



The Catholic Lighthouse

The Cradle of Texas Immigration



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February 2019

CHOOSING TO L.O.V.E. – Live Our Vows Everyday

By Sarita V. Richmond, Editor

In January 2009, an El Campo couple, Kristie and Paul Rodriguez attended a *Choosing to L.O.V.E. Retreat*, in Palacios. Kristie heard about it from Father Gary Janak, who was pastor of St. Philip Church, in El Campo, at the time. She shared, “I was excited and ready to go once I read the church bulletin. The only reservation I had at the time was the cost, but we were able to attend on a scholarship.” Paul had some reservations but with some encouragement from his wife said “yes” to attending.

Choosing to L.O.V.E. is a retreat for couples seeking to enrich their marital



commitment by focusing on what brought their covenant into existence - their marriage vows. It was created by Father Gary, the Chancellor of the Diocese of Victoria, and pastor of the Cathedral of Our Lady of Victory.

Father Gary has made it his mission to counsel couples for the past 25 years. He shared, “Working with couples has helped

me to strengthen the promises I made on the day of my ordination and when I began my life as a priest.” He studied hard to receive his counseling degree and continues to research and update his training as a counselor. While working with broken and struggling marriages, he began to dream of providing something more for married couples. *He wanted to be proactive, rather than retroactive.* Father Gary wanted to share with them tools for keeping their marriage strong before they got to the misery stage. His dream was to develop a retreat that would empower couples to truly live the kind of marriage God intends for them, to be fully alive in their marriages – not just surviving, but thriving.

In 2009, Father Gary gathered four couples together from the El Campo area and shared his dream to create a marriage enrichment retreat that gave couples the tools to stay strong in their commitment to their wedding vows. He then asked each couple to write a talk that covered one aspect of the wedding vows, using their personal stories to illustrate key points of the Sacrament of Marriage. The result was the creation of the annual marriage retreat called *Choosing to L.O.V.E. – Live Our Vows Everyday*.

Father Gary is a hopeless romantic. When he prepares couples for marriage, he loves to hear how couples met and what



Kristie and Paul Rodriguez were married in the Catholic church on their 12th Anniversary. Father Lawrence Matula celebrated the wedding Mass at St. Robert Bellarmine, El Campo.

led them to falling in love. He loves, even more, seeing them flourish in their relationships and frequently points out that the love of a married couple nourishes the Church: “When you are strong, I feel stronger. We all feel stronger, as the Body of Christ. And the opposite is true as well: when a married couple suffers, we all suffer.”

Kristie and Paul met her freshman year of high school, in El Campo. They dated throughout high school and got married by the Justice of the Peace, on January 13, 1995. In 2007, their 12 year anniversary, they attended the *Welcome Home Program*, so Paul could finish making his sacraments, and then they were married in the Catholic church on January 13, 2007.

Like many marriages, theirs has had its ups and downs. Kristie said, “Our marriage has gone from being young and not knowing what to expect, to my all-time favorite of

great, to falling off the deep end with divorce papers written. We have since re-connected and are in a very good place. Without God, we wouldn’t be where we are today in our marriage. We haven’t had a fairytale marriage but we are here today together, still learning something new every day.

Kristie and Paul live in El Campo and are blessed with three daughters. Angel is 23 and has a fiancé named Matthew, and a one-year-old son, Karter. Sierra is 18 and will be graduating high school this year and Raylynn is 15, and a freshman in high school. Paul is a heavy equipment operator for B&D Services and Kristie is an insurance account manager for NewFirst Insurors. Kristie and Paul love spending time with their grandson, hunting, fishing, and pretty much anything outdoors. She shared, “We love to do these

See *CHOOSING TO L.O.V.E.*, pg. 20



OFFICIALLY POSTED BY:

*The Catholic Diocese of Victoria in Texas and the
Most Reverend Brendan J. Cahill, S.T.D.*

1-31-19



Dear Brothers and Sisters,

After thorough review of files by an independent party, I am publishing the names of priests who have served in the Diocese of Victoria, and been credibly accused of sexually abusing a minor. The scandals that have developed in the Church since last summer have been a source of deep hurt, anger and shame. I've listened to personal stories of clergy abuse survivors, read many articles and books about the topic of clergy sexual abuse, and prayed to God for empathy into the pain experienced and insights for channels of healing and hope.

The jurors of the Pennsylvania Grand Jury offered the word "hope" in acknowledging one bishop who responded to their requests for an interview. They write on page 305: "We commend Bishop Persico for acknowledging past abuse, unmasking the abusers, and encouraging accountability. In his testimony we find hope." These three actions commended by our fellow citizens served as a guide for the bishops in the State of Texas when we were meeting to discuss the crisis in September 2018. At that meeting we committed that on or before January 31, 2019 we would publish the names of priests credibly accused of sexually abusing a minor.

Following the example of Bishop Persico the Diocese of Victoria is publishing a list, and I will be available for interviews by local media and organizations. Each of these actions is with the prayer that God bring healing and hope to deep wounds.

May God bless you and your families, entrusting our hearts to the Sacred Heart of Jesus and the Immaculate Heart of Mary

Let's keep one another in prayer,

+ Brendan Cahill

Bishop Brendan J. Cahill, S.T.D.

Queridos Hermanos y Hermanas,

Después de una revisión exhaustiva de los archivos por parte de un partido independiente, estoy publicando los nombres de los sacerdotes que han servido en la Diócesis de Victoria y que han sido acusados creíblemente de abusar sexualmente de un menor. Los escándalos que se han desarrollado en la Iglesia desde el verano pasado han sido una fuente de gran dolor, enojo y vergüenza. He escuchado historias personales de sobrevivientes del abuso del clero, leído muchos artículos y libros sobre el tema del abuso sexual del clero, y orado a Dios por empatía hacia el dolor experimentado y también por puntos de vista sobre los canales de curación y esperanza.

Los jurados del Gran Jurado de Pensilvania ofrecieron la palabra "esperanza" al reconocer a un obispo que respondió a sus solicitudes de entrevista. Escriben en la página 305: "Felicitamos al Obispo Persico por reconociendo los abusos cometidos en el pasado, desenmascarando a los abusadores y alentando la responsabilidad. En su testimonio encontramos esperanza". Estas tres acciones encomendadas por nuestros conciudadanos sirvieron como un guía para los obispos en el Estado de Texas cuando nos reunimos para discutir la crisis en septiembre de 2018. En esa reunión nos comprometimos que en o antes del 31 de enero de 2019, publicaríamos los nombres de los sacerdotes acusados creíblemente de abusar sexualmente de un menor.

Siguiendo el ejemplo del Obispo Persico, la Diócesis de Victoria está publicando una lista, y estaré disponible para entrevistas de los medios locales y organizaciones. Cada una de estas acciones es con la oración que Dios traiga sanidad y esperanza a heridas profundas. Que Dios los bendiga a usted y a sus familias, confiando nuestros corazones al Sagrado Corazón de Jesús y al Inmaculado Corazón de María.

Mantengamos uno al otro en oración,

+ Brendan Cahill

Obispo Brendan J. Cahill, S.T.D.

Texas Dioceses Name Clergy with Credible Allegations of Sex Abuse

By James Ramos
Catholic News Service

HOUSTON (CNS) — In a step to restore trust in the Catholic Church, dioceses in Texas released their lists of priests against whom credible allegations of sexual abuse of a minor have been determined.

The 15 dioceses disclosed January 31 the names of 278 individual clerics who have such credible allegations in Texas. The statewide disclosure removed duplication of clerics who appear on multiple diocesan lists and non-clergy, such as religious brothers.

The Diocese of Fort Worth, which made public its list in 2007, has continued to update its disclosure on its website. It identifies 15 priests, one permanent deacon and one religious brother.

Archbishop Gustavo Garcia-Siller of San Antonio repeatedly called the release "the just and right thing to do," and that it is a "move forward in building a healthier community, a healthier society."

The lists were compiled separately by each individual diocese. Many dioceses worked in cooperation with diocesan lay review boards, with some also working with independent consultants.

The release includes the Galveston-Houston and San Antonio archdioceses and the Austin, Amarillo, Beaumont, Brownsville, Corpus Christi, Dallas, El Paso, Fort Worth, Laredo, Lubbock, San Angelo, Tyler and Victoria dioceses. The oldest diocese is Galveston-Houston, established in 1847, with San Antonio founded next in 1874. Since 1950 nine additional dioceses have been established, resulting in a total of 15 dioceses.

Laredo is the most recent to be established, that being in 2000.

Each diocese worked with the general understanding that a "credible allegation" is one that, after reviewing reasonably available and relevant information, and in consultation with diocesan lay review boards and/or other professionals, the diocese has reason to believe is true.

Cardinal Daniel N. DiNardo of Galveston-Houston, president of the U.S. Confer-

ence of Catholic Bishops, extended his "deepest regret for the harm that has been done," a sentiment echoed by bishops interviewed by the *Texas Catholic Herald*, newspaper of the

Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston.

While each diocese prepared its list independently, Archbishop Garcia-Siller said the goal of releasing the lists on the same day was significant and was done in consideration of all those affected by the abuse including abuse survivors, family members, friends and parishioners.

There are more than 8.5 million Catholics in Texas, and more than 1,320 parishes in the 15 dioceses.

"Our hope is that acknowledging our past and demonstrating our accountability can bring healing and hope to deep wounds," Bishop Brendan J. Cahill of Victoria said.

The dioceses used 1950 as the starting point for its lists to be consistent with the 2004 study by the John Jay College of Criminal Justice of the City University of New York that surveyed the nature and scope of the sexual abuse of minors by Catholic priests and deacons. The study covered the period of 1950 to 2002.





Publication of Names of Clergy Credibly Accused of Sexually Abusing a Minor

To: Parishes and Members of the Roman Catholic Church in the Diocese of Victoria in Texas

From: Bishop Brendan J. Cahill

Re: Publication of the names of Roman Catholic clergy against whom credible allegations have been made that they committed sexual abuse of minors

In conformance with Bishop Cahill's desire to encourage accountability in the Church, the governance of the Diocese of Victoria and for the spiritual good and assistance of victims of clerical sexual abuse of minors, the Diocese of Victoria is publishing the names of Roman Catholic clergy against whom credible allegations of sexual abuse of a minor have been made.

Definition of Credible Allegation

This list includes only priests and religious who served in the Diocese of Victoria and who have been credibly accused of committing sexual abuse of minors within the Diocese of Victoria. A "credible allegation" is one that the bishop determines there is reason to believe is true after review of reasonably available, relevant information in consultation with the Diocesan Review Board or other professionals.

A determination that an allegation against a member of the clergy is credible and, therefore, should be published, is not equivalent to a finding by a judge or jury that the cleric is liable for sexual abuse of a minor under civil law or has committed criminal sexual abuse of a minor under the Texas Penal Code unless specifically indicated below.

Important Information about the formation of the Diocese of Victoria and the geographical boundaries of the Diocese of Victoria

Prior to the formation of the Diocese of Victoria on April 13, 1982, the geographical boundaries that now compose the Diocese of Victoria were parts of three different archdiocese/dioceses. All of the parishes of the El Campo, Schulenburg and Victoria deaneries and the former Hallettsville deanery (with the exception of St. James Parish, Gonzales; Sacred Heart Mission, Gonzales; and St. Patrick Mission, Waelder) were part of the Archdiocese of San Antonio. The Holy Cross Parish, Bay City and its mission, Sacred Heart, Wadsworth; Our Lady of Guadalupe Parish, Bay City; Holy Cross Parish, East Bernard; St. John the Baptist Parish,

Hungerford; Holy Family Parish, Wharton and its mission St. Joseph, Boling; and Our Lady of Mount Carmel Parish, Wharton were part of the Diocese of Galveston-Houston. Immaculate Conception Parish, Goliad, and the missions of Immaculate Heart of Mary, Berclair; Our Lady of Guadalupe, Charco; Our Lady of Assumption, Fannin (all three no longer open); and the old Franciscan Presidio La Bahia, Our Lady of Loreto, Goliad were part of the Diocese of Corpus Christi. In addition, in December of 1989 the following parishes entered the Diocese of Victoria from the Diocese of Austin: Our Lady of Perpetual Help Parish and Our Lady of Guadalupe Parish, Eagle Lake; Sts. Peter and Paul Parish, Frelsburg; and St. Roch Parish, Mentz. On March 1, 1995, Our Lady of Perpetual Help and Our Lady of Guadalupe were joined and merged. The parish was named The Parish of the Nativity.

The names of any priests and religious who served in any of the above parishes prior to the parish joining the Diocese of Victoria who have been credibly accused of committing sexual abuse of minors will appear on the list of the respective archdiocese/diocese to which the parish belonged at the time the events leading to the individual being credibly accused occurred.

Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston
<https://www.archgh.org/>

Archdiocese of San Antonio
<https://www.archsa.org>

Diocese of Corpus Christi
<https://diocesecc.org/>

Diocese of Austin
<https://austindiocese.org/>

Members of the clergy who served in the Diocese of Victoria against whom allegations of sexual abuse of minors have been made but whose names do not appear on the list

The Diocese of Victoria has made a diligent effort to include the names of all clergy against whom credible allegations of sexual abuse of minors within the Diocese of Victoria have been made. There have been instances where allegations have been made against a member of the clergy but have been determined not credible, not involving a minor, or not committed in the Diocese of Victoria. The names of members of the clergy who fall into these category are not listed.

It is possible that there are members of

the clergy that have committed sexual abuse against a minor in the Diocese of Victoria, but whose names do not appear on the list because the abuse was never reported to the Diocese of Victoria. Any person with knowledge of a member of diocesan clergy whose name is not on the list, and who allegedly committed sexual abuse of a minor within the Diocese of Victoria, should report such allegations to local law enforcement agency and, if the victim is still a minor, to Child Protective Services. Additionally, the individual can also report the allegations to Vicki Pyatt, Coordinator of Pastoral Care and Outreach by calling (361) 827-7186. The Diocese of Victoria will promptly investigate the allegations.

List of Names

David L. Colella, O.Ss.T.

Reverend Colella is a member of the Order of the Most Holy Trinity, O.Ss.T. He was ordained on June 8, 1957. He is currently retired from ministry and residing at the Trinitarians' Provincialate in Baltimore, MD where he is no longer conducting any type of public ministry. While in active ministry, he held the following assignments in the Diocese of Victoria:

1981-1990 ~ Our Lady of Sorrows Catholic Church, Victoria, TX ~ Pastor

Alfred Prado, O.M.I.

Reverend Prado was a member of the Missionary Oblates of Mary Immaculate, O.M.I. He was ordained in 1957. In 1988, he was placed on restricted ministry. In 1997, he was removed from public ministry. In 2004, he was dismissed from the Missionary Oblates of Mary Immaculate. In 2006, he was canonically dismissed from the clerical state. He has since been attempting to conduct ministry in a cult-like community setting in Costa Rica. While in active ministry, he held the following assignments in the Diocese of Victoria:

1981-1983 ~ Our Lady of the Gulf Catholic Church, Port Lavaca ~ Parochial Vicar

Guido Miguel Quiroz Reyes

Reverend Quiroz Reyes was a member of the Order of Friars Minor (Franciscan), O.F.M. He was ordained on January 16, 1944. He was incardinated into the Diocese of Victoria on April 11, 1986. He retired from active ministry on August 1, 1988. He died on May 15, 2008. While in active ministry, he held the following assignments in the Diocese of Victoria:

1982-1988 ~ Our Lady of Sorrows Catholic Church, Victoria, TX ~ Parochial Vicar



Reporting Procedures for Suspected or Known Sexual Abuse of a Minor (person under 18 years of age) or Vulnerable Adult by a Member of the Clergy

Contact:

- The Texas Department of Family and Protective Services, within **48 hours**, at (800) 252-5400, www.txabusehotline.org, or local police department. **If person is in immediate danger call 911.**

and

- Vicki Pyatt, LMSW, Coordinator of Pastoral Care and Outreach, Diocese of Victoria, (361) 827-7186, pastoralcare@victoriadiocese.org.

or

- Bishop or Chancellor of the Diocese of Victoria, (361) 573-0828. Written allegations can be mailed to Office of the Bishop, P.O. Box 4070, Victoria, TX 77903 marked "Personal and Confidential".



If sexual abuse by a member of clergy has occurred in another diocese, the Diocese of Victoria will help bring your concerns to church officials. For assistance contact Vicki Pyatt at (361) 827-7186 or pastoralcare@victoriadiocese.org.



Official Appointments

Bishop Brendan Cahill is pleased to announce that after consulting with the Personnel Board he has made the following priestly appointments. May God bless them and those they will serve.

Effective February 20, 2019
Rev. Ty Bazar
Pastor
Immaculate Conception, Goliad
Rev. Charles Otsiwah
Pastor
Holy Cross, East Bernard
Rev. Felix Twumasi
Parochial Vicar
St. Rose of Lima, Schulenburg
Effective April 29, 2019
Rev. Kristopher Fuchs
Pastor
St. Mary, Victoria
Rev. Stephen Vacek
Parochial Vicar
Cathedral of Our Lady of Victory, Victoria

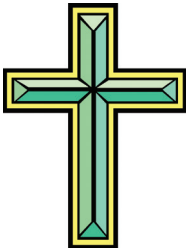


PRIESTS ATTEND RETREAT — Six priests from the Diocese of Victoria attended a winter preaching retreat in Tampa, Florida from January 7-10, as part of their year-long membership in the Notre Dame Preaching Academy. Topics included homily preparation, editing, presentation, vocal tools, and other topics related to the art of Catholic preaching. The group will continue to meet each month to evaluate their homilies and further discuss topics related to the ministry of preaching. The program ends in June when the group returns to the University of Notre Dame for the final conference. Pictured (l-r) are Father Oscar Kofi-Amo, Father Samuel Appiasi, Father Jacob Mendoza, Father Jacob Koether, Father Gary Janak, and Father Kristopher Fuchs. Bishop Brendan Cahill, who is also a member of the program, could not be present.

Please remember in prayer the priests of the Diocese of Victoria,
Heavenly Father, bless Your Church with an abundance of holy and zealous priests, deacons, brothers, and sisters. Give those you have called to the married state and those you have chosen to live as single persons in the world, the special graces that their lives require. Form us all in the likeness of your Son so that in Him, with Him, and through Him we may love You more deeply and serve You more faithfully, always and everywhere. With Mary we ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

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

Table with 2 columns: Name and Date. Rows include Rev. Daniel O'Brien (02/07/2008), Rev. Eugene Janson (02/17/2005), Rev. Brian Crookes (02/23/2003), Rev. Msgr. Vaclav J. Bily (02/23/1990), Rev. Msgr. Victor Schmidtzinsky (02/25/2005), and Rev. Jerome Caponi (02/27/2009).



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

Bishop Cahill's Schedule

Table with 3 columns: Date, Event, and Location. Rows include February 2 (Mass for Carmelites), February 3 (Mass World Day), February 7 (Pension Board Meeting), February 8 (Mass and school visit), February 9 (Vietnamese New Year's celebration), February 10 (Scout Sunday Mass), February 11 (Communities of Faith meeting), February 12 (Noon lunch with IWBS Sisters), February 13 (CCD visit at St. John the Baptist), February 14 (Mass and School Visit at St. Rose), February 15-16 (Dinner and Blessing of Dominican Sisters), February 18 (Noon Mass with Missionary Catechists), February 19 (Relevant Radio Morning Show), February 20 (CCD Visit at St. Joseph), February 21 (Office of Catechetical leadership training), February 23 (Knights of Columbus 4th Degree Exemplification), February 24 (Mass for IWBS Sisters), February 25-3/1 (Retreat Master for Diocese of Tyler priest retreat), March 2 (Mass for Deacon's Retreat), March 4 (Noon Mass with Missionary Catechists).



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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 >.

January 18, 2019

• General Seminary Burse

Lector

In memory of Dixon Atchetee by:

Cindy Garrett

Robert and Sylvia Little

Joe and Suzy Freeman

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

Lector

In memory of Lucille Araj by

CDA Court St. Ann #369

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

Candidate

Donation by Michael and Julie Koch

• Rev. Kristopher L. Fuchs Seminary Burse

Acolyte

In memory of Patricia Flessner Kuntschik
by Paul and Helen Flessner

• Chase Goodman Seminary Burse

Priest

In honor of our Son, Chase Goodman by
Mark and Julie Goodman

• Rev. Joseph Koebel Seminary Burse

Acolyte

In loving memory of Rev. Joseph Koebel
by K of C Council #3371, Nada

• Rev. Timothy Kosler Seminary Burse

Acolyte

In memory of Brother Knight Sean Walker
by K of C Council #2902, Schulenburg

In memory of Brother Knight Jack Klesel
by K of C Council #2902, Schulenburg

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

Lector

In memory of Anna Marie Kutac by Anna
Kostelnik, Sherry Hale, Billy & Annette
Biersdorffer, Andrew & Nancy Srubar,
Bryant & Megan Kutac and Family,
Marc & Harley Escamilla and Family

In memory of Katherine Kahanek by
Elizabeth Janak

In memory of Catherine Kosh by
Elizabeth Janak

In memory of Tom Wick by
Elizabeth Janak

Donation by Soila G. Sanchez

In memory of John and Tillie Peters by

Deacon Joey and Mary Targac

In memory of Catherine Kosh by

Andrew and Jane Pesek

In memory of Willie E. Barborak by:

Chris and Agnes Bennetsen

Marleen Suszanski

• Rev. Michael Rother Seminary Burse

Lector

In memory of Harold Gassen by

M/M Bernard Rother

In memory of John F. Rother, Jr. by

Annie, Helen and Billy Dolezal

In memory of Dorothy Baros by

Annie, Helen and Billy Dolezal

• Rev. Msgr. Victor Schmidtzinsky Seminary Burse

Acolyte

In loving memory of Rev. Msgr. Victor
Schmidtzinsky by K of C Council
#3371, Nada

• Henry A. Schoenfeld Seminary Burse

Acolyte

In memory of Henry Schoenfeld by

Schoenfeld Family

In memory of Theresa Morris by

Bernice E. Schoenfeld

In memory of Alfred Martinez by

Bernice E. Schoenfeld

In memory of James Fox by

Bernice E. Schoenfeld

In memory of Steve Luchak by

Bernice E. Schoenfeld

In memory of Richard Coerver by

Bernice E. Schoenfeld

• Rev. Charles Sonnier Seminary Burse

Lector

In memory of Johnny E. Svetlik by

Elizabeth Janak

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

Lector

In memory of Anna Marie Kutac by Leo

and Joyce Janda, Dennis and Patricia

Otto, Robert and Mary Ann Poppe

• Rev. Joe Vrana Seminary Burse, In Honor of his Golden Jubilee Year

Acolyte

In loving memory of Rev. Joseph Vrana by
K of C Council #3371, Nada

Education of Seminarian Fund

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

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

Lector

Paz and Andrea Morales

in Memory of Fr. Dan Morales

Laurence and Carol Bludau

in Memory of Johnny Svetlik

Laurence and Carol Bludau

in Memory of Catherine Koch

Anita Guerra

Joe F. Staff Estate

Acolyte

~

Candidate

Marian Kram

in Memory of Deacon Milburn Kram

Darlene K. Stewart

Catholic Daughters of America

Texas State Court

Robert and Kathryn Kennedy

Transitional Deacon

Catholic Family Fraternal of Texas -

KJZT

Priest

~

To contribute to the Education of
Seminarian Fund, send contributions to:

Diocese Of Victoria

Education of Seminarian Fund

P. O. Box 4070

Victoria, TX 77903

DSA Update

2018 Diocesan Services Appeal

Diocesan Goal: \$ 2,054,129.00

Parish Pledge Totals: \$1,124,624.60

Parish Contribution Totals: \$ 1,104,775.60

Number of Parish

Families Participating: 2,982

Updated February 1, 2019



SERRA CLUB SUPPORTS VOCATIONS—Serra Club fosters and promotes vocations to the ministerial priesthood in the Catholic Church, as a particular vocation to service and to support priests in their sacred ministry. They also encourage and affirm vocations to consecrated religious life in the Catholic Church. JoAnn Bleier (center), President of the Serra Club of Victoria, presented checks to Bishop Brendan Cahill and Sister Kathleen Goike, IWBS, General Superior, for the education of seminarians and those in religious formation. Those present for the presentation were (left-right) Aaron Padilla, seminarian; Father Tommy Chen, Vocation Director; Sr. Donna Bonorden, formation director; and Sr. Rosario Resendez, IWBS, who is temporarily professed with the Incarnate Word and Blessed Sacrament Sisters.



EDUCATION OF SEMINARIANS SUPPORTED—Catholic Family Fraternal of Texas - KJZT State Director Joyce Kurtz presented a check for \$1,553 to Bishop Brendan Cahill. The donation will be for the Seminary Endowment Fund to educate the seminarians of the Diocese of Victoria.



RETIREMENT FOR PAULINE—The Chancery staff surprised Pauline Castañeda with a retirement party. Pauline worked for the Diocese of Victoria in the Office of Safe Environment. She is pictured with Bishop David Fellhauer, her husband David, and Bishop Brendan Cahill.



YOUTH ATTEND TEXAS RALLY FOR LIFE—The St. Anthony Youth Group, Columbus, attended the Texas Rally for Life in Austin, for the third consecutive year. This year a couple of their seniors were interviewed and quoted in an online article for ABC news, Austin.

In Memory of Msgr. Alois J. Goertz



SAN ANTONIO—Alois J. Goertz was born on March 7, 1924, in Red Rock, Texas, the third of twelve children born to Rudolph and Hettie Goertz. He passed away on Sunday, January 20, 2019, in San Antonio.

In 1937, at the age of thirteen, Alois answered the call of God and left his home to travel for the first time outside of Bastrop County to San Antonio to attend St. John's Seminary to study for the priesthood. In May of 1948, after eleven years at St. John's, he was ordained a priest and celebrated his first Mass in Rockne in which he remembered his mother who had passed away in January of that year.

Msgr. Goertz's (or Father Goertz as he preferred to be called) priestly ministry covered many areas, however, parish ministry was uppermost for him and what he enjoyed the greatest. His was a ministry of

service and he is remembered by many for the way he diligently and spiritually served his parishioners. He began his ministry at St. Michael in Weimar, in 1948. His work took him to many parishes, including those in Hallettsville, New Braunfels, Victoria, San Antonio, Nada, Cairn City, Converse, and ended as Pastor of St. Ann's in La Vernia, in 1995. In 1965, upon the request of the Archbishop, he became the director of Campus Ministry at San Antonio College which over several years he built into the organization that today is a focal point for campus ministry at colleges and universities within the Archdiocese of San Antonio.

Father Goertz is survived by eight of his eleven siblings and extended family.

The funeral took place at Sacred Heart Church in Rockne.

Donations may be made to a charity of choice or the Padua Place, 80 Peter Baque Rd, San Antonio, TX 78209.



STUDENTS DONATE TO GABRIEL PROJECT—As a part of St. Joseph High School's (Victoria) celebration of Catholic Schools Week, Mrs. Deborah Machicek's class promoted literacy in the community. Students donated books and then made book bags to be given to the Gabriel Project. Each bag contained two children's books and a note encouraging the new mothers to read to their babies.

Advocacy Day 2019

The Diocese of Victoria will be participating in the Catholic Faith in Action Advocacy Day, March 26, at the Texas Capitol in Austin. Participants from the Diocese of Victoria will join with thousands of Catholics, from the 15 dioceses in Texas, to advocate for policies promoting life, justice, charity, and religious freedom and to educate our legislators and

other state leaders in a better understanding about what we believe as Catholics. A select group of volunteers will also be prepared to visit with the elected state legislators who represent the ten counties of the Diocese of Victoria. If you are interested in participating please go to the Diocese of Victoria website (www.victoriadiocese.org/advocacy-day-registration) to register.



Texas Catholic
Conference of Bishops



St. Rose Spring Festival March 10 at the KC Hall, Schulenburg

Turkey Dinner Served 10:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at \$10 p/p
Live Auction: 11:30 a.m.

Cake Walk • Music • Surprise Packages • Sweepstakes

Proceeds benefit St. Rose of Lima Church and School



SISTERLY THOUGHTS

By Sister Mildred Truchard, IWBS



Hope for the Future

I am very optimistic about the future of our Church. Why? Because I have seen so many examples of the goodness of so many young people. For example, I had just returned from a weekend on which I had been on the staff of a Life Awareness Retreat for single young Catholics. Imagine a group of young people giving up several days (with no phones or other electronic devices) to attend a whole weekend in a spiritual setting! These young people were discerning how they were being called to follow Jesus. They were quite serious about making a difference in the Church. Some of them came out of curiosity; saying that they didn't know any Brothers or Sisters so they wanted to meet real-life Brothers and Sisters. Others were at various stages on their faith journeys.

Some of the young men were exploring the priesthood and seeking clarity on their possible calling to this state of life; others had thought about their baptismal call to serve the Church since they were very young. Still, others who felt confused about their future role in the church wanted to check out priesthood or religious life before they committed themselves to marriage. They realize that if they failed to check it out before marriage, they might end up being tempted to say, "Maybe I should have become a priest or religious" especially during the rough times which can test us in any state of life. Most of these young people will eventually feel called to the sacrament of Matrimony in which they will become faith-filled spouses and parents, keeping Christ at the center of their loving

families. Others may feel God nudging them to the single state in which their example and service enrich the Church community. If all these young people are open to the graces that are showered upon them, they will have been strengthened by the experience that they have received from events such as these.

Yes, I am very optimistic about the future of the Church, after having experienced such generous young people. Moreover, my optimism is confirmed when I hear, see, or read about numerous youth in events such as World Youth Days, Marches for Life, service trips and projects, and various activities sponsored by churches, schools, and civic groups.

Let us compliment and encourage our young people for their strong spiritual outlook on life. And let us appreciate our own parents for having put up with (or enduring) our growing pains - our loud music, our sense of clothing styles, our different ideas, and our testing of limits -when we were the hope for future generations.

Yes, there is hope for the future.



Seminarian John Le is pictured with Goliad Knights of Columbus Council #7512 Grand Knight, John Zarbock, at the Mass for the Holy Innocents, in Flatonia, on December 28, 2018.

DONATION RECEIVED—Knights of Columbus 4th Degree St. Michael Assembly #1527, which consists of Flatonia, Schulenburg, and Weimar members, donated \$500 to the Crisis Pregnancy Center. Each year they make a contribution as part of their annual Pro-Life support.



READY TO PLAY—Holy Family Altar Society will be hosting a games party at the Holy Family Activity Center, 704 Mallette Drive, Victoria, on February 21, from 6:00 to 9:00 p.m. Admission is \$8 per person. Activities include a raffle drawing, door prizes, games, silent auction and refreshments will be served. For reservations, call (361) 575-4997 or (361) 573-5850. Preparing for the games party are (front l-r) Jo Ann Jalufka, Father Patrick Knippenberg, Betty Frederick; (back l-r) Mary Ann Ohrt, Rosalie Phillips, Becky Blanton, Kathy Motley, and Jackie Slusher.



Presidio La Bahia

Under the Green Flag - February 23-24

Living historians bring history to life with an encampment depicting the 1812 Spanish siege of Presidio La Bahia. This event will be held at the Presidio La Bahia, in Goliad, Saturday, February 23, from 9:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. and Sunday, February 24, from 9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. For more information see www.presidiolabahia.org. Admission is \$5 for adults, \$4.50 for seniors, \$2 for children 6-11, and under 6 are free. For more information, call (361) 645-3752.

Sacred Heart Catholic School

PreK 3 - 12th Grade

Open House

Sunday, February 10 ~ 5:30 p.m.
For Prospective Students and Parents



Spreading God's Love Since 1882

(361) 798-4251
www.shschool.org



313 S. Texana Street
Hallettsville (77964)





ALTAR SERVERS RECOGNIZED—The St. Agnes Church Altar Servers from Edna were introduced and welcomed to the KJZT meeting on December 9, 2018. Father Michael Petering gave thanks to the twelve servers. Pictured with him were (front, l-r) Jacklyn M., Amelia S., Mason G., Harrison S., Robert Z., Katelyn D., Vivainna R., Lesli G., Sonia V., Brenda V., Martin G., and MiReyna Z. Madeline Novian stated that there is great honor and glory of God at the altar, and she presented each with a gift card from KJZT.



Wendy Eggert, Director
Shannon Thomas, Associate Director
ym@victoriadiocese.org
(361) 573-0828

www.victoriadiocese.org/youth-young-adult-ministry

Upcoming Events

~ February 3 – NET Retreat – Registration is FULL
~ March 3 – Youth Leadership Team Meeting
~ Summer Camp Registration – Coming Soon!

~ Campus Ministry: Events at Victoria College

February 12 – Mass at Victoria College at 12:15 p.m.

“I am the servant of the Lord. May it be done to me according to your word.” (Lk 1:38)



YOUTH GROUPS ATTEND MARCH FOR LIFE—Bishop Brendan Cahill, Father Jasper Liggio, Deacon Leo Sharron, adult leaders, and youth groups from Victoria, Cuero, and Hallettville were among thousands of pro-life supporters at the National March for Life, in Washington, D.C. The 46th Annual March for Life was held on January 18, 2019.



Catholic Education a Gift to America's Young People



**By Dr. John Quarry,
Superintendent of
Catholic Schools**

Picture a simpler time ... decades ago. The Roman Catholic Church was led by Pope St. Paul VI, who reminded us, "If you want peace, work for justice." The cost of a gallon of gas was \$0.42. A postage stamp was only a dime. "I Love," by Tom T. Hall was the number one country song, and "The Way We Were," by Barbra Streisand was the song of the year. Super Bowl VIII was won by the Miami Dolphins over the Minnesota Vikings. A new speed limit of 55 mph was imposed. Daylight Saving Time was introduced. The Sears Tower of

Chicago became the world's tallest building! The Academy Award for Best Picture went to "The Sting." The number one selling car in America was the Ford Pinto, which sold for \$2,292! Americans watched "The Waltons" and "The Six Million Dollar Man." And, finally, the National Catholic Educational Association debuted its Catholic Schools Week celebration! The year was 1974! Forty-five years later, we are still carrying on that decades-long tradition, as we recall the recent Catholic Schools Week of 2019!

As you have probably already heard, our annual observance of Catholic Schools Week for 2019 took place from January 27-February 2. Millions of Catholic school students around the nation took part in all kinds of

special Masses and events, service projects, and fun treats. Still, at the heart of this week-long celebration was the focus on the enduring value of Catholic education and the gift it provides to America's young people. During Catholic Schools Week, we reached out to the entire national community to build awareness of what our schools offer and why they are a valuable investment in our children's and our nation's future. We also thanked those who work hard every day to make our schools excellent: students, families, faculties, staffs, volunteers, community supporters, and local and national leaders.

One of the most important roles of all families — Church, school, and home — is preparing young people for fulfilling lives

of love and service to their families, their communities, and the world at large. That is why the 2019 Catholic Schools Week theme is fitting as it provides active words to tell our Catholic school story. "Catholic Schools: Learn. Serve. Lead. Succeed." underscores the long-standing tradition of Catholic education to instill in students the faith, knowledge, confidence, service, and self-discipline that will enable them to successfully take their rightful place in the future. All of these principles are important in building a life worthy to be a follower of Christ, especially "service to others." According to St. Mark 10:45, "For

*See Catholic Education a Gift,
pg. 11*

Turn Words into Vocabulary Fun

The show, *Venture Into Vocabulary*, with Nancy Peters was born from an idea. Ingra Sparkman, the founder of *South Bridge Street Live* (SBSL) and the Assistant Editor of *Victoria In Motion* magazine, wanted to add something new to her online media programming and thought sharing a vocabulary word of the day and featuring teachers from the area would be something educational and fun. When Nancy and Ingra met on this idea, magic happened. Mrs. Peters shared, "I knew it would be a challenge but meaningful to the community."

South Bridge Street Live is a non-profit media programming incorporation hosted exclusively by philanthropic community partners, whose interest is solely to provide inspirational, educational and uplifting content through social media.

Airing on Mondays, *Venture Into Vocabulary* shares five words for the week including spelling, definition, synonym,

antonym and using them in a sentence. Most importantly, the show is designed to make learning new words fun. Mrs. Peters shares, "This is a fun way for families to help each other learn new words. Parents can make it a game and using them at home helps families to connect in a fun way. Ideally, learning new words will also help students from grades 5-12 prepare for standardized testing." At the end of each *Venture Into Vocabulary*, Mrs. Peters wishes everyone a "Great Day" and sprinkles them with "Happy Dust."

In October of 2018, the first episode of the *Teacher Feature* aired. Each week Mrs. Peters spotlights one amazing educator in the Crossroads. The one question that she gets most often is can you nominate a teacher. The answer is "YES!" Just leave your nomination on the SBSL page. Having interacted for so many years with students herself, she shares, "During every interview, you can see each teacher's passion for educating and the

love they have for their students. The time spent in preparation, buying things for the classroom and working with the students is an act of love. Seeing a child's eyes light up with understanding motivates and energizes a teacher. Teaching is not for everyone; it requires far more knowledge, time, expertise, patience and management skills than most people realize. Dealing with so many personalities and moods in the classroom each day takes a special person."

Recently, Dr. John Quarry, Superintendent of Catholic Schools, joined Mrs. Peters on the *Teacher Feature*, where he shared some of his experiences as a teacher in

Los Angeles. He ruminated about Catholic education and shared how his mother was a big influence and reason why he went into education.

You can watch Nancy Peters *Venture Into Vocabulary* and *Teacher Feature* on SBSL YouTube and Facebook page. Want a little extra Happy Dust? The show's sponsor THE



Dr. John Quarry, Superintendent of Catholic Schools, being interviewed by Nancy Peters on the "Teacher Feature."

Nancy Peters has 45 years experience in teaching and has taught in the states of Michigan, Florida, and Texas. In Texas, 35 years of those years were at St. Joseph High School, in Victoria. She has taught, English grades 7-12, journalism, yearbook, newspaper, speech, world history, French, sociology, psychology, speed-reading, and reading improvement.

During her years at St. Joseph High School, the yearbooks received national recognition and awards on numerous occasions. Mrs. Peters was invited to present for a number of years at the Columbia Scholastic Press Association (CSPA) spring conferences held at Columbia University. She was also a member of the Board of Judges for CSPA where she critiqued yearbooks from around the country. From presenting and critiquing she learned that those attending the conference were so eager to learn and grateful for new ideas and guidance.

For 29 years, her STJ students wrote and published books that were displayed at the group authors' party for family and friends to view. These books helped, touched lives and continue to be keepsakes for students and families alike. Her love of working with students is obvious by her dedication to teaching and a positive attitude.

Nancy Peters left St. Joseph in 2017, and is currently teaching home school students, tutoring, and is the host of two shows, Venture Into Vocabulary and Teacher Feature, that air weekly presented by South Bridge Street Live, on Facebook.

Vocabulary Word of the Day!

Dour

(adj)

Definition: stern, unyielding, gloomy, unfriendly

Hint: Dour rhymes with sour. A dour mood is a sour mood.

Synonym: grim, ill-humored, intimidating

Antonym: cheerful, sweet, happy

Sentence: The dour expression on the child's face soon turned to a smile when her parents gave her a puppy.



Catholic Schools Week 2019 Celebrated

#CSW19



Sunday: Celebrating Your Parish

Catholic schools benefit all year long from the religious guidance, prayers, and support parishes provide. Many parishes join in the National Catholic Schools Week celebration by devoting a Mass to Catholic education.



Monday: Celebrating Your Community

A central aspect of Catholic education is learning the importance of service to others. When students take part in service activities, they demonstrate the values and faith gained through Catholic education.



Tuesday: Celebrating Your Students

Schools celebrate students during National Catholic Schools Week by planning enjoyable and meaningful activities for them and recognizing their accomplishments.



Wednesday: Celebrating the Nation

On National Appreciation Day for Catholic Schools, students, families, educators, and other Catholic school supporters communicate the value of Catholic education to government leaders.



*Shiner Catholic School in Shiner, Texas
St. Ludmila Elementary has been educating students for over 120 years
and St. Paul High has been educating students for over 50 years
Serves Pk3-12th grades
For more information:
Website - www.shinercatholicschool.org
Call - (361) 594-3843 or (361) 594-2313*



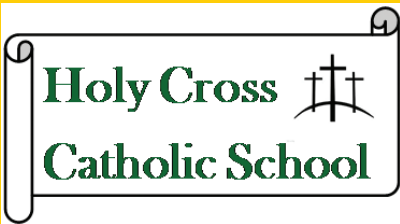
*St. Michael School in Cuero, Texas
St. Michael has been educating students for over 140 years
Serves Pk3-5th grades
For more information:
Website - www.stmschoolcuero.org
Call - (361) 277-3854*



*St. Philip School in El Campo, Texas
St. Philip has been educating students for over 65 years
Serves Pk3-8th grades
For more information:
Website - www.stphilipschool.org
Call - (979) 543-2901*



*St. Rose School in Schulenburg, Texas
St. Rose has been educating students for over 125 years
Serves Pk3-8th grades
For more information:
Website - www.strosecardinals.org
Call - (979) 743-3080*



*Holy Cross School in Bay City, Texas
Holy Cross has been educating students for over 75 years
Serves Pk3-6th grades
For more information:
Website - bcholocrossschool.org
Call - (979) 245-5632*



*Our Lady of the Gulf School in Port Lavaca, Texas
Our Lady of the Gulf has been educating students of the area for over 20 years
Serves Pk4-8th grades
For more information:
Website - olgmariners.org or
Call - (361) 552-6140*

CATHOLIC SCHOOLS SNAPS

A quick take on issues and statistics

Number of Schools

There are 6,353 Catholic Schools in the United States; 5,158 are elementary / middle schools and 1,194 are secondary schools.

The Diocese of Victoria has 12 elementary / middle schools and 3 secondary schools.



Source: U.S. Catholic Elementary and Secondary Schools 2017-2018: The Annual Statistical Report on Schools, Enrollment and Staffing (NCEA).



Thursday: Celebrating Vocations

By focusing on faith, knowledge, and service, Catholic schools prepare children to use their God-given talents to the fullest later in life.



Friday: Celebrating Faculty, Staff and Volunteers

On this day, schools will honor teachers and principals as well as administrators and staff who support them in their important work and thank the parents, grandparents, alumni, parishioners and school board members who provide volunteer service.



Saturday: Celebrating Families

Parents, guardians, and other family members play a vital role in Catholic education. Not only do they volunteer at the school, they instill values and expectations for academic excellence in their children at home.

Catholic Education a Gift

Continued from pg. 9

even the Son of Man came not to be served, but to serve and to give his life as a ransom for many." Now, more than ever, a Catholic education is truly an investment in service to the future that is worth the consideration of every family.

Almost 3,000 students in the fifteen schools of the Diocese of Victoria joined millions of students, parents, supporters and school families around the nation to celebrate this 45-year tradition established by our National Catholic Educational Association. Our diocesan schools planned special Masses, fun activities, themed days, family luncheons, service projects, and so much more to spotlight Catholic schools throughout our communities that are continuing to provide a F.I.R.S.T.-Class education...for life!!

For more information and to register, please contact your local Catholic school or find us on the web at www.victoriadiocese.org, or continue to support us by tweeting us at #CSW19DOV.

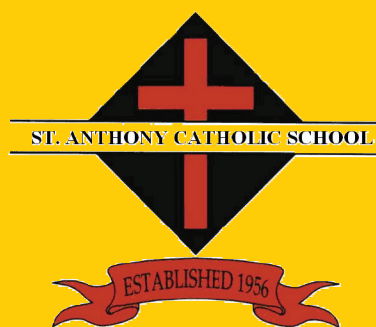
Prayer for Teachers

Bless all Catholic school teachers and help them nurture the faith of our children. Give them the wisdom to pass on their own knowledge and experience and show our children your love.

Amen.



Our Lady of Victory School in Victoria, Texas
Our Lady of Victory has been educating students for over 60 years
Serves Pk3-8th grades
For more information:
Website - www.ourladyvictory.org
Call - (361) 575-5391



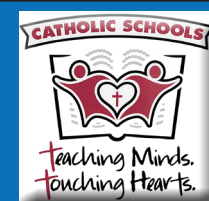
St. Anthony School in Columbus, Texas
St. Anthony has been educating students for over 60 years
Serves Pk3-8th grades
For more information:
Website - www.stanthonycolumbus.net
Call - (979) 732-5505



St. Joseph School in Yoakum, Texas
St. Joseph has been educating students for over 125 years
Serves Pk3-8th grades
For more information:
Website - www.stjcatholicsschool.org
Call - (361) 293-9000



Catholic Schools: Learn. Serve. Lead. Succeed.



St. Michael School in Weimar, Texas
St. Michael has been educating students of the area for over 125 years
Serves Pk3-8th grades
For more information:
Website - stmichaelswords.org
Call - (979) 725-8461



Sacred Heart School in Hallettsville, Texas
Sacred Heart has been educating students for over 130 years
Serves Pk3-12th grades
For more information:
Website - www.shschool.org
Call - (361) 798-4251



Nazareth Academy in Victoria, Texas
Nazareth Academy has been educating students for over 150 years
Serves Pk3-8th grades
For more information:
Website - www.nazarethacademy.org
Call - (361) 573-6651



St. Joseph High School in Victoria, Texas
St. Joseph has been educating students for over 145 years
Serves 9th-12th grades
For more information:
Website - www.stjvictoria.com
Call - (361) 573-2446



Wharton CDA Court Celebrates 50th Anniversary

WHARTON—Members of Court Our Lady Queen of the Clergy #1990, Wharton, commemorated 50 years with a Mass of Thanksgiving followed by a luncheon at Holy Family Life Center, in Wharton. The court was established on April 21, 1968, with 127 chartered members. There are about 30 chartered members living. The court today has over 192 members.

Bishop Emeritus David E. Fellhauer provided the blessing. Eleonor Schunka, the current Regent, welcomed members, and Dorothy Viktorin, Charter Regent, reviewed the court's history. Libby Ramirez, Past State and National Regent, was the guest speaker, and Carmen Longoria, District Deputy #29 presented anniversary pins. The closing prayer was provided by Rev. Robert

Knippenberg.

Charter members attending (l-r front row) Velma Treybig, Alene Hubenak, Josie Mican, Joan Karasek, Caroline Matthys, Lupe Mata, Patsy Valenta, Tillie Viktorin, Lillian Kohleffel, and Dorothy Viktorin; (standing) Hattie Kristynik, Viola Anders, Maxine Janish, Ruby Nuspliger, Rosalie Svatek, Edith Rachunek, Kathleen Smolik, Betty Jean Mueller, Valerie Hundl, Millie Petrussek, Shirley Chilek, Carolyn Bucek, Mary Lee Ondrias, Jeanette Bahnsen, and Eleanor Schunka.



CDA SUPPORT GABRIEL PROJECT—Catholic Daughters Holy Cross, Court 1598, Yorktown, has a special place in their heart for the Gabriel Project, the ladies, and babies they help. They hosted their annual baby shower in support of the DeWitt Gabriel Project. In January 2019 a baby shower was held at their regular meeting. Items donated were baby thermometers, pacifiers, burp cloths, toys, special blankets, clothes, along with many diapers, and baby wipes.



Pathways with Patti

- Fredericksburg March 14-16
- Nova Scotia June 30-July 9
- Alaska Land Tour • August 23



Mt. Rushmore/Yellowstone •
September 4-12

Presentation at next meeting
Feb. 28 on Mt. Rushmore/Yellowstone.
Call for more information.

334 Jurek Road
Port Lavaca, TX 77979
(361) 552.2695 or (361) 920.3216
email: zkmnt@tisd.net
www.pathwayswithpatti.com

CDA Court Celebrates 90th Anniversary

EAST BERNARD— Catholic Daughters of the Americas Court St. Bernadette #1108 celebrated their 90th anniversary Sunday, November 4, the actual date of institution – November 4, 1928. Father Donald Ruppert, pastor of Holy Cross Church, East Bernard, and court chaplain, was the keynote speaker at the anniversary celebration. He spoke on the early history of Catholic Daughters.

Members and guests attended the Mass celebrated by Father Ruppert and Father Mat Kessler was concelebrant. Members participated in the Mass as greeters, color guard, lector, gift bearers, eucharistic ministers, and music ministry. Two Junior Catholic Daughters served as altar servers. Fourth Degree Knights of Columbus also took part in the procession.

After Mass, attendees registered and then mingled as they viewed scrapbooks from the past.

Berna Pilcik, Regent of Court St. Bernadette, welcomed everyone. Rachel Kulcak, Junior Catholic Daughters President, led the Pledges of Allegiance.

Jerry Smaistrila, Vice-Regent, introduced their officers as Berna Pilcik, Regent; Karen Moszkowicz, Recording Secretary; Sharon Sebesta, Financial Secretary; and Melanie Persyn, Treasurer. She also introduced guests who were in attendance, Carolyn Malik of Shiner, National Director; Rebecca Brown of Angleton, 2nd Vice State Regent; Carolyn Ritchey of Sealy, State Secretary; Cynthia Grigar of Sealy, District Deputy #28; Dorothy Bodle, Regent, Court #1538, Wallis; Doris Sodolak, Regent, Court #2607, Frydek; Dorothy Viktorin, Vice Regent, Court #1990, Wharton; Delores Kocian, Secretary, Court #1990, Wharton; Rose Schroeder, member, Court #1616, Sealy; Carmen Longoria, District Deputy #29; Eleanor Schunka, Regent, Court #1990 Wharton; Jocelyn Mrkwa, Past Regent, Court #1108 East Bernard; Libby Ramirez of Victoria, Past State Regent and Past National Regent; Duchess Collins of Sugar Land, Past State Regent and Past National Director; Ed Vacek, 4th Degree Grand Knight; and Richard Carpenter, 3rd Degree Grand Knight.

Sharon Sebesta introduced past Court #1108 regents that were able to attend the reception: Ann Kramr, Henriette Jalowy, Helen Mica, Karen Moszkowicz, and Berna Pilcik.

After acknowledging various committees, Pilcik closed the festivities by leading all in reciting the prayer to St. Bernadette.



Our 195th Anniversary
ST. MARY'S CATHOLIC CHURCH
Victoria, Texas

PARISH FESTIVAL

**Barbecue Brisket and Sausage,
German Potatoes, Green Beans**
Catered by Mike Pozzi Catering, Victoria
Serving 11:00 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.
\$10.00 a Plate - Dine In or Plates To Go
LIVE AUCTION 12:30 pm
*Beer Garden - Cake Wheel - Concessions
Country Store - Games for Kids - Jewelry
Plants - Silent Auction*

SUNDAY
FEBRUARY 10, 2019
10:30 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.
Victoria Community Center



Catholic Rural Life - Victoria

February ~ The Blessing of New Life

Birth is an elusive mystery: an everyday occurrence in nature and rural life that is marvelous to behold. Its wonder and splendor bring a gift of innocence and hope. In a moment of revelation, we are privileged to witness or perhaps assist in the birth of God's creation into the world. Hand in hand with the Creator, we grasp the rhythm of new life, new breath, and new hope.



Let us pray. God our Creator bless the fresh born creatures of our land and oversee their needs with attentive care. Bear them into this life as the continuing newness of creation and your faithful cycle of promise and hope.

As you imbue them with the breath of life, breathe the freshness of your Spirit into our labored lungs.

In this same way, we ask you to bless all mothers and fathers for their sacrifice of love in your creative partnership, in bringing forth your love enfleshed in new life, through Christ our Lord. Amen.



GABRIEL PROJECT RECEIVES FUNDS—Father Charles E. Otsiwah, pastor of Immaculate Conception, in Goliad, listens as John Zarbock (left), Grand Knight of the Knights of Columbus Council #7512, Goliad, and Adam Lumbrezer, Council LIFE Program Director, presented a check for \$2,680 to Gabriel Project representatives. Representing the Gabriel Project were Barbara Williams, Don Williams, and Mira Schulze. The money presented was donated by parishioners during the council's Baby Bottle Campaign.



Nazareth Academy third graders donated their Christmas exchange gifts to the Gabriel Project. They are pictured with their teachers and Gabriel Project representatives.

Students Donate their Gifts to Project

The third graders from Nazareth Academy, Victoria, visited the Gabriel Project storage and office facility in December 2018. These little ones decided not to exchange Christmas gifts among themselves this year but give to the Gabriel Project and the future "Bethlehem Maternity Home."

They marveled at the fetal models and life. Barbara McCain Williams, founder/co-founder, told them a story of how life begins utilizing the fetal models. They took a tour of the storage which houses all Gabriel Project's baby/mother items. Barbara explain that the items they brought for Baby Jesus' Birthday would be used to help a mom and her baby.

One little boy asked if he could bring more to the storage for the babies!

Present were third graders, April Buzzell, room mom; Amy Alegria and Yolanda Hernandez, teachers at Nazareth Academy, Sister Amata Hollas, IWBS, and member of the board of directors, Gabriel Project; Stefani Spears, hotline coordinator and board of directors member; Michelle Babb, storage room coordinator; Sherry Wilson, answers hotline and member of the board of directors; and Fred Williams, President of the board of directors.

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.

NEW CHRISTIAN STORE OPENS—Ellie Mejia opened Elie's Heavenly Christian Gifts on December 20, 2018, located at 2525 N. Laurent, Victoria. They have Christian oriented merchandise, sacramental items and much more. *The Bible Word Search* puzzle books, published by Ellie, have been the best sellers at the store. Every other month the *Catholic Lighthouse* publishes these puzzles in English or Spanish (see page 18). They celebrated a ribbon cutting and grand opening on January 18, 2019, and were honored to have Bishop Brendan Cahill bless the store on January 25, 2019.

Elie's
HEAVENLY
CHRISTIAN GIFTS



Pregnant? Need Help?

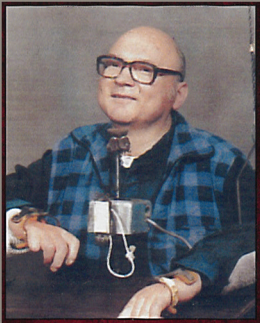
Confidential and caring assistance available for the following needs:
• Emotional • Material • Spiritual • Educational • Providing immediate and practical help.
We have a special concern for you and your unborn child.

Victoria Gabriel Project

Toll Free 1-866-MARY AID

1-866-627-9243

www.victoriagabrielproject.org



1929-2000

*Father
Charles Kram
Korner*

The Authority of Jesus

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

First impressions are usually lasting. Meeting someone for the first time or hearing him speak, gives us an option of him, which may be quite hard to shake. A spellbinding speaker can lead his listeners in almost any direction.

Jesus was tremendously impressive in his day. He spoke with authority. He had power over demons and diseases. He was able to control the winds and the waves.

Now, 2000 years later, he still attracts millions to follow him and dedicate their lives to him.

But now, as long ago, Jesus never forces anyone. He respects our freedom. Anyone

who is a follower of Jesus is one because he has freely chosen it.

I am sure that everyone present knows at least in general what the Lord expects of us-to love God above all things and to love one's neighbor as one's self.

And this includes leading a moral life, praying regularly, taking part in public worship, receiving the sacraments, helping those in need, being considerate of the feelings of others.

Are you ever annoyed with people who call or visit at inconvenient times or who tell you the same old boring stories again and again? Are you disappointed at the dishonesty of persons who impose on you or borrow from you and then ignore you? Are you turned off by zealous fellow Christians who ask you whether you are saved or why

you don't believe as they do?

When Jesus told us to love one another as He has loved us, He was telling us to see Him in every fellow human being, unconditionally. We are endowed with free will, so we have the power to choose freely for or against. Love and forgiveness are in the will. Thus we can love without liking and forgive without forgetting, and this certainly covers much of what it means to live as a Christian.

So, today is a fine day for all of us to rejoice at having Jesus as our Master, and to rededicate ourselves to Him wherever He may be.

Lord Jesus, thank you for the blessing of letting us be known by the name of Christian. Help us, with every passing day, to become a little more worthy to be numbered among your faithful followers.

Grant that, through your authority and help, we too may be able to gain victory over every evil spirit and over every adversity. Amen.



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Making a Difference

After the March for Life – Keep Walking!



By Tony Magliano

In the more than 30 annual Washington, D.C. Marches for Life I have participated in, I always think the current march is the largest ever. But since accurate figures are hard to

come by, it usually comes down to taking a good guess.

But a 60-second time-lapse video produced by Students for Life of America clearly

reveals, regardless of the exact number, that this year's March flowed on and on (check it out <https://bit.ly/2Hu3sC2>).

It's heartening to see that lots of people care. But do we really care enough?

As important as they are, the annual Washington March for Life, Walk for Life West Coast, Midwest March for Life (Feb. 2) and dozens of similar events at state capitols throughout the U.S., are simply not enough.

I remember some years ago, just before our bus left for the March for Life, a well-meaning priest congratulated us for doing our yearly duty to protest abortion and protect unborn life. While he certainly meant well, he didn't quite grasp the horrific reality that the approximate 900,000 brutal abortions each year in the U.S. (see: <https://bit.ly/2snR4vE>), and the estimated 56 million annual abortions worldwide (see: <https://bit.ly/2R6xsDr>) – urgently requires various ongoing efforts throughout the entire year.

While many marchers actively work to end abortion and support women in difficult pregnancies throughout the year, many do not.

Years ago, the late Nellie Gray, who founded the March for Life, told me that if just Catholics alone tirelessly stood up and demanded an end to abortion, it would end!

But sadly, we are not paying enough attention to this tragedy. Perhaps after all these years of legalized abortion, we have gotten somewhat use to it.

Homilists rarely rally us around the plight of our tiny unborn brethren – or for that mat-

ter the plight of our war-torn, hungry, poor, homeless, migrant, sick sisters and brothers, and the environmentally wounded planet we all share.

Abortion centers have very few people, and often no one, standing in peaceful, prayerful witness on behalf of the unborn babies being killed within these so-called clinics.

Education at all levels regarding the barbaric reality of abortion (see: <http://www.abortionno.org/>), and the miraculous wonder of human development from the moment of

conception onward (see: <http://bit.ly/1XezTp2>) is not sufficiently happening.

Legislators are not

being swamped throughout the year with phone calls, email and text messages insisting that they pass legislation to protect the most vulnerable human beings among us.

We absolutely need to put political pressure on our elected officials to do the morally right thing. For as the saying goes and is true in most cases, "Politicians don't see the light until they feel the heat." We need to turn up the heat!

Even new born infants are less vulnerable than unborn babies, for it is a rare person who will murder the helpless baby he or she can see.

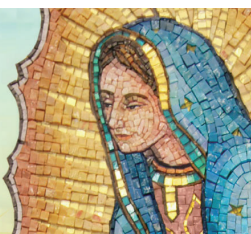
But in this case there is light at the end of the tunnel. A wonderful international effort by the Knights of Columbus has provided 1,000 ultrasound machines to pregnancy centers and pro-life health clinics throughout the U.S. and in several countries, thus allowing mothers and fathers to see their miraculous unborn babies (see: <https://bit.ly/2QIVtjX>).

We would do well to walk in the footsteps of the nonviolent Jesus and his early followers, proclaiming in word and deed that no life is disposable, and that every person is a beloved child of the God of life!

Tony Magliano is an internationally syndicated social justice and peace columnist. He is available to speak at diocesan or parish gatherings. Tony can be reached at tmag@zoominternet.net.

EVERY LIFE
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"You who are my messenger,
in you I place my absolute trust."



Diocese of Victoria Youth Director Wendy Eggert, Associate Director Shannon Thomas, and Alyson Klimitchek, a teacher at Sacred Heart, Hallettsville, participated in the annual March for Life in Washington, D.C.

WOMEN SERVING KOLBE MINISTRY—The Kolbe Prison Ministries serves the imprisoned. There is a men's group who has served the Stevenson Unit in Cuero, for years. There is also a women's group who has served in Gatesville, Marlin, and Lockhart. Recently, a retreat was held in the San Antonio area at a women's prison, by a group of Catholic women, from the Diocese of Victoria

and the Archdiocese of San Antonio. The ladies pictured above are from the Diocese of Victoria (Hallettsville, Yoakum, Schulenburg, and Victoria).



KC FREE THROW WINNERS—The Knights of Columbus #3253, Port Lavaca held their annual free throw contest, and the winners were 9 year-old girls Jianna C.; 10 year-old girls Blanca G.; 12 year-old girls Anauli R.; 13 year-old girls Cassandra L.; 10 year-old boys Joe R.; 12 year-old boys Josiah C.; and 13 year-old boys Jordan O. They advanced to District, which will be February 17, at Our Lady of the Gulf Catholic School gym.



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Sunday Readings from February 10 - March 10

February 10 ~ Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time
Isaiah 6:1-2A, 3-8
Psalms 138:1-2, 2-3, 4-5, 7-8
1 Corinthians 15:1-11
Luke 5:1-11

February 17 ~ Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time
Jeremiah 17:5-8
Psalms 1:1-2, 3, 4, 6
1 Corinthians 15:12, 16-20
Luke 6:17, 20-26

February 24 ~ Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time
1 Samuel 26:2, 7-9, 12-13, 22-23
Psalms 103:1-2, 3-4, 8, 10, 12-13
1 Corinthians 15:45-49
Luke 6:27-38

March 3 ~ Eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time
Sirach 27:4-7
Psalms 92:2-3, 13-14, 15-16
1 Corinthians 15:54-58
Luke 6:39-49

March 6 ~ Ash Wednesday
Joel 2:12-18
Psalms 51:3-4, 5-6AB, 12-13, 14, 17
2 Corinthians 5:20—6:2
Matthew 6:1-6, 16-18

March 10 ~ First Sunday of Lent
Deuteronomy 26:4-10
Psalms 91:1-2, 10-11, 12-13, 14-15
Romans 10:8-13
Luke 4:1-13

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

www.usccb.org/bible/readings.

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John Michael Talbot

The Cathedral of Our Lady of Victory Parish Mission Concert
Thursday, February 21
7:00 p.m.

OLV Cathedral Center, 3102 N. Laurent, Victoria

Spirit in the Wind Presents Fr. Rolheiser

Spirit in the Wind Ministry presents Father Ronald Rolheiser, March 29-31, at the Spiritual Renewal Center, in Victoria. The retreat begins Friday evening and ends with lunch on Sunday. It is open to men, women, and couples. The theme for this retreat *Moving from Goodwill to Grace – The Struggle to Overcome our Congenital Bad Habits, Addictions, and Reticence in our Lives*.

The good I want to do, I can't do, and the evil I want to avoid, I end up doing. St. Paul uses those words to describe his own struggle and the struggle of all of us. We can't stop ourselves from being overwhelmed at times by weakness, anger, jealousy, obsessions, paranoia, bitterness, and the need to retaliate and take revenge. We will the good, but often can't do it. Like St. Augustine, we often say: "Lord, I want to change all of this in my life, but not yet!" How do we move beyond the frustration of trying to live by willpower to

being empowered by God's grace?

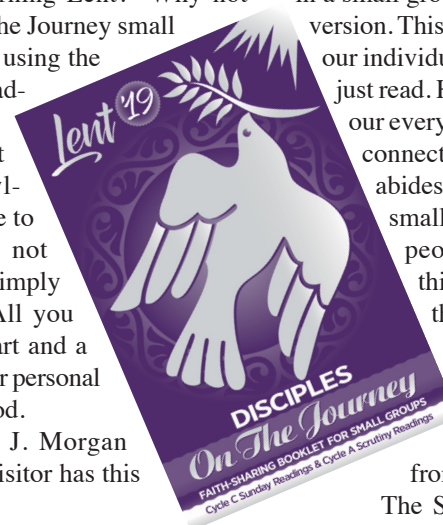
Father Rolheiser, a member of the Missionary Oblates of Mary Immaculate, is President of the Oblate School of Theology in San Antonio. He has been at Oblate School of Theology since 2005. For additional information on Father Rolheiser visit his website at www.ronrolheiser.com.

The retreat cost is \$230 per person which includes all meals and lodging. Space is limited and will be reserved in the order deposits are received (\$50/non-refundable). The balance is due March 1. Financial assistants are available. Make checks payable to Spirit Wind Ministry and mail to: Susan Oakley, 103 Woodmere, Victoria, TX 77904. Please include your name, address, telephone number and email address with your deposit. For additional information contact Susan Oakley at (361) 649-6391 or email: smoak53@msn.com.

Do you have any plans for this Lent?

We frequently hear the question "Do you have any plans for Lent?" What is your answer concerning Lent? Why not join a Disciples on the Journey small group to share faith using the Lenten Sunday Readings? You do not have to be an expert or have any knowledge about Scripture to participate. This is not a Bible study but simply sharing the faith. All you need is an open heart and a desire to grow in your personal relationship with God.

Msgr. Thomas J. Morgan from Our Sunday Visitor has this



to say about how small groups promote conversion and transformation: "Faith sharing in a small group is the key to personal conversion. This is the place where we connect our individual stories with the Bible story just read. Here we connect our faith with our everyday life experiences. Here we connect with our hearts where God abides." He goes on to say that the small group experience empowers people to change their way of thinking, their way of believing, their way of acting. The group spiritual energy is what leads to a change in values and behavior. Truly, a unique and special process emerges from listening and sharing.

The Sisters of the Incarnate Word and Blessed Sacrament invite each of you to join a faith sharing group in your parish or to form your own group this coming Lent using Disciples on the Journey Lent 2019. This may be the best decision you will ever make.

For more information go to www.disciplesonthejourney.org, call (361) 485-0866, toll-free 1-866-590-3688.



**Lent Begins
on Ash
Wednesday
March 6**

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This pilgrimage will be highlighted with dramatizations by Father Michael Sparough from Shalom World TV, spiritual interpretive dance by Betsey Beckman and music with ValLimar Jansen. This makes a great first time or second time pilgrimage! See Holy Land in a new light!



Pilgrimage to Poland and Prague

September 18 - 28 ~ \$3,795

Join Father Dan Cambra and Catholic singer/songwriter Anna Nuzzo and visit Warsaw, Czestochowa, Auschwitz, Krakow, the Salt Mines, Lagiewniki-the boyhood home of St. John Paul II! We visit the Divine Mercy Shrine built at the convent where St. Faustina received the Divine Mercy Image and Prayers. Concludes with a beautiful drive through the Czech Republic to Prague. Register before June 1, to receive a free copy of Anna Nuzzo's *Divine Mercy* CD featuring Father Dan Cambra (limit one CD per household).



Advent in Holy Land Pilgrimage & Choir Tour

November 29 - December 9 ~ \$3,395

Come with Catholic Singer Anna Nuzzo and Father Domenic Roscioli to the Holy Land during this very special Season of Advent! In addition to the traditional Holy Land tour, option to join the American Noel Choir and sing with Anna at the Christmas Tree Lighting in Nazareth! Choir concerts in Bethlehem and Jerusalem where one can sing with the Arabic Catholic Choirs. Singing in the choir is optional!



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Meet a Deacon (a TCL series)

Deacon Jerome Grahmann



Early Years

In June of 1939, Nicholas and Annie Grafe Grahmann welcomed their seventh child, a son, into the world. Two days later I was baptized in Sacred Heart Catholic Church, in Hallettsville, Texas, and given the name Jerome Joseph. Thus, I was welcomed into the world of Christianity.

My parents married in 1924. My dad played the accordion for house dances and I presume that's where he met my mother. They lived in Hallettsville all their lives.

What a life that was. We lived on a farm and my mother was the farmer. My dad worked as a carpenter to support their growing family, which grew to eleven children. We all attended Sacred Heart Catholic School, in Hallettsville. Often times we paid the tuition with things from the garden or the farm and in the winter with wood for the wood stoves in the school. Life on the farm meant a lot of work—chickens, hogs, cows needed tending to every day and during the spring and summer there were crops to be planted, and later harvested by hand. When we had finished with our crops we helped relatives and neighbors, earning money to help support our family.



My German Heritage

All of my grandparents came to Texas from Germany and settled in Hallettsville, bringing their Catholic faith with them. My parents always had a soft spot in their hearts for the Catholic Church. Their oldest son, James, joined the Christian Brothers. Their two oldest daughters, Sister Anastasia and Sister Sylvia, joined the order of Incarnate Word and Blessed Sacrament nuns, in Victoria. Their second son, Charles became a priest and was the first bishop of the Diocese of Victoria, and later the bishop of Dallas. The church was a big part of their lives and that of their family.

Seminary

When I finished eighth grade, feeling a call to ministry, I entered St. John's Minor Seminary in San Antonio, Texas. That was quite an experience for this country boy—the big city. City buses, lots of traffic, minor league

baseball across the street from the seminary, and many stores were all new to me. I had never been anywhere except Hallettsville. After high school, I continued my education at Assumption Major Seminary, on my way to the priesthood. However, God had other plans for me. After my third year at Assumption, I became ill and did not return. Looking back, I believe that was God's way of telling me that the priesthood was not my vocation.

A Different Vocation-Married Life

In January of 1961, I enlisted in the Texas National Guard, served six months of active duty and six years of Army Reserve, and was honorably discharged in August of 1967. I met my future wife, Evelyn Klitsch through my sister, Rita. Evelyn was her best friend, so I saw a lot of her around our house. In 1965, Evelyn and

I were married at Sacred Heart Church and thus began another chapter in my life. We both worked for the same company, Otto Goedecke Inc., and there I was introduced to the world of computers.



Permanent Diaconate

In 1994, our pastor, Father Joe Koebel, called me into his office after daily Mass one day and handed me a letter from the diocese announcing the formation of another class for the Permanent Diaconate. He told me I needed to consider becoming a deacon. After consulting with my wife and much prayer, I began my journey to the Permanent Diaconate in the Diocese of Victoria. I took the classes for college credit and was awarded a BA in Pastoral Theology. I was ordained at Our Lady of Victory Cathedral, in Victoria, by Bishop David Fellhauer, in July of 2001.

My Role in the Church

The Second Vatican Council had recently ended, and the era of greater lay involvement in the church had begun. Some of these changes included: parish councils were formed and lay readers and cantors became a part of Sunday liturgies. I was one of the first groups

of cantors and readers for Sacred Heart Parish and I served on the first parish council. I also really enjoyed assisting with the different ministries in the church. I loved singing in the choir but my favorite ministry was RCIA (Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults), helping people to know what it meant to be Catholic. I taught many people who still call to ask questions or just chat about the time when they were in RCIA.

In 1969, after eight years at Otto Goedecke Inc., we moved to El Campo, Texas, to begin a new job setting up a computer system for a children's clothing manufacturing company. When we moved to El Campo I became involved as a cantor, a reader, and an ordinary minister of the Eucharist, at St. Philip the Apostle. Evelyn and I took communion to those who could not come to church for many years. When the Administrative board of St. Philip was formed, I became its first president and remained on the board until I was ordained to the Permanent Diaconate.



Current Service

In 1998, I went to work for Baker Hughes in Sugar Land and retired in 2011. I currently serve the church in various committees and ministries including teaching RCIA, bringing Holy Communion to the sick on First Fridays, and assisting at two Masses on most Sundays and Holy days. I

am also involved in wake services, funerals, wedding preparation, and weddings.

I am honored to be a member of the Knights of Columbus Third and Fourth Degrees, and of the Knights of St. Gregory, to which I was named in 1986, by Pope Saint John Paul II.

When I am not involved in church activity I spend time at our ranch in Hallettsville, tending to the cattle and enjoying the peace and quiet of nature.

Our Children

Evelyn and I have four children and two grandchildren. Our oldest, Caroline is married to Jeff Gardner and is a member of St. Theresa's Parish, in Houston. She serves as a lector, a eucharistic minister, and has served on the RCIA team, following in the footsteps of her dad. She is also a member of the school finance committee, the parish finance council and has held many school and parish leader-



ship positions. Our son "Jay" and his wife Tracie have one son, Ty, who is currently in college. They live in El Campo and are members of St. Philip the Apostle Parish. Our son, Jonathan, and his wife Elaine live in Redwood City, California and have one daughter, Caitlin. They attend a Catholic church near their home and are involved in her school community. Our youngest, Kristin, lives part-time in Canyon Lake, Texas and Houston. She is a member of St. Thomas the Apostle Parish, in Canyon Lake.

Religious Vocations in the Family

My family has a rich history of religious vocations. We are blessed to have many priests, a deacon, a bishop, and many religious vocations. *See the Family Vocation box below.

Vocation Family Roots

- Brother Caius Grafe, Alexian Brother in Muenster Germany.
- Father Jim Henke, 2nd cousin
- Sister Clementine Henke (IWBS), 2nd cousin
- Sister Gabriel Huehlefeld (IWBS), 1st cousin once removed
- Sister William Huehlefeld (IWBS), 1st cousin once removed
- Sister Mary Susan Mika (Benedictine), 2nd cousin once removed
- Sister Gabrielis Kopmann (Franciscan) in Furstenau Germany, 2nd cousin twice removed
- Father Freddie Joe Janacek (Orthodox/not Catholic) 1st cousin
- Sister Alphonse Grahmann (IWBS), aunt
- Sister Aloysius Grahmann (IWBS), aunt
- Father Matthew Huehlefeld, 2nd cousin, once removed
- Msgr. Eustace Hermes, 2nd cousin
- Sr. Emilie Eilers (IWBS), 1st cousin
- Sr. Emiliana Grafe (IWBS), 1st cousin
- Father Brian Eilers, 1st cousin once removed
- Sister Roslyn Henke (IWBS), 1st cousin once removed



3 de Febrero 2019

IV Domingo Ordinario
Segunda Lectura

1 Cor 13, 4-10

Lectura de la **primera** carta del **apóstol** san **Pablo** a los **corintios**: Hermanos: El **amor** es **comprensivo**, el amor es **servicial** y no tiene **envidia**; el amor no es **presumido** ni se **envanece**; no es **grosero** ni egoísta; no se **irrita** ni guarda **rencor**; no se **alegra** con la injusticia, **sino** que **goza** con la **verdad**. El amor **disculpa** sin límites, **confía** sin límites, **espera** sin límites, **soporta** sin **límites**. ¶ El amor dura por **siempre**; en **cambio**, el don de **profecía** se acabará; el don de **lenguas** desaparecerá y el **don** de ciencia dejará de **existir**, porque **nuestros** dones de **ciencia** y de profecía son **imperfectos**. Pero **cuando** llegue la **consumación**, todo lo imperfecto **desaparecerá**.

S E T I M I L B Q X C O N F I A O
A Z O G V L E C T U R A O O N E V
E S O T C E F R E P M I A A D B I
A R S Q I R R I T A B R I C M Q S
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G O R M I A Z O A I K N I E R R E
E A T O E T R C N D N C V N O E R
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There will be a drawing from those who send the above entry form with crossword puzzle to *The Catholic Lighthouse*, P.O. Box 4070, Victoria, TX 77903 for a chance to win an Elie's Spiritual Treasures Bible Word Search book.

We will be publishing a puzzle quarterly in English and Spanish.



El papa Francisco participó en la vigilia de oración de la Jornada Mundial de la Juventud en el campo San Juan Pablo II en la ciudad de Panamá el 26 de enero de 2019. (Foto CNS-Paul Haring)

Papa a jóvenes en Panamá: Mantengan vivo el amor de Dios

Por Junno Arocho Esteves
Catholic News Service

CIUDAD DE PANAMÁ (CNS) — Los jóvenes en la iglesia pueden traer la alegría del Evangelio al mundo al mostrar que el amor de Dios se extiende a todas las personas y no excluye a nadie, dijo el papa Francisco.

“Por sus acciones y su enfoque, su forma de ver las cosas, sus deseos y, sobre todo, su sensibilidad, desacredita y desactiva el tipo de conversación que se pretende en la división de siembras, en excluir o rechazar a quienes no son como nosotros” dijo el papa

el 24 de enero durante la ceremonia oficial de bienvenida de la Jornada Mundial de la Juventud en Panamá.

El papa fue recibido por aproximadamente 250,000 jóvenes que agitaban con entusiasmo las banderas de su país a medida que pasaba el papamóvil.

Cinco jóvenes, representando a cada uno de los cinco continentes presentes en la reunión, saludaron al papa. Tomando de la mano a los que estaban cerca, el papa Francisco caminó hacia el escenario principal mientras los jóvenes caminaban, llevando la cruz de la Jornada Mundial de la Juventud.

Entremezclado con música festiva y

bailes, la ceremonia de apertura celebró la universalidad de la iglesia mientras los jóvenes vestidos con los atuendos tradicionales de sus países nativos entretenían a la multitud.

Los jóvenes de Panamá presentaron al papa una estola hecha de “mola”, una forma de tela hecha a mano con diseños ornamentales que forman parte de los indígenas Guna de Panamá. La Jornada Mundial de la Juventud es una oportunidad para volver a despertar “la constante frescura y juventud de la iglesia” que ocurre solo escuchando y compar-

tiendo con los demás, así como sirviendo a los demás, dijo el papa.

Reconociendo la dificultad que muchos los jóvenes enfrentaron para hacer el viaje a Panamá, el papa Francisco dijo que reflejaba la vida de un discípulo que “no es simplemente alguien que llega a cierto lugar, sino uno que se presenta decididamente, que no tiene miedo de “tomar riesgos y seguir caminando”.

Al hacer los sacrificios que les permitieron participar en la Jornada Mundial de la Juventud, los jóvenes se han convertido en “verdaderos maestros y constructores de la cultura del encuentro”, les dijo.





Masses • Retreats and more

ACTS Retreats—Holy Rosary Women's ACTS Retreat is hosting a retreat Feb. 21-24 at St. Roch Church, Mentz (outside of Columbus). It is open to any woman who would like to attend. For more information and registration forms can be downloaded at www.holyrosaryacts.com. Anyone needing any information regarding ACTS Retreats in the diocese should email dovactschapter@victoriadiocese.org.

Victoria—Holy Family Altar Society will host a Pre-Lenten Mini-Retreat, all are invited, March 2, St. Peter's Hall at Holy Family Church. Begins with Mass at 8:00 a.m. Father Patrick Knippenberg will reflect on "*Pondering These Things in Our Hearts*." The retreat ends with lunch served at 11:30 a.m. There is no fee, please RSVP by leaving a voicemail at (361) 576-6508. If you have questions or special needs call Gail Janecka, (361) 550-0981.

Inez—St. Joseph Parish is hosting a mini Lenten retreat, *Forgiveness and Healing* on the first Sunday of Lent March 10, presented by God's Embrace. Call the parish for more information at (361) 782-3181.

El Campo—St. Philip Parish Mission - *God's Healing Love*, March 25-27, from 7:00 to 9:30 p.m. each night in St. Philip School Gym. Each night Father Greg Bramlage of the Missionaries of the New Evangelization will open us up to a deeper understanding of God's magnificent love and to his desire to heal us in every way. For more information contact the parish at (979) 543-3770 or email apostle@stphilipapostle.org.

Meals • Picnics and More

February

Hallettsville—Sacred Heart Catholic School Open House Sunday, February 10, at 5:30 p.m. See ad on page 7.

Victoria—St. Mary Parish Festival, Feb. 10, at the Community Center. A BBQ dinner will be served. See ad on pg. 12.

Wharton—CDA, Court Our Lady Queen of the Clergy #1990, Mardi-Gras dance, raffle, live, and silent auction on Feb. 16, 8:00 p.m.-12:00 a.m., KC Hall (2820 N. Fulton St.). Music by LEGACY. Admission, \$10 single; \$15 per couple. Public is invited, for information call (979) 532-1466.

Schulenburg—CDA Court St. Rose #1597 Annual Fried Chicken Dinner Feb. 17, KC Hall, starting at 11:00 a.m., dine-in or take-home available at \$10 p/p. There will be a silent auction, country walk, and sweepstakes.

Victoria—John Michael Talbot in a parish mission concert Feb. 21, 7:00 p.m. at the Cathedral Center, 3102 N. Laurent. See ad on pg. 16.

March

Victoria—CDA Court St. Ann #369 is hosting "A Taste of CDA" which includes 20+ booths of food tasting prepared by the best cooks of Court St. Ann on March 3, 11:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. at the KC Hall (3610 N. Ben Jordan). Tickets are \$10 p/p and can be obtained by calling Joan at (361) 935-7319 or Kathy at (361) 220-1030.

Blessing—KC Council #4307 Lenten dinner, auction, and raffle March 10, St. Peter's Parish Hall. Shrimp etouffe, and gumbo dinner served from 10:30 a.m.-1:00 p.m. Plates - \$10 p/p (includes dessert and tea/coffee). An auction and raffle will also be held.

Victoria—KJZT #101 Bake Sale, March 23-24, after Masses at Holy Family. Proceeds benefit Sr. Rebecca with Promise Pointe.

Ministries • Ongoing Activities

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

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

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

Emmaus Center—Offers individual, couple, family, adolescent and children's counseling as well as specialized support groups. Spiritual direction is also available on request. Appointments may be made by calling (361) 212-0830. For more information see pg. 13.

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

Gabriel Project—Helps women experiencing a crisis pregnancy- an alternative to abortion. **Victoria:** Meets the 2nd Tuesday of each month at 6:30 p.m. at 101 W. Convent. Light supper included. For angel workshop/training dates, contact Lisa Kainer (361) 676-3264 or lisa_heysquierdo@yahoo.com; **Meyersville:** Sts. Peter and Paul, meets the 3rd Tuesday of each month at 6:00 p.m. (during the school year) at 11220 FM 237 (77974), the coordinators for DeWitt Chapter are Wayne and Margie Smith (361) 564-3742; **Lavaca County:** Meets 6:00 p.m. (during the school year), contact Julie Kubena Lavaca County Coordinator at (361) 798-3579 for dates and location. See ad on pg. 13.

Grief Ministry—An on-going Grief Group meets at Holy Family Church, Victoria in the Conference Room, 7:00

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. For a full itinerary, please contact Dora Silva at (361) 550-0103 or Dsilva4415@gmail.com. Cost is \$3,599 – includes airfare, hotels, breakfast, and dinner.

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

For more pilgrimages, see Journeys of Faith with Ceci on pg. 13.

p.m., on the 1st and 3rd Thursday of every month. Adults who have experienced the death of a loved one, may attend (after three months have passed). Please call Sharon at (361) 578-7572 before attending.

i.d.9:16 Ministry—For adults in their 20s-30s, single or married. Held at Holy Family in Victoria every first Thursday of the month. Starts with the 6:00 p.m. daily Mass, dinner, a talk live streamed from the headquarters in Michigan followed by fellowship. Childcare is available to those who RSVP. It is open to all young adults of the diocese. For more information or to RSVP for events, email id916victoria@gmail.com.

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

Mothers of Grace—A new mothers' group at the Cathedral of Our Lady of Victory. For more information contact Jennifer Ruiz at jenniferschobey.ruiz@yahoo.com.

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

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

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

Amor Meus

Contact: Sr. Emilie Eilers at (361) 575-7111

e-mail: amormeus@yahoo.com

website: www.amormeusspiritualitycenter.org

IWBS Convent • 1101 NE Water St. • Victoria

Spiritual Direction: Amor Meus offers opportunities for guidance and discussion of one's spiritual journey with experienced spiritual directors. Call for an appointment.

Private / Directed Overnight Retreats: Renew, reflect and relax! Enjoy the peaceful accommodations at the Amor Meus Spirituality Center. Whether you prefer one day or a few days overnight, an individual retreat can be created to fit your needs.

God's Embrace

For more information call (979) 561-8883

e-mail: info@godsembrace.org

website: www.godsembrace.com

Upcoming Events: Weekly Prayer: Mondays, 6:30-8:30 p.m.; Adoration in GEM Chapel, Tuesdays, noon-3:00 p.m. Retreats: Feb. 16 a day retreat for couples, *Make Us Your Holy Family*; March 9 a day retreat for Lent, *The Divine Emptying*.



things as a family. We may have raised three daughters but they enjoy the outdoors just as much as we do!”

Reflecting on the retreat, even 10 years later, Kristie explained that the retreat was a time to reflect on their vows. She said, “The vows when you committed to each other as husband and wife, you get to define them into further detail realizing that they have more meaning than just what you recite. The weekend gave us time for each other. We were able to focus on us and to slow down. I remember coming home and feeling so calm. We were able to really communicate with each other. It was nice to communicate with other couples and to know you are not alone. All married couples have struggles at times. It was a time to sit back and figure out how to move forward during these times and how to love and respect each other with a new meaning. Every marriage will not always be wine and roses but this retreat can help you find the little things that matter.”

The concept of the **Choosing to Live Our Vows Everyday** retreat program is based on what Dr. William Glasser, an internationally known psychiatrist, teacher, and author, refers to as Choice Theory; it also includes the research of Shaunti and Jeff Feldhahn in their books, *For Men Only* and *For Women Only*, and draws from the many experiences Father Gary has encountered in his ministry with married couples, as a priest and a licensed professional counselor.

A presenting couple and priest speak on each phrase of the marital vows and invite the couples to explore the deeper meanings and challenges to live out their vows daily. Using the vows of marriage, the couples will practice acceptance of self: **I...** the gifts and limitations given to us by God, our Creator; and acceptance of one's spouse: **Take you to be...** their gifts and limitations as well, recognizing that we shouldn't expect them to be what we ourselves are not: PERFECT. Using the covenant and sacramentality of marriage, they will look at the role and responsibility of being a **Husband/Wife**, both publicly and personally, and how that role develops throughout the marriage. As the ongoing ministers of the Sacrament of Matrimony, the couples will consider practical ways of staying **True to one another** in spite of society's influence to act selfishly and independently. They will consider how their actions can either build trust, honesty, and faithfulness within their marriage or destroy the foundation through deceit and neglect. All couples experience moments

of **Good times** as well as **Bad times**. This retreat offers the alternate perspective of seeing the challenges of married life as opportunities to draw closer to God and to one another, learning to find and be thankful for the sacred in the ordinary events of daily life and to draw on God's gift of sacramental

2018, the retreat expanded to two sites: the El Campo Community, along with Father Michael Rother, holds one retreat at the Baptist Encampment in Palacios and the Victoria Community, along with Father Gary Janak, holds another retreat at the Spiritual Renewal Center south of Victoria. Both re-



(Above) Paul and Kristie Rodriguez family photo after Sierra's confirmation at St. Philip Church. (Right) Paul and Kristie with their grandson Karter. (Below) Paul fishing with Angel and her fiancé Matthew in Matagorda.

grace during those extraordinarily difficult moments. The couples will be challenged to seek God's grace **in Sickness and in Health**, finding the constant of God's mercy to help them perform heroic acts of love, not only when a spouse is sick, but the same heroic acts of love when they are healthy. And the final challenge the couples will face is the challenge to **Love and Honor** their spouse **All the days of their life**. William Glasser's concept of *Choice Theory* is introduced at the beginning of the retreat, and the couples are challenged throughout the retreat to choose to love on a daily basis – regardless of whether their spouse is lovable. In the same way, choosing to honor a spouse is about everything done and said concerning them, always acting with respect to who they are, a child of God and your chosen help-mate in life. As a covenant, these vows are meant to be lived EVERYDAY, even and especially, when we would prefer NOT to do so. Living our vows means making the choice to love our spouse everyday of our life.

The **Choosing to L.O.V.E. Retreat** is only offered in the Diocese of Victoria. In



treats are typically held near Valentine's Day. For couples who have considered attending the retreat or even for those who have never heard of it Kristie recommends going into the retreat open-minded. She said, “Just focus on just you two. Enjoy every moment and take it all in. Pay attention to the special moments and bring some of that back home in your daily life. Relax, open up to each other and truly enjoy the weekend.”

This year Kristie and her husband, Paul

celebrated their 24th wedding anniversary. Through her own life experiences, Kristie has valuable advice for married couples. She shared, “Be kind in your words; once spoken, hurtful words cannot be taken back. Always stay in good communication with each other. If you are struggling with something, in your marriage or not, talk to each other. When the other is speaking, just listen at first. Listen and really take to heart what they've told you. Remember that both of you have an opinion and sometimes they are not the same. Figure out how to compromise. Realize what is petty and what truly matters. Don't hold grudges, grudges take away your happiness. Forgiveness is very important. If you find that you are struggling with something in your marriage don't be afraid to ask for help, whether it's your priest or counseling. Counseling is wonderful, don't let your pride get in the way and think you don't need it. Even good healthy relationships can benefit from counseling. *Remember God is the center of your marriage and when you put him first everything goes hand in hand.*”



Editor's Note:

Thank you to Kristie and Paul Rodriguez for sharing their marriage journey through “Choosing to L.O.V.E.” with the readers of the “Catholic Lighthouse”. Thank you Father Gary Janak, for following your heart and intuition to create this marriage enrichment retreat. Thank you to Jenny Vincent, Pastoral Associate for the Cathedral of Our Lady of Victory in Victoria, for contributing to this story with, “The History and Purpose of the Choosing to L.O.V.E. Retreat,” which she chose as the subject, for the thesis of her *Masters in Theology*.

St. Philip the Apostle, El Campo, held their retreat on February 1-3, 2019.

The next retreat will be February 15-19, 2019, through the Cathedral of Our Lady of Victory.