



The Catholic Lighthouse

The Cradle of Texas Immigration



OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE DIOCESE OF VICTORIA IN TEXAS

VOL. 33, NO. 10

www.victoriadiocese.org



FEBRUARY 2020

INSIDE ...



Bethlehem
MATERNITY HOME

Home for pregnant women in crisis getting closer to reality, Page 7



Seafarer ministry sends joy to many nations, Page 12



Bishop Brendan Cahill of the Diocese of Victoria in Texas, and other U.S. bishops from Arkansas, Oklahoma and Texas concelebrate Mass at the Basilica of St. Paul Outside the Walls in Rome Jan. 21. The bishops were making their “ad limina” visits to the Vatican to report on the statuses of their dioceses to the pope and Vatican officials. (CNS photo/Paul Haring)

Bishop Cahill’s Report to Rome: Diocese Well Equipped to Nurture Flock

A pilgrimage to the apostles’ tombs in Rome helps bishops renew their sense of unity as well as rededicate themselves to being missionaries bringing the Gospel to the world, said Archbishop Paul S. Coakley of Oklahoma City.

“That’s what we are here to celebrate and acknowledge today – our communion with Peter and our mission ‘ad gentes’ to the nations, to the ends of the earth,” Archbishop Coakley said in his homily during Mass at the Basilica of St. Paul Outside the Walls on Jan. 21.

The archbishop was the principal celebrant and homilist at the Mass with bishops from Arkansas, Oklahoma and Texas. The bishops were in Rome as part of their visits “ad limina apostolorum” – to the threshold of the apostles – to pray and also to report on the status of their dioceses in meetings with the pope and Vatican officials.

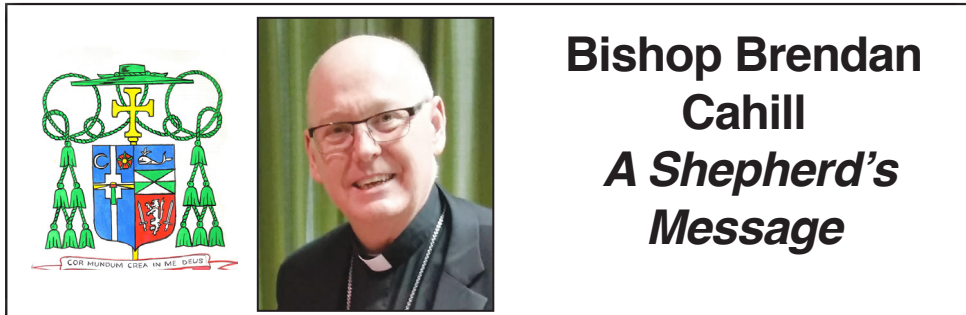
Among those bishops was, of course, the Most Rev. Brendan Cahill of the Diocese of Victoria in Texas. The bishop has been updating his flock from Rome via “selfie” videos on the diocese Facebook page, so

those who are praying for him can share in his joy during the pilgrimage.

One of the key parts of the pilgrimage to the Vatican is to discuss the diocese quinquennial report on the state of the diocese.

The Diocese of Victoria report show that, over the last eight years, the Catholic population has grown from 102,860 individuals to 103,800, while the total population has grown from 277,995 to

See Bishops’ Visit to Rome, page 16



Bishop Brendan Cahill *A Shepherd's Message*

The work of Lent has Shining Results *"Cor mundum crea in me, Deus"*

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

When it was announced that I was going to become the Bishop of Victoria, we held a news conference at the Chancery in Victoria. After the announcements, there was time for questions. One of the priests asked, "Have you chosen an episcopal motto?" I hadn't chosen one yet, but I responded that I was thinking of "Cor mundum crea in me, Deus (Create in

me a clean heart, oh God.)" from Psalm 51.

I did choose that as my motto, and I chose to keep it in Latin for a few reasons. I'm thinking about one of the reasons as we're preparing to enter the season of Lent this year.

The Latin word "mundum" is translated often as "clean" or "pure." The definition in a Latin dictionary taught me more about this type of clean. The dictionary used the

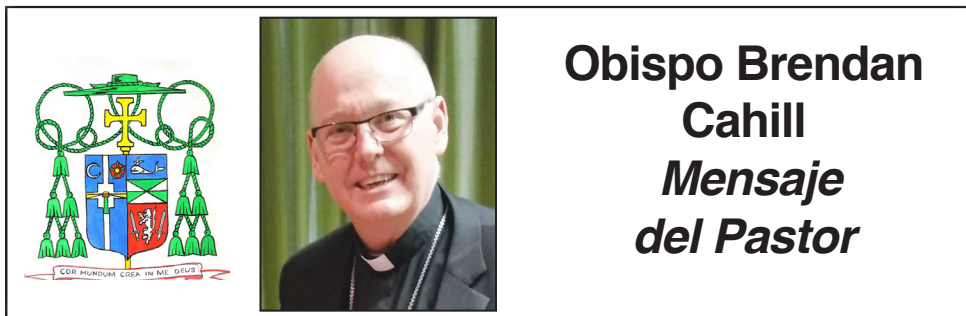
example of cleaning a brass doorknob from impurities as the type of cleaning indicated by the word "mundum." When I kept the Latin word in my motto, it reminded me that this type of clean is hard work – the kind of work that takes perseverance and some muscle. It also is the type of hard work that can create something beautiful and shiny at the end – a clear reflection. This, for me, is an image of the hard work of Lent – taking stock of my imperfections and firmly resolving to purify my heart through patient work.

St. Augustine, in a commentary Psalm 51, made some points that can help us during the season of Lent. First, who is the "me" of the Psalm? On one hand, we can see it is King David acknowledging the gravity of his sins and begging for a new start. But St. Augustine writes that in the light of our Christian faith, we can understand this person as the whole Church, formed into one Body by the Holy Spirit. We can pray for ourselves as individuals, for our families

and our communities, and also for the larger community and the Catholic Church. We can pray that, with one heart, our witness shines brightly for the world to see the beauty and truth of God's love.

Second, the Psalm teaches that no sin is too great for God to forgive and heal. So many people seem to be bound by a past sin or caught up in a hopeless struggle with a current sin. Sometimes people feel powerless to forgive a past wound. As we pray for clean hearts, I pray that, as the united Body of Christ, we can be an instrument of healing and hope for each person we encounter.

Most powerfully, in the celebration of the Sunday Eucharist, we offer ourselves daily for the holiness of humanity and the glorification of God. May we share with the whole world the knowledge, power and freedom of the mercy of God, who invites us to a new start every day. *"Cor mundum crea in me, Deus."*
+Brendan



Obispo Brendan Cahill *Mensaje del Pastor*

El trabajo de la Cuaresma tiene Resultados Brillantes *Cor mundum crea in me, Deus*

Queridos Hermanos y Hermanas,

Cuando se anunció que iba a convertirme en obispo de Victoria, celebramos una conferencia de prensa en la Cancillería de Victoria. Después de los anuncios, hubo tiempo para preguntas. Uno de los sacerdotes preguntó: "¿Has elegido un lema episcopal?" Todavía no había elegido uno, pero respondí que estaba pensando en "Cor mundum crea in me, Deus (Crea en mí un corazón limpio, oh Dios.)" Del Salmo 51.

Elegí eso como mi lema, y elegí mantenerlo en latín por algunas razones. Estoy pensando en una de las razones mientras nos preparamos para entrar en la temporada de Cuaresma este año.

La palabra latina "mundum" se traduce a menudo como "limpio" o "puro." La definición en un diccionario de latín me enseñó más sobre este tipo de limpieza. El diccionario utilizó el ejemplo de limpiar un pomo de latón de impurezas como el tipo de limpieza indicado por la palabra "mundum". Cuando mantuve la palabra latina en mi lema,

me recordó que este tipo de limpieza es un trabajo duro, el tipo de trabajo que requiere perseverancia y algo de músculo. También es el tipo de trabajo duro que puede crear algo hermoso y brillante al final, un reflejo claro. Esto, para mí, es una imagen del arduo trabajo de la Cuaresma: hacer un balance de mis imperfecciones y resolver firmemente purificar mi corazón a través del trabajo paciente.

San Agustín, en un comentario del Salmo 51, hizo algunos puntos que pueden ayudarnos durante la temporada de Cuaresma. Primero, ¿quién es el "yo" del salmo? Por un lado, podemos ver que es el Rey David reconociendo la gravedad de sus pecados y rogando por un nuevo comienzo. Pero San Agustín escribe que a la luz de nuestra fe cristiana, podemos entender a esta persona como toda la Iglesia, formada en un solo Cuerpo por el Espíritu Santo. Podemos orar por nosotros mismos como individuos, por nuestras familias y nuestras comunidades, y también por la comunidad en general y la

Iglesia Católica. Podemos rezar para que, con un solo corazón, nuestro testimonio brille para que el mundo vea la belleza y la verdad del amor de Dios.

Segundo, el Salmo enseña que ningún pecado es demasiado grande para que Dios lo perdone y sanarnos. Muchas personas parecen estar atadas por un pecado pasado o atrapadas en una lucha desesperada con un pecado actual. A veces las personas se sienten impotentes para perdonar una herida pasada. Mientras oramos por corazones limpios, oro para que, como el Cuerpo de

Cristo unido, podamos ser un instrumento de curación y esperanza para cada persona que encontremos.

Más poderosamente, en la celebración de la Eucaristía dominical, nos ofrecemos diariamente para la santidad de la humanidad y la glorificación de Dios. Que podamos compartir con todo el mundo el conocimiento, el poder y la libertad de la misericordia de Dios, quien nos invita a un nuevo comienzo cada día.

+ Brendan



U.S. BISHOPS REGION 10 'AD LIMINA' VISITS — Pope Francis meets with U.S. bishops from Arkansas, Oklahoma and Texas during their "ad limina" visits to the Vatican Jan. 20. The bishops were making their "ad limina" visits to report on the status of their dioceses to the pope and Vatican officials. Bishop Brendan Cahill is pictured above (with his back towards the camera). (CNS photo/Vatican Media)



Bishop Cahill's Schedule

February

- | | | | |
|------------|--|----------------|---|
| 2 | 8:30 a.m. Mass for World Day of Consecrated Life at Our Lady of Sorrows, Victoria | 17-18 | Catholic Rural Life Board Committee Meeting at St. Paul, MN |
| 2-3 | Holy Trinity Seminary visit, Dallas | 18 | 6:30 a.m. Relevant Radio Morning Air Show |
| 6 | 1:30 p.m. Pension Board meeting at the Chancery, Victoria | 19 | 5:30 p.m. CCD visit at Holy Family Church, Wharton |
| 7 | 8 a.m. Mass & school visit at St. Michael Catholic School, Weimar | 22 | Mass with Carmelite Sisters, Meyersville |
| | 3 p.m. Holy Hour at the Chancery, Victoria | | Noon Catechist Rally at the KC Hall, Hallettsville |
| 8 | Mass with Carmelite Sisters, Meyersville | 23 | 10 a.m. 50th Celebration Mass for the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Ganado |
| | 5 p.m. Mass for the 4th degree Assembly 1131 - KC's Ladies night at St. Philip's, El Campo | 24 | 6 p.m. Distinguished Alumni Award Dinner at the Chancery, Victoria |
| 9 | 11:30 a.m. Scout Sunday Mass at the Cathedral of Our Lady of Victory, Victoria | 25 | 6 p.m. Adult Confirmation Mass at the Cathedral of Our Lady of Victory, Victoria |
| 10 | Noon Mass with the Missionary Catechists Sisters, Victoria | 26 | 8 p.m. Ash Wednesday Mass at Our Lady of the Gulf, Port Lavaca |
| | 2:30 p.m. Communities of Faith meeting, Victoria | 28 | Staff Lenten Retreat |
| | 5 p.m. Liturgical Commission at the Chancery, Victoria | 29 | Filming for <i>The Chair</i> ; The Cathedral of Our Lady of Victory, Victoria |
| 11 | 4:30 p.m. Supper with Healthcare Sisters at IWBS Convent, Victoria | March 1 | 2 p.m. Rite of Election prayer service at The Cathedral of Our Lady of Victory, Victoria |
| 12 | 10:20 a.m. School Mass and visit with St. Joseph High School, Victoria | 2 | Noon Mass for home school students w/lunch afterwards at St. Mary's Catholic Church, Victoria |
| | 6 p.m. Mass & CCD visit at St. Mary Church, Hallettsville | 3 | St. Mary's Seminary Board meeting, Houston |
| 14 | 2 p.m. Czech Catholic Foundation of Texas (CCFT) Mass at Sts. Cyril and Methodius, Dubina | 4 | 10 a.m. Presbyteral Council |
| 15 | Mass with Carmelite Sisters, Meyersville | | 5:30 p.m. CCD visit at St. Joseph Church, Boling |
| | 5 p.m. Confirmation Mass at Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Ganado | | |

In Memoriam

Sister Rosemary Leopold, IWBS

Sister Rosemary Leopold, IWBS, 89, passed away Dec. 16, 2019. She was born March 4, 1930, in Nada, to the late Leo Joseph and Otilia Gerbermann Leopold. She was the fourth child in a family of six children – four girls and two boys.



Sister Rosemary attended St. Mary School in Nada, Garwood Public School, and graduated from Nazareth Academy. She became a Sister of the Incarnate Word and Blessed Sacrament in Victoria on Sept. 3, 1950, and made first profession of vows on

Sept. 4, 1951.

Sister Rosemary received her BA and MA degrees from Incarnate Word College in San Antonio. Her years of ministry included serving as Principal and/or teacher at Our Lady of Perpetual Help School in Selma, St. Leo School in San Antonio, Sacred Heart School in LaGrange, Holy Cross School and St. Patrick School in Dallas, Nazareth Academy in Victoria, Sacred Heart School in Hallettsville, Sacred Heart School in Crosby, and St. Michael School in Cuero.

Her hobbies included cooking and gardening. Her last years were spent in the Apostolate of Prayer and Suffering. Her kind, gentle and peaceful spirit were a constant inspiration.

She is preceded in death by her parents and brothers, Albert Leopold and Leo (Jack) Leopold; sister, Adela Anna (Sister Alfreda) Leopold. She is survived by her sisters Clara Cecilia Breummer and Mary Ann Leopold and many nieces, nephews, grandnieces and grandnephews.

A Visitation and Scriptural Rosary was held at Dec. 19, 2019, followed by a wake service with evening praise and sharing of memories.

The Mass of Christian Burial was held Dec. 20 at Incarnate Word Convent with Bishop Brendan Cahill as the presider and homilist. Burial was at Catholic Cemetery No. 3 with Father Christopher Korang presiding.

Memorials may be made to Incarnate Word Convent, Hospice of South Texas, or donor's choice.

Official Appointments

Effective January 8, 2020:



Reverend Kristopher Fuchs, in addition to his assignment as pastor of St. Mary's Catholic Church in Victoria, Texas, is appointed temporary parochial administrator of Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Church in Victoria, until a pastor is assigned.



Reverend Christopher Kwame Korang is appointed as parochial vicar of St. Mary's Catholic Church in Victoria.

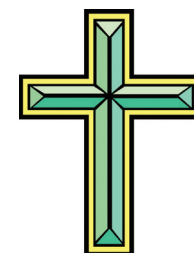
Please remember in prayer the priests of the Diocese of Victoria,

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:

| | |
|---------------------------------|------------|
| Rev. Daniel O'Brien | 02/07/2008 |
| Rev. Msgr. Casimir Jarzombek | 02/15/2019 |
| 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 |
| 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."*



USPS-001015 (ISSN 0894-7740)

The Catholic Lighthouse is published monthly at 1505 E. Mesquite Lane, Victoria, TX 77901.

Subscription rates are: \$7 per year within the diocese / \$10 outside the diocese.

E-mail local stories, photos or festival announcements to: lighthouse@victoriadiocese.org (361) 573-0828 / (361) 573-5725 FAX • www.victoriadiocese.org

DEADLINE IS THE 15th OF THE PRECEDING MONTH

Periodical postage paid at Victoria, TX and additional Entry Offices

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to P.O. Box 4070, Victoria, TX 77903

The Catholic Lighthouse cannot be held liable, or in any way responsible for the content of any advertisement appearing within these pages. All claims, offers, guarantees, statements, etc., made by *The Catholic Lighthouse* advertisers are solely the responsibility of the advertiser. Deceptive or misleading advertising is never knowingly accepted. Complaints regarding advertising should be made directly to the advertiser or the Better Business Bureau.

Publisher:
The Most Rev. Brendan J. Cahill
Managing Editor:
Janet Jones
jjones@victoriadiocese.org
Communications Assistant/Graphic Specialist:
Regina Matus-Janak
janakr@victoriadiocese.org





REMEMBERING THE INNOCENTS — Bishop Brendan Cahill celebrated Mass commemorating the Feast Day of the Holy Innocents on Dec. 28 at Raphael's Refuge in Flatonia. Father Mitch Pacwa of EWTN, center, concelebrated. Also in attendance were seminarians, from left, Caleb Krischke, Richard Barfield, Ryan Kapavik, Luke Prihoda and Joseph Blackburn. The feast day is to commemorate the children massacred following the order of Herod the Great, king of Judea, in his attempt to destroy the Baby Jesus. (Gospel of Matthew, Ch. 2). For more about Raphael's Refuge, visit www.raphaelsrefuge.org.



Lent Begins on Ash Wednesday February 26

*"Remember you are dust and
to dust you will return."*

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

Bernadette Matusek

KJZT Society No.23-Hostyn
in Honor of Fr. Dan Kahlich

Ronnie & Diane Bollom

Acolyte

Knight of Columbus #1329
in Memory of Frank Nevlund

Candidate

D.K. Stewart

Seadrift Seafood Processing, Inc.

Transitional Deacon

Anonymous Donor
in Memory of Fr. Dan Morales

Priest

Tyson & Gabrielle Meyer

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

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 16, 2020

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

Lector

In honor of Rev. Philip Brune's birthday by
Mark and Sharon Kubicek

Candidate

Donation by Mike and Julie Koch

• **Chase Goodman Seminary Burse**
Candidate

In memory of Pauline Ahrens, Simon
Cornelius, Lee Roy Verdine, Ralph Mendoza
Father of Rev. Jacob Mendoza by
Mark and Julie Goodman

• **Rev. Timothy Kosler Seminary Burse**
Acolyte

In memory of Brother Knight Albert Muras by
K of C Council 2902, Schulenburg

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

Lector

In memory of Louise Pesek by
M/M Lawrence Grubert, Jr.
Christmas gift from Sacred Heart Catholic
School faculty, staff and students
In memory of Tillie Peters by
Deacon Joey and Mary Targac

• **Rev. Michael Rother Seminary Burse**
Lector

In memory of Walter Stewart Gillett, III by
Annie, Helen and Billy Dolezal

To contribute to an existing Seminary
Endowment Fund, send contributions with
the appropriate fund designation to:

Diocese Of Victoria
Seminary Endowment Fund
P. O. Box 4070
Victoria, TX 77903



SERRA CLUB CELEBRATES ANNIVERSARY — The Serra Club of Victoria held its annual Christmas dinner for seminarians, religious in formation, and their families on Dec. 30, at Holy Family Church in Victoria. The 60th anniversary of the founding of the club was also celebrated. Dr. Ruben Gallegos, the president of Serra International, the world-wide parent organization for Serra Clubs, was in attendance. Included in the picture from left to right are John Stevenson, Vice President of the Serra Club of Victoria, John McQuillen, CPA, Serra USA Council South Central Regional Director, Gail Janecka, President of the Serra Club of Victoria, Dr. Ruben Gallegos, President of Serra International, Bishop Brendan Cahill, Bishop for the Diocese of Victoria, Father Patrick Knippenberg, Chaplain for the Serra Club of Victoria, Father Kristopher Fuchs, Assistant Vocations Director for the Diocese of Victoria and Father Tommy Chen, Vocations Director for the Diocese of Victoria.

Pray for Vocations!

Visit the Diocese of Victoria Vocation Office Web site at: <https://www.victoriadiocese.org/vocations>



SISTERLY THOUGHTS

By Sister Mildred Truchard, IWBS



Let us remember the most important expressions of love

Editor's Note: Sister Mildred is out this week. This column was originally published in February 2017.

The day after Christmas I went to a store looking for bargains on seasonal items. By the way, I didn't find anything I needed, but I often enjoy browsing. All the Christmas things had been pushed into clearance racks to make room for shelves of Valentine candies and cards, which had been carefully arranged to catch the shopper's eye.



Now we all know that many people express their love for others on St. Valentine's Day through gifts of candy, flowers and cards. Now, I'm not knocking the showing of love through exchanging these tokens; they often contribute to the establishment and the maintenance of relationships that develop into lives of love.

What then are some long-time signs of the love to which Jesus calls us to when he commands us to love our neighbor? You probably have recognized this true love in those about us — especially in those who keep God in the relationship and those who remember that God loves the other person. How can one say that one loves God if we fail to love another? There also are those who always listen patiently, even when they've heard the message a hundred times; while, at the same time, they refrain from nagging or constantly digging up unpleasant past histories between themselves and others.

We cannot forget those who stay up all night to comfort a sick child when they have to be at work early the next morning, or sit with a sick spouse or relative whether the patient is aware of one's presence or not. Parents show this love by planning enough

quality family time, affirming and supporting children, using "tough love" when necessary, and taking care of everyone's physical health and spiritual well-being. We all know those loving persons who are quick to give others the benefit of the doubt and those who continuously show their love and respect for others through generous acts of courtesy.

So, as we exchange symbols of love on St. Valentine's Day, let us reflect upon and appreciate the love that is given and received throughout the year.

Happy St. Valentine's Day!

Passion Play Pilgrimage

Limited Spaces Available!

September 29 – October 8, 2020

Travel to visit Germany, Poland & Czech Republic

Highlights Attending:

- Oberammergau Passion Play (performed every 10 years);
- Mass at Our Lady of Victory to view the Jesus, Infant of Prague Statue;
- Shrine of Divine Mercy
- Mass near the Tomb of St. Faustina
- Birthplace of St. John Paul II

For a copy of the itinerary, Contact Dora Silva (361) 550-0103 or

To obtain an itinerary visit the following website www.littleflowerpilgrimages.com/tour-index



GAMES PARTY—Holy Family Altar Society will be hosting a games party 6-9 p.m. Feb. 20 at the Holy Family Activity Center, 704 Mallett Dr., Victoria. Admission is \$8 per person. Activities include raffle drawing, door prizes and silent auction. Refreshments will be served. For reservations, call 361-575-4997 or 361-550-0064. Preparing for the games party, from left, are, front row, Jackie Slusher, Kathy Motley, Betty Frederick, Jo Ann Jalufka; and, back row, Barbara Garza, Mary Ann Ohrt, Kay Jasek, Becky Blanton, Delores Vyoral and Margaret Beekler.

Our 196th Anniversary ST. MARY'S CATHOLIC CHURCH Victoria, Texas PARISH FESTIVAL



**SUNDAY
FEBRUARY 9, 2020**

10:30 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

Victoria Community Center

Barbecue Brisket and Sausage, German Potatoes, Green Beans, Dessert, Tea, Water or Coffee

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

Antiques - Collectibles - Crafts - Jewelry - Quilts



Lic# 118067-235104

Bingo - Beer Garden - Cake Wheel - Plants

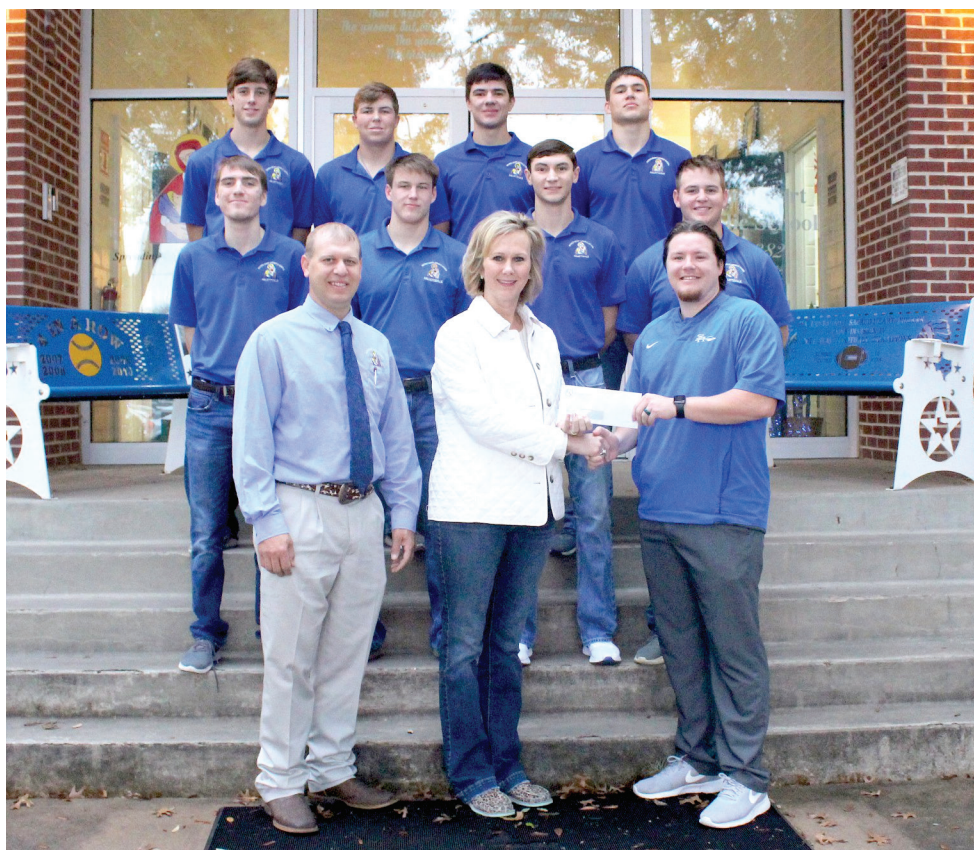
Country Store - Games for Kids - Jewelry

Silent Auction - Concessions



RAFFLE - FABULOUS PRIZES

Tickets Available at the Church Office and at the Festival



TOUCHDOWN SACRED HEART — Leopold Insurance in Hallettsville is proud to fulfill their commitment to their *Touchdowns for Education* program for 2019 to Sacred Heart School. Wendy Janak, Leopold Insurance representative, presented a check for \$4,400 to Athletic Director Manny Freeland, right, and Principal Kevin Haas, left, for the 2019 football season of the Sacred Heart Indians. This was the fifth year Leopold Insurance committed to donating \$100 for every touchdown scored by the Sacred Heart Indians during regular and post-season games. The donation is a commitment to supporting the Operating Fund at Sacred Heart School to help offset the rising costs of education and help keep tuition affordable for all families. Leopold Insurance Agency has donated over \$21,000 through this program to date.

Shiner school needs a bus

SHINER — Shiner Catholic School is facing some challenges right now after being forced to sell one of their buses that was facing some major repairs.

According to Ann Slatter, director of advancement for the school, the busses are used multiples times each day going to and from Gonzales, not to mention transporting students to events.

The school is exploring all options — new and used. A new bus will cost about \$150,000, according to Slatter, and the school is holding a “bus drive” to raise money. Anyone who would like to donate to the cause should put “bus drive” on the memo portion of their check and drop it into the collection basket at Sts. Cyril and Methodius Church, or mail it or drop it off at the parish or school office.

For more information, call Slatter at 361-594-2103 or aslatter@shinercatholicschool.org.

Office of Youth & Young Adult Ministry

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

Upcoming Events

Victoria College Campus Ministry Events:



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

Heavenly Helpers



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

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



BIRTH OF JESUS — St. Philip School (El Campo) junior high presented “Random Acts of Christmas” on Dec. 19. Shown are Mary, portrayed by Olivia L.; Joseph, portrayed by Mason B.; and Baby Jesus (portrayed by Rhett M.). Also, angels: Kristina K., Brie W., and Grace S.



MORE THAN A FEW WORDS — The Fayette County Republican Women recently donated dictionaries to each third-grade student at St. Rose of Lima Catholic School. Pictured, from left, are (front) Reese D., Mallory B., Avery N., Logan W., Tenley Z., Rilee D.; and (back) Billy Ayres (representing Fayette County Republican Women), Bo B., Weston H., Caroline B., Brett H., Holden H., Nolan M., Courtney M. and Pat Topping (representing Fayette County Republican Women).



Office of Catechetical Ministry

Catechist Rally 2020

Save The Date – Saturday, February 22

Attention all catechists, catechist aides, parish catechetical leaders, assistants, and others who help with catechetical ministry in the parish: You are invited to make plans to attend Catechist Rally 2020, with Bishop Brendan Cahill. This is an event no catechist will want to miss!

Saturday, Feb. 22, beginning at 12 p.m. at the Knights of Columbus Hall in Hallettsville, an afternoon of fun, music, and fellowship for you to enjoy. Mark your calendar to join hundreds of catechists from throughout the diocese to laugh, learn, and listen to great presentations. The Catechist Rally is just one way that bishop can show his appreciation for all that you (catechists) are doing and have done to evangelize and

catechize those who are in your care each week for religious formation and inspiration.

At the Catechist Rally, Bishop Cahill and a team of presenters from a national Catholic

publishing company will offer inspiration and encouragement. Everyone will have a nice meal and Clay Crockett will offer praise

and worship music. The event will end with the Sunday liturgy offered by Bishop Cahill.

Contact Christella Alvarez at (361) 827-7171 or calvarez@victoriadiocese.org or Brunilda Ortiz at (361) 573-0828 ext. 2224 or catecheticalsec@victoriadiocese.org, for more information. Online registration will be available at www.victoriadiocese.org.



Diocese Celebrating Rite of Election for Catechumens on March 1

Catechumens preparing to enter the Church at Easter through the initiation sacraments of baptism, confirmation and the Eucharist will participate in the Rite of Election on the first Sunday of Lent, March 1, at 2 p.m. in the Cathedral of Our Lady of Victory in Victoria. The Most Reverend Brendan Cahill will preside.

The rite also recognizes the candidates who seek to enter into full communion with the Church by their profession of faith. Pastors, parish catechumenate leaders, godparents, sponsors, and family members will be present to witness this next step in the final stage of preparation.

The Rite of Election, celebrated in the presence of the bishop, acknowledges that one enters the universal faith community of the Church in addition to the particular parish faith community. Prior to the diocesan celebration, parishes will celebrate the Rite of Sending, which addresses “the entire community of the faithful so that all will be encouraged to give good example and to accompany the candidates along the path of the paschal mystery,” according to the Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults (RCIA) guidelines.

All of the liturgical rites associated

with the RCIA remind parishioners of their responsibility to assist in the preparation of those joining the Church. It also serves to remind parishioners of their own continuing faith journey. The names of the elect will

be inscribed in the parish Book of the Elect and the book will be presented to the bishop at the diocesan ceremony.

The Rite of Election will be set within the Liturgy of the Hours Midafternoon prayer and include:

- reading from Sacred Scripture;
- homily;
- presentation and reading of the

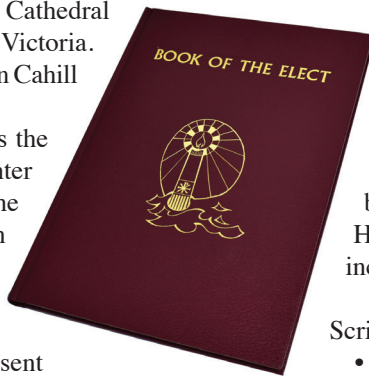
names of the catechumens, and affirmation and support by their godparents and those gathered who represent the entire Church;

• presentation and reading of the names of the candidates planning to enter into full communion with the Church, and affirmation and support by their sponsors and assembly; and

• prayers of intercession for catechumens and candidates.

A reception for all gathered will take place at the Chancery immediately after the celebration.

— Submitted by the RCIA Steering Committee



Calling for ‘Inn Keepers’

Bethlehem Maternity Home more than half-way to financial goal

By Janet Jones

The Catholic Lighthouse

The Gabriel Project of the Crossroads, thanks to a successful December raffle fundraiser, is closer to helping fund a new maternity home to help that population. The ministry wants to raise \$160,000 before opening the planned Bethlehem Maternity Home, so they can be financially stable for future growth. December’s raffle added about \$25,000 to the bank putting them above the half-way mark of that initial goal.

According to Stephanie Yearly Spears, advancement director for the Bethlehem Maternity Home ministry, some 25 percent of the women the Gabriel Project helps yearly have unstable housing situations. That translates to an average of about 37.5 women per year.

“Having just come out of the Christmas season, it shouldn’t be too hard to recall the stress that Mary and Joseph must have been under to find a place to bring their precious baby into the world,” Spears said.

Spears said she still doesn’t know the specifics of the actual facility – whether they will buy or build. They also are hopeful that a property could be donated. But their goal is to be operational by this coming summer.



Bethlehem
MATERNITY HOME

The program is going to be modeled after the same type of home in Georgetown, the Annunciation Maternity Home, according to Barbara McCain Williams, co-founder of The Gabriel Project, which currently gives spiritual and material support to an average of 150 mothers each year.

Through the Gabriel Project, volunteers assist in crisis pregnancies by providing physical and spiritual support. The ministry covers Victoria and eight surrounding counties.

“It’s rewarding to be able to support a mother that is expecting a child. Can you imagine how horrible it must have felt for the Inn Keeper that

had to turn Mary and Joseph away because there was no more room?” Spears said. She asks everyone with a heart for the ministry to consider becoming a Circle of Life donor with a monthly contribution. “I invite you to be the Inn Keeper all year long and consciously make room for those that are in need of rest and a home to usher their most precious gift into the world,” she said. “If you feel strongly about the pro-life movement, I ask that you join us in our fundraising efforts of the Bethlehem Maternity Home.”

To get involved, contact Spears at 361-210-7191 or stephanieyspears@hotmail.com; or Barbara McCain at barbaramwilliams85@gmail.com. For more information or to donate visit <https://victoriagabrielproject.org/maternity-home>.

See related story,
Secret Pregnancy, page 8



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

Incarnate Word & Blessed Sacrament Gift Shop



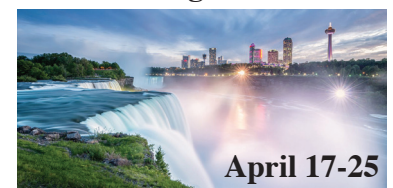
(361) 575-7111
1101 NE Water St.
(in Old Victoria)
Victoria, TX 77901

Monday-Saturday 10:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

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

Pathways
with **Patti**

~ D.C./Niagara/NYC ~



April 17-25

Philadelphia, Amish Country &
Fall Foliage in the Brandywine Valley
October 4-9

~ Germany & Austria ~

Christmas Markets • December 5-13

Presentation on February 27

Call or email for more details.

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



Catholic Rural Life - Victoria

A Prayer in Planting Time

Dear Lord, You are wonderful in everything You do. In marvelous ways You take the full, rich life of the plant and carefully fold it into tiny seeds. You form the seeds according to many different shapes and sizes and colors, so that man can know what kind of growth will come of them.

When they are placed in the earth they may look dry and dead, but when they are watered by the life-giving rain and nourished by the warm sun, they lose all their lifeless look and grow in an almost miraculous manner. By the power You gave them, they take the dead minerals of the earth and build up the



nourishing, tasty foods that men need to sustain life.

This week, dear Lord, we will plant the seeds of (wheat, corn, or whatever it may be) that You have given us. Bless them, watch over them, and bring them to the full growth and rich harvest that You wish to bless us with.

But, should You not allow them to come to full harvest, we accept Your will humbly. We trust that You will nevertheless watch over us and make the seeds of grace that You have given us grow to flower and fruit in the full Christian life that You intend for us here and hereafter. Amen.

Czech Priests to Join Bishop Celebrating the Culture in Texas, new Foundation

Submitted by Marvin Marek
Czech Catholic Foundation of Texas

DUBINA – The Most Rev. Brendan Cahill, bishop of the Diocese of Victoria, will help celebrate feasts of Sts. Cyril and Methodius during a 2 p.m. Mass on Feb. 14 at Sts. Cyril and Methodius Church, 3438 FM 1383, west of Weimar.

Besides the feast day, they will give thanks for the Czech contribution to the faith in Texas and bless the newly founded Czech Catholic Foundation of Texas (CCF). Joining Bishop Cahill will be priests affiliated with the CCFT and three visiting priests from the Czech Republic. Everyone is invited to attend the Mass, and a reception will follow in the parish hall.

The mission of CCFT is “to document, study, preserve, celebrate and perpetuate all elements of the Czech Catholic faith

transplanted to Texas by immigrants from the Czech lands, and to strengthen ties with the Czech Catholics of the ancestral homeland evangelized by Sts. Cyril and Methodius.”

The IRS granted the CCFT its 501(c)(3) status in 2018. Its goal is to establish an endowment to generate earnings to fund projects related to its mission. All donors to the endowment and members, whose memberships are received before March 15, will be listed as founders of the organization.

Dubina’s church was the first of seven in Texas dedicated to Sts. Cyril and Methodius. The church was originally constructed in 1878-77.

For more information, contact Marvin J. Marek, Sr.; Czech Catholic Foundation of Texas 2106 Longdraw Cove, Katy, TX 77949; or call 281-728-6301.

KJZT Appoints New Vice President / Insurance Services

KJZT Family Life announced the appointment of Catherine Sylvester as Vice President/Insurance Services, effective Jan. 1.

Catherine began her career with KJZT Family Life as a college intern in 2005. After she graduated from Texas State University in December of 2008, she was offered a full-time position as an insurance & annuity specialist.

During her 13-year career with KJZT Family Life, she has gained knowledge in



the insurance annuity and IRA industry by attending a variety of training workshops.

She is a devoted fifth-generation and lifetime member of KJZT Family Life. Catherine, her husband, Trey, and their two children are 100 percent family members of Society No. 4, Praha. She is the daughter of Elroy and Anne Wick from Weimar.

Catherine said she is very honored to accept the position and looks forward to providing exceptional customer service to the KJZT members, and she is excited about the opportunity to continue her career with KJZT Family Life.



FREETHROW CONTEST — The Knights of Columbus Council 3204 from Ganado recently had a freethrow contest. Andrew D. placed second and went on to the district contest on Jan. 25. Other winners included Beau B., Anna R., Kailey V., Gwen R., Luke R. and Hannah K.

Secret Pregnancy Ends in Surprise and a Call for Help

By Stacey Ontai
Executive Director of the Gabriel Project

Every expectant mother comes to us with her own story. We embrace each one of them in a loving manner, accepting her as she is, as Jesus did. Here is Kay’s (actual name withheld) story.

After leaving an abusive relationship, Kay, 24, found out that she was pregnant. She kept the pregnancy a secret from her mother, telling her that she was getting fat. An earlier miscarriage made her wary of doctors, but, although she did not seek prenatal care, she kept a record of her development.

One day she told her mother that she needed to go to the ER. On the way to the hospital, she told her mother that she was pregnant and about to give birth. Although shocked, her mother tried to be supportive. The second shock came in the delivery room when the doctor proclaimed, “Hold on, there’s another baby here!”

That day, Kay delivered twin boys.

A scramble ensued to prepare for two babies. She had heard about The Gabriel Project of the Crossroads from her mother and ads she had seen around town. Kay called the helpline not expecting an answer or any real help. To Kay’s surprise, a Gabriel Project mentor, known as an “angel” soon contacted her to ask how she was doing and what she needed. Within a few days, two angels – a mentor and a trainee – came to the hospital with mom and baby supplies. The angels continued to meet with Kay, check on the babies, help with breastfeeding issues, and provide education on safe sleep. After a couple of months, when it was deemed that Kay and the babies were progressing well, the angels left.

Nine months later, the angels contacted Kay to see how she and the boys were doing.

See Secret pregnancy ends, page 11



KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS COUNCIL #4307
SHRIMP ETOUFFE AND GUMBO MEAL
Sunday, March 8, 2020
ST. PETER'S CATHOLIC CHURCH
PARISH HALL
BLESSING, TEXAS
SERVING FROM 10:30 A.M. TILL
1:00 P.M. – AUCTION & RAFFLE
DURING THE DAY
Plates - \$10.00/EACH
(Includes Dessert & Tea/Coffee)
Proceeds benefit High School Senior
Academic Scholarships



Answering Our Call

The following sermon was written by Father Kram from the 3rd Sunday in Ordinary Time.

Only a meaningful life can bring lasting happiness to each of us, but it is not always easy to tell what kind of life will be for any of us. In trying to figure out where we each fit in, we can get clues from people, but we can also get clues from inside ourselves, or we can find our way by trial and error.

College students often decide on a career while taking their basics. A friend of mine who wanted to be a surgical assistant recently told me she quickly changed her mind because she hated every minute of her tryouts in the operating room.

I entered the seminary after finishing high school, but every single member of the class I joined, who had been there since ninth grade, eventually dropped out.

Elderly people often ask, “Why am I still here; why doesn’t God just take me?” They are still here because of all the prayers they say for those who forget and because of the example and moral support they give to others and because Christ considers as done to him the endless deeds of care that they need done for them. Their lives are by no means wasted.

Sometimes circumstances beyond our control tell us it is time for a change, as in the case of a friend of mine who had to think of

something else to do because a business, to which he had devoted 31 years of his life, had closed. And we all know how many workers whose livelihoods had seemed secure for a lifetime suddenly find themselves downsized out of a job.

One expert has advised that people change careers every 10 years. Although there are temporary careers, most careers require a lot more time than that to prepare for and carry out.

I once heard a priest make the remark that in so many cases the time spent in marriage preparation seems wasted because in no time so many marriages are on the rocks. Statistics show that 50 percent of all marriages today fail, but this is true only in the short-term view and if you include the Elizabeth Taylor types. But if you include all the marriages that have succeeded, the failure rate drops down to a mere 10 percent or so. It depends on whom you include.

I once jokingly remarked to a friend that the only way to avoid mistakes is never to do anything, but he pointed out to me that that was also a mistake.

It seems nowadays it is harder than ever to stand by one’s commitment. After choosing a cause worthy of our dedication, the most important thing is to keep every commitment faithfully.

A friend of mine, because of his



commitment to Christ, gave up a high-paying job as a traveling accountant because he was asked to be dishonest. He was willing to make a big change in his life to keep faith with Christ. Then he found just as good a job in his hometown where he is secure for life.

If you are ever blamed for taking a stand or for doing things that good Christians are expected to do, consider it a privilege to make the sacrifice. God will provide. At one time I had a sign on my door that read, “God never closes one door without opening another one,” and another that said, “Lord energize me.”

There are many callings in life from the cradle to the grave, but the basic and most all-embracing is the one we made at Baptism when we renounced Satan and turned our lives over to Christ. There, the stain of Adam’s sin

was washed away, and we became adopted children of our Heavenly Father and heirs of heaven.

And so, no matter how many turns our lives may take for the better or for worse, for richer or for poorer, in sickness and in health, may we always prosper in those things that are lasting and important.

Lord Jesus, thank you for having a place for each of us in our Father’s Providence. Help us in all our struggles to find and fulfill our callings. Grant that our commitment to you may lead us to lasting happiness with you. Amen.

Presidio La Bahia

Up Coming Event:
The Walls of Fort Defiance
February 22 (9-5) - 23 (9-2)

Join us as we explore The Walls of Ft. Defiance through historical interpretation and hands-on activities. Visit with living historians dressed and equipped as Texians manning the walls of the old Spanish fortress renamed by Fannin and his command in early 1836. Walk the same ground as Fannin, Bowie and countless other Texians. Learn more about the defenses thrown up by soldiers in anticipation of a possible siege and battle. Discover local legends attached to the work done to the fort and how they have lasted into modern times.

For more information, visit their Facebook page at Presidio La Bahia - Goliad, Texas

Open daily 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Admission is \$5 for adults, \$4.50 for seniors, \$3.50 for military personnel, \$2 for children 6-11, and under 6 are free. Group rates available when reservations are made in advance. Guided tours available to large groups and schools. Please confirm in advance. The fort is handicapped accessible. For more information, call (361) 645-3752.



EL CAMPO—St. Robert Bellarmine parishioners walked on a nine-day celebration in anticipation of the Nativity of Jesus during a traditional Las Posadas (Spanish for lodging or shelter). Their journey began on Dec. 16 and ended on Dec. 24. They started with prayers and hymns with a candlelight procession visiting homes while reenacting Mary and Joseph’s search for a place where Jesus could be born. The tradition is based on the story told in Luke 2:1-7. After the procession, they enjoyed a meal provided by different families, and the children broke piñatas representing the seven deadly sins – greed, lust, anger, gluttony, envy, sloth and pride. They learned from Las Posadas that, by welcoming the poor and the needy, we are welcoming Jesus into our lives. This is the second year the pilgrims visited homes asking for lodging. It is the first year to have a live “donkey” for Mary to ride. The pony portraying the donkey is named Shorty and is a family pet of Raphael Ramos.

Find Us On
facebook

**Diocese of Victoria
in Texas**

**Diocese of Victoria
Youth and Young Adult
Ministry**

**Diocese of Victoria
Catholic Schools**

**Diocese of Victoria
Emmaus Center**

**Diocese of Victoria
Pro Life Ministries**

**Diocese of Victoria
Family Evangelization**

**Presidio La Bahia -
Goliad, Texas**



Sunday Readings from February 2 to March 8

*February 2 ~ Feast of the
Presentation of the Lord*

Malachi 3:1-4
Psalms 24:7, 8, 9, 10
Hebrews 2:14-18
Luke 2:22-40

*February 9 ~ Fifth Sunday
in Ordinary Time*

Isaiah 58:7-10
Psalms 112:4-5, 6-7, 8-9
1 Corinthians 2:1-5
Matthew 5:13-16

*February 16 ~ Sixth Sunday
in Ordinary Time*

Sirach 15:15-20
Psalms 119:1-2, 4-5, 17-18, 33-34
1 Corinthians 2:6-10
Matthew 5:17-37

*February 23 ~ Seventh Sunday
in Ordinary Time*

Leviticus 19:1-2, 17-18
Psalms 103:1-2, 3-4, 8, 10, 12-13
1 Corinthians 3:16-23
Matthew 5:38-48

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

Brought to you by: Catholic Communications Campaign 



February 26 ~ Ash Wednesday

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

March 1 ~ First Sunday of Lent

Genesis 2:7-9; 3:1-7
Psalms 51:3-4, 5-6, 12-13, 17
Romans 5:12-19
Matthew 4:1-11

March 8 ~ Second Sunday of Lent

Genesis 12:1-4A
Psalms 33:4-5, 18-19, 20, 22
2 Timothy 1:8B-10
Matthew 17:1-9

Amor Meus hosts Lenten Solemn Vespers

VICTORIA — As the Church prepares for Easter, the Sisters of the Incarnate Word and Blessed Sacrament invite the public to join them in praying solemn vespers, or evening praise, 5-5:45 p.m. in their chapel at Incarnate Word Convent, 1011 N.E. Water St. Dates are March 1, 8, 15, 22 and 29 and April 5.

Solemn vespers is the Catholic Churches' liturgical evening prayer through which the Church, God's people, gathers to pray for the Church and the world. It is solemn because it consists of praising and thanking God through the chanting of the psalms, through prayers and Scripture reflection. Benediction of the

Blessed Sacrament follows evening prayer.

The Psalms and Scriptural readings of the Liturgy of the Hours reflected in the Lenten Evening Prayer provide a backdrop for the meaning of Lent. This meaning has the potential to open our hearts to Jesus' call to repent and change our lives, bringing us to our resurrection or a spiritual transformation in our lives now as well as for all eternity. Scripture reflections on each of the Sundays of Lent will be a part of the prayer service and will follow these Sunday themes.



**AMOR
MEUS**
Spirituality Center

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.

Office of Family Evangelization



Justin Reyes, Director
(361) 573-0838
Ext. 2265
email: jreyes@victoriadiocese.org
victoriadiocese.org

website: www.victoriadiocese.org/office-of-family-evangelization

Natural Family Planning with Creighton Model FertilityCare System Offered

Couples looking for a natural method for family planning, couples facing infertility, or women who just want to learn more about how their body works are all welcome to an introductory session on the Creighton Model FertilityCare System. The monthly one-hour introductory sessions are held on Saturdays at 9 a.m. at St. Michael's Parish

in Cuero at the White House meeting room (105 N McLeod St, Cuero, TX 77954). The 2020 dates include Jan. 4, Feb. 1 Mar. 12, Apr. 18, May 2, Aug 1, Sep. 5, Oct. 3, Nov. 7, Dec. 5. Private introductory session are also available. Please call or email Ashley Rodriguez to register at (361) 293-0700 or ashleyfay09@gmail.com.

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



Kenneth J. French, Sr.

1501 E Mockingbird,
Ste 102
Victoria, TX 77901

Edward Jones

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

Diocese of Victoria

Mass For Men

**with Bishop Cahill
Saturday, March 21**



www.victoriadiocese.org/mens-ministry
jreyes@victoriadiocese.org
(361) 573-0828 ext. 2265



Journeys of Faith with Ceci
Experience pilgrimage in a whole new light!

Marian Shrines and Saints of France

October 6 - 18, 2020

Includes Marian Apparition Shrines in
Paris, La Sallette, and Lourdes

Pray with St. Catherine Laboure, St. Vincent de Paul,
St. Therese the Little Flower, St. John Vianney,
St. Margaret Mary Alacoque and St. Bernadette

Travel with Anna Nuzzo and Fr. Mark Baron, MIC

Deposit Due by June 26 ~ Final Payment Due August 6

Ceci Triska · (979) 543-8575 ~ Select (800) 842-4842
ceci.triska@gmail.com · www.selectinternationaltours.com

You can follow Journeys of Faith with Ceci on Facebook!



Secret pregnancy ends in surprise and a call for help

Continued from page 8

The boys were thriving and had just been baptized at a local parish. Kay took time off from college to care for the boys but was planning to go back to school the following semester as a business major, with the goal of building her own business to pass on to her children.

This is one of the many stories we heard in 2019. Some of the mothers' situations are more dire than others, but each mother is treated with love.

We became a part of each new mother's life for a few months. During that critical time, we provide emotional and spiritual support, as well as much needed baby and mother supplies.

Do you have a heart for pregnant women? We need volunteers to reach out to women in a crisis pregnancy. Volunteer training will be held on Feb. 8, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at 101 W Convent St. in Victoria. Materials and lunch will be provided. Please contact Lisa Kainer at 361-676-3264 or lisa_heysquierdo@yahoo.com.

Father Michael Gaitley coming to Victoria for Mercy & Mary Retreat

VICTORIA — The Rev. Michael Gaitley, MIC, bestselling author and a familiar face on EWTN, will give a Mercy & Mary Retreat Nov. 20-21, hosted by the Marian Missionaries of Divine Mercy at Holy Family Church on Mallette Drive.

According to Gail Janecka, who is helping to promote the retreat, about 100 tickets already have been sold and she expects a sell-out.

The retreat includes five conferences with Father Gaitley:

New disaster services manager

Mrs. Ashley Hernandez-Razo joined the Diocese of Victoria Jan. 13, as the Disaster Services Manager a grant-funded position. She is responsible for the management of the disaster response services for the Hurricane Harvey Relief program.

Mrs. Hernandez-Razo has worked directly with the Hurricane Harvey disaster recovery efforts for the last two years, most recently in her role of disaster case manager supervisor with the Long Term Recovery Group. She holds an Associate's Degree from The Victoria College and is from the Goliad area. Ashley and her husband have five children and are parishioners of Our Lady of Victory Cathedral. Ashley is excited to join the diocese in her new role and looks forward to continue serving those in most need in our community.

Her e-mail address is arazo@victoriadiocese.org and her phone number is 361-573-0828, Ext. 2218.



Ashley Razo

New communications director/editor

Mrs. Janet Jones joined the Diocese of Victoria on January 6 as the Director of Communications/Editor. She is responsible for coordinating internal and external communications for the diocese.

Jones has spent more than 25 years in editorial journalism, working at daily newspapers including *The Victoria Advocate*, where she instituted the weekly Faith section. She also spent many years in non-profit advancement and in corporate marketing. Janet received her bachelor degree in journalism from the University of Memphis and is a native of Southaven, Mississippi. Janet and her husband, Dale have one daughter, Madeleine and one grandson, Oliver Finn. The Joneses are parishioners of Our Lady of Victory Cathedral.

Aside from work, Jones has served in community organizations including, 4H, Girl Scouts, the Victoria Area Homeless Coalition, Sandalphon Study Club and several youth rodeo associations.

Her e-mail address is jjones@victoriadiocese.org and her phone number is 361-573-0828, Ext. 2231. Her office will be located in the DOV Chancery Office.



Janet Jones

Submit

Stories or Calendar of Events to
lighthouse@victoriadiocese.org

**Retiring soon? Changing jobs?
Want a better return on your IRA?**

**Roll your 401(k) or IRA into a
Catholic Life Insurance Annuity**

NOW PAYING

3.80%*
APY

*Includes Current Yield + 1.65% First Year Additional Interest.



HALLETTSVILLE
Wendy Janak, FIC
(361) 798-4311



VICTORIA
Eugene Rehak, FIC
(361) 575-4982



WEIMAR
Karen Kutac, FIC
(979) 725-8919



WEIMAR
Mike Scardino, FIC
(979) 725-8860



SCHULENBURG
Royce Shimek, FIC
(979) 743-4313



SHINER
Patrick Klozik, FIC
(361) 594-8160



VICTORIA
Robert Melnar, FIC
(361) 578-2957



HALLETTSVILLE
Jennifer Kraatz
(361) 798-9181



YOAKUM/PORT LAVACA
Bert Kenna, FIC
(361) 293-9657



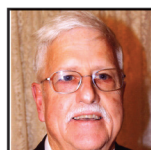
EL CAMPO/NADA
Dianne Shimek Cerny
(979) 541-6346



NADA/GARWOOD
Chris Merta, FIC
(979) 543-1059



HALLETTSVILLE
Charles Leopold, FIC
(361) 798-4311



EL CAMPO
Calvin Pfeil, FIC
(979) 541-6520



EAST BERNARD
Albert Smaistrila, FIC
(979) 335-4473

CATHOLIC LIFE INSURANCE

*Interest rates are subject to change. Minimum guaranteed rate is 1.50%.
Home Office: San Antonio, Texas. #A-SU 1.20



The Catholic Daughters Court Our Lady of the Sea #2133 and their Jr. CDA participated in Christmas at Sea for their National Make a Difference Day on Oct. 26. The Junior members delivered 26 handmade Christmas cards from their group and helped pack 60 gifts for the seafarers in sewn ditty bags.



Karen Janak and Rosalie Philips from Holy Family Catholic Daughters #2665, Victoria, dropped off 47 Christmas at Sea packages to the Chancery.



Rhonda Cummins and the bosun pose with the crew's tree on the Bow Star.

Blessings of Christmas Extend Far Beyond Our Shores

Submitted by Rhonda Cummins,
Maritime Associate

The local Apostleship of the Sea ministry was able to provide 926 Christmas gifts to seafarers whose work supports the local and global economy, as their jobs transport 90 percent of everything. The simple fact that someone took the time and effort to remember them at this special time of year brought smiles to the faces of both the receivers and givers.

The non-profit ministry completed its first annual Christmas at Sea program with generous and dedicated assistance from several parishes across the Diocese of Victoria who joined businesses, schools, organizations and individuals.

At the Port of Point Comfort, all vessels, regardless of size or nationality, were approached by the ship visitors with a hearty "Ho, ho, ho! Merry Christmas! We have gifts for your crew."

They also visited 13 towboats in the Devall Fleet and Pickering Basin at the Port of Victoria where gifts were delivered from the church van after being picked up from Bishop Brendan Cahill at the Chancery office in Victoria.

One captain e-mailed his gratitude: "It was a wonderful surprise to come back aboard today to find your gifts. You touched us all today with your warmth and kindness, making it a little more tolerable for us as we're away from our families this Christmas."

It is also special for the volunteers. As one volunteer put it, "These gifts are like a message in a bottle. You make your gift and send it out. You don't know who will get it or when, but someone in the world will. Your gift will touch the world."

Between Dec. 2 and Jan. 2, two volunteers with clearance from port security delivered 517 gifts inside the port to a total of 31 vessels. The gifts were received by the citizens of 20 countries: Belgium, China, Estonia, Georgia, Greece, Indian, Jamaica, Latvia, Myanmar, Netherlands, Norway, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Romania, Russian, Taiwan, Turkey, Ukraine and the United States.

The donated gifts included necessities

such as T-shirts, socks, knit caps, razors, shaving cream, toothpaste and toothbrushes, as well as treats like microwave popcorn, mixed nuts, trail mix, jerky, chewing gum, playing cards, and baseball caps. Great care is taken by participating groups to make a variety of gifts of equal value to share with these hard-working men and women whose travels take them away from home for months at a time. The gifts they receive from a seafarer center may be the only ones they have during the Christmas season. Opening these packages gives them the opportunity to share in the joy of giving and receiving with their crewmates.

In one e-mail, a Jamaican second officer wrote, "We were like kids, we were so happy. We exchanged, shared and gave among ourselves what we already have and what others really want that we can do without. I didn't get the chance to take pictures. Haha! I was too excited. But the smiles on our faces were a relief for those couple of minutes."

To ensure all the gifts could be delivered during the 2019 Christmas season, 340 were taken to other locations, including three tow vessels in Corpus Christi, Corpus Christi International Seamen's Center, which was nearly out of gifts the week before Christmas, and the Port Arthur International Seafarer Center, which was also running low on gifts.

The process started in September as various groups were contacted to help. Then word started reaching people through newsletters, bulletins, e-mails, word of mouth, social media and news articles. The first gifts arrived in October, followed by donations throughout November and December.

The ministry wants to thank all of the volunteers and donors who helped make this successful, including Knights of Columbus, Catholic Daughters, ACTS teams, schools, youth groups and church members from Victoria, Edna, Bay City, Palacios, Yorktown, Yoakum, Port Lavaca, Seadrift, El Campo and Wharton.

The Apostleship of the Sea is also known as Stella Maris ("Star of the Sea").



Christmas ditty bags brings big smile to crewman.



Students from Our Lady of the Gulf School, in Port Lavaca, collected items for the Seafarers Project. They collected enough items to wrap a total of 136 packages.





USCCB pro-life chairman calls for year of service to mothers in need

WASHINGTON – Archbishop Joseph F. Naumann of Kansas City in Kansas, chairman of the Committee on Pro-Life Activities of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, stated recently that, “The Church will never abandon her efforts to reverse these terrible decisions that have led to the deaths of millions of innocent children and the traumatization of countless women and families.” His statement came in light of the Jan. 22 anniversary of Roe v. Wade when abortion was legalized. But he asked his Church to do more. “As the Church and growing numbers of pro-life Americans continue to advocate for women and children in courthouses and legislatures, the Church’s pastoral response is focused on the needs of women facing pregnancies in challenging circumstances. While this has long been the case, the pastoral response will soon intensify,” he said. “The Committee on Pro-Life Activities at the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops

is asking bishops to invite parishes in their dioceses to join a nationwide effort from March 25, 2020 through March 25, 2021 entitled, ‘Walking with Moms in Need: A Year of Service.’ “Recognizing that women in need can be most effectively reached at

the local level, the ‘Year of Service’ invites parishes to assess, communicate, and expand resources to expectant mothers within their own communities.” More information about Walking with Moms in Need can be found at www.walkingwithmoms.com.

Bishops, Loyola Press release children’s book about racism

WASHINGTON – The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops’ (USCCB) Ad Hoc Committee Against Racism and Loyola Press have published a new book for children ages 5-12, to help them engage in conversations about racism. Inspired by the bishops’ 2018 pastoral letter “Open Wide Our Hearts: The Enduring Call to Love, A Pastoral Letter Against Racism,” the children’s book Everyone Belongs allows young readers to reflect on the impact of racism in our society. The book helps readers see racism through the lens of history and faith, and teaches them how to engage in respect, understanding,

and friendship. Bishop Shelton J. Fabre of Houma-Thibodaux, and chairman of the USCCB’s Ad Hoc Committee Against Racism, who oversaw the production of the book, said, “It is my hope that Everyone Belongs will help families, schools, and parishes engage in conversation and reflection about the dignity of every person made in God’s image.” Everyone Belongs may be purchased online at LoyolaPress.com/EveryoneBelongs. Additional education and prayer resources to accompany the bishops’ pastoral letter on racism may be found at usccb.org/racism.

Bishop says he asked pope about McCarrick report

VATICAN CITY (CNS)—Bishop Joseph E. Strickland of Tyler, Texas, said he asked Pope Francis about the Vatican investigation into Theodore E. McCarrick and the release of a promised report on how the former cardinal managed to rise through the church ranks. The bishop, who was making his “ad limina” visit to Rome, drew widespread attention in August 2018 for a public statement saying he found “credible” the allegations made by retired Archbishop Carlo Maria Vigano, the former nuncio to the United States, regarding McCarrick. Archbishop Vigano alleged that top Vatican officials, including Pope Francis, knew for years that McCarrick had been accused of sexual misconduct. “Pope Francis was great” in answering all the questions of the bishops of Texas, Oklahoma and Arkansas during an audience Jan. 20, Bishop Strickland told Catholic News Service the next day. But the pope did ask the bishops not to share certain details about the discussion.

Peace of mind

*Be confident in the
protection you provide
for your family.
Be confident
in their future.*



Michael Muniz, FIC
361-648-2799
michael.muniz@kofc.org
Victoria, Edna



Rich Lesak, FICF, LUTCF
979-533-3169
rich.lesak@kofc.org
Wharton, East Bernard



Jody Supak, FIC
979-966-3140
jody.supak@kofc.org
La Grange, Flatonia



Dwain Dungen, FICF
979-732-1557
dwain.dungen@kofc.org
Columbus



Ryan Janak, FIC
832-693-3160
ryan.janak@kofc.org
Cuero, Yoakum



Glen Janow, FIC
832-971-2912
glen.janow@kofc.org
Eagle Lake



Jose Ugarte, III, FICF
936-714-3987
jose.ugarte@kofc.org
Wharton, El Campo



Philip Dornak, FIC
979-541-9267
philip.dornak@kofc.org
El Campo, Ganado



Larry 'Bear' Kana, FIC, LUTCF
979-877-5589
larry.kana@kofc.org
Weimar, Schulenburg



Mark Boenisch, FICF
979-758-4039
mark.boenish@kofc.org
Bay City, Palacios



This Could Be You!
Contact Tom for
Career Opportunities

LIFE INSURANCE • DISABILITY INCOME INSURANCE • LONG-TERM CARE INSURANCE • RETIREMENT ANNUITIES



TOM SUPAK AGENCY
Tom Supak
General Agent
979-968-9800
thomas.supak@kofc.org



Knights of Columbus®
INSURANCE
YOUR SHIELD FOR LIFE®



En esta foto de archivo de 2015, el gobernador de Texas Greg Abbott habla en Washington durante el Desayuno Nacional de Oración Católica. (Foto CNS-Tyler Orsburn)

Líderes Católicos de Texas se Oponen de Rechazar a Nuevos Refugiados

Por Carol Zimmermann
Catholic News Service

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Algunos líderes católicos de Texas se apresuraron a tomar posición en contra de un anuncio del gobernador de Texas Greg Abbott del 10 de enero que afirma que el estado ya no ayudará a asentar a refugiados.

La decisión del gobernador, que se anunció en una carta al secretario de estado, Mike Pompeo, convierte a Texas en el primer estado en rechazar el asentamiento de refugiados después de la orden ejecutiva del año pasado del presidente Donald Trump que pedía a los gobernadores que declarasen públicamente si iban a aceptar a refugiados después de junio del 2020.

Hasta la fecha, los gobernadores de 42 estados han dicho que aceptarán a más refugiados. Los gobernadores de los cinco restantes estados que aceptan a refugiados: Alabama, Georgia, Florida, Mississippi y Carolina del Sur, todavía no han respondido a la fecha límite del 21 de enero.

Los obispos de Texas respondieron individualmente en Twitter a la decisión del gobernador exhortándole a reconsiderar. En una declaración del 10 de enero, la Conferencia Católica de Texas, el brazo de política pública de los obispos del estado dijo que la resolución de “rechazar a refugiados del gran estado de Texas” era “profundamente desalentadora y descorazonadora”.

La conferencia dijo que “respeta al gobernador” pero dijo que su decisión en este caso “simplemente está mal orientada” porque “niega la oportunidad de poder traer sus dones

y talentos a nuestro estado y contribuir al bien común de todos los texanos, a personas que escapan de la persecución, incluyendo la persecución religiosa”.

En su carta a Pompeo, Abbott, que es católico, enfatizó el trabajo desarrollado por Texas en la acogida de refugiados, diciendo que desde el año fiscal 2010, “se han recibido en Texas a más refugiados que en cualquier otro estado”.

“Texas ha superado lo que le correspondería en la asistencia al proceso de establecimiento de los refugiados y aprecia el que otros estados estén dispuestos a ayudar en estos esfuerzos”, dijo la carta.

Ashley Feasley, directora de política de Servicios de Migración y Refugiados de la Conferencia de Obispos Católicos de Estados Unidos, le dijo a Catholic News Service que la decisión de Abbott es “muy grave” porque el estado ha establecido a un 10% de los refugiados en los Estados Unidos en los últimos 10 años.

Dijo que esta decisión no significa que los refugiados no puedan llegar al estado, sino que no se pueden asentar ahí. Esta decisión, dijo, es problemática. Para empezar, un 80% de los casos de refugiados están identificados como “de paso a unirse” lo cual quiere decir que estos refugiados, cuyos casos ya se han cribado, tratan de unirse a un miembro de la familia o amigo en la comunidad.

El permitirles establecerse con personas a las que ya conocen es una solicitud que las agencias de establecimiento tratan de respetar, dijo, porque ayuda con la adaptación.

Papa pide enseñar discernimiento, incluso sobre cuestiones políticas

Por Catholic News Service

CIUDAD DEL VATICANO (CNS) — A veces las elecciones políticas que encara el pueblo pueden parecer como una elección entre apoyar a “una serpiente” o apoyar a “un dragón”, pero el papa Francisco le dijo a un grupo de obispos de EE.UU. que su labor es apartarse de la política partidista y ayudar a su feligresía a discernir basándose en los valores, según el cardenal Daniel N. DiNardo de Galveston-Houston.

Al reunirse el 20 de enero con los obispos de Texas, Oklahoma y Arkansas, el papa Francisco mencionó cómo, en una elección, “a veces uno parece estar atrapado, sabes, ¿vas a votar en un sentido por una serpiente o vas a votar por un dragón?”, dijo el cardenal DiNardo.

El consejo del papa a los obispos fue “enseñale a tu pueblo el discernimiento haciéndote a un lado de las políticas llenas de esto” y concéntrate en los valores que están en juego, dijo el cardenal DiNardo a Catholic News Service (CNS). Si tratas de apartarte y decir “pero aquí están los principales asuntos morales que enfrentamos”, eso es lo más importante dijo.

Los 26 obispos de la región, incluyendo a los obispos auxiliares y jubilados, pasaron aproximadamente dos horas y media conversando con el papa Francisco en inglés y español. El pontífice respondía en italiano, de modo que su asistente podía traducir sus

respuestas al inglés.

La temática fue amplia e incluyó la crisis de abuso sexual por parte del clero, inmigración, los retos de una cultura impregnada por los medios y la formación de conciencias cristianas, especialmente en un momento de profundas divisiones políticas.

El obispo Daniel E. Flores de Brownsville, Texas, una de las cuatro diócesis de Texas que hacen frontera con México, dijo que todos estos temas son importantes, pero para él la clave es escuchar al papa, que se le escuche y ser escuchado por él.

Al citar “la gran cantidad de temas” que ellos debatieron con el papa Francisco, el obispo Edward J. Burns de Dallas dijo: “Realmente tengo ganas de sentarme, digerir, reflexionar y rezar sobre la conversación que tuvimos esta mañana con el sucesor de san Pedro”.

“Fue emocionante. Fue espectacular”, dijo.

El papa Francisco está atento y conoce los retos pastorales planteados por las redes sociales modernas y su presencia dominante en la vida de mucha gente, dijo el obispo Flores, quien usa Twitter diariamente. Pero el papa tiene “serenidad” en cuanto cómo se debe afrontar, principalmente asegurando que los obispos permanezcan fieles a su identidad como pastores, proclamando el Evangelio y alentando a las personas a actuar acorde al mismo.



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.



EVENTS

The Catholic Lighthouse
Page 15 — February 2020

Meals • Picnics and More

February

El Campo – Patricia Talbot to speak on a call to true conversion at St. Robert Bellarmine on Feb. 2, immediately after the 11 a.m. Mass.

Eagle Lake – Patricia Talbot to speak on a call to true conversion at Parish of the Nativity on Feb. 2, following 5:30 p.m. Mass.

ACTS Retreats – Anyone needing any information regarding ACTS Retreats in the diocese should e-mail dovactschapter@victoriadiocese.org.

Bloomington – Knights of Columbus #10751 Annual Super Bowl Sunday BBQ, Feb. 2. Whole chickens for \$10 each or chicken plates with dessert for \$10 per person at the parish hall. Curbside service begins at 9 a.m. Call ahead for orders at 361-897-1398.

Mentz – St. Roch Turkey Dinner Feb. 2, serving begins at 11 a.m. at \$10 p/p at the parish hall. There will be a dessert auction and a silent auction that day.

Victoria – St. Mary's Parish Festival Feb. 9 serving BBQ Brisket and Sausage dinner at the Community Center. For more information see ad on page 5 for more information.

Victoria – Holy Family Altar Society Lenten mini-retreat, Saturday, Feb. 15. Beginning with 8 a.m. in the main church, followed by the retreat, led by Father Christopher Fuchs, in the Activity Center. Men and women are welcome. There is no fee. A light breakfast and lunch will be served. Call and sign-up with Betty at 361-550-0064, or Millie at 361-652-5630 or 361-576-6508, to ensure enough food is prepared.

Shiner – “An Evening Under the Stars” gala to benefit the Religious Education Endowment Fund, hosted by Sts. Cyril & Methodius Church Feb. 15 at the KC Hall. Evening begins at 6 p.m. with dinner at 7 and dance, featuring Mama Tried, at 9. Cost is \$175 per couple and \$100 for individuals. For tickets or sponsor information, call Carol Voelkel at 281-450-8324, or the parish office at 361-594-3836.

Wharton – The C.D.A. Court #1990, Our Lady Queen Of The Clergy will be having a fundraiser on Feb. 22, including a MARDI-GRAS dance (music by Legacy), cake auction, silent auction and a raffle to be given away at the dance. It will be held at the Hungerford Community Center in Hungerford. Tickets are \$10 single and \$15 per couple. Everyone is welcome to attend. For more call 979-532-1466.

Moulton – St. Joseph's Altar Society's Annual Chicken Noodle Soup Dinner and Drawing, beginning at 10 a.m. Feb. 23 at the Parish Hall. Includes soup, chicken salad sandwiches, dessert, tea and coffee. Soup to go is available; bring your own container. For information, call Gussie Machalec, 361-596-4034.

Victoria – Knights of Columbus Council #9088 Holy Family, Annual Fat Tuesday Dinner, Feb. 25, starting at 4:30 p.m. at Holy Family Activity Center. The menu includes fried chicken/fried steak plates for \$10. Also featuring seafood gumbo, chicken and sausage and Otto's bread pudding. Dine in or take out.

March

Port Lavaca – Our Lady of the Gulf Altar Society hosting a Women's Lenten Retreat March 7 at St. Jude Hall, starting with 9 a.m. Mass at the church. Father Max Landman will give the retreat on “The music of Lent and the purification of our hearts.” Lunch included for \$10 per person. For information, call Rosy Weaver, 361-482-8030.

Blessing – Knights of Columbus Council #4307 shrimp etouffe and gumbo meal on March 8. For more information see ad on page 8.

Victoria – “Get in the Game” Men's Gathering sponsored by the Diocese of Victoria, March 21 from 8 a.m. to noon, at the Our Lady of Victory Cathedral Center, 109 E. Mesquite. Featuring Mass with Bishop Brendan Cahill and guest speaker Damon West. Breakfast is included. Tickets are \$10. Funds raised above covering the cost of the event will be donated to a local charity. Register at www.victoriadiocese.org/get-in-the-game. Walk-ins also welcome. For information, call Justin Reyes, Director of Family Evangelization at 361-573-0828, Ext. 2265 or e-mail jreyes@victoriadiocese.org.

Ministries • Ongoing Activities

Catholic Family Services – To find Catholic organizations that focus on family, visit the Catholic Association of Catholic Family Life Ministers at <http://www.nacflm.org>.

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

Crisis Pregnancy Center of Victoria – A sister organization to the Gabriel Project 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 1-4 p.m. on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays. Free pregnancy tests offered and medical referrals are made for prenatal care. New volunteers are welcome. For 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 if requested. To make an appointment, call 361-212-0830. For information, see Page 10.

Engaged Encounter 2020 Dates – April 17-19, June 5-7, Sept. 18-20, and Nov. 13-15. Registration is on a first-come, first-served basis. Fee must accompany registration form. For information, call 361-573-0828 or visit www.victoriadiocese.org.

Gabriel Project – Helps women experiencing a crisis pregnancy as an alternative to abortion. Victoria: Meetings are the second 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; DeWitt County: Meetings are the third Monday of each month during the school year at 5:30 p.m. at the Yorktown Public Library, 103 W. Main St. Coordinators for DeWitt Chapter are Wayne and Margie Smith 361-491-0067; Lavaca County: Meets 6 p.m. (during the school year), contact Julie Kubena Lavaca County Coordinator at 361-798-3579 for dates and location. See ad, Page 14.

Grief Ministry – An ongoing Grief Group meets at the Holy Family Church conference room in Victoria at 7 p.m., on the first and third Thursdays each month. Adults who have experienced the death of a loved one may attend (after three months have passed). Call Sharon at 361-578-7572 before attending.

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

Incarnate Word Prayer Group – Praise and worship 7:30-9 p.m. Mondays in the auditorium at Incarnate Word Convent, 1101 N.E. Water St. For 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 information, contact Jennifer Ruiz at book.leslie@gmail.com or visit their Facebook page at www.facebook.com/Mothersofgraceolv/.

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

Raphael's Refuge – 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 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; or call 800-470-2230; or visit www.helpourmarriage.org or www.retrouvaille.org.

Amor Meus

Contact: Sr. Digna Vela or Sr. Emilie Eilers
(361) 575-7111 / e-mail: amormeus@yahoo.com
Web site: www.amormeusspiritualitycenter.org
IWBS Convent • 1101 NE Water St. • Victoria

See page 10 for Amor Meus Events for February.

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.

Pilgrimages

For more pilgrimages, see Journeys of Faith with Ceci on pg. 10 and Passion Play Pilgrimage on pg. 5.

SAVE THE DATE!
5th Annual Gulf Coast
Catholic Men's Conference



Saturday - February 29, 2020

To get more information, purchase a ticket, or become a sponsor go to www.gc-cmc.org or email gccmc411@gmail.com



Bishops’ visit to Rome renews sense of unity, mission, archbishop says

Continued from page 1

293,729. The Diocese of Victoria, formed in 1982, encompasses 9,606 square miles that include Victoria, Lavaca, DeWitt, Jackson and Calhoun counties as well as parts of Colorado, Fayette, Matagorda and Wharton counties.

There are 50 parishes, 17 mission churches and 15 Catholic schools serving the diocese.

Although the population has grown, the report shows that, in the same time period, there have been fewer infant baptisms (from 1,241 to 1,044); adult baptisms (from 83 to 73); First Holy Communions (from 1,405 to 1,108); confirmations (from 1,019 to 866); and canonically celebrated marriages (286 to 256).

Also, the report indicates that less than half of the Catholics in the diocese attend Mass on a weekly basis, but that our average attendance is higher than the national percentage.

The number of catechists has grown over the last five years from 1,357 in January of 2014 to 1,534 in May 2019 as the Diocese of Victoria is putting a great effort on evangelization and family ministries, instituting new ways to reach people in different walks of life who want to learn more about their Catholic faith.

One example is the Office of Family

Evangelization, formed last October to collaborate with parishes in creating more opportunities to strengthen marriages and make the family the “domestic church.” The programs are varied and minister to men’s groups, women’s groups and the family as a whole.

Also highlighted is the diocese’s commitment to the mental and spiritual well-being, exemplified by its sponsorship of The Emmaus Center, which provides professional counseling and spiritual direction for those who need it. Once it was discovered that there were a large number of children needing counseling the center employed a counselor who also is an expert in play therapy.

The report also indicates the diocese has made strides in reaching Catholic Spanish-speaking immigrants by providing more bilingual clergy and having formation programs in Spanish to help in their ongoing spiritual formation.

Besides evangelization and family life, the report shows that they are focused on efforts to recruit new priests and protect human dignity.

Overall, according to the report, the diocese is healthy and sound with many talented and capable people leading its offices. And, a rural diocese, it enjoys a



Pope Francis greets Bishop Brendan J. Cahill of Victoria, Texas, during a meeting with U.S. bishops from Arkansas, Oklahoma and Texas during their “ad limina” visits to the Vatican Jan. 20. The bishops were making their “ad limina” visits to report on the status of their dioceses to the pope and Vatican officials. (CNS photo/Vatican Media)

special closeness with its members. The report summary states, “The Diocese of Victoria in Texas stands ready to continue our commitment, which we made in 1982 when we were erected as a diocese, to further the Kingdom of God and to proclaim the

Good News of Jesus Christ entrusted to us in this portion of God’s Church.”

— Carol Glatz, of Catholic News Service, and Janet Jones of The Catholic Lighthouse contributed to this story.

Questions and Answers about Lent and Lenten Practices

From the USCCB

Q. Why do we say that there are forty days of Lent? When you count all the days from Ash Wednesday through Holy Saturday, there are 46.

A. It might be more accurate to say that there is the “forty day fast within Lent.” Historically, Lent has varied from a week to three weeks to the present configuration of 46 days. The forty day fast, however, has been more stable. The Sundays of Lent are certainly part of the time of Lent, but they are not prescribed days of fast and abstinence.

Q. So does that mean that when we give something up for Lent, such as candy, we can have it on Sundays?

A. Apart from the prescribed days of fast and abstinence on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday, and the days of abstinence every Friday of Lent, Catholics have traditionally chosen additional penitential practices for the whole time of Lent. These practices are

disciplinary in nature and often more effective if they are continuous, i.e., kept on Sundays as well. That being said, such practices are not regulated by the Church, but by individual conscience.

Q. I’ve noticed that restaurants and grocery stores advertise specials on expensive types of fish and seafood on Fridays during Lent. Some of my Catholic friends take advantage of these deals, but somehow I don’t feel right treating myself to the lobster special on Fridays during Lent.

A. While fish, lobster and other shellfish are not considered meat and can be consumed on days of abstinence, indulging in the lavish buffet at your favorite seafood place sort of misses the point. Abstaining from meat and other indulgences during Lent is a penitential practice. On the Fridays of Lent, we remember the sacrifice of Christ on Good Friday and unite ourselves with that sacrifice through abstinence and prayer.

CRS Rice Bowl is Catholic Relief Services’ Lenten faith-in-action program. It offers opportunities for your family to engage daily with the spiritual pillars of Lent: prayer, fasting and almsgiving. It is an opportunity for us as a parish/school to come together as a community and reflect on what it means to live out our Gospel call; to go out and encounter those most in need.

Lent Begins February 26

Fasting and Abstinence

When do I ...?

Fast and Abstain:
Ash Wednesday and Good Friday

Abstain:
All Fridays during Lent

What is ...?

Fast: eating one full meal, as well as two small meals that together are not equal to a full meal

Abstinence: refrain from eating meat

Who has to ...?

Fast: Catholics who are 18 years of age, but not yet 59, are obliged

Abstain: observed by all Catholics 14 years-old and older

Note: Persons that are exempt from fasting include: the physically or mentally ill, individuals with chronic illness, and those pregnant or nursing.

CRS RICE BOWL
CATHOLIC RELIEF SERVICES

All parishes take up a weekly Rice Bowl collection during Lent - all those collections go to Catholic Relief Services (CRS). People also may donate directly online at <https://www.crs.org/>.