christ. As we are praying the Rosary during this Rosary Congress we will be praying specifically for repairing of wounds caused by bishops and priests in the Church, and with Mary we can pray with confidence in the power of God to repair and heal.

The theme of the Catholic Conference speaks also of encouragement and healing – “Embracing God’s Family.” We will have dynamic speakers on a variety of topics, all with the goal of helping us to reflect on and strengthen our family. There are themes for catechists in the classrooms, liturgical ministers and other ministers in the Church. There also will be a presentation from someone who is working with families on the border – this may help us to see how we can support some families who are suffering right now. October 19 will be a powerful day for many of us to consider practical ways in which we can surrender to God’s will each day.

May God bless you and your family, may our prayer be beneficial for our families and our personal spiritual growth, and may we be committed to remain in prayer for peace and for the whole world.

+Brendan

Queridos Hermanos y Hermanas,

El mes pasado visité las clases de CCD en St. Agnes en Edna. Esa noche, los estudiantes de secundaria y preparatoria se reunieron y pude hablar con ellos sobre algunas preguntas que habían escrito anteriormente en algunas tarjetas. Las preguntas cubrieron una variedad de temas, y noté que varios me preguntaron sobre mi fe personal. Una pregunta en particular en la que he estado pensando y orando es: “En una palabra, ¿describe tu relación con Dios!”

Compartiré con ustedes aquí la respuesta que di esa noche: “Rendirse”. Unas semanas más tarde, todavía creo que esa respuesta sigue siendo así, ya que cuanto más trato de crecer en la fe, más me doy cuenta de que la tarea diaria más importante para mí es rendirme a la voluntad de Dios. Dios creó este mundo con amor, Dios sostiene este mundo con amor, y Dios me da el aliento que respiro cada mañana. Cada día es un regalo que Dios nos da a cada uno de nosotros. La respuesta adecuada en agradecimiento al poder y al amor de Dios es simplemente escuchar la palabra y la confianza de Dios; ¡eso es mucho más fácil decirlo que hacerlo!


Durante el Congreso del Rosario Diocesano, hombres y mujeres de toda la diócesis pasarán tiempo adorando a Jesús en el Santísimo Sacramento y rezando el Rosario. Las dos devociones de adoración eucarística y el rosario hablan de rendirse a la voluntad de Dios. A menudo, cuando miro a Jesús durante la misa o en los momentos de adoración, mis ojos ven a Jesús reconciiliando consigo al mundo. Puedo pensar en todas las personas que he visto en un día y rezar para que se reconcilen con Dios a través del sacrificio de Cristo en la Cruz. Con eso me refiero a la experiencia de lo que San Pablo escribió en sus cartas a los efesios, colosenses y Filipenses. Encarcelado y sufriendo físicamente y aparentemente derrotado, San Pablo proclamaría audazmente “¡Todo lo puedo en el que me fortalece!” (Fil. 4:13) y que conocía el misterio de la voluntad de Dios, “un plan para la plenitud de tiempo, para juntar todas las cosas en Cristo, las cosas en el cielo y las cosas en la tierra” (Ef. 1:10). Nuestra fe en Jesús y rendirnos a su voluntad nos puede dar el mismo poder y confianza en Dios.

Durante uno de sus mensajes a los niños de Fátima, creemos que María ofreció palabras de seguridad de que su Corazón Immaculado saldría victorioso. En nuestra espiritualidad católica creemos que podemos ofrecer nuestro corazón a Jesús a través de María. Todavía me resulta difícil expresarlo adecuadamente con palabras, sin embargo, el Rosario como oración tiene el poder de guiarnos más profundamente al misterio del plan salvador de Dios en Jesucristo. Mientras rezamos el Rosario durante este Congreso del Rosario, recordaremos especialmente por la reparación de las heridas causadas por obispos y sacerdotes en la Iglesia, y con María podemos rezar con confianza en el poder de Dios para reparar y sanar.

El tema de la Conferencia Católica habla también de aliento y curación: “Abrazando a la familia de Dios”. Tendremos oradores dinámicos sobre una variedad de temas, todo con el objetivo de ayudarnos a reflexionar y fortalecer a nuestra familia. Hay temas para catequistas en las aulas, líderes de RICA, ministros litúrgicos y otros ministros en la Iglesia. También habrá una presentación de alguien que está trabajando con familias en la frontera; esto puede ayudarnos a ver cómo podemos apoyar a algunas familias que están sufriendo en este momento. El 19 de octubre será un día poderoso para que muchos de nosotros consideremos formas prácticas de rendirnos a la voluntad de Dios cada día.

Que Dios bendiga a ustedes y a sus familias, que nuestra oración sea beneficiosa para nuestras familias y nuestro crecimiento espiritual personal, y que estemos comprometidos a permanecer en oración por la paz, por la familia y por el mundo entero.

+Brendan
DOV Opens Family Evangelization Department, Names Director

Henry Justin Reyes joined the Diocese of Victoria (DOV) on Thursday, October 3, as the Director of Family Evangelization for the diocese. Justin will work under the direction of Bishop Brendan Cahill and directly report to Father Gary Janak and is responsible for developing and implementing a plan to encourage, strengthen and form families as missionary disciples.

Justin said, "Our family is coming from sunny Orlando, Florida to join the beautiful Diocese of Victoria, and we look forward to becoming a part of the great state of Texas!"

As Director of Family Evangelization is to help parishes reach families, so they may engage more deeply in our Catholic faith and spread the joy of The Gospel to the world around them. "As our Lord says, “Your light must shine before others.”"

As Catholics, we have the beauty of the fullness of the Christian faith to share with the world! I am deeply grateful to Bishop Cahill, Father Gary Janak, and the chancery team, for the opportunity to join the Diocese of Victoria, and for entrusting me with this mission. I promise to serve this diocese with all my heart and strength, as our team seeks to see families become fully alive with the joy of the Catholic faith.

Justin has served in a variety of ministry roles at parishes and brings experience from education and the business world. Most recently, he served at Saint James Cathedral in Orlando, Florida as the Director of Pastoral Ministry, supporting family life ministries, as well as special capital projects. He holds a Master of Business Administration from UNC Chapel Hill and an undergraduate degree in business from the University of Florida. He and his wife Laura have been married for five years and have three boys from 4-years-old and younger. His office is located in the DOV Chancery Office.

Prayer For Protection Over Family Members

Lord, I ask for protection and safety over my spouse, my children, my parents, my family members and myself today. Please lead us with Your mighty hands today and always. Deliver us from any enemy and evil that try to hinder our way. Do not let the ways of the enemy blind our eyes. We know that You are for us, so that no one could ever stop us. Please watch over us and guide us all safely throughout this day, so that we may all arrive safely back home.

Father. Amen.

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

Rev. Frank B. Lenz 10/29/1994 Retired
Rev. Joseph Vrana 10/10/2016

Even though I walk through the darkest valley, I fear no evil for you are with me your rod and your staff, they comfort me.

Psalms 23:4
DIOCESE

Office of Youth & Young Adult Ministry

Wendy Eggert, Director
Shannon Thomas, Associate Director
ym@victoriadiocese.org
(361) 573-0828
www.victoriadiocese.org/youth-young-adult-ministry

Upcoming Events
Victoria College Campus Ministry Events:

October
Every Tuesday at 1:00 p.m. -
Rosary or Divine Mercy Chaplet on the Student Center Patio

October 10 - Adoration and Talk with Bishop Cahill from 12 noon - 2:00 p.m. in the Faculty Dining Room in Student Center

October 16 - Mass at 12:15 p.m. in the Student Center followed by Meal

How to Support DSA

The Diocesan Services Appeal (DSA) is committed to fund administration offices and programs that help bring the light of Christ to each of the priorities of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops in the Crossroads. Evangelization, Marriage and Family, and Human Life and Dignity are a few that Bishop Cahill has chosen to focus on. To support the DSA contact Rene Garcia at (361) 573-0828.

The Emmaus Center

The Emmaus Center provides individual, couple, family, adolescent and children’s counseling as well as specialized support groups from a Catholic perspective. For more information or to schedule an appointment, please call (361) 212-0830.

Inspirational Speaker Coming to St. Philip

EL CAMPO—St. Philip the Apostle Parish in El Campo presents Kitty Cleveland on Sunday October 27, from 1:00-4:30 p.m. in the St. Philip Gym.

Kitty will share her family’s Divine Mercy miracle story, along with an afternoon of music, reflection and inspiration. Her endearing personality and delightful humor, along with her beautiful singing voice is both uplifting and encouraging.

A free will offering will be accepted, benefitting the Diocese of Victoria Seminarian Fund. For more information, call St. Philip Rectory at (979) 543-3770.

OLV to Host Parish Mission

The Cathedral of Our Lady of Victory will host a level one God’s Healing Love parish mission October 21-23, from 6:30 - 9:00 p.m. each night in the Cathedral Center.

Father Greg Bramlage of the Missionaries of the New Evangelization will open each night to a deeper understanding of God’s magnificent love and to his desire to heal all in every way. Come with an open heart and expectant faith.

Father Greg has given missions to thousands of people throughout the United States, Africa, India, as well as Central and South America. He is headquartered in the Diocese of Colorado Springs and is currently seeking to build a Center for the New Evangelization.

Each night there is a free-will offering to offset the cost of the mission and to help Father Greg build the Center for the New Evangelization.

For more information, call (361) 935-1688 or email verm.crockett@gmail.com.

The Catholic Lighthouse
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Diocese of Victoria
in Texas

Heavenly Helpers

Christian Store
(979) 543-2850
1603 N Mechanic
El Campo, TX 77437
M-F 9:30 - 5:30  Sat. 9:30 - 3:00

First Communion, Confirmation, Bibles, Books, Rosaries, Medals, Statues, Baptism & Wedding Items Inspirational Gifts

DIOCESE

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 – $0.01 - $99.99; Acolyte – $100 - $499.99; Candidate – $500 - $1,499.99; Transitional Deacon – $1,500 - $2,499.99; Priest – $2,500 +.

Transitional Deacon

Lector
Paz and Andrea Morales in Memory of Fr. Dan Morales
Don and Barbara Respondexk
in Memory of Gary Greive and Paul Gwolz
Joe F. Staff Estate
in Memory of Madelyn Staff Novasod

Acolyte
Catholic Life Insurance, Victoria Branch 51
Don and Frances Spring
in Memory of Hazel Pritchard Brogger

Candidate
Anonymous
Robert and Kathryn Kennedy

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 the 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 – $0.01 - $99.99; Acolyte – $100 - $499.99; Candidate – $500 - $1,499.99; Transitional Deacon – $1,500 - $2,499.99; Priest – $2,500 +.

September 19, 2019
• CDA Court of St. Ann #369 Seminary Burse #2

Lector
In memory of Earlone Boltz by CDA Court St. Ann #369

• Rev. Scott Hill Seminary Burse

Acolyte
In honor of Rev. Scott Hill’s birthday celebration by Daryl and Joan Hill

• Rev. Roman M. Janak & Rev. Msgr. Hubert J. Janak Seminary Burse

Lector
In memory of Joe and Cecelia Fikac from the Children of Joe and Cecelia Fikac

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

Acolyte
In memory of Rev. Dan Morales by Catholic Life Insurance Branch #55, Port Lavaca
In memory of Rev. Dan Morales by Court St. Roch of Mentz #2328

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

Transitional Deacon

~

Priest

Lector
In memory of John Jr. and Tillie Peters
In memory of Ray and Leona Sizemore

Rev. Michael Rother Seminary Burse
Lector
In memory of Lorenzo Alamia by M/M Bernard Rother

Rev. Joe Vrana Seminary Burse, in Honor of his Golden Jubilee Year
Candidate
In memory of Rev. Joe Vrana by K of C Christopher Columbus 4th Degree Assembly #1136

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
The Rosary - a Means of Contemplation

The Rosary has been a favorite means of contemplating the life and mission of Christ for centuries. Many people of prior generations were not able to read or had no access to the psalter (psalms) that were used by the priest and literate members of religious orders; they, along with all those who were seeking means to develop spiritually, were encouraged to pray the rosary to foster Christian spirituality. Thus Rosary devotions grew in popularity through the centuries up to the present. St. Pope John Paul II vouched that rosary devotions are “among the finest and most praiseworthy traditions of Christian contemplation.”

On the other hand, I have heard some people say that the Rosary is boring— that there is too much repetition in the prayer—that the Hail Mary’s are just a series of unnecessary words. So, let’s look more closely at this prayer.

I sometimes think of the rosary as a parallel to life. There are markers or events in our life which influence us and direct our long-term actions. For example, changes in our life, graduations, getting married, having children, deaths of loved ones, times of experiencing difficulties or disasters, … are events which preoccupy us during various stages of life. These events can be compared with the mysteries that we contemplate while we are saying the decades of the Rosary. While we are experiencing the outstanding events in our life, the nitty-gritty of life goes on— we get up, we eat, we go to work, we sleep… These repetitions in our daily lives are paralleled in the repetition of the prayers to Mary whom we are asking to repeatedly intercede for us and pray for us at the moment of our death. In life, do we ever get tired of asking family members or friends to help us or to pray for us? Then why would we get tired of asking Mary to intercede for us?

Let us then pray the rosary with devotion as we reflect on the mysteries in Christ’s life and mission in bringing about our salvation. Let us also examine our own mission in life as we contemplate Christ’s life and mission. How are we to participate in Christ’s salvific mission? Let’s let frequent recitation of the Rosary be part of preparing for and accomplishing our Christian mission of making Jesus and his salvific actions known and appreciated.

New IWBS Associates Celebrate Consecration

Sisters and Associates of the Incarnate Word and Blessed Sacrament gathered at Incarnate Word Convent Chapel on Sunday, September 8, to celebrate the Consecration of ten new Associates and three Associates who made their Perpetual Consecration.

The ten Associates making their first Consecration were Katherine Bruno, Nancy Cisneros, Rose Campos, Veronica Gonzales, Beatriz Gonzalez, Nancy Heibel, Catherine Love, Anna M. Martinez, Janie Rubio, Mary Santellana, and Rachel Zamora. They are from St. Mary, Holy Family, The Cathedral of Our Lady of Victory, Our Lady of Sorrows, and Our Lady of Lourdes parishes in Victoria.

Those making their Perpetual Consecration were Lillie Vecera from St. Joseph, Yoakum, and Mary Louise Ruth from The Cathedral of Our Lady of Victory and Helen Mica from Holy Cross, East Bernard.

More than 40 other members renewed their consecration for one or five years.

Bishop Emeritus David Fellhauer celebrated the Mass and presided at the Consecration and renewal along with Sister Kathleen Goike, Superior and their director, Sister Emiliana Grafe. Also con-celebrating the Mass with the bishop was Associate Father Michael Petering.

Associates and family members joined the Sisters for a reception following the Mass.

The Mysteries Of The Rosary

The mysteries of the rosary were introduced by Dominic of Prussia sometime between 1410 and 1439. This gave each decade of the rosary a unique quality. Each mystery leads us to ponder very specific events in the lives of Jesus and Mary and the lessons they hold for our own lives today.

There were originally three sets of mysteries: the Joyful Mysteries, the Sorrowful Mysteries, and the Glorious Mysteries. On October 16, 2002, almost 600 years after the original Mysteries of the rosary were established, Pope John Paul II proposed adding a new set of mysteries called the Luminous Mysteries (the Mysteries of Light).

The Joyful Mysteries
- The Annunciation
- The Visitation
- The Birth of Jesus
- The Presentation
- The Finding of the Child Jesus in the Temple

The Sorrowful Mysteries
- The Agony in the Garden
- The Scourging at the Pillar
- The Crowning with Thorns
- The Carrying of the Cross
- The Crucifixion

The Glorious Mysteries
- The Resurrection
- The Ascension
- The Descent of the Holy Spirit
- The Assumption
- The Coronation of Mary as Queen of Heaven and Earth

The Luminous Mysteries
- The Baptism of Jesus in the Jordan
- The Wedding at Cana
- The Proclamation of the Kingdom
- The Transfiguration of Jesus
- The Institution of the Eucharist at the Last Supper

Pray a Rosary

October
Month of the Holy Rosary

Knights Support CCD Program—The Knights of Columbus Council #3421 from Saint Agnes Church, Edna, made a $1,800 donation to the Saint Agnes CCD Program. Pictured (l-r) are Knights of Columbus members Don Orsak, James Lewis, Julio Espinosa, Pat Kromka, Director of Religious Education for Saint Agnes; Gary Tomas, Ryan Tomas, and David Steffek.
SHS STUDENT COMMENDED—Principal Kevin Haas of Sacred Heart School, Hallettsville, announced that John C. has been named a Commended Student in the 2020 National Merit Scholarship Program. A Letter of Commendation from the National Merit Scholarship Corporation was presented by the principal to John. Commended Students placed among the top 50,000 scorers of the more than 1.5 million students that took the 2018 PSAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test. John also completed the Welch Summer Scholars Program, a five-week residential chemistry research initiative designed to give high school students an opportunity to experience graduate-level chemistry research. His research report entitled，“Saddle Point Finding for Li2FeSi04”. According to John, his specific research “has potential applications towards improving battery life for many electronic devices.”

Students Qualify for Duke Gifted Program
WEIMAR—St. Michael School, Weimar, students Lily B., Bralen H., Logan Kainer, and Huxton K., all 7th graders, have been invited to join the prestigious 7th Grade Talent Search for gifted students sponsored by Duke University’s Talent Identification Program (Duke TIP).

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

The Duke University Talent Identification Program is a nonprofit educational organization that is recognized as a leader in identifying and serving the educational needs of academically gifted youth. Through identification, recognition, challenging educational programs, information, advocacy and research, Duke TIP provides resources to gifted students, their parents, educators, and schools to help gifted scholars reach their full academic potential. For more on Duke TIP talent searches, including qualification requirements for its 4th-6th Grade Talent Search and 7th Grade Talent Search, visit www.tip.duke.edu.

Students Win Family Rosary Contest—Sacred Heart Catholic School has two winners in the “2019 Try Prayer! It Works!” poetry contest sponsored by Family Rosary. Principal Kevin Haas presented winners Caleb B. and Kaycee S. with certificates of recognition as well as cash prizes from Family Rosary.
Alumni Return Home to Teach—Last month the Catholic Lighthouse featured story was Alumni Return Home to Teach. St. Philip School in El Campo had also submitted a photo that was not printed. Alumni include (front, l-r) Natalie Janik, PK3; Janet Rioux, 2nd grade; Mary Wissinger, Junior High Science; (back, l-r) Gwen Edwards, Principal; Joe Zetka, Jr., Maintenance; Janice Cox, Music/Band; and Denise Prochazka, 5th grade. Also alumni not pictured are Theresa Harton, receptionist and Jan Taylor, PK Aide.

New Transportation for School.—Sacred Heart School, Hallettsville, recently received funds from Mr. and Mrs. Frank Migl for the purchase of a new 14-passenger bus. The new Chevy bus will be used to transport students to various academic, athletic, and fine art events along with other school-related activities. Pictured above are Mr. and Mrs. Migl and grandchildren attending Sacred Heart School (l-r) Tryce M., Landyn M., Kinley M., Blake R. and Ryan M. Also included are Msgr. John Peters, pastor of Sacred Heart Parish and Kevin Haas, Principal at Sacred Heart. Students and faculty thank the Migl Family for their generous donation to the school.

St. Robert Bellarmine Church Festival
Sunday, October 13, 2019
Columbus Club Hall (Formerly KC Hall)  El Campo, Texas

Festival
Begin at 10am
Chairperson:
Martin Medina
979-637-6638
Co-Chairperson:
Albert Cavazos
979-637-1532

BBQ Brisket & Sausage
Buttered Potatoes, Green Beans
And all the trimmings
Catered by Texas Heavy Smokers
Competition BBQ Team
Plates $10.00/Each
Dine In, To Go Plates, or Drive thru
Serving begins at 11am to 1pm

Cake Walk
Gorditas
Plant Walk
Hamburgers
Kid Games
Sausage on a Stick
50/50 Raffle
Aguas Frescas
Face Painting
Candy Apples

Live Auction
Begin at 1:15pm
Auction Item Donations:
Adrian Canales
979-253-0328
Accepting Cash, Credit Cards and Checks

K of C Vehicle Raffle
2019 Jeep Cherokee Latitude
Only 600 Tickets
Sold!!
For Tickets Contact:
Adam Gusman 979-541-6835

St. Robert’s King and Queen Contest
Vacation Raffle Tickets
$10.00/each
Available at Church Office or Call 979-543-4298
*Coronation at 1pm*
Catholic Conference:

**embracing God's Family**

Keynote Speaker
Lucia Baez Luzondo, J.D.

In a letter to the faithful of the diocese, the Most Reverend Brendan Cahill stated, “I hope you are able to participate in the 32nd Annual Catholic Conference to be held Saturday, October 19, 2019 at St. Joseph High School in Victoria. This year, the focus of the conference is on the family. I believe that this diocesan event can benefit everyone. We will begin by listening to keynote presenter, Mrs. Lucia Luzondo as she offers us inspiration and hope with her address: The Joy of the Family: A Way to Holiness.

The various workshops will offer opportunities for parents, catechists, liturgical ministers and others, to be enriched, motivated, and inspired. Workshops on the Mass, prayer, forgiveness as well as catechetical workshops will be featured throughout the day. Thank you for all that you are doing to strengthen the efforts of the family and the Church in the Diocese of Victoria. I look forward to seeing you at the conference.”

Help Make a Difference: Donate
Conference participants are encouraged to donate gift cards (any amount) from Wal-Mart, HEB, Sam’s Club or Costco, which will help Catholic Charities of the Rio Valley. A donation box will be located in the main meeting area, the day of the conference.

Barbecue Turkey and Dressing Dinner
St. Peter’s Church
Parish Center • Blessing

**Sunday, October 27**
Mass at 9:30 a.m.

$12 Per Plate • 11:00 a.m. Dine-In or Drive-Thru
Barbecue Turkey, Homemade Dressing, Green Beans, Sweet Potatoes, Cranberry Sauce, Dessert & Tea/Coffee

Live Auction at 12:00 Noon
Country Store • Raffle

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Victoria Gabriel Project
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1-866-627-9243
www.victoriagabrielproject.org

If you plan to attend:
Event: Catholic Conference 2019
Keynote Speaker: Lucia Luzondo
Theme: Embracing God’s Family
Abrazando la Familia de Dios
When: Saturday, October 19
Where: St. Joseph High School, 110 E Red River, Victoria, TX 77901
Early Deadline: Friday, October 18
Late Registration: At door (cash or check)
Lunch included

Workshops: Over 20 Different Speakers

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V ENCUENTRO GROUP RECOGNIZED—
On Sunday, July 28, Bishop Brendan Cahill and Father Jacob Koether celebrated a Mass to thank the leaders of the V Encuentro movement. After the Mass an appreciation dinner was held where Bishop Cahill introduced and thanked the V Encuentro Diocesan Team. Bishop Cahill later introduced the new committee that will continue the ministry for Hispanic adult formation in the diocese: Angelica Fortanelli, Ceci Gonzalez, Claudia Vasquez, and Mauricio Santiago. The meeting concluded with Bishop Cahill awarding Sister Miriam Perez with an appreciation gift from the Diocese of Victoria for all she has done for the people in the diocese.

SOUND OF MUSIC COMES ALIVE—
On September 1, Bishop Brendan Cahill blessed and dedicated the new organ and sound system at Holy Family in Victoria. He was assisted by Father Patrick Knippenberg and Deacon Eddie Huse. Father Kristopher Fuchs, pastor of St. Mary in Victoria had the privilege of playing the organ at the dedication. Father Kristopher played a prelude and parts of the Mass. After the final hymn, he played for those who remained in the church. Carl Kirst, choir director, had one of his private piano students accompany Father Kristopher. Father Gabriel Bentil pastor of Holy Family was in Ghana on vacation at the time, he wrote in the bulletin, “Thanks to all of those who contributed to the success of this project,” he also thanked Bishop Cahill for coming.

Animals are our companions on Earth, be they house pets, domesticated livestock, or wild creatures. As stewards of creation, we receive much from them: comfort, protection, and wonder, as well as labor, food, and clothing. We take a moment to remember our dependence on these creatures, great and small, and ask You to make us wise in caring properly for all animals.

For this blessing, people should bring along animals or plan to gather where the animals are located: barn, field, pasture, or yard.

Opening Prayer
Let us pray: Compassionate Creator, we believe you have given us animals in the world as our companions and helpers.
Help us to remember your love for all creatures and creation, to grow in our care for all animals, and to find here signs of your presence. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Then read Genesis 1:20-25.

“And God said, ‘Let the waters bring forth living creatures according to their kinds, and every winged bird according to its kind. And God gave them, saying, ‘Be fruitful and multiply and fill the waters in the seas, and let birds multiply on the earth.’ And there was evening and there was morning, a fifth day. And God said, ‘Let the earth bring forth living creatures according to their kinds: cattle and creeping things and beasts of the earth according to their kinds.’ And it was so. And God made the beasts of the earth according to their kinds and the cattle according to their kinds, and everything that creeps upon the ground according to its kind. And God saw that it was good.’” RSVCE

Closing Blessing
Let us pray: Blessed are you, Lord our God, for you have made all things well. You have given us innocent companions on our life journey, animals wild and tame, of all shapes, sizes, and abilities. We marvel at their beauty, which draws us closer to You their Creator. May we never see them as only objects for trade or profit, but always as creatures of Your wisdom. We ask your blessing upon these animals through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.
To Be or Not to Be

The following sermon was written by Father Kram from the Thirty-Second Sunday in Ordinary Time, Cycle C.

To be or not to be, that is the question, but what kind of question is that? The instinct to go on living is the strongest instinct in our nature. It is said, for example, that persons who attempt suicide usually do not want to die but want to be reached in time. You often hear of where someone calls a friend and says, “I just took an overdose of pills, get me to the hospital quick.”

It is said that even the lost souls in hell, in spite of their torments and great sense of loss, prefer not to have their lives extinguished.

We hold on to life for dear life. But everyone is destined one day to die. Every generation dies out completely. On the day we are born, we already begin to die. In fact, the most final, the most compelling, the most unwelcome fact of life is death.

Every day in the hospital we see the fight to improve and preserve and prolong life. Money saved during a whole lifetime is spent to buy just a little more time and life.

Even when death finally comes, our bodies are made up to look as though we were still alive.

Now, instead of dwelling on thoughts of death to the point of becoming morbid, let us consider life after death, or as we now say, life after life.

We pray that the dead may rest in peace, but not in the same sense in which we wish a friend a good night’s sleep. The souls of the dead are very much alive and aware.

They no longer have eyes to see with or ears to hear with or any other senses to collect information with, but freed from the limitations of the body, they can now truly begin to live. The mind is unhindered in its thinking and the will in unhindered in its loving.

In seeing God face to face, the soul is in ecstasy and needs to search no more. There is only the pure and intense activity of knowing and loving. No more fear or doubt or struggling, only joy and peace and security – eternal rest.

Now back down to earth. How old are you? What do you suppose is the average age in the chapel today? With God one day is like a thousand years and a thousand years are like a passing day. We are like the little flowers that spring up so fresh and colorful in the morning but by twilight are already fading away.

Where will each of us be a hundred years from now or even fifty years from now? Perhaps fifty years from now some of us will still be alive, old and gray – somewhere. Many of us will be in our graves.

Wouldn’t we all like to stay young and vigorous as long as possible? And as we grow older, don’t we have some wonderful memories stored up? But is it not also true that our memories are deceptive? They bring back too many happy events and too few sad, and leave us ever restless, wishing for those carefree days that actually never existed. But the past is gone, never to return, and the future is not yet here. All we have is the present moment.

The one thing to do is to spend our lives wisely, one day at a time. May I suggest that you make it a daily practice to make a morning offering, offering to Christ all that you will do that day. Every prayer, work, joy and suffering will become a precious gift to him.

And during the day you can offer individual acts to him by saying, “This is for you, Jesus, I love you.” Doing everything for the love of Christ does so much to make even our sorrows and failures worthwhile.

How consoling it is to consider that as our outer grace and beauty fade with the passing years, our inner beauty grows little by little as we become more and more like him in whose image we are made.

And that after the last beat of our heart, when the body can no longer support life, it will be laid aside for a little while to await the Resurrection.

How glorious it will be on the last day, when Christ will raise our mortal bodies and make them like his own in glory.”

In a way, after the resurrection, we will be better off than the angels. We will again be body and spirit and they will still be only spirit.

Now a final question, “Why did God choose to make US rather than the same number of others from the millions of possible people who will never exist?” Only God knows why he so favored us.

We live in a world in which we all depend on one another, and where the actions and omissions of each of us help or hinder the rest of us, so among us there is a time and a place for each of us. May God help us from day to day to find it.

As we move on to our death and to our life with God, let us place all our trust in him, and let us be of good cheer. God will provide.

Lord Jesus, thank you for bringing our minds and hearts always back to thoughts of you. Help us, by the death you freely accepted, to find the strength to live and die for you. Grant that by your cross and resurrection way may be set free, for you are the Savior of the world.

Amen.

Kolbe Prison Ministry Volunteers Hold Retreats, Masses, to Reach Out

By Leslie Rabke

The Diocese of Victoria has one state prison within its boundaries – the Clarence N. Stevenson Unit located just north of Cuero. The prison incarcerates a maximum of 1,384 male offenders and is rarely, if ever, less than full capacity. The prison population is made up of more Catholics than any other denomination; however, most offenders will deny their affiliation with any religious faith, especially Catholicism, as it is deemed by many a weakness.

The Stevenson Unit opened its doors in April 1994, and Catholics from the free-world began bringing the Gospel of Jesus to the male offenders in September 2010. Weekend retreats planned in accord with the Catholic ACTS Retreats were held in the unit’s gymnasium. In the spring of 2015, because the retreat format could not faithfully mirror the ACTS retreat in every respect because of the prison setting, the group branched off into what has become Kolbe Prison Ministries, named for Saint Maximilian Mary Kolbe, patron saint of prisoners.

The Kolbe retreats are held biannually, once in the Spring and once in the Fall each year – deliberately because the gymnasium is not climate controlled -Summer would be too hot, and Winter too cold. Eighteen retreats have been held so far at the prison reaching 1,150 offenders and employing the free-world team of 250 men from the Diocese of Victoria. In the state of Texas, the Kolbe retreats at the Stevenson Unit in Cuero is the only prison where every third retreat is conducted in Spanish.

In addition to the Kolbe Retreats, the priests from St. Michael and Our Lady of Guadalupe in Cuero celebrate Mass at the prison typically twice a month, and offer the Sacrament of Reconciliation on those occasions. Masses are habitually filled to capacity and in some cases, offenders have to be turned away because of code restrictions on available classroom space. Approved Catholic volunteers offer RCIA and CCD classes for interested offenders two nights a week in the prison classroom or gymnasium. Classes typically range in size from 40 to 90 Catholic and non-Catholic offenders. The week-night volunteers will soon take pleasure in advancing its third class of offenders who will be receiving the Sacrament of Confirmation inside the unit. Bishop Brendan Cahill’s very first confirmation celebration took place at the Stevenson Unit in September 2015 just months after his ordination as Bishop.

In 2013, because of the conditions of the gymnasium for retreats, a group of volunteers formed a non-profit corporation for the purpose of raising funds to construct a multi-denominational classroom education building with a large assembly space that would better accommodate prison crusades. The Stevenson Unit Chapel Development Corporation meets regularly to plan fundraisers to bolster the construction account for this purpose. The $1.5 - $2.0 million project will include a space to hold up to 200 individuals with stage, classrooms, offices, religious library, food prep space, storage rooms, and restrooms and will be climate controlled and acoustically agreeable.

For more information about Kolbe Prison Ministries, visit the website www.kolbeprisonministries.com The Stevenson Unit Chapel Development Corporation website is www.chapelfund.org

Leslie Rabke is the recorder for the Stevenson Unit Kolbe Prison Ministries Core team and President of The Stevenson Unit Chapel Development Corporation.
Sunday Readings from October 6 to November 10

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For daily and Sunday readings, as well as a daily reflection video, visit www.usccb.org/bible/readings.

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Amor Meus Spirituality Center Events

Guided One-Day Retreats (9:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.) are silent since God speaks to us in the silence according to John of the Cross. They include two presentations with ample time for reflection and personal prayer. The Liturgy of the Eucharist is at 8:30 a.m. in the large chapel for those who wish to participate.

• “Contemplative Prayer 101: Come spend the day listening to your Beloved” presented by Jeannette Easley, November 16, to reserve a space, call (361) 575-7111.

• Taizé Prayer, a meditative Christian experience of prayer consists of singing, silence, scripture readings, intercessions and veneration of the Cross. This mantra-like prayer allows participants to center on God. It takes place at 7:00 – 8:00 p.m. in Amor Meus Prayer Room on November 19, 2019.

For more information, contact Amor Meus at amormeus@yahoo.com; call (361) 575-7111; or see pg 19.

Eucharist

What do Catholics Believe and How Church can Respond?

By Anna Capizzi Galvez

Catholic News Service

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Do Catholics believe that the Eucharist is truly the body and blood of Christ?

A Pew Research Center survey released Aug. 5 found that nearly 70% of Catholics believe that the bread and wine used for Communion during Mass are “symbols of the body and blood of Jesus Christ,” while about 30% believe that the bread and wine “actually become” Christ’s body and blood.

The findings clearly touched a nerve as commentators jumped to analyze the data, questioning the language that Pew had used in its survey questions.

Mark Gray from the Center for the Applied Research in the Apostolate wrote in a blog post that replacing the word “actually” with “really” might have led to different results. In previous surveys on the Real Presence, CARA used “Jesus is really present in the bread and wine of the Eucharist” vs. “Bread and wine are symbols of Jesus, but Jesus is not really present.”

Others found the results an affirmation of their belief that catechesis in the church is in a sorry state.

“It represents a massive failure – and I include myself in this, we’re all guilty – a massive failure on the part of Catholic educators and catechists, evangelists, teachers,” said Los Angeles Auxiliary Bishop Robert E. Barron in a “Word on Fire” YouTube video. “If on this central matter of our belief and practice there is this much misunderstanding, something has gone substantially wrong.”

Pew’s finding “certainly shows a failure in catechetics, but I think the church faces a greater problem,” Jesuit Father Thomas Reese wrote in a column for Religion News Service. “Catholics have an impoverished idea of what the Eucharist is really about.”

The Catechism of that Catholic Church looks to the Council of Trent to define its eucharistic doctrine: “By the consecration of the bread and wine there takes place a change of the whole substance of the bread into the substance of the body of Christ our Lord and of the whole substance of the wine into the substance of his blood. This change the holy Catholic Church has fittingly and properly called transubstantiation” (No. 1376).

Catholic theologians in the High Middle Ages turned to the Aristotelian philosophic categories of “substance” and “accidents” to expound the doctrine. Today, some argue those terms contribute to the confusion around the Eucharist.

“The accidents are those things that we see. We see a host, We see wine,” explained Father Frank Donio, director of the Catholic Apostolate Center in Washington, in an interview with Catholic News Service. “The substance – the ‘breadiness’ or the ‘wineness’ – is what it is.”

By the words of consecration during the Eucharistic Prayer at Mass, the substance changes – transubstantiation – while the accidents remain the same. It still looks like, acts like, tastes like bread or wine. But its substance has become the body and blood of Christ, Father Donio said.

“The difficulty is that because we don’t help people to understand what that means, substance and accidents, it’s harder for them to then understand what transubstantiation is,” he added. “We do need to assist people in understanding” those terms.

But do those ancient terms resonate with...
What do Catholics Believe and How Church can Respond?

Continued from pg. 12

modern-day Catholics?

“Sometimes we struggle to articulate a post-Enlightenment understanding of what we mean by Real Presence” by relying on outdated vocabulary, said Michael Bayer, director of evangelization and adult formation at St. Clement Church in Chicago.

Father Reese put it bluntly, “Using Aristotelian concepts to explain Catholic mysteries in the 21st century is a fool’s errand.”

It is possible to teach the doctrine of transubstantiation without using the words “substance” and “accidents,” said Timothy O’Malley, professor and director of the Notre Dame Center for Liturgy, in an interview. But eventually it is the appropriate way to teach it, he said.

“If the word ‘substance’ scares people off, you can say, ‘what it really is,’ and that is what substance is,” O’Malley said. “What it really is, what it absolutely is at its heart is Christ’s body and blood.”

“The most helpful thing we can say is: This really, truly, actually is Jesus, in a way that it was not prior to the act of consecration,” Bayer said in an interview. “It truly is Jesus and there’s an aspect to this we simply don’t understand. And we have to be a little comfortable in the face of that mystery.”

O’Malley references St. Thomas Aquinas’ eucharistic hymn the “Pange Lingua” as an example of language that describes the Eucharist in an accessible way that can prepare Catholics for an appreciation of “substance” and “accidents” later.

He points to the verse that reads: “The Word in flesh makes true bread his flesh with a word; wine becomes the blood of Christ, and if sense is deficient, to confirm sincere hearts, faith alone suffices.”

SHRINE TO BREAK GROUND—The construction of a shrine dedicated to martyr and American priest Blessed Stanley Rother will begin in November, the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City has announced. Rother was working as a missionary in Guatemala when he was shot to death by masked gunmen in 1981 amid the country’s civil war. The shrine is expected to cost $40 million and its church will seat 2,000 people, making it the state’s largest Catholic church upon completion. The shrine will also include classrooms, museum, and a pilgrim center. “It will be a place of pilgrimage where the faithful will come from near and far to honor Blessed Stanley at his final resting place and to seek his intercession for their many needs,” said Oklahoma City Archbishop Paul Coakley. (Credit to Archdiocese of Oklahoma City)
DIOCESE

BISHOP ATTENDS VOCATION FUNDRAISER—
On September 10, 2019, Vocation Ministry held a fundraiser dinner called *Men in Black* in Houston. The evening included dinner, silent, and live auctions where Bishop Brendan Cahill (pictured right) was the auctioneer. Rhonda Gruenewald began the Vocation Ministry program in 2011 as a tool to help parishes build a vocation friendly environment. Rhonda states: “I love serving the Church by giving diocesan workshops, training deacons, priests and laity how to promote vocations! So far, I have given 75-plus workshops in 42 dioceses from 2015-2019.” Bishop Cahill invited sisters from three different congregations and Diocese of Victoria seminarians to share in this event. Pictured (top left) Seminarians Ryan Kapavik and Joseph Blackburn with Rhonda Gruenwald; (above) Sister Kathleen Goike, IWBS; Rhonda’s aunt, Karen Trammell; Sister Laura Toman, IWBS; Sister Adrian Dover, O.P.; Sister Kelly Biddle, O.P.; and Sister Rosario Resendez, IWBS.

Annual Evening to Celebrate the Mission of God’s Embrace Ministries

HIGH HILL—Tickets for the 3rd Annual Evening in High Hill are on sale now. If you missed last year’s event be sure to join us this year on Friday, November 8, at 6:00 p.m. In addition to our gourmet meal and social hour, there will be a live and silent auction featuring a variety of unique items available for bid. If you are interested in donating an item to either the live or silent auction, please contact us. Along with supporting day to day operations, funds from last year’s event assisted in the development of our new Online program, Discipleship Daily. This program leads participants through a journey into the heart of God focused on Michael Fonseca’s newest publication *Who Do You Say I Am?* that will be in print soon. The goal of the online program is to meet disciples where they are and provide a format that can engage them in their daily lives. Plans are underway to develop this online companion for each of GEM’s manuals. Additionally, our fifth manual, *Instruct Me* (Revised Edition) was released in July. Under the direction and guidance of the Holy Spirit GEM is being led in new and exciting directions. It is because of the generous support of donors we are able to walk in humble obedience.

Reserve your tickets today by contacting God’s Embrace Ministries at (979) 561-8883 or purchasing online at www.godsembrace.org.

For more information on our book or online programs, seminars and retreats contact the office (979) 561-8883 or emailing info@godsembrace.org.

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COMMITMENT FULFILLED—Ganado Knights of Columbus fulfilled their commitment to The Bethlehem Maternity Home by sharing half of the profits ($1,951.00) from their CFS fundraiser. The organization is working to provide housing for mothers who might be considering abortion, partly because they have no place to stay. They also donated $500.00 to the Crisis Pregnancy Center which has been helping pregnant women from this area make the right choice by offering counseling and resource information. They want the world to know that Knights of Columbus Council #3204 of Ganado believes In a Child’s Right to Life.

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JOURNALIST COKIE ROBERTS FUNERAL MASS — Family and friends attend the funeral Mass for journalist Cokie Roberts at the Cathedral of St. Matthew the Apostle in Washington September 21, 2019. Roberts, who was the daughter of politicians and grew up to cover the family “business” in Washington for ABC News and NPR over several decades, died at age 75 September 17, 2019, in Washington of complications from breast cancer. (CNS photo/Heidi Gutman, courtesy ABC)

Right, she is pictured in an October 4, 2010, photo. (CNS photo/Randy Sager, ABC photo archives)

Priesthood is a gift, not a job, pope says

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Being a priest is not a job or fulfilling an employment contract but is a gift from God that should be contemplated and treasured as such, Pope Francis said. Those who turn ordained ministry into an occupation “lose the heart of the ministry, lose the gaze of Jesus who looked upon all of us and told us, ‘Follow me,’” he said Sept. 19 during morning Mass at the Domus Sanctae Marthae. The pope focused his homily on the day’s first reading in which St. Paul writes to Timothy (1 Tim 4:12-16), “Do not neglect the gift you have.” Ordination is a freely given gift from the Lord, the pope said; it is not “a job” or “an employment contract” in which one “must do” something. “Doing is secondary,” he said. First and foremost, “I must receive this gift and safeguard it as a gift and from that — in the contemplation of the gift — everything else springs.” When ordained ministry is not seen and treasured as a gift, he said, “deviations” emerge, starting with “the worst ones, which are terrible, to the more everyday ones that makes us base our ministry on ourselves and not on the gratitude of gift and love for he who gave us this gift, the gift of ministry.”

New Lithuanian cardinal, ‘strong internally,’ spent time in Soviet prison

WARSAW, Poland (CNS) — Lithuania’s new cardinal, a veteran of Soviet prisons and labor camps,counts on not being assigned “specific duties” following his elevation so he can continue serving his local church. Cardinal-designate Sigitas Tamkevicius told Lithuania’s Kauno Diena daily that Pope Francis could “expect me to be a committed witness to the faith, which is what’s most important to the present-day church. If you want to have real influence, you must set an example through your life. A cardinal’s ministry consists of faithfulness to church and Gospel, but this is also the ministry of every normal Catholic,” he said. The retired Kaunas archbishop will receive the red hat from Pope Francis October 5 at the Vatican. He was one of 13 new cardinals announced September 1. At age 80, he will be ineligible to vote in a conclave for a new pope. Msgr. Adolfas Grusas, Kaunas archdiocese chancellor, told Catholic News Service September 19 that the retired archbishop’s appointment was a “crowning moment for efforts made during the period of enforced atheism” and an “act of recognition” by Pope Francis, who visited former KGB police cells with Cardinal-designate Tamkevicius during a September 2018 visit to Lithuania. “Despite his new status, I’m sure he’ll hope to continue as before, willingly participating in parish events around our country,” said Msgr. Grusas. “He stands today as a living witness to our people’s sufferings and how these were carried into the present. No one has ever questioned his service and dedication in this area.”

St. Theresa, La Salle Annual Turkey Dinner/Picnic

Sunday, October 20
at the Church Hall

Turkey and Dressing Dinner - 11:00 a.m. - $10 p/p
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Charities team returns from fact-finding mission to Nassau, Bahamas

By Tom Tracy
Catholic News Service

MIAMI (CNS)—Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Miami will ship targeted emergency goods and humanitarian relief to the hurricane-ravaged Bahamas through a temporary partnership with the Archdiocese of Nassau.

Fresh from a fact-finding mission to Nassau September 16-17, Peter Routsis-Arroyo, director of Catholic Charities, said September 18, that he and Archbishop Patrick C. Pinder of Nassau agreed that specific material assistance be shipped to both Freeport on Grand Bahama Island and the capital city, Nassau, on New Providence Island.

The aid will be used for both emerging evacuee shelter needs there and for shipping onto the hard-hit Abaco Islands as that becomes more feasible.

Personal hygiene kits, emergency meals and power generators are among the first items to be shipped.

“Our collection frees us up to ship supplies and helping Archbishop Pinder make some strategic decisions,” Routsis-Arroyo said, adding that he planned to notify the six other Catholic Charities agencies in Florida inviting them to join the effort if they choose to do so.

Meanwhile, a multifaceted church-sponsored relief effort is just getting underway in the Bahamas – with support from Caritas International, Catholic Relief Services and Catholic Charities USA, which Routsis-Arroyo said also has provided some grant money to support temporary evacuees coming to Florida.

Texas Parish Keeps ‘Unshakable’ Faith After Storm

By James Ramos
Catholic News Service

KINGWOOD, Texas (CNS)—135 days later, St. Martha Catholic School flooded again.

Five weeks into the new school year, with students finally back in renovated classrooms damaged by a flood this May, Tropical Storm Imelda brought catastrophic flooding and record breaking rainfall to the southeast Texas Gulf Coast, pushing 6 inches of floodwaters into two school buildings.

Father T.J. Dolce used Facebook Live to tell the St. Martha parish and school community he leads as pastor that the “incessant rain” had indeed flooded their school again.

Last time on May 7, it was just 4 inches. School was in session that day, forcing teachers and older students to help carry younger, more frightened children through rushing floodwaters to higher ground. This time, when Imelda dropped 24 to nearly 29 inches of rain in two days north of the school, the school was already closed due to the storm September 19, so the campus was empty.

While the school didn’t flood during Hurricane Harvey’s wrath in 2017 – much of the surrounding area was devastated – this time “there was no chance that the school was spared,” Father Dolce said in his video stream.

Photos posted by parish officials showed a bright pink Fisher-Price plastic chair floating on the glass-like floodwaters surface in a classroom, eerily hovering over a colorful rug with the alphabet soaked in several inches of water.

In a series of video streams, Father Dolce beckoned for prayers, and empathized with those who flooded that day because he knew what that “helpless” feeling was like, watching how the “rain keeps coming and the waters keep rising.”

Still he focused on the strength of God in the community: “God is with us,” Father Dolce said. “Always unshakable is the faith we have in the Lord and His love for us. ... We’ve been through high waters before, we’re going to get through it again.”

He said that the parish’s emergency assistance services would reactivate, just as it had during Hurricane Harvey in 2017, and the last flood in May.

“Jesus is walking on water again, unfortunately,” a parish official said.

On Twitter, Beaumont’s Bishop Curtis J. Guillory asked for prayers for southeast Texas. He said the diocese was contacting clergy and religious who possibly flooded.

By the afternoon, he said some parish plants had taken on water, but exact details were still unknown.

A prayer posted to the Beaumont Diocese’s website said the memories of “past tragedies” like Harvey “are still so vivid.” It called for the intercession of Mary, Star of the Sea to help with “wounds (that) seem to refuse to heal.”

Donations for recovery efforts in the Bahamas can be sent to:

Catholic Relief Services here: https://support.crs.org/donate/hurricane-dorian or Catholic Charities USA here: https://app.mobilecause.com/form/RTKRvQ?vid=1snqm

St. Andrew Altar Society
Turkey Dinner
October 27

St. Andrew Parish Hall, Hillje
Serving Begins at 11 a.m. Till...
$10 Per Plate ~ Dine-in or Plates-to-Go
Raffle • Country Store • Bake Sale
Delegación estadounidense entrega resultados del quinto Encuentro al papa

Por Carol Glatz
Catholic News Service

CIUDAD DEL VATICANO (CNS) — Una delegación de obispos y laicos de los Estados Unidos vinieron a Roma a compartir con el papa Francisco y oficiales del Vaticano las gozosas experiencias y valiosas recomendaciones que surgieron del quinto Encuentro Nacional de Pastoral Histórica de líderes hispanos/latinos en ministerio para la formación de adultos hispanos en la Diócesis: Angélica Forteñelli, Ceci González, Claudia Vásquez y Mauricio Santiago. La reunión concluyó con el obispo Cahill entregando a la hermana Miriam Pérez un obsequio de agradecimiento de la Diócesis de Victoria por todo lo que ha hecho por la gente de la diócesis. (Fotografías aportadas por Ricardo Salinas)
**Meals • Picnics and more**

**October**

**Victoria**–Nazareth Academy Fall Festival, Oct. 6, at the Community Center; turkey and dressing dinner; 11:00 a.m.; $10 p/p

**Hostyn**–Holy Rosary Festival, Oct. 6, serving fried chicken and sausage dinner; 11:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.; $10 p/p

**Hungerford**–St. John Bazaar, Oct. 6, at Hungerford Hall serving BBQ beef, chicken, and sausage dinner; 10:30 a.m.

**Menz**–St. Roch Picnic, Oct. 6, serving BBQ beef, pork and sausage dinner; 11:00 a.m.; $10 p/p; Auction 1:00 p.m.

**Columbus**–St. Anthony Fall Festival, Oct. 13, will be held at the KC Hall; BBQ beef and sausage dinner; 11:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.; $10 p/p; afternoon: Mexican food and hamburgers

**Victoria**–The Cathedral of Our Lady of Victory Festival, Oct. 13, serving BBQ beef and sausage dinner; 11:00 a.m.; $10 p/p; Noon Live Auction

**Goliad**–Immaculate Conception Festival, Oct. 20 on the parish grounds.

**Wharton**–Holy Family Fall Festival, Oct. 20 serving turkey and dressing dinner; 11:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.; $10 p/p; Noon Live Auction

**LaSalle**–St. Theresa Annual Turkey Dinner/Picnic, Oct. 20, at the church hall, serving plates-to-go or dine in beginning at 11:00 a.m. at $10 p/p, catered by Robert Werner of Shiner. Live auction at 12:30 p.m., cakewalk, and country store. See ad on pg. 16.

**Victoria**–Catholic Daughters of the Americas Court St. Ann Games Party Thursday, Oct. 24, 6:00-9:00 p.m. at the KC Hall. For reservations and other information see pg. 10.

**Blessing**–St. Peter’s Parish Turkey Dinner Oct. 27 for $12 p/p at the Parish Center. See ad on pg. 8 for more information.

**Victoria**–Holy Family KC Council #9088 chicken fried chicken/steak dinner Oct. 27 for $10 each at the parish from 10:30 a.m.-1:00 p.m.

**Seadrift**–St. Patrick’s Turkey and Dressing Dinner Oct. 27 at the parish hall starting at 11:00 a.m. catered by Werner’s of Shiner. There will also be a bake sale and country store.

**November**

**Port Lavaca**–Our Lady of the Gulf Altar Society turkey and dressing dinner catered by Werner’s, Nov. 3 at St. Jude Hall. From 11:00 a.m.-1:30 p.m. Baked goods available.

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

**Victoria**–St. Mary Harvest Bazaar Nov. 16 at Activity Center (401 S. Liberty St.) from 9:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. Handcrafted holiday items, baked goods and more. A potato and tortellini soup lunch for $8 for dine-in or take out.

**Victoria**–Holy Family CDA #2665 Arts & Craft Show and Bake Sale Nov. 24 (8:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.) and Nov. 24 after all Masses in St. Peters Hall at Holy Family. Featuring a variety of homemade crafts and gift items.

Submit

Calendar of Events to
lighthouse@victoriadiocese.org

**EVENTS**

**Ministries • Ongoing Activities**

**Catholic Family Services**–To find Catholic organizations which focus on family, visit the Catholic Association of Catholic Family Life Ministers at www.nacflm.org.

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

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

**Emmanus Center**–Offers individual, couple, family, adolescent and children’s counseling as well as specialized support groups. Spiritual direction is also available on request. Appointments may be made by calling (361) 212-0830. For more information see pg. 4.

**Engaged Encounter**–2019 Dates: Nov. 15-17; 2020 Dates: Jan. 24-26, April 17-19, June 5-7, and Nov. 13-15, registrations are on a first come, first serve basis. Fee must accompany registration form. For more information, call (361) 573-0828 or visit www.victoriadiocese.org.

**Gabriel Project**–Helps women experiencing a crisis pregnancy- an alternative to abortion. **Victoria**: Meets the 2nd Tuesday of each month at 6:30 p.m. at 101 W. Convent. Light supper included. For angel workshop/training dates, contact Lisa Kainer (361) 676-3264 or lisa_heysquierdo@yahoo.com; **Meyersville**: 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. 8.

**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.

**Incaruncate 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 book.leslie@gmail.com or visit their Facebook page at www.facebook.com/Mothersofgraceolv.

**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 susanmekoch64@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.raphaelsrrefuge.org.

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

**Amor Meus**

Contact: Sr. Digna Vela or Sr. Emilie Eilers
(361) 575-7111 / e-mail: amormeus@yahoo.com
website: www.amormeusspiritualitycenter.org
IWBS Convent • 1101 NE Water St. • Victoria
Guided one-day retreat (9:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m.)
Oct. 5–“You are God’ Beloved Child in Whom God Delights” presented by Mary Fraizer
Nov. 16 – “Contemplative Prayer 101: Come spend the day listening to your Beloved” presented by Jeanette Easley

**God’s Embrace**

For more information call (979) 561-8883
e-mail: info@godsebrace.org
website: www.godsebrace.com

**Upcoming Events**

- Weekly Prayer: Mondays, 6:30-8:30 p.m.; Adoration in GEM Chapel, Tuesdays, noon-3:00 p.m.
to obtain peace in the world... for she alone can save it.” Mary, as the vessel through which Christ came into the world, acts as a conduit through whom we meet our savior, in the rosary. How could we not take up such a powerful prayer?

One of the most compelling signs of the might of the rosary occurred on October 7, 1571, at the Battle of Lepanto, when the Christians won a vital naval victory against the invading Turkish Ottoman Empire. The Turks had occupied much of the Christian Byzantine Empire and had grown a powerful naval force in the Mediterranean. At the encouragement of the Pope, Christians throughout Europe and the crews of over 200 ships prayed the rosary as they sailed to meet Turkish ships and defend Christian civilization against impending Islamic rule. They were outnumbered, but with the rosary as their weapon and Mary as their shield, they were victorious. In honor of Mary’s aid in this pivotal victory, October 7, is now celebrated as the Feast of Our Lady of the Rosary, or Our Lady of Victory.

Still, some may argue they prefer to pray spontaneously or when they feel emotionally available to pray. Yes, unstructured, heartfelt prayer is invaluable. But there is also available to pray. Yes, unstructured, spontaneously or when they feel emotion. Our Lady of Victory.

as the Feast of Our Lady of the Rosary, or Our Lady of Victory.

THE ROSARY: A SPIRITUAL WEAPON in My Daily Life

Continued from pg. 1

his book *The Secret of the Rosary*, “there is more merit in praying when it is hard than when it is easy.”

Yet committing to the rosary doesn’t have to be difficult. There are many ways to take up the rosary daily, or perhaps weekly. Once you read you need only two and a half minutes to pray a decade. That’s a walk from your car to your office desk or the time it takes to fold a load of laundry. Pray it as a family—you’d be surprised how easily children, especially very young, take to the story in a Scriptural Rosary. Pray it in community before Mass or with your friends. No matter where you are in your spiritual life, the rosary is a mighty sword in your spiritual arsenal. Mary will meet you right where you are, and her graces will elevate yours.

Think of it as asking Mary to walk with you as you follow Christ. Join her on her journey as Christ is welcomed into the world; take her hand as you listen to him teaching in the streets; lean against her and use her strength to console him as he offers himself on the hills of Calvary. And rejoice with her at his glorious Resurrection and her royal crowning. The rosary is, after all, a “compendium of the entire Gospel” (Pope Pius XII in 1946), seen through the eyes of Mary. The thing is, as you devote yourself to each mystery, over time the focus comes. As your mouth forms the words you recite so effortlessly, the distractions melt away. Your heart draws silent as it contemplates the moments of Christ’s and Mary’s lives, and you are drawn in to the story. God will reveal himself to you. He will speak to you in the quiet.

Or, as in my case, he might speak to you in the form of a three-year-old in the back seat who suddenly, mid-decade on our drive, blurts “Is Mary God’s mom?” Yes, little one, she is. And she knows him best. Let’s let her help us get to know him better.

EARLY ORIGINS of the ROSARY

The rosary has roots in several early Christian prayer traditions. They share similar formats to the rosary with repetitive structures and prayers. Third-century Christian hermits and monks in Egypt (known as Desert Fathers) used stones and later prayer ropes to keep track when praying the 150 Psalms. Various forms of “the Jesus Prayer” (such as “Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God, have mercy on me.”) became popular. The short prayer was said over and over again in a type of mantra while counting beads.

The Our Father was also prayed 150 times, using a string of beads with five decades referred to as a Paternoster (Latin for “Our Father”).

THE HAIL MARY PRAYER

The Hail Mary prayer came together slowly. It took more than a thousand years. The earliest version simply added Mary’s name to the message delivered by the angel Gabriel to Mary: “Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with thee” (Luke 1:28).

Around 1050 AD, the words Elizabeth used to greet Mary during the Visitation were added: “Blessed art thou among women, and blessed is the fruit of thy womb” (Luke 1:42). In 1261, Pope Urban IV added the name of Jesus to the end of Elizabeth’s words. St. Peter Canisius published the Hail Mary in his 1555 Catechism with almost the entire final petition: “Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners.”

Eleven years later, the Catechism of the Council of Trent (a work that Canisius was instrumental in creating) included, for the first time, the entire final petition, concluding with the words “now and at the hour of our death. Amen.”

The version of the Hail Mary we pray today was given official approval in 1568.

WHY ROSARY BEADS?

Catholics were not the first to pray with beads. And while the exact origin of prayer beads is unknown, men and woman of many faiths and cultures (Hindus, Greeks, Buddhists, and more) have (and do) use beads to pray. In fact, the word bead in English is actually derived from an Old English word that means prayer.

The use of prayer beads almost universally is to allow the person to keep track of the number of prayers that have been said, while at the same time focusing on the deeper meaning of the prayers themselves.

While praying with beads certainly wasn’t an original idea, it’s a powerful reminder that everything before the coming of Jesus was preparing for that moment and that God yearns to transform everything into something holy, even something as ordinary as a small rope with some beads on it.

HOW MANY BEADS ARE ON A SET of ROSARY BEADS?

Today, Roman Catholics use a rosary made up of 59 beads. The 6 large beads are used for praying the Our Father prayer, and the 53 smaller beads are used for praying the Hail Mary prayer. Other prayers of the rosary include the Apostles’ Creed, the Glory Be, and the Hail, Holy Queen. There are 5 decades, or groups of 10 small beads, that make up the main portion of the rosary.

THE STORY of St. DOMINIC

It is widely believed that in 1214 St. Dominic had a vision of Mary. She is said to have presented him with the rosary, both the beads and the prayers to be prayed.

Dominic had a tremendous devotion to Mary and the rosary, which he promoted wherever he traveled to preach. He encouraged Catholics to gather in small groups to pray together what was an early form of the rosary together. These were quite possibly the first expressions of the prayer groups and small group communities that are still having a powerful impact today.

Continued on pg. 12, See History of the Rosary

See Related Story by Sr. Mildred Truchard, IWBS on pg. 5