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The Catholic Lighthouse

The Cradle of Texas Immigration



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OCTOBER 2020

Rosary Congress Oct. 7-11

By JANET JONES
The Catholic Lighthouse

The second Rosary Congress in the Diocese of Victoria begins with Mass on Sunday, Oct. 4, and ends on Sunday, Oct. 11.

The Rev. Tommy Chen, coordinator last year and this year, said, "The goal is that, during that period, somewhere in the diocese someone is adoring the Blessed Sacrament and praying the rosary at all times."

In coordinating with the parishes of the diocese, he said, that the hours are covered.

Father Chen said last year's Rosary Congress was very well received. "Some of my parishioners were so excited about it they wanted to do it again a few weeks later."

With its popularity, he said, it will most likely become an annual event.

An added element this year is the intro-

See Rosary Congress, pg. 14



BOUND BY FAITH

Catholic devotion a thread woven through family's life

By JANET JONES
The Catholic Lighthouse

SHINER – Jeremy and Karlie Rodriguez look forward to seeing what fruits the Year of the Family will produce in the Diocese of Victoria.

Already they are very intentional about their prayer life with their five children, Ezekiel, 13; Eden, 11; Emori, 9; Elijah, 8; and Ezra, 6.

The Rodriguezes' Sunday routine is a good example of what Year of the Family is all about.

On a typical Sunday morning they go to Mass at Sts. Cyril and Methodius. After Mass they head home and, after getting through the door, disappear into their rooms for a minute to put on comfy clothes and start preparing brunch. Everyone has some part to play, whether it's scrambling the eggs or putting plates on the table before sitting down for the blessing and the eating.

There's always something to do. All of the

Bound by faith pg. 20

One priest called to be special chaplain for COVID-19 patients

Father Felix is shown blessing a patient with COVID-19.



By JANET JONES
The Catholic Lighthouse

In July, the Rev. Felix Twumasi, associate pastor at St. Rose of Lima in Schulenburg, had a voice message from the Most Rev. Brendan J. Cahill asking if he would consider being a chaplain to serve the COVID-19 patients in the Victoria area hospitals.

Father Felix said he had mixed feelings at first. He explained that he had a joyful feeling to be called to serve in this capacity. "At the

same time, there was fear and panic," he said.

But he said yes, because he considered the priestly ministry a sacrifice. "What I said to myself is, 'Someone must be with these patients.'"

Relatively young, fit and healthy, Father Felix, was a good choice to visit COVID-19 patients in the place of priests who are older and/or more susceptible to complications

See One priest called, pg. 18

*Father Felix
Twumasi*





Returning safely, joyfully to Sunday worship

EDITOR'S NOTE: This is the text of a letter Bishop Cahill published on Sept. 17 for the people of the Diocese of Victoria.

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

On September 3, Pope Francis approved a letter of encouragement for the universal Church to begin considering the return to Sunday worship. Cardinal Robert Sarah, the Prefect of the Congregation of Worship wrote the letter and titled it beautifully: "Let us return to the Eucharist with joy!" This letter reminded me that we are baptized members of the One, Holy, Catholic and Apostolic Church. The Holy Father, Pope Francis oversees the pastoral care of men and women across the whole world. The current pandemic remains global in scale, and each area continues to experience its effects in different ways.

In our area I issued strict guidelines for the re-opening of Churches on May 1. I need to be clear that in our area neither the Governor nor any state or local official mandated closing of Churches. They respected

A Shepherd's Message

By Bishop Brendan Cahill



our freedom of worship, and the decisions I made were based on consultations with local health officials, parishioners, pastors and other bishops. In consideration of the pandemic I offered a general dispensation from the obligation to participate in Sunday Mass, and extended this dispensation through September 30.

Effective October 1, the general dispensation will expire and the obligation to attend Sunday Mass will be restored. In this circumstance individuals have the capacity to make pastoral judgments about whether they can

fulfill the obligation. For example, persons most at risk of serious complications from respiratory illnesses or persons experiencing anxiety of being in an indoor crowd could prayerfully discern that they cannot fulfill the obligation. Some advice I often offer to people in these cases is to bring the issue to the priest in the Sacrament of Penance, and to trust in the healing mercy of God Who desires that each person share eternal life.

The letter I referenced above states:

"Aware that God never abandons the humanity He has created, and that even the

hardest trials can bear fruits of grace, we have accepted our distance from the Lord's altar as a time of eucharistic fasting, useful for us to rediscover its vital importance, beauty and immeasurable preciousness. As soon as possible, however, we must return to the Eucharist with a purified heart, with a renewed amazement, with an increased desire to meet the Lord, to be with him, to receive him and to bring him to our brothers and sisters with the witness of a life full of faith, love and hope."

Before September 23 I will be issuing new protocols for our parishes to follow in the coming months. May each of us in the Diocese of Victoria keep the whole world in our heart -- praying for health and healing, praying that we may never be found indifferent to the pain of others and praying for the salvation of all souls, "especially those in most need of God's mercy."

God bless you and your families; let's keep each other in prayer,

+Brendan

Dry holy water fonts are a powerful reminder of what is important

How many times lately have I stuck my hand in the font at the entrance of the church only to feel dry stone. The first time, I felt a little silly, but I'm not sure anyone noticed. And since then I have seen others do the exact same thing, then give a look that betrays what they are thinking: "Oh yeah, I forgot."

I miss having the holy water there. It took hitting the dry stone for me to realize how I've taken for granted the blessing in that habitual action.

Since this pandemic turned our lives upside down and, for a time, caused us to stay away from church, I have heard several people bring up the subject of holy water and how much they miss it and want it.

Bishop Cahill told me, "The holy water font is both a symbol of our connection with previous generations and a sign of every new gift of God as we bless ourselves. The sadness of not being able to fill our holy water fonts now could remind us of the pain and suffering that many people are still going through throughout the world."

And though we miss the communal water font, holy water has not gone away. Churches do keep holy water vessels in the vestibules to encourage people to take it for use in their homes. And Catholics also might ask their priest if he would bless water for them.

Look Up

By Janet Jones, Editor
The Catholic Lighthouse



Perhaps one of the positive consequences of this year has been to remind some of us to do something we should have been doing all along: keeping holy water in our homes. Now that I have some at home, I have blessed myself going to work, coming home from work, preparing for bedtime, and at other times when I need to feel at peace.

I looked up the history of the use of holy water and what the Bible has to say about it. I found some very heady articles about its use throughout the centuries. I even found a step-by-step article on how to make holy water on wikiHow. I also found a long entry from Catholic Encyclopedia about the history of the fonts or stoups – cultural influence, materials, shapes, purposes.

I have made the suggestion that we have automatic dispensers for hand sanitizer and maybe we could put holy water in one or two of those. Those who have to mop the



Bishop Brendan Cahill blesses water brought by employees of the chancery of the Diocese of Victoria who wanted to take holy water to their homes. (Photos by Janet Jones)

floors do not agree. I did see a reference to a church in Italy who used that method during the swine flu pandemic. I did not find out whether they repeated this for this year.

I never thought I would be looking so deeply into holy water, but 2020 has been

the year of the unexpected and rediscovering things that are dear to us.

• Janet Jones is Communications Director for the Diocese of Victoria and editor of the Catholic Lighthouse.



Bishop Cahill's Schedule

October		
2	1 p.m. Finance Board Meeting, Chancery 3 p.m. Holy Hour, Chancery	16 8:10 a.m. School Mass and Visit with Shiner Catholic School, Shiner
3	Mass with Carmelite Sisters, Meyersville	17 Mass with Carmelite Sisters, Meyersville Annual Catholic Conference; St. Joseph High School, Victoria/virtual
4	2 p.m. Confirmation Mass at St. Anthony, Palacios 6 p.m. Mass at the Cathedral of Our Lady of Victory for the opening of the Rosary Congress, Victoria	18 9 a.m. White Mass for Healthcare Workers at the Cathedral of Our Lady of Victory, Victoria
6	9 a.m. School Mass and visit at Holy Cross Catholic School, Bay City	18-19 Texas Conference of Catholic Bishops General Assembly, Austin
8	8:10 a.m. School Mass and Visit at St. Rose of Lima, Schulenberg	20 6:30 a.m. Call in to Relevant Radio 11 a.m. Catholic Rural Life Executive and Finance Committee meeting - virtual
9	Cahill Classic Golf Tournament, Tomball	21 Pro-Life Day of Prayer at Planned Parenthood, Houston 4 p.m. Building Board at the Chancery, Victoria
9-11	Texas State Council Knights of Columbus, Austin	23 8:05 a.m. School Mass and Visit with Our Lady of the Gulf Catholic School, Port Lavaca
11	10:30 a.m. Catholic Daughters of the Americas, Court St. Michael #559 Weimar 100-year celebration Mass, Weimar	24 Mass with Carmelite Sisters, Meyersville
12	2:30 p.m. Communities of Faith meeting	26 Apostleship of the Sea: Journeying Together meeting - virtual
13	Noon Webinar Conference for Catholic Prison Ministries Coalition	31 Mass with Carmelite Sisters, Meyersville
14	8:05 a.m. School Mass and Visit with Sacred Heart, Hallettsville	November
15	8:10 a.m. School Mass and Visit with Nazareth Academy, Victoria	1 3 p.m. & 6 p.m. Confirmation Masses at St. Philip the Apostle Church, El Campo
		2 5 p.m. Liturgical Commission meeting

In Memoriam

Sister Maria Estefana Robles, IWBS

Sister Maria Estefana Robles, 78, died Aug. 27, 2020. She was born Sept. 2, 1941 in Victoria, Texas to the late Antonio and Maria Guadalupe Aguirre Rivera. She comes from a family of two girls and one boy.

Sister completed her elementary education at Juan Linn School and graduated from Nazareth Academy in Victoria. When she was in junior high, she began hearing the call to religious life and put it all in God's hands. After graduation, there was another call; she married Manuel Robles in 1960. They were blessed with four children: Irma, James, Manuel Jr., and Martha. When her husband died, after 31 years of a happy marriage, she again began to hear the call to religious life and three years later she entered Incarnate Word Convent on Feb. 2, 1995 and made her first profession of vows on Dec. 21, 1997.

As a mother, Sister Maria Estefana was deeply bonded with her family, especially the little ones, and she missed them dearly after she entered the convent. Her family continued to be a large part of her life and she continued to be an important role model to them. She had six grandchildren and one great-grandchild.



Sister Maria Estefana Robles, IWBS

When her youngest child began school, she began work with the Victoria School District driving a school bus for disabled children.

She loved to work with young children and their families. To further develop her gifts and talents, she received Child Development Associate Credentials from Palo Alto College in San Antonio, Training Certification from the Texas Association of Young Children in Dallas, Certification of Training from Texas Early Care and Education Career Development, as well as training at the Parents' Academy "Precious Minds," and Child Guidance Certification at St. Philip's College in San Antonio and the Nazareth Academy Day Care Center in Victoria.

During her 23 years as a professed sister, her ministries were at the Child Development Center at Blessed Sacrament Academy in San Antonio and the Nazareth Academy Day Care Center in Victoria. Her last ministries were in the IWC Gift Shop and Health Care ministry at Incarnate Word Convent.

She is preceded in death by her parents; her husband, Manuel Robles; her brother, Luesiano Rivera; her daughter, Irma, and her sons, Manuel and James. She is survived by her sister, Angelita Rivera, her daughter, Martha; daughter-in-law, Rosemary Robles; grandchildren, Amanda Rodriguez, Ruben Rodriguez, Angelina (Angie) Cruz, James Robles, Jr., Vincent Robles, and David Robles; and six great-grandchildren.

Private funeral services were held on Tuesday, Sept. 1 at Incarnate Word Convent followed by burial at Catholic Cemetery #3. Memorials may be made to Incarnate Word Convent or donor's choice.

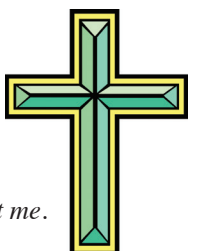
Please remember in prayer the priests of the Diocese of Victoria, who were ordained during the month of October:

Rev. John Affum	10/26/1996	Sacred Heart, Hallettsville
Rev. Frank B. Lenz	10/29/1994	Retired

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

Rev. Charles Carolan	10/09/2009
Rev. Joseph Vrana	10/10/2016
Rev. Msgr. Julius Petru	10/15/2001
Rev. Joseph Pham duc Trinh	10/16/2007

*Even though I walk through the darkest valley,
I fear no evil for you are with me your rod and your staff, they comfort me.
Psalms 23:4*



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





Education of Seminarian Fund

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

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

Lector

Paz & Andrea Morales
in Memory of Father Dan Morales

Mike & Mary Riha
in Honor of Rev. Daniel P. Kahlich's Retirement

Raymond & Viola Saenz
Margaret S. Beekler
in Memory of Daniel Jalufka

Acolyte

Lillian Kallus
in Honor of Rev. Daniel P. Kahlich's Retirement

Richard & Alice Cernosek
in Honor of Bishop Emeritus David Fellhauer's Birthday

Knights of Columbus #1329
in Memory of Jose M. Gonzles & Willie Joe Etlinger

Candidate

Transitional Deacon

Priest

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

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Coming October 17 To A Place Near You
For more information go to: www.victoriadiocese.org/xxix-annual-conference-of-catechesis-ministry

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 >.**

September 18, 2020

• CDA Court Our Lady Queen of Clergy
#1990 Seminary Burse

Lector

In memory of Janie Munoz, Past Regent
Court #1990 by:
Mrs. Rose Garcia and Family
Daniel Bubela and Savanna Bubela
Larry and Janet Bubela
Fred and Cynthia Ivy

Candidate

In memory of Janie Munoz, Past Regent
Court #1990 by:
Frank and Liz Reyes
Mary Ann Krenek
Gary & Karen Ryman, Matt & Lisa Steiner & Family

• Rev. Wayne Flagg Seminary Burse

Lector

In honor of Rev. Wayne Flagg on his birthday, (Oct. 30) by Mary Ann Henneke

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

Lector

In honor of Rev. James Michael Dvorak by Bill and Carolyn Schuette

• Rev. Scott Hill Seminary Burse

Acolyte

In memory of Mary Roeder Triska by Daryl and Joan Hill

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

Lector

In memory of Frances Hanslik by:
Robert and Florence Sciba
Harvey and Connie Steffek
In honor of Rev. Msgr. John C. Peters on his birthday, (Oct. 14) by Mary Ann Henneke
In memory of Ludwig Janak by Robert and Florence Sciba

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

Lector

In memory of Bernice Pauler by Donald and Karen Kutac

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

Acolyte

In memory of Rev. Dan Morales by CDA Court St. Roch of Mentz, #2328

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

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“How precious is the family, as the privileged place for transmitting the faith!”
~ Pope Francis

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Happy Birthday to
Our Seminarian

Shane Goertz this year is in Theology I at St. Mary's Seminary in Houston. Shane's hometown is Spring Prairie. His birthday is Oct. 28. Write to Shane at: St. Mary's Seminary, 9845 Memorial Dr, Houston TX 77024.



“Follow me and I will make you fishers of men.”

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Roles of husband, wife cannot be taken lightly

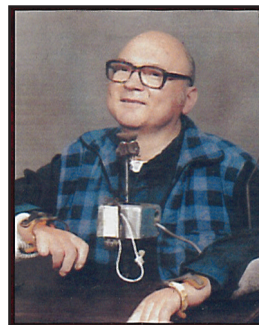
EDITOR'S NOTE: Father Kram wrote the following sermon was written for the 27th Sunday in Ordinary Time, Cycle B. Father Kram titled it, "Lasting Faithfulness."

A girl I knew once phoned me and said, "My friend from Houston is coming to Yoakum with her boyfriend, and they want to know whether you could simply meet in the chapel and marry them with a quick little ceremony and send them on their honeymoon – so they can avoid all the red tape that goes with marriage preparation."

Of course I had to tell her no, and that I had to go by the same rules that other priests go by.

Indeed, many modern people take marriage much too lightly. As a result, so many young men and women are between marriages, often with young children to support.

The popular TV serials regularly feature husbands and wives cheating on each other and the breakup of marriage and the family. I once heard the Hollywood version of "The Three Bears:" There was a Papa Bear and a



1929-2000

Father Charles Kram Corner

The sudden responsibility of marriage, without maturity, is often fatal to its success.

Mama Bear and a Baby Bear by a previous marriage.

An actress made up her own marriage vows and in them she included the phrase, "If it works," but the judge who was to officiate at the ceremony could not allow this because, even under civil law, marriage is by its very nature permanent, not conditional or

"til argument do us part."

Counselors say that among the main reasons for the breakup of young marriages are money and immaturity. This is not hard to understand, seeing that this is the first generation of young adults whose parents were able to give their children so much – comfortable homes, adequate spending money, a car. The sudden responsibility of marriage, without maturity, is often fatal to its success.

And then there is the Women's Lib(eration) Movement. There is no doubt that the rights of women should be recognized and protected and promoted, but not to the point of trying to erase the distinction between man and woman as the hardcore women's libbers are trying to do. They do not want the responsibilities of motherhood or family life as we know it, and want children to be raised in communes. One author has said that the hardcore women's libber is driven by a deep hatred of the fact of being born a woman.

Yet families are the building blocks of the nation. As goes the family so goes the nation. If family life is to be possible, husband and wife must life in a secure union.

Besides, children follow the life patterns of their parents. Alcoholics spawn alcoholics, child abusers beget child abusers, and divorcees propagate divorcees.

So we must do all we can to promote strong marriages and strong family life. But what can we do as individuals?

Parents can try very hard to bring up their children in virtue and obedience – by constant good example, by praying together regularly, by taking them to religious instruction and to church, by listening to them and supervising them and, sometimes, spanking them.

A TV announcer used to ask, "Do you know where your children are?" Children should be accountable to their parents.

Men can practice courtesy to women – tip their hats, open doors for them, say, "Ladies first."

Women can behave and dress in ways that preserve their femininity – no coarse language and rough manners and insisting on dutch treat.

Those who are getting married should act cautiously, choose carefully, prepare thoroughly.

Lastly, we can all promote respect for life – that of the unborn and of the elderly as well as our own. For, without life, all other human values become meaningless.

Lord Jesus, Thank you for teaching us the value of keeping our commitments strong. Help us each to do our part in supporting and building respect for every fellow human being. Grant that the successes and failures of others may help guide us in our own (endeavors). Amen.



Covering our law enforcement in prayer

Bishop Brendan Cahill, chaplain for the Knights of Columbus Texas State Council, wears a wristband for the KC's "Shield a Badge" (in prayer) program. The initiative asks knights to pray for a specific police officer each day -- for safety, good judgment and a safe return home. Bishop Cahill celebrated the first Blue Mass, a special mass in honor of public safety officers, in the Diocese of Victoria on Sept. 29, the Feast Day of St. Michael the Archangel, at the Cathedral of Our Lady of Victory in Victoria. Bishop Cahill said he wants to make it an annual observance. (Photo by Janet Jones)

St. Theresa, LaSalle Annual Picnic • Sunday, October 18 at the Parish Hall

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Turkey and Dressing Dinner
11am-1pm @ \$10 p/p
(Catered by Robert Werner)

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in the drive-thru lane**





Beautiful combination of events is also very timely

Here we are in the Year of the Family and also in what is traditionally the Month of the Rosary. What a beautiful combination.

Since we are all praying for relief during the ongoing pandemic, this would be a wonderful time to place renewed emphasis on continuing the tradition of the family rosary.

You already may be praying the rosary together as a family; if not, you might want to initiate this family-uniting activity now. I remember how important the family rosary was as we were growing up. In the evening, after supper and a period of time for homework, we'd always have a family discussion about whether we'd pray first or wait until after the boys got back from a brief hunt at night in the woods. The time was negotiable; however, we all knew that praying together was important.

On the other hand, we all know that prayer is only part of the equation. After God had created the world and the creatures on it, God gave dominion of creation to Adam and Eve and therefore to all of us. We are all responsible for taking care of and promoting the well being of creation.

Pope Francis reiterates this message in his encyclical *Laudate Si*: "The common

Sisterly Thoughts

By Sister Mildred Truchard, IWBS



good *requires everyone's participation*. If everyone contributes his or her part, and if no one is left out, we can regenerate good relationships on the communitarian, national and international level and even in harmony with the environment."

This general statement is applicable in our current situation. While we all pray for the diminishment of COVID-19, we also help bring about this result by continuing to follow guidelines that limit the spread of the virus. It's working. The daily "new case" count in our area is decreasing – thanks to God and to everyone's participation in efforts to decrease the rate of infection.

Thank you.



Generosity not canceled

John McQuillen of the Knights of St. Gregory presents the Most Rev. Brendan J. Cahill with a check for \$14,295. The Knights of St. Gregory host an annual charity banquet to raise funds for the Diocese of Victoria. This year the event was canceled, but letters were sent out asking would-be attendees if they wanted to simply contribute what they might have if they were attending. And they did.



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Understanding the Bible – An Overview

Scriptures reveal God's covenant with man and its fulfillment

BY PAUL BARRETT

Special to the Lighthouse

This basic overview of the Bible is written for every Catholic who struggles to understand the purpose, meaning and significance of Sacred Scripture as relates to their personal life and spiritual journey.

"It is in the pages of the Bible that God comes lovingly to speak to His children. It is in the study of the Bible that His children seek to understand His message of love and concern." - Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger (Pope Benedict XVI)

The Biblical Canon of Sacred Scripture are those ancient texts considered by Jewish rabbinical scholars (Hebrew Bible – Old Testament) and Christian Church scholars (New Testament) to be the authoritative, divinely inspired Word of God. This inspired Word of God allows man a micro-glimpse into the mind of God -- His commands, His thoughts, His love and concerns. Like a crystal prism which breaks down sunlight into a spectrum of colors, God utilized the inspired intellect of many authors to present the full spectrum of His intentions, expectations, signs, mysteries and wonders, written in human language for all to read and understand.

God's unprecedented credentials as the author of these sacred books are presented in the opening words of Genesis 1:1, "In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth." This pronouncement reveals God as the divine author of these sacred writings and as Creator, His power, authority and intellectual capabilities are beyond man's comprehension.

The Biblical Canon of Sacred Scripture is divided into two major "libraries" of books, which are identified as the Jewish Old Testament and the Christian New Testament. The Old Testament (Septuagint version-Greek) consists of 46 books, from Genesis to Malachi, that unveil and reveal God's covenant plan of salvation for man. The New Testament consists of 27 books, from Matthew to Revelation, that reveal the birth, ministry, life, death and resurrection of Jesus, the Messiah promised by God in the Old Testament.

This combined collection of 73 sacred books was written by different men in different places and at different times over a time period of about 1,500 years. Their collective authorship produced this library of God-inspired sacred writings that flow through the Bible like streams of living water converging into a mighty river of divine communications, covenant promises and salvation -- a powerful, surging river, driven by God's love, goodness, glory and righteousness, which flows out of

the Jewish OT into the NT covenant of atoning salvation through the blood of Jesus.

The God-inspired authors of the Jewish OT collectively present three unified, consistent core themes which are rhetorically woven

Israel and the genealogical bloodline of Jesus are all intertwined elements of the Bible's salvation theme. Within its sacred writings of both the OT and NT, the Bible reveals the dynamics of God's personal covenant rela-

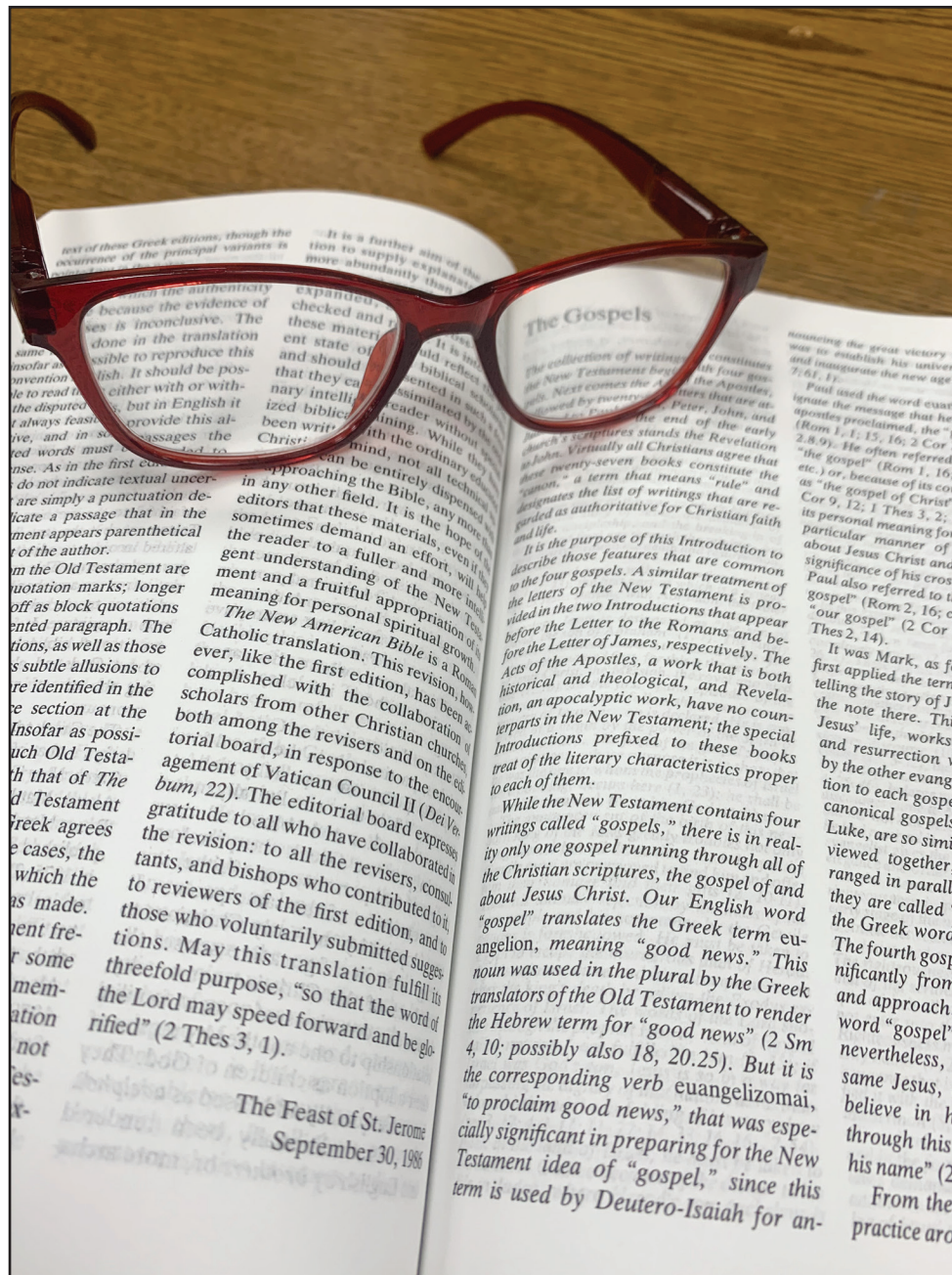
is revealed in such well known Bible verses as John 3:16-17, 2 Cor 5:21 and 1 Tim 2:3-6 where the blood, death and resurrection of Jesus, the atoning lamb of God, brings man into justification thereby fulfilling God's salvation solution for the sins of man.

God's ultimate blessing in this highly detailed covenant relationship with Israel is personified in His gift of forgiveness to sinful man through the Messiah. As God's divine agent of change in converting all that had been promised into all that was to be fulfilled, Jesus is man's ultimate covenant gift out of the bountifulness of God's love and blessing.

It is through these Sacred Scriptures that we are able to understand the primary purpose of the Bible which is God's plan for man's spiritual salvation and deliverance from sin. We should consider all Sacred Scripture, both testaments, as God's "divine plans and specifications" for man's spiritual welfare. God's salvation message as presented in Sacred Scripture is available for all mankind to accept or to reject.

Luke 24:30-32 states, "When he was at the table with them, he took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to them. Then their eyes were opened, and they recognized him; and he vanished from their sight. They said to each other, 'Were not our hearts burning within us while he was talking to us on the road, while he was opening the scriptures to us?'"

• Paul Barrett is the RCIA director for St. Philip the Apostle Church in El Campo and a member of the Catholic Writers Guild.



within these Sacred Scriptures, like three great golden threads, identified as follows: 1. God's salvation plan for sinful man; 2. God's personal covenant relationship with Abraham and his descendants "Israel" (God's chosen, the twelve tribes of Jacob/Israel); and, 3. The genealogical bloodline of Jesus.

The Bible describes man's fall, God's plan for man's redemption and God's implementation of that plan through His Son, Jesus. God's covenant relationship with the children of

tionship with mankind in three general parts:

- The first part of the relationship begins in the Book of Genesis when man's disobedience alters his relationship with God resulting in expulsion from the Garden of Eden. (Gen 3:17-27)

- The second part in this relationship is God's plan for man's redemption as outlined in numerous passages similar to Isaiah 53:6-7 referred to as "messianic prophesies."

- The third part of the relationship

Presidio La Bahia

For 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.





KJZT Family Life gives more than \$90,000 to Texas Catholic churches

Contributed Story

In response to the financial impact COVID-19 had on Catholic Churches during the Easter Season, along with festival season, KJZT Family Life donated over \$90,000 to parishes across Texas, including local societies donations of \$14,750.

Without spring picnics and fall bazaars, Catholic churches found themselves without the funds these events bring in every year. Limited attendance at Masses since March resulted in low collection amounts as well.

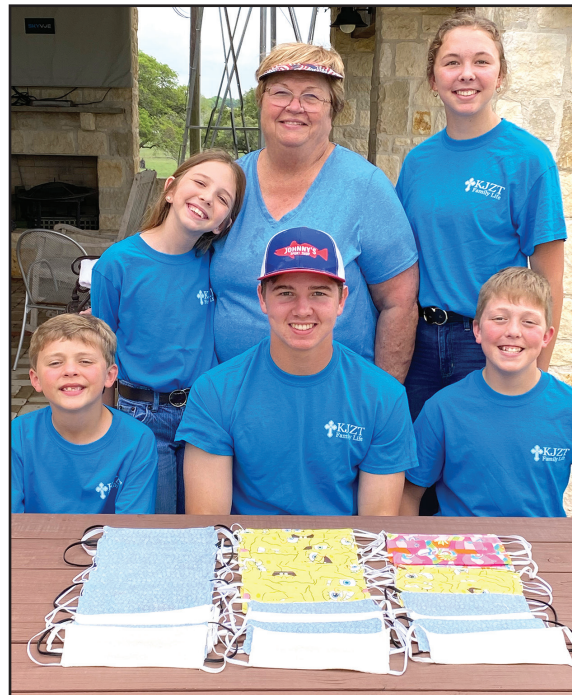
Seeing the dire situation Catholic churches were facing, KJZT Family Life decided to donate to parishes across Texas in an effort to help all those suffering with financial losses and stress.

Local society members have also been making an effort to contribute to their communities from a "social distance." They have donated to food pantries and food delivery programs and held "bake-less bake sales" to raise money for parish and community projects. They have made monetary and in-kind donations to nursing homes and women's centers.

Through their Color to Comfort program, junior members have colored more than 100 pictures with well wishes to mail to older members of their society. Members are providing food to first responders, sewing facemasks for hospital workers, and donating hand sanitizer and cleaning supplies to churches. They have even bottled and handed out holy water to fellow parishioners.

KJZT Family Life has a custom prayer card made with, "A Prayer to End COVID-19" written by the Very Rev. Gary Janak, KJZT state chaplain, and societies have been sharing the cards within their communities.

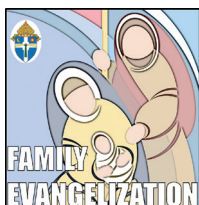
KJZT Family Life is a fraternal benefit society founded in 1894 by Czech Catholic women. In 2019, they celebrated their 125th anniversary. Their web site is www.kjzt.org.



KJZT Society No. 14 Moulton Juniors with the face masks they made and donated to Lavaca County Medical Hospital. From left are, front, Levi Leonard, Ted Machacek, and Jack Leonard; and, back, Sally Machacek, MaryAnn Rother and Julia Machacek. KJZT Society No. 101 Victoria Juniors drew and colored more than 150 pictures and cards for nursing home residents, the elderly and homebound in their Society aged 75 years or older. Pictured from left are Griffin, Evan, and Cullen Janacek. The Victoria Juniors also assembled and delivered 12 care packages filled with toiletries and treats for the women currently living at Perpetual Help Home in Victoria. (Contributed Photos)



Office of Family Evangelization



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

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



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Pray for open hearts before hard discussions

God and politics. These are two topics you might not typically be encouraged to put “on the table” as family gathers for the upcoming holidays, but I’d like to encourage you to bring them to the meal, along with the turkey, side dishes and desserts.

These topics are two of the most important ones to us and our loved ones. Too often, relationships are held back from developing because we don’t talk about serious or important issues, instead keeping conversations to surface-level topics like the weather, hobbies or the latest shows we’ve been watching.

However, as you discern bringing up these topics with family and friends, I want to encourage you to think about two ground rules given to us by Our Lord and one of his greatest saints. For ground rule No. 1, let us adopt the mindset of St. Francis of Assisi, whose prayer famously says, “O Divine Master, grant that I may not so much seek to be consoled as to console, to be understood, as to understand.” Are we able to fully listen to others without injecting our opinion? Can we take the time to just listen to them without any agenda, attempt to walk in their shoes and understand their perspectives? If we do, relationships can be healed, and true dialogue can begin.

The second ground rule is to begin with prayer. This may not be possible immediately before or during the conversation itself, but perhaps you can start now in the weeks and months leading up to your gath-

On the Table

By Justin Reyes



erings. Perhaps there is someone coming home for the holidays you haven’t spoken to in years, or with whom you’ve had a strained relationship. Begin now praying for

them and the conversations you will have with them. If you’d like the opportunity to present God’s love to them and tell them more about Jesus and His Church, ask for that opportunity and the intercession of the

saints, including the Blessed Virgin Mary. As Our Lord says, “For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them. (Matthew 18:20 NABRE.)”

I know for some families, the holidays can bring challenges. As brothers and sisters, we don’t always see eye to eye on everything. But with the Lord’s help, we can live in peace with one another. His Word also reminds us, “How good and how pleasant it is, when brothers dwell together as one! (Psalm 133:1 NABRE)”

Until next time, I hope these words help you have better relationships with family and friends, or at least provide some food for thought.

God bless!

• *Justin Reyes is the Director of Family Evangelization for the Diocese of Victoria in Texas. E-mail Justin at jreyes@victoriadiocese.org. He welcomes discussion on any of his topics. You can call to speak with him at 361-573-0828, Ext. 2265.*

Life Chain

Lighthouse File Photo

A Life Chain was scheduled to take place from 2 to 3 p.m. Oct. 4 on North Navarro Street between the intersection of Sam Houston and Magruder streets to Loop 463. Signs will be given out in the areas near Gold’s Gym, Chick-Fil-A, and Hall Electric. The Life Chain event is organized nationwide and is an opportunity for people to pray for all human life and especially to defend and protect the unborn.



Sunday Readings from October 11 - November 8

October 11 ~ Twenty-eighth Sunday
in Ordinary Time
Isaiah 25:6-10A
Psalms 23:1-3A, 3B-4, 5, 6
Philippians 4:12-14, 19-20
Matthew 22:1-14

October 18 ~ Twenty-ninth Sunday
in Ordinary Time
Isaiah 45:1, 4-6
Psalms 96:1, 3, 4-5, 7-8, 9-10
1 Thessalonians 1:1-5B
Matthew 22:15-21

October 25 ~ Thirtieth Sunday
in Ordinary Time
Exodus 22:20-26
Psalms 18:2-3, 3-4, 47, 51
1 Thessalonians 1:5C-10
Matthew 22:34-40

November 1 ~ Solemnity of All Saints
Revelations 7:2-4, 9-14
Psalms 24:1BC-2, 3-4AB, 5-6
1 John 3:1-3
Matthew 5:1-12A

November 8 ~ Thirty-second Sunday in
Ordinary Time
Wisdom 6:12-16
Psalms 63:2, 3-4, 5-6, 7-8
1 Thessalonians 4:13-18
Matthew 24:42A, 44

Special Days in the Catholic Church

October 7 ~ Memorial:
Our Lady of the Rosary

November 2 ~ All Souls’ Days

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

Brought to you by: Catholic Communications Campaign



Hook’em Horns for Christ

The Rev. Tommy Chen is looking for Longhorn Catholics in the Diocese of Victoria to form a group to support the campus ministry of the University Catholic Center on the campus of the University of Texas at Austin.

Father Chen said people don’t necessarily



need to be UT alumni to join; just simply have the desire to support the growth and advancement of the Catholic faith in the lives of the students on the UT campus.

Anyone interested in becoming part of this mission should contact Father Chen at tommychen1002@hotmail.com.



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El reverendo Jacob Koether, párroco de Nuestra Señora de los Dolores en Victoria, se muestra con un grupo que hizo una preparación de 33 días antes de una consagración mariana durante una misa el 15 de septiembre. La fecha de la consagración fue la fiesta de Nuestra Señora de los Dolores. Cada persona que hizo la consagración recibió un escapulario como el que se muestra arriba que dice: "El que muera vestido con este escapulario no sufrirá el fuego eterno".



Fiesta de OLS celebrada con consagración mariana

Por La Reverenda Jacob Koether
Especial para el Lighthouse

VICTORIA—Durante 33 días, un grupo de feligreses de Nuestra Señora de los Dolores se preparó para consagrarse a Jesucristo a través de María en la fiesta de la parroquia, el 15 de septiembre, en memoria de Nuestra Señora de los Dolores.

Pero, ¿qué es y por qué lo haría alguien?

La devoción de la consagración mariana proviene de la Pasión en el Evangelio de Juan cuando Jesús, colgado de la cruz y "viendo allí a su madre con el discípulo a quien amaba... le dijo a su madre: 'Mujer, ahí tienes a tu hijo'. [Y] a su vez le dijo al discípulo: 'Ahí tienes a tu madre'. Desde esa hora en adelante, el discípulo la acogió en su casa".

Jesús les dio a su madre a sus discípulos para que la lleváramos a nuestro hogar y ella nos cuidara espiritualmente.

Ser cristiano no se trata de una relación aislada con Cristo, una relación que tengo solo con Él, por mí mismo. Cuando nos convertimos en discípulos de Jesús, nos unimos a Su familia. Obtenemos nuevos hermanos y hermanas, nos invitan a una nueva casa y tenemos una nueva mamá. Y como toda buena mamá, nuestra mamá espiritual quiere lo mejor para nosotros, que en este caso es la plenitud de su Hijo Jesucristo.

Sin embargo, aunque María es una madre espiritual para todos sus hijos, hay algunos que hacen que esa relación sea intencional. Esa es la idea de una consagración a ella.

Hay muchas formas de hacer esto. San Luis de Montfort en la década de 1700 popu-

larizó la práctica de prepararse durante 33 días, rezar, leer y recitar letanías y el rosario. El método que usó este grupo de Sorrows fue uno creado por el padre Michael Gaitley, titulado "33 días para la gloria de la mañana". Incluye breves oraciones y lecturas, cada semana dedicada a un santo diferente.

El punto es ayudarlo a dejar el pasado y concentrarse en la decisión que tomará el día de su consagración. Puede parecer extraño para algunos, pero en el fondo, una consagración mariana es simplemente una renovación de sus promesas bautismales con la intercesión orante de la Madre de Dios. Te comprometes a alejarte del pecado y de Satanás y poner tu fe en el único que puede salvarnos, pidiendo a Su madre que te ayude a mantenerte fiel a Él y a darle a Dios la mayor gloria posible.

Si nunca has hecho una consagración mariana, pruébalo. Puede que se sorprenda de lo fructífero que puede ser.

Que la Santísima Virgen os guíe a la plenitud de la vida con su Hijo, Gobernador y Salvador del mundo.

• El reverendo Jacob Koether es el pastor de la iglesia católica Our Lady of Sorrows en Victoria.

Rosario Congreso 7-11 de octubre

Por JANET JONES
The Catholic Lighthouse

El segundo Congreso de Rosario en la Diócesis de Victoria comienza con la misa el domingo 4 de octubre y termina el domingo 11 de octubre. El reverendo Tommy Chen, coordinador el año pasado y este año, dijo: "El objetivo es que durante ese período, en algún lugar de la diócesis, alguien adore el Santísimo Sacramento y reza el rosario en todo momento".

En coordinación con las parroquias

de la diócesis, dijo, que las horas están cubiertas. El padre Chen dijo que el Congreso del Rosario del año pasado fue muy bien recibido. "Algunos de mis feligreses estaban tan emocionados que querían volver a hacerlo unas semanas más tarde".

Con su popularidad, dijo, lo más probable es que se convierta en un evento anual.

Un elemento adicional este año es la introducción a una Consagración Mariana en toda la diócesis.

El concepto de consagración se explicará el 7 de octubre en presentaciones en Facebook y el sitio web de la diócesis, www.victoriadiocese.org. Las personas de la diócesis podrán solicitar materiales escritos para la preparación de 33 días por solo \$ 5. También hay recursos especiales para niños. Deben solicitarse antes del 12 de octubre.

El 19 de octubre comienza la preparación para la consagración en los hogares de los fieles y continúa hasta la consagración real, que tiene lugar el 21 de noviembre en las parroquias locales. La Diócesis de Victoria está apoyando los esfuerzos proporcionando videos y oraciones en varios idiomas que

Ver Rosario Congreso, página 11



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Regresando con seguridad y alegría al culto

NOTA DEL EDITOR: Este es el texto de una carta que el Obispo Cahill publicó el 17 de septiembre para la gente de la Diócesis de Victoria.

Queridos hermanos y hermanas,

El 3 de septiembre el Papa Francisco aprobó una carta de aliento para que la Iglesia universal comenzara a considerar el regreso a la adoración dominical. El cardenal Robert Sarah, prefecto de la Congregación de Adoración, escribió la carta y la tituló maravillosamente: “¡Volvamos a la Eucaristía con alegría!” Esta carta me recordó que somos miembros bautizados de la Iglesia Una, Santa, Católica y Apostólica. El Santo Padre, el Papa Francisco supervisa el cuidado pastoral de hombres y mujeres en todo el mundo. La pandemia actual sigue siendo global en escala, y cada área sigue experimentando sus efectos de diferentes maneras.

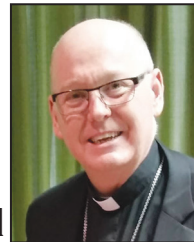
En nuestra área emití estrictas pautas para la reapertura de iglesias el 1 de mayo. Tengo que tener claro que en nuestra área ni

el gobernador ni ningún oficial del estado o funcionario local ordenó el cierre de iglesias. Respetaron nuestra libertad de adoración, y las decisiones que tomé se basaron en consultas con funcionarios de salud locales, feligreses, pastores y otros obispos. En consideración a la pandemia, ofrecí una dispensa general de la obligación de participar en la misa dominical, y extendí esta dispensa hasta el 30 de septiembre.

A partir del 1 de octubre, la dispensa general expirará y se restaurará la obligación de asistir a la misa dominical. En esta circunstancia, las personas tienen la capacidad de hacer juicios pastorales sobre si pueden cumplir con la obligación. Por ejemplo, las

Mensaje del Pastor

By Obispo Brendan Cahill



personas con mayor riesgo de complicaciones graves por enfermedades respiratorias o las personas que experimentan ansiedad por estar en una multitud en una zona interior podrían discernir con espíritu de oración que no pueden cumplir con la obligación. Algunos consejos que frecuentemente ofrezco a las personas en estos casos es llevar el tema al sacerdote en el sacramento de la penitencia, y confiar en la misericordia sanadora de Dios que desea que cada persona comparta la vida eterna.

La letra a la que hice referencia anteriormente dice:

“Conscientes de que Dios nunca abandona la humanidad que ha creado, y que incluso

las pruebas más duras pueden dar frutos de gracia, hemos aceptado la lejanía del altar del Señor como un tiempo de ayuno Eucarístico, útil para redescubrir la importancia vital, la belleza y la preciosidad incommensurable. Tan pronto como sea posible, es necesario volver a la Eucaristía con el corazón purificado, con un asombro renovado, con un crecido deseo de encontrar al Señor, de estar con él, de recibirlo para llevarlo a los hermanos con el testimonio de una vida plena de fe, de amor y de esperanza.”

Antes del 23 de septiembre emitiré nuevos protocolos para que nuestras parroquias las sigan en los próximos meses. Que cada uno de nosotros en la Diócesis de Victoria guarde al mundo entero en nuestro corazón, orando por la salud y la sanación, orando para que nunca se nos encuentre indiferente al dolor de los demás y orando por la salvación de todas las almas, “especialmente los más necesitados de la misericordia de Dios”.

Dios los bendiga a ustedes y a sus familias, mantengámonos en oración,

+Brendan

Rosario Congreso 7-11 de octubre

continuado desde la página 10

cualquiera puede ver en línea y usar para orar. Las personas también tendrán la opción de recibir correos electrónicos diarios como aliento a medida que avanzan en la preparación.

El Congreso del Rosario de 2020 también marca el comienzo del Año de la Familia en la Diócesis de Victoria, tal como lo proclamó recientemente el Reverendísimo Brendan Cahill. “Creo que el momento es absolutamente perfecto”, dijo el padre Chen. “La fe crece de la familia” y es alimentada por las escuelas, el CCD y las iglesias, dijo, “Las familias realmente necesitan asumir la responsabilidad de ser la primera educación de la fe para sus hijos”.

• Janet Jones es la directora de comunicaciones de la Diócesis de Victoria y editora de Lighthouse.

‘Hermana Norma’ nombrada una de las personas más influyentes por Time

WASHINGTON (CNS) — La hermana Norma Pimentel, misionera de Jesús y directora ejecutiva de Caridades Católicas del Valle del Río Grande ha recibido numerosos premios a lo largo de los años por su trabajo en Texas con los migrantes de la frontera entre México y Estados Unidos. Ahora, ella puede agregar un nuevo título a su lista como una de las 100 personas más influyentes del mundo por la revista Time.

En un mensaje de Facebook el 22 de septiembre en respuesta a este gran honor, Pimentel dio crédito a todos los que trabajan con ella en la Diócesis de Brownsville, Texas, “restaurando la dignidad humana a los necesitados”.

“Es un reconocimiento a la generosidad de la gente del Valle del Río Grande y de todo Estados Unidos. Juntos reconocemos que tenemos una responsabilidad. Somos un pueblo de Dios, un pueblo impulsado por la presencia de Dios en nosotros mismos y en otros. Cuando vemos el sufrimiento humano no podemos dar la espalda, debemos responder “, expresó.

Ella espera que su nombre en la revista, entre deportistas, políticos, activistas, y artistas, “logre traer más comprensión y ayude a la gente a ver más claramente lo que podemos hacer para respetar toda vida



hermana Norma Pimentel,
misionera de Jesús

humana, especialmente la más vulnerable”.

En 2015, el papa Francisco agradeció personalmente a la hermana Pimentel por su trabajo con los inmigrantes en una reunión virtual pública presentada en el programa “20/20” de la cadena televisiva ABC. Ese mismo año, Pimentel fue nombrada una de las Católicas del Año 2015 de Our Sunday Visitor (Nuestro Visitante Dominical) y ganó una nominación como “Texana del Año”.



**El 17 de octubre llegará
A un lugar cercano**

Para obtener más información, vaya a: www.victoriadiocese.org/xxix-annual-conference-of-catechesis-ministry

[org/xxix-annual-conference-of-catechesis-ministry](http://www.victoriadiocese.org/xxix-annual-conference-of-catechesis-ministry)



Catholic Daughters
award scholarship
to Sacred Heart student



Contributed Photo
HALLETTSVILLE— Sacred Heart Catholic School has announced that Amanda Janak, daughter of Karen and Mark Janak, won the National Youth Scholarship from the Catholic Daughters of the Americas. This \$1,000 national award was presented this year to only two eighth-graders who will be attending a Catholic high school in the fall. The application included their service to the community, school and church, an essay and three letters of character. Before the extended break last school year, Mrs. Jill Etzler, teacher, encouraged her eighth-grade students to apply for this scholarship. Amanda stated, “I was very surprised and I honestly had forgotten about it at this point. I guess all my hard work paid off. It is not often you get \$1,000 in the mail. It just blew my mind. The funds will go toward my college and a little portion will go to the school.” Amanda also thanked the Catholic Daughters of the Americas for this scholarship and for all the local CDA does for the communities and schools.



SMCS Student Council

Contributed Photo
WEIMAR— The St. Michael Catholic School Student Council representatives and officers for 2020-2021 are, from left, front row: Hudson R. (seventh-grade), Sarah Jane B. (elementary), Emma K. (sixth grade), Tucker J. (sixth grade), Hudson H. (fifth grade), Ella H. (fifth grade), and, back row, Lily B. (president), Connor E. (seventh grade), Logan K. (eighth grade), Hannah H. (eighth grade), Claire P. (secretary/treasurer), Kylie O. (vice president).



KCs donate to St. Michael’s in Weimar

Contributed Photo
WEIMAR— Knights of Columbus Council # 2153 Grand Knight Jack Mugli presents a \$5,000 donation to St. Michael Catholic School Principal Judy Roeder on Sept. 18. The KC council donation will go to support the school’s academic needs. The council thanked the citizens of Weimar and the surrounding communities for supporting their fundraisers to make the donations possible.

How to Support DSA

The Diocesan Services Appeal (DSA) is committed to fund administration offices and programs that help bring the light of Christ to each of the priorities of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops in the Crossroads. Evangelization, Marriage and Family, and Human Life and Dignity are a few that Bishop Cahill has chosen as his focus. DSA also supports the retired and infirm priests, Permanent Diaconate, Spiritual Renewal Center, Emmaus Center, and many other ministries. To support the DSA contact Rene Garcia at 361-573-0828.

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Member of the Clergy

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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
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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.





Students take time for National Day of Prayer

Contributed photo

CUERO—Sept. 24 is designated as a National Day of Prayer, also known as See You at the Pole. This movement began in 1990, started by students. It is a day that students from all over, public schools and private schools, meet to pray together. We pray for our nation, its leaders, and for peace. The students of St. Michael School in Cuero gathered together to join all of the other students in prayer. The prayer service was lead by the students. “God of peace, bring your peace to our violent world: peace in the hearts of all men and women, and peace among the nations of the earth.” Pope Benedict the XVI



Older students lend a helping hand

Contributed photo

EL CAMPO—St. Philip eighth-grade students in El Campo are always willing to lend a helping hand and share their talents. Several stepped in to help work with elementary guitar students in Mrs. Janice Cox’s applied music class.



Blessing of new school bus

Contributed photos

SHINER—Father Bryan Heyer blessed the new bus that was recently added at Shiner Catholic School. The students and faculty expressed appreciation for all the donations during the Bus Drive last school year that made the purchase possible. The bus will be used for sporting events, field trips, the Gonzales bus route, and many other things to come in the future years of service it will provide to the school.





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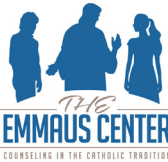
Cuero K of C council gets awards

Contributed Photo

The Cuero Knights of Columbus Council #1682 recently received a couple of plaques in recognition of outstanding service. Lukas Janak, Knights of Columbus District Deputy made the presentations. The plaques given were: Texas State Council Quick Start Honor Roll Award 2019-2020 and Texas State Charities Hall of Fame Award for Five Consecutive Years. Pictured, from left, are Bill Morrow, Cuero KofC Grand Knight; the Rev. Jasper Liggio, pastor of St. Michael's Catholic Church in Cuero; and Lukas Janak, Knights of Columbus District Deputy.

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.



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Catholic Rural Life - Victoria



A prayer in autumn for country living

Good and generous Lord, You have once more brought the year full circle, through planting and growing and ripening to harvest time, and autumn.

We thank You for the sun and the wind, the rain and the dew, the minerals of the earth and all the plants that grow and all the beasts and birds of farm and field. We marvel at Your wonderful ways of bringing food from the earth for man's good.

Dear God, help us to use Your rich gifts as You want us to. Teach us to share them with our neighbor when he is in need. Make us see, in the marvelous succession of seasons, and in the growth and ripening of our crops, the merciful, generous hand of Your divine providence.

Help us to realize, too, that if we keep Your commandments and live according to the inspirations of Your grace, we shall also reap a plentiful harvest in the autumn of our lifetime: a harvest that we will be able to enjoy for ever and ever, where no rust can destroy, nor blight spoil any least part of it. Amen.



Join in listening to Bishop Brendan Cahill every third Tuesday of the month at 6:30 a.m. on *Relevant Radio Morning Air with John Harper*. Listeners can call in with questions or comments. You can listen to past podcastS online.

Relevant Radio® has been helping people bridge the gap between faith and everyday life through informative, entertaining, and interactive programming twenty-four hours per day, seven days per week. The Relevant Radio network is currently serving the Church with 127 stations reaching 39 states, with a potential listening audience of 133 million people. Programming can be heard worldwide via streaming audio at relevantradio.com and on the mobile app.

Rosary Congress Oct. 7-11

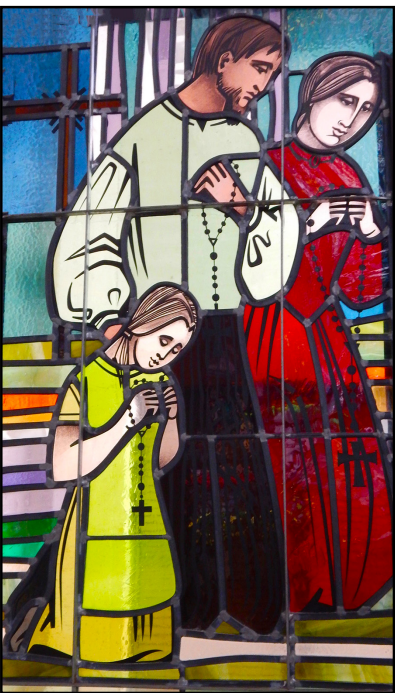
Continued from pg. 1

duction to a diocese-wide Marian consecration.

The concept of the consecration will be explained Oct. 7 in presentations on Facebook and the diocese's web site, www.victoriadiocese.org. People of the diocese will be able to order written materials for the 33-day preparation for only \$5. There are special resources for children as well. Those must be ordered by Oct. 12.

On Oct. 19, the preparation for consecration begins in the homes of the faithful and continues until the actual consecration, which takes place Nov. 21 in local parishes.

The Diocese of Victoria is supporting the efforts by providing videos and prayers in several languages that



anyone can watch online and use to pray. People also will have the option of getting daily e-mails as encouragement as they go through the preparation.

The 2020 Rosary Congress also signals the beginning of the Year of the Family in the Diocese of Victoria as proclaimed by the Most Rev. Brendan Cahill recently. "I think the timing is absolutely perfect," said Father Chen. "Faith grows from the family" and is nurtured by schools, CCD and churches, he said, "Families really need to take ownership to be the first education of the faith to their children."

• Janet Jones is the communications director for the Diocese of Victoria and editor of the *Lighthouse*.

The Cathedral of
Our Lady of Victory
FALL FESTIVAL

Going VIRTUAL!

Live Auction & Bucket Raffle

Friday, October 9 • 6 p.m.
through
Sunday, October 11 • 6 p.m.

Items will be on display October 4-11
in the Cathedral Center

Raffle Drawing

Sunday, October 11 • 5 p.m.
Drawing will be on Facebook Live

More information and to bid go to
the Cathedral website
www.olv cathedral.org
Facebook page Our Lady of Victory
or call the Rectory at
361 • 575 • 4741



OLS feast day celebrated with Marian consecration

BY THE REV. JACOB KOETHER
Special to the Lighthouse

For 33 days a group of parishioners at Our Lady of Sorrows prepared to consecrate themselves to Jesus Christ through Mary on the parish's feast day, Sept. 15, the memorial of Our Lady of Sorrows.

But what is it and why would anyone do it?

The devotion of Marian consecration comes from the Passion in John's Gospel when Jesus, hanging on the cross and "seeing his mother there with the disciple whom he loved ... said to his mother, 'Woman, behold your son.' [And] in turn he said to the disciple, 'Behold your mother.' From that hour onward, the disciple took her into his home."

Jesus gave His mother to His disciples so that we would bring her into our home and she would care for us spiritually.

Being a Christian is not about an isolated relationship with Christ, a relationship I have with Him alone, by myself. When we become disciples of Jesus, we join His family. We gain new brothers and sisters, we are invited into a new house, and we get a new mom. And like every good mom, our spiritual mom wants the very best for us, which in this case is the fullness of her Son Jesus Christ.

Though Mary is a spiritual mother for

all her children, there are some who make that relationship intentional. That's the idea of a consecration to her.

There are a lot of ways to do this. St. Louis de Montfort in the 1700s popularized the practice of preparing for 33 days, praying, reading and reciting litanies and the rosary. The method this group from Sorrows used was one created by Father Michael Gaitley, titled "33 Days to Morning Glory." It includes short prayers and readings, with each week devoted to a different saint.

The point is to help you let go of the past and focus on the decision you will make on your consecration day. It might sound strange to some, but at the core of it, a Marian consecration is simply a renewal of your baptismal promises with the prayerful intercession of the Mother of God. You commit to turn away from sin and Satan and put your faith in the only one who can save us, asking His mother to help you stay faithful to Him and to give God the greatest glory possible.

If you've never done a Marian consecration, try it. You might be surprised at how fruitful it can be.

May the Blessed Virgin guide you into fullness of life with her Son, the Ruler and Savior of the world.

• *The Rev. Jacob Koether is the pastor of Our Lady of Sorrows Catholic Church in Victoria.*

Sister Norma Pimentel is one of Time's 100 most influential people of 2020

WASHINGTON (CNS)— Sister Norma Pimentel, a Missionary of Jesus and executive director of Catholic Charities of the Rio Grande Valley, has received numerous awards over the years for her work in Texas with migrants along the U.S.-Mexican border, and she can now add a new title to her list: one of Time magazine's 100 most influential people in the world.

In a Facebook message Sept. 22 about the honor, she gave credit to all those who work with her in the Diocese of Brownsville, Texas, "restoring human dignity to those in need."

"It is a recognition of the generosity of the people of the Rio Grande Valley and from throughout the United States. Together we recognize that we have a responsibility. We are a people of God, people driven by the presence of God in ourselves and in others. When we see human suffering, we cannot turn our backs, we must respond," she said.

And she hopes that her name, in the magazine among athletes, politicians, activists and entertainers, will "bring more understanding and help people see more clearly what we can

each do to respect all human life, especially the most vulnerable."

In 2015, Pope Francis personally thanked Sister Pimentel for her work with immigrants in a virtual town hall meeting featured on ABC's "20/20." That same year she was named one of Our Sunday Visitor's 2015 Catholics of the Year and won a nomination for "Texan of the Year."

Last year, after being presented with the Sister Margaret Cafferty Development of Peoples Award from the U.S. bishops' Catholic Campaign for Human Development, Sister Pimentel, who also has received the University of Notre Dame's prestigious Laetare Medal and Catholic Charities USA's "Keep the Dream Alive" award, credited prayer with keeping her grounded.

"It's key for who I am today and what I do," she said, adding that if she "didn't make the time to wake up early in the morning to go to Mass and do my prayers and end with my prayers at night, I think I would get lost in all of this. It would be all about me and all the sensational attention that is given to me."



Alma Reyna, left, and Debbie Perales read the prayers of the Marian consecration at Our Lady of Sorrows in Victoria on Sept. 15. Those who did the consecration wore a scapular like the one shown here. They used the book "33 Days to Morning Glory" for their preparation. Father Jacob Koether celebrated the Mass which happened to be on the feast day of Our Lady of Sorrows. (Photos by Janet Jones)

Holy Family Catholic Church

FALL FISH FRY & RAFFLE

Fried Fish Dinner
Drive Thru ONLY
\$10
11:00am - 1:30pm
DESSERTS WILL BE AVAILABLE

Raffle Tickets for sale!
\$10 for one or 3 for \$25.
Tickets can be purchased from any parishoner or the church office.

Raffle drawing will be held LIVE at 2:00p.m. on the Holy Family Wharton Facebook Page.

2009 Briar Lane | Wharton, TX

OCTOBER
18th, 2020



23rd Annual Bishop David Fellhauer Invitational Golf Tournament

Sponsored by
Knights of Columbus
Council #9088



Bishop - \$1,000.00 +

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Monsignor - \$500.00 +

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Dr. Gary & Susan Fries
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Deacon Larry Hoelscher
Deacon Edward & Janet Huse
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Deacon Dennis & Georgia Kutach
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Thank

You



Deacon - \$100.00 +

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Charles & Kay Bluntzer
The Club at Colony Creek
Joe & Suzy Freeman
Paul Guthrie
Norman and Patsy Huehlefeld
Holy Family (Victoria) Tuesday Morning Mens Group
Harvey and Mary Kocian
Mrs. Dorothy Kubala
Fred & Dorothy Kubesch
Jan Lahodny
Knights of Columbus Council 10751
Bob & Sylvia Little
Glenn & Deborah Machicek
Knights of St. Gregory
Mary McQuillen
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In Loving Memory of George A. Totah
Tommy & Norma Treybig
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In Memory of Ervin F. Vrazel
Eddie & Susan Longoria
Catholic Daughters: Our Lady of Guadalupe No. 206
Catholic Daughters: Queen of the Holy Rosary No. 2282
Donald Salais

Seminarian - \$50.00 +

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Joe and Joyce Morris
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Catholic Daughters: Mary Queen of the Snows No. 1588



The committee for the 23rd Annual Bishop David Fellhauer Invitational Golf Tournament wishes to sincerely thank each sponsor who donated funds this year benefiting the seminar-ians and diocesan youth programs. May God bless you for your generosity.
(Lighthouse file photo of Bishop Emeritus David Fellhauer)



Cardinal Becciu resigns as prefect, renounces rights as cardinal

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — In a move apparently related to Vatican financial scandals, Pope Francis accepted Cardinal Angelo Becciu's resignation as prefect of the Congregation for Saints' Causes and his renunciation of the rights associated with being a cardinal, the Vatican announced late Sept. 24. The cardinal, 72, told reporters Sept. 25 that Pope Francis told him he was being investigated for embezzling an estimated 100,000 euros (\$116,361) of Vatican funds and redirecting them to Spes, a Caritas organization run by his brother, Tonino Becciu, in his home Diocese of Ozieri, Sardinia. Meeting reporters at a religious institute near the Vatican, Cardinal Becciu denied any wrongdoing. "I have not made my family rich," he said. The cardinal said he met with Pope Francis the evening of Sept. 24 and the pope told him he had lost trust in him and asked him to step down. The meeting "was something surreal because yesterday until 6:02 p.m., I thought that I was a friend of the pope," one who faithfully carried out the pope's wishes, he said. "And the pope, speaking to me, told me that he no longer has trust in me because a report came from the magistrates that I allegedly committed acts of embezzlement. I admit that the pope was very troubled, and he suffered while telling me this."

U.S. Bishops say 'enough' of federal executions

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Just hours before the sixth federal execution took place this year, and two days before the next one was scheduled, two U.S. bishops' committee chairmen called on the government to end this practice. "We say to President Trump and Attorney General Barr: Enough. Stop these executions," said Archbishop Paul S. Coakley of Oklahoma City, chairman of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops' Committee on Domestic Justice and Human Development, and Archbishop Joseph F. Naumann of Kansas City, Kansas, chairman of the USCCB's Committee on Pro-Life Activities, in a statement issued late Sept. 22. "In the

last 60 years, before the Trump administration restarted federal executions, there were only four federal executions. Since July, there have been five, which is already more federal executions than were carried out in any year in the last century," the bishops said. They said the Catholic Church "must give concrete help to victims of violence" and "encourage the rehabilitation and restoration of those who commit violence." They noted that "accountability and legitimate punishment are a part of this process" and emphasized that "responsibility for harm is necessary if healing is to occur and can be instrumental in protecting society."

Pope Francis meets Polish president

CNS photo/Vatican Media
Pope Francis meets Sept. 25, 2020, with Polish President Andrzej Duda in the library of the Apostolic Palace at the Vatican. The Vatican press office said that, among other topics, the two discussed this year's "centenary of the birth of St. John Paul II and the 40th anniversary of the founding of the independent autonomous trade union Solidarity."



Cardinal Parolin says U.N. needs to recommit to its original mission

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Marking the 75th anniversary of the United Nations, Cardinal Pietro Parolin called on the United Nations to renew its commitment to the ideals upon which it was founded. In a prerecorded message released Sept. 21, Cardinal Parolin, the Vatican secretary of state, said that while the United Nations has worked for decades to alleviate poverty, promote peace and champion human rights, "there have been challenges and setbacks, even contradictions and failures" throughout its long history. "The United Nations is not perfect, and it has not always lived up to its name and ideals, and it has harmed itself whenever particular interests have triumphed over the common good," he said. "The United Nations will always be in need of revitalizing the original spirit in order to make the charter's principles and purposes its own within the context of a changing world," the cardinal said.

'Live the Gospel of Life' is theme for Respect Life Month this October

WASHINGTON (CNS) — The U.S. Catholic Church's observance of October as Respect Life Month "is a time to focus on God's precious gift of human life and our responsibility to care for, protect and defend the lives of our brothers and sisters," said the chairman of the U.S. bishops' pro-life committee.

"Live the Gospel of Life" is this year's theme for the month, prompted by commemorations of the 25th anniversary of St. John Paul II's encyclical "The Gospel of Life" ("Evangelium Vitae"), which was issued March 25, 1995.

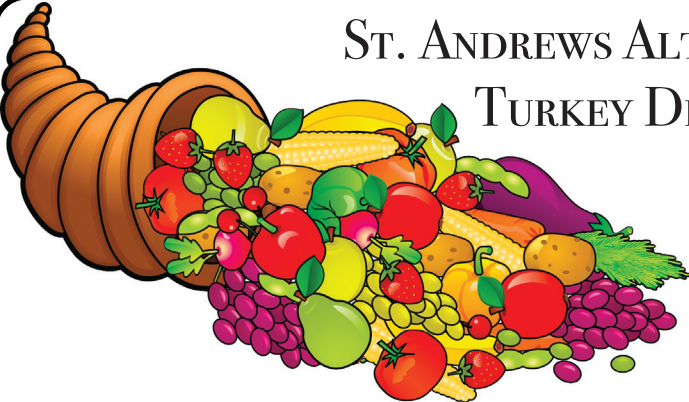
"Pope John Paul's masterfully articulated defense of the right to life for children in their mothers' wombs, the elderly, persons with disabilities and the marginalized is more relevant today than ever before," said Archbishop Joseph F. Naumann of Kansas City, Kansas, chairman of the U.S. Conference of Catholic

Bishops' Committee on Pro-Life Activities.

Respect Life Sunday falls on Oct. 4. New parish resources for the month's observance have been developed around the theme of "Living the Gospel of Life" and are available at www.respectlife.org.

"The Gospel of Life" provides a blueprint for building a culture of life and civilization of love," the archbishop said in a Sept. 24 statement. "The important work of transforming our culture begins by allowing the Gospel of Christ to touch and transform our own hearts and the decisions we make."

Archbishop Naumann noted that during their fall general assembly last November, "the U.S. bishops reaffirmed that 'the threat of abortion remains our preeminent priority because it directly attacks life itself, because it takes place within the sanctuary of the family, and because of the number of lives destroyed.'"



ST. ANDREWS ALTAR SOCIETY
TURKEY DINNER

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 25

TURKEY, DRESSING, SWEET POTATOES, GREEN BEANS,
CRANBERRY SAUCE

SERVED 11:00 A.M.-1:00 P.M. (OR SOLD OUT)

PLATES TO GO ONLY FOR \$10 EACH

ST. ANDREW PARISH HALL, HILLJE



St. Gianna pro-life ministry plans upcoming events

BY BERNIE SEALE

Special to the Lighthouse

For those of you who are not aware of the St. Gianna Beretta Molla Pro-Life Ministry at Holy Family Catholic Church in Victoria, our purpose is to increase awareness of abortion and to encourage prayers to protect the unborn and those who can't protect themselves. We also pray for the reversal of the law Roe vs. Wade, passed by the Supreme Court in 1973 legalizing abortion. We proclaim the sanctity and the value of every human life as a gift from God.

Our patron saint and namesake, St. Gianna Beretta Molla, is the patron saint of

pregnant and parenting mothers. St. Gianna lived through a pandemic like what we are experiencing, the Spanish influenza, which took the lives of three of her siblings. As a physician, wife, and mother, she knew intimately what it was like to struggle with difficult pregnancies and a challenging medical diagnosis. She ultimately gave her life to save her baby.

Each year, around the Jan. 22 anniversary of Roe vs. Wade, we organize and participate in the Candlelight March for Life in Victoria. We gather in the evening at DeLeon Plaza in downtown Victoria and pray the rosary as we walk towards Our Lady of Sorrows.

We conclude the march by gathering at the church to hear words of encouragement and hope from a pro-life speaker.

On Oct. 21, during the 40 Days for Life campaign this year, our plan is to go to the Planned Parenthood facility on the Gulf Freeway in Houston with Bishop Brendan Cahill who will lead us in prayer for the end to abortion. Many priests, religious, lay persons, and students from around the diocese will join us. All are welcome to join us in prayer from 10 a.m. to noon that day.

We work closely with the Crisis Pregnancy Center (CPC) and the Gabriel Project to help mothers in crisis. The CPC houses

the ultrasound machine that was purchased through the fundraising efforts of the Knights of Columbus along with personal donations. Seeing the image of a live fetus in their womb has caused mothers considering abortions to choose life for their babies. We have witnessed this at our local CPC.

If you have any questions about the St. Gianna Beretta Molla Ministry, please contact me, Bernie Seale, at 361-649-1712, or Robert Seale 361-220-0008, or visit our website at www.hfccvic.org/st-gianna-beretta-molla-pro-life-ministry. New members are always welcome.

One priest called to be special chaplain for COVID-19 patients

Continued from pg. 1

Spiritual Renewal Center

The Spiritual Renewal Center (SRC) is located on approximately 40 acres nestled along the banks of the San Antonio River and about a 25-minute drive from Victoria.

The SRC participates in the mission of the church of Victoria as well as the universal Catholic Church by providing a place apart from the demands of everyday life where individuals may go seeking God more deeply in their lives.

The SRC is open for small or large group which can be a one-day or over night with a kitchen staff to provide meals. There is also an open pavilion for outdoor activities.

Handicap accessible.

For more information or to reserve the SRC contact Matthew Boyle, director, by email mboyle@victoriadiocese.org or at 361-572-0836.



from contracting the virus. And having one priest designated for that specific purpose helped mitigate the chances of spreading the virus.

Before visiting a patient, Father Felix puts on two layers of gloves, mask, face shield, hair covering, shoe coverings and a gown. He brings oil for anointing on a cotton swab in a zipped plastic bag along with a sheet of paper with his prayers instead of his book. If the patient or family requests holy water, he will ask a nurse or other staff member to bring him some water and bless it there.

He spends an average of seven minutes per patient, he said. Some are on ventilators and Father Felix carries out his ministry without interaction. Those who are not as sick – “They keep you talking,” he said.

His work started right away after he was asked to fill this unique job as there were existing cases and more to come as the virus continued to infect people. He moved temporarily to Victoria to be closer to the hospitals where the bulk of the diocese's seriously ill COVID-19 patients were.

When he saw his first patient, he saw two people at the man's bedside with all of he required personal protective gear and, at first, he thought they were medical staff. He said his heart was warmed by how they weren't afraid to touch this patient and be so physically comforting. It turned out to be the man's wife and daughter. When they realized a priest had come to pray with them and anoint their loved one, “There was joy all over them,” Father Felix said.

One Catholic man was not happy to see him initially, according to Father Felix. “He said, ‘Who asked you to come here? I'm not going to die!’” He said he assured the man that he did not come because he was going to



Father Felix Twumasi must wear lots of personal protection equipment to minister to patients suffering with COVID-19. He brings his prayers and oil for anointing in a plastic bag so that everything can be disposed of for safety reasons. (Contributed photo)

die, but to pray for his return to health.

That patient did recover, and Father Felix said the encounter made him realize that Catholics need to be better educated on the sacrament of the anointing of the sick.

“When the Sacrament of Anointing of the Sick is given, the hoped-for effect is that, if it be God's will, the person be physically healed of illness. But even if there is no

physical healing, the primary effect of the Sacrament is a spiritual healing by which the sick person receives the Holy Spirit's gift of peace and courage to deal with the difficulties that accompany serious illness or the frailty of old age,” according to the U.S. Catholic Catechism for Adults.

Others recovered, too, but he said some 90 percent percent of the COVID-19 patients he has seen have been near death and have died.

Those deaths have been the hard part of the job, Father Felix said. “You have to process all of this, and it has not been easy.”

How does he keep it from overwhelming him? “I talk to people,” he said. “And the support I've received from the bishop and Father Gary (Janak) and Father (Gabriel) Benti has been so amazing.”

Father Felix said he has also received a lot of support from the Very Rev. Kristopher Fuchs, dean of the Victoria Deanery, and the Sisters of the Incarnate World and Blessed Sacrament who have helped house him and provide for his needs while away from his home parish.

Father Felix said he does miss his parishioners at St. Rose in Schulenburg, but they are supportive and several have come to Victoria to visit him. “You can see that they care so much about what I'm doing.”

He is expected to be returning to the Schulenburg community by early October, but wants to continue being close to the sick.

According to Bishop Cahill, Father Felix was chosen in part because he already had applied for a special hospital chaplain-training program at M.D. Anderson. Once he has finished all the formalities of the application process, he would be there once a month while learning more about ministering to hospital patients.



Meals • Picnics and More

October

Mentz—St. Roch Annual Picnic COVID Edition, Oct. 4 on the parish grounds. Serving BBQ beef, pork, sausage beginning at 11:00 a.m. There will be a live auction and raffle. See their Facebook page at Saint Roch Mentz.

Moulton—The Moulton Christian Mothers Society is hosting a Public Square Rosary in conjunction with America Needs Fatima on Saturday, Oct. 10, at 9:30 a.m. at the downtown gazebo. Come and pray with us for the intentions of the Diocesan Rosary Congress. Special guest speaker is Deacon Kenneth Fishbeck. In case of rain, the event will move to the Family Room. For information, call Mary Ann Wenske 361-550-5903.

Columbus—St. Anthony Fundraiser, Oct. 11, chicken strip dinner, 10:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m., drive-thru only. There will also be a raffle, drive-by country store and homemade whole cakes to go. The online auction begins Tuesday, October 6 at 6 p.m. and ends Sunday, Oct. 11 at 6 p.m. See their Facebook and visit their website on how to bid on auction items. See ad on this page or call 979-733-4089.

Victoria—The Cathedral of Our Lady of Victory Fall Festival, Oct. 11 going virtual. Beginning Saturday, Oct. 3 after Mass-Sunday, Oct. 11 at 6 p.m. auction items will be on display at the Cathedral Center. Also during that time raffle tickets and a bucket raffle tickets will be sold. See www.olvcathedral.org for times that the center will be open. See pg. 14 for more information.

Hallettsville/Victoria/El Campo/Virtual—Annual Catechetical Conference Oct. 17. Go to www.victoriadiocese.org/xxix-annual-conference-of-catechesis-ministry for all the information.

LaSalle—St. Theresa Annual Picnic, Oct. 18 at the Parish Hall. A drive-thru only turkey and dressing dinner from 11 a.m.-1 p.m. at \$10 each; catered by Robert Werner. Raffle tickets available in the drive-thru lane.

Wharton—Holy Family Fall Fish Fry and Raffle, Oct. 18 at the parish hall (drive thru only) at \$10 each, 11 a.m.-1:30 p.m. See ad on pg. 15 for more information.

Hillje—St. Andrews Altar Society Turkey Dinner, Oct. 25 at St. Andrews Parish Hall. Served 11:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. (Or Sold Out). Plates TO GO ONLY for \$10 each. See ad on pg. 17 for more information.

Victoria—Nazareth Academy Big Red Raffle ends Oct. 31. See ad on pg. 13 for more information.

November

Port Lavaca—Our Lady of the Gulf Catholic Church will have a Turkey Dinner on Sunday, Nov. 1, from 11 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. at St. Jude Hall. Plates are \$10 each, (drive through only). Catered by Werner's of Shiner. There will also be a raffle and bake sale. For more information contact the church office, 361-552-6140 or Linda Meyer 361-935-3379.

Do you have any calendar of events
for the Lighthouse?

Submit to
lighthouse@victoriadiocese.org

Ministries • Ongoing Activities

All Ministries and Ongoing Activities at this time are scheduled to change with the pandemic. Before attending a meeting please call ahead to verify that the meeting is being held.

ACTS Retreats—Anyone needing any information regarding ACTS Retreats in the diocese should email dovactschapter@victoriadiocese.org.

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.

Engaged Encounter 2020 Dates—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 of the Crossroads—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.

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.

id.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 CREIGHTON MODEL Fertility Care System (CrMS) featuring NaPro TECHNOLOGY™ contact Susanne Koch in Wharton at 505-710-0903 or susannekoch614@gmail.com. Also in the Cuero area contact, Ashley Rodriguez at 361-293-0700 or ashleyfay09@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.

What's on the web?

Ever since the community has been limited in its ability to participate in services on church grounds, the diocese has made great efforts to feed spiritual needs through the Internet. Justin Reyes, director of family evangelization for the Diocese of Victoria has initiated several new online features:

Cinco Preguntas

This is a Spanish-language series during which five questions are asked and answered by Bishop Cahill, a parish priest or another minister. You will also find these on the Diocese of Victoria Family Evangelization Facebook page.

Fully Alive Video Series!

Conversion stories of local men that can help others in their journey of faith—new video released every Friday with accompanying resources and questions for men to discuss in groups or on their own: <https://www.victoriadiocese.org/fully-alive>

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Bound by faith

Continued from pg. 1

children are involved in sports or activities, so there's plenty of family recreation.

And in the evening, there's a family rosary. A statue of the Blessed Virgin Mary is moved to a central location and everyone finds a rosary. With five children, each child is asked to recall one of the mysteries on which they are reflecting. If one announces a Glorious Mystery instead of the Luminous Mysteries chosen to meditate upon that day, it's just an opportunity to learn.

"As parents we are their first CCD teachers. And the primary ones," said Jeremy.

Because Jeremy is a youth minister and director of music for his church and Karli teaches and coaches in Shiner Catholic Schools where their children are students, their Catholic faith is always part of their daily lives.

Recently the Most Rev. Brendan Cahill announced that the Year of the Family would be celebrated Oct. 4, with the beginning of the second Rosary Congress, through Oct. 3, 2021. Jeremy is one of the Year of the Family committee members.

In fact, it was Jeremy who sparked the idea in the first place. For months all of them were at home because of the closing of schools and churches.

The period of being homebound led Jeremy and a friend from the Austin diocese to begin discussing ideas to focus on and enrich the domestic church. "What better setup?" he said.

He brought the idea to the directors of Youth and Young Adult Ministry for the diocese, Wendy Eggert and Shannon Thomas, who then approached Bishop Cahill with their thoughts. Needless to say, Bishop Cahill agreed.

"It speaks volumes about the bishop -- to be open to the opportunity to encourage and empower the family unit," Jeremy said. And though not every family looks like his or even think of themselves as a "family" per se, the coming year will be fruitful for

those who are engaged. "Everybody's going to benefit from it," Jeremy said. "People are going to see a change."

The theme for the year is, "Pray, eat, play." It is intended to be a well-rounded plan to help people inject their Catholic values into all aspects of family life.

"Passing down the faith is more than just learning your prayers," Jeremy said.

Karli and Jeremy were both raised Catholic and met at Texas State in San Marcos at the Catholic Student Center where Jeremy was playing in a band. After marrying, they



(above) Karli and Jeremy Rodriguez and shown with their five children, from left, in front are Ezra, Emori, Eden and Elijah. Ezekiel, the oldest, is in the back row between his parents.

(left) Edna plays with her youngest brother, Ezra, in the family room.

(below) Karli helps her youngest son, Ezra, during the family rosary in the living room. The image of the Blessed Virgin Mary was placed in a central area and each child announced one of the Luminous Mysteries for their rosary on Sept. 13.

worked and lived in Lockhart. Karli taught at a public school there, but watching how culture has changed in the public schools, wanted something better for her children.

Returning to an area closer to her family seemed to be where God was leading them. "I think the Lord just told us we need to go." Everything started falling into place -- from finding a place to live to finding employment. "I've never been happier," Karli said.

The couple say they love the community of Shiner and the family atmosphere. Jeremy credits the people of the area for giving him a better understanding of family altogether.

Although there is a lot in their favor, they are still human and have most of the ordinary struggles that any busy family would have, which is why they cling to their faith, keeping themselves in a place that

can nurture them, and pray as a family every night. Because Jeremy is in a band, To Love and Rescue, he may be gone in the evenings, but will make time to call at night to pray with them before they go to bed.

Five children make for a busy life and Jeremy and Karli have heard many times: "You have your hands full."

In their opinion, that is so much better than being empty-handed.

• Janet Jones is the communications director for the Diocese of Victoria and editor of the Lighthouse.

