



The Catholic Lighthouse

The Cradle of Texas Immigration



OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE DIOCESE OF VICTORIA IN TEXAS

VOL. 33, NO. 11

www.victoriadiocese.org



MARCH 2020

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Rural Life Ministry gets new energy to grow in DOV

By Janet Jones, Editor
The Catholic Lighthouse

Catholic Rural Life ministry is nothing new, but it had gained a new energy in the last few years as new chapters emerge and more intentional outreach is provided to nurture the faith in rural vocations.

That outreach was exemplified as Bishop Bendon Cahill celebrated the Diocese of Victoria's first Blessing of Seed and Soil Mass on Feb. 1 at BH Genetics in Ganado. The Mass was a seasonal compliment to the first Harvest Mass celebrated this past fall.

Not only was the outdoor Mass blessed with sunshine and mild temperatures, the business of rural life was evident all around – in the sights of the tilled up rows of dirt and tractors parked nearby and the sound of nearby crop dusters at work.

Bishop Cahill, the current board president of the national Catholic Rural Life organization, said during his homily that Catholic Rural Life was centered around, faith, community and care of creation. “What a particular joy for me to celebrate this Mass today,” he said as he prayed for families, farms and parishes. He also stressed the importance being a blessing to others and blessing God with a grateful heart for providing what we need each day.

As part of the celebration, the bishop extended his hands over the bags of seeds brought by people from all around the diocese and asked God's blessing on them, then sprinkled holy water on the offering. It was a perfect symbol of how the CRL wants to ensure that faith is instilled in all parts of life.

Sherry Kainer, who coordinated the celebration, said, “I work for the Chancery, but I'm also a farmer's wife, so this is very near and dear to my heart.” She listed the many



Bishop Cahill blessed the seeds brought by Catholics across the Diocese of Victoria who wanted to participate in the Blessing of the Seed and Soil Mass on Feb. 1. The Mass is an effort of the local Catholic Rural Life chapter, formed in 2018 to help Catholics practice their faith in the vocations. More about Catholic Rural Life is available at www.catholicrurallife.org. Information about the DOV chapter is available on the diocese website, www.victoriadiocese.org.

See Catholic Rural Life, pg. 8



Apostles to the Slavs' work an inspiration today

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

St. John Paul II proposed that Sts. Cyril and Methodius, the great missionaries and catechists of the Slavic peoples in the 800s, present a path for the current time of evangelization and catechesis. In the state of Texas there are seven Catholic Churches dedicated to Sts. Cyril and Methodius. Three of them are in our diocese of Victoria! Among the points St. John Paul II emphasized in his teaching were the great respect for culture and need for communion that guided the "Apostles to the Slavs."

The word "culture" traces its roots to the concept of "cultivating" the land. Acknowledging that God created humanity with the ability to be stewards of the earth, men and women from the beginning of time developed customs and rituals to help the community sustain and develop itself. Different cultures blossomed according to the ingenuity and needs of different peoples. Sts. Cyril and Methodius were invited to bring the one true Faith to a culture distinct from the one that formed them as young men.

St. John Paul II wrote:

"The event which was to determine the whole of the rest of their lives was the request made by Prince Rastislav of Greater Moravia to the Emperor Michael III, to send to his

A Shepherd's Message

By Bishop Brendan Cahill



In our diocese we are blessed with a richness and appreciation of culture, and we daily celebrate the Mass in communion with Francis our Pope. In so doing, we carry on the tradition of the great Apostles to the Slavs.

peoples 'a Bishop and teacher ... able to explain to them the true Christian faith in their own language ...' Their profoundly Christian response to the invitation in this circumstance and on all similar occasions is admirably expressed by the words of Constantine (Cyril) to the Emperor: 'However tired and physically worn out I am, I will go with joy to that land; with joy I depart for the sake of the Christian faith.'" (Apostles of the

Slavs 5, 9)

The culture to which they were called presented great challenges. In the midst of these challenges they acknowledged the need to stay in communion with the Bishop of Rome in order to stay grounded in the true apostolic faith. As St. John Paul II commented:

"In this stormy period, which was also marked by armed conflicts between

neighboring Christian peoples, the holy Brothers from Salonika preserved a resolute and vigilant fidelity to right doctrine and to the tradition of the perfectly united Church, and in particular to the "divine teachings" and "ecclesiastical teachings" on which, in accordance with the Canons of the ancient Councils, her structure and organization was founded. This fidelity enabled them to complete their great missionary tasks and to remain in full spiritual and canonical unity with the Church of Rome, with the Church of Constantinople and with the new Churches which they had founded among the Slav peoples." (Apostles of the Slavs 14)

In our diocese we are blessed with a richness and appreciation of culture, and we daily celebrate the Mass in communion with Francis our Pope. In so doing, we carry on the tradition of the great Apostles to the Slavs.

Once again I ask that we remain committed to pray, especially the Rosary, for the gift of peace in the world and for the family. As St. John Paul II invited us to pray this faithfully, I believe we can maintain our confidence in the power of this prayer – more than we ever know! May God bless you and your families throughout 2020; let's keep each other in prayer.

+Brendan

La obra de los Apóstoles de los Eslavos debería guiar la evangelización moderna

Queridos Hermanos y Hermanas,

San Juan Pablo II propuso que los Santos Cirilo y Metodio, los grandes misioneros y catequistas de los pueblos Eslavos en los años 800, presentan un camino para el tiempo actual de evangelización y catequesis. En el estado de Texas hay siete iglesias Católicas dedicadas a los Santos. Cirilo y Metodio. ¡Tres de ellos están en nuestra Diócesis de Victoria! Entre los puntos que San Juan Pablo II enfatizó en su enseñanza fue el gran respeto por la cultura y la necesidad de comunión que guió a los "Apóstoles a los Eslavos."

La palabra "cultura" tiene sus raíces en el concepto de "cultivar" la tierra. Reconociendo que Dios creó a la humanidad con la capacidad de ser administradores de la tierra, los hombres y las mujeres desde el principio de los tiempos desarrollaron costumbres y rituales para ayudar a la comunidad a mantenerse y desarrollarse. Las diferentes culturas florecieron de acuerdo con el ingenio y las necesidades de los diferentes pueblos. Sts. Cirilo y Metodio fueron

Mensaje del Pastor

By Obispo Brendan Cahill



invitados a traer la única Fe verdadera a una cultura distinta de la que los formó cuando eran jóvenes.

San Juan Pablo II escribió: "El evento que determinaría el resto de sus vidas fue la solicitud hecha por el Príncipe Rastislav de la Gran Moravia al Emperador Miguel III, para enviar a un obispo y maestro de su pueblo ... capaz de explicarles el verdadera fe Cristiana en su propio idioma ..." Su respuesta profundamente Cristiana a la invitación en esta circunstancia y en todas las ocasiones similares se expresa admirablemente por las palabras de Constantino (Cirilo) al Emperador: 'Por cansado y agotado que esté, estoy iré con alegría a esa tierra; con alegría partí

por el bien de la fe cristiana.'" (Apóstoles de los Eslavos 5, 9)

La cultura a la que fueron llamados presentaba grandes desafíos. En medio de estos desafíos, reconocieron la necesidad de permanecer en comunión con el Obispo de Roma para mantenerse enraizados en la verdadera fe apostólica. Como San Juan Pablo II comentó:

"En este período tormentoso, que también estuvo marcado por conflictos armados entre los pueblos Cristianos vecinos, los Santos Hermanos de Salónica preservaron una fidelidad resuelta y vigilante a la doctrina correcta y a la tradición de la Iglesia perfectamente unida, y en particular a las 'enseñanzas

divinas' y 'enseñanzas eclesiásticas' sobre las cuales, de acuerdo con los cánones de los antiguos consejos, se fundó su estructura y organización. Esta fidelidad les permitió completar sus grandes tareas misioneras y permanecer en plena unidad espiritual y canónica con la Iglesia de Roma, con la Iglesia de Constantinopla y con las nuevas Iglesias que habían fundado entre los pueblos Eslavos.'" (Apóstoles de los Eslavos 14)

En nuestra diócesis somos bendecidos con la riqueza y el aprecio de la cultura, y diariamente celebramos la Misa en comunión con Francisco nuestro Papa. Al hacerlo, continuamos la tradición de los grandes apóstoles a los Eslavos.

Una vez más, pido que sigamos comprometidos a rezar, especialmente el Rosario, por el regalo de la paz en el mundo y por la familia. Como San Juan Pablo II nos invitó a orar esto fielmente, creo que podemos mantener nuestra confianza en el poder de esta oración, ¡más de lo que sabemos! Que Dios los bendiga a ustedes y a sus familias durante 2020; mantengamos el uno al otro en oración.

+Brendan



Bishop Cahill's Schedule

March		American Catholic College
7	Mass with Carmelite Sisters, Meyersville	24 6 p.m. Mass for Installation of Richard Barfield as Lector, Queen of the Holy Rosary, Hostyn
8-9	USCCB Pro Life Committee meeting, Washington, D.C.	25 6:30 p.m. CCD Visit at St. Phillip's Catholic Church, El Campo
10	Catholic Rural Life Board meeting, St. Paul, Minn.	27 7 p.m. Confirmation Mass at Our Lady of Guadalupe, Bay City
11	Noon meal with IWBS Sisters, Victoria	28 * Mass with Carmelite Sisters, Meyersville * 4 p.m. Confirmation Mass at St. John's Church, New Taiton
14	* Mass with Carmelite Sisters, Meyersville * 9 a.m. Catholic Daughters Retreat, "Gladly will I Glory," at St. Michael's Catholic Church, Cuero * 5:30 p.m. Mass & Girl Scout awards at the Cathedral of Our Lady of Victory, Victoria	29 11:30 Presidio La Bahia Reenactment, Goliad
15	* 10 a.m. Confirmation Mass at Sts. Peter and Paul's parish, Plum * 2 p.m. Curia meeting, with Legion of Mary Acies following, Palacios	30 6:30 p.m. Confirmation Mass at St. John, Hungerford
16	Noon Mass with the Missionary Catechists Sisters	April
17	* 6:30 a.m. Relevant Radio interview * 6 p.m. St. Patrick's Mass at St. Patrick's, Seadrift	2 6:30 p.m. Mother Elizabeth Ann Seton Award Dinner at KC Hall, Shiner
18	* 2:30 p.m. Finance Board meeting at the Chancery, Victoria * 6 p.m. CCD Visit at St. John Nepomucene Church, New Taiton	3 6 p.m. Penance Service at St. Roberts, El Campo
21	* 8:30 am Mass for Men's Conference at Cathedral of Our Lady of Victory, Victoria * 5:30 p.m. Confirmation Mass for St. Michael's Church, Weimar	4 Mass with Carmelite Sisters, Meyersville
22	9 a.m. Mass at OLV Cathedral	5 5 p.m. Confirmation Mass at Nativity of the BVM, Nada
22-23	Texas Bishops Meetings and General Assembly at Mexican	5 6 p.m. Palm Sunday Mass at the Cathedral of Our Lady of Victory, Victoria

Bishop Fellhauer's Confirmation Schedule

March	
8	10 a.m. Confirmation Mass at St. Andrew Church, Hillje
22	5 p.m. Confirmation Mass for St. Rose, Schulenburg

Official Announcements

Father Daniel Kahlich plans July retirement

Effective July 1, 2020, Father Daniel Kahlich, 79, pastor of Queen of the Holy Rosary Catholic Church in Hostyn and Sts. Peter and Paul Catholic Church in Plum, will retire.

We join together in celebrating Father Dan's 54 years of priesthood (05/28/66) and offer our prayers for him, as he begins his transition into retirement over the next several months. Thank you, Father Dan, for your faithful service. We pray God's blessings upon you.



Kahlich

Happy Birthday to Our Seminarians

Deacon Chase Goodman is in Theology IV this year at the Pontifical College Josephinum, in Columbus, Ohio. Chase's hometown is Victoria. His birthday is March 22. Write to Chase at: Pontifical College Josephinum, 7625 N. High St., Columbus, OH 43235.



Richard Barfield is in Theology this year. Richard's home town is Hostyn. His birthday is March 8. Write to Richard at: Queen of the Holy Rosary Church, 936 FM 2436, La Grange, TX 78945.



Chrism Mass

Tuesday, April 7

10:00 a.m.

The Cathedral of Our Lady of Victory

All are invited to attend.



The Chrism Mass is a public celebration and display of the unity of the bishop to the priests of his diocese and the entire Church community as Members of the Body of Christ to Jesus Christ who is the Head of the Church. It is one of the most holy and solemn Masses celebrated all year because, in addition to the priests renewing their promises to the bishop, the three oils blessed by the bishop during the Mass play such an important role in the life of the Church.

Deacon James Dvorak is in Theology IV this year at St. Mary's Seminary in Houston. James' home town is Frelsburg. His birthday is March 24. Write to James at: St. Mary's Seminary, 9845 Memorial Dr., Houston, TX 77024.



"Follow me and I will make you fishers of men."

Matthew 4:18-22

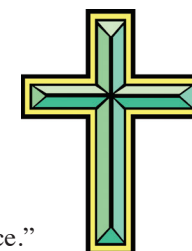
Please remember in prayer the priests of the Diocese of Victoria,

God our Father, thank you for our Priests and for calling the Diocese of Victoria Seminarians to prepare for priesthood and grant them the grace to grow closer to You through daily prayer. Help them to form their personality as a credible witness to others. Bless them while they study Your word and the teachings of the Church and give them a generous heart to serve Your people. Amen

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

Rev. Msgr. Michael O'Shaughnessy	03/02/2013
Rev. Gabriel Franks	03/19/2018
Rev. Daniel Giorgi	03/22/2007

"May their souls and the souls of all the faithful departed rest in peace."



USPS-001015 (ISSN 0894-7740)

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

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

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

DEADLINE IS THE 15th OF THE PRECEDING MONTH

Periodical postage paid at Victoria, TX and additional Entry Offices

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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





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 >.**

February 19, 2020

• General Seminary Burse

Lector

In memory of Johnny Prihoda by:

Joan Prihoda and Family
Joanna Prihoda-Rogers
Johnnie and Elaine Hoffman
John and Sharon Kana
Michael Klesel Family
Lillian Klesel
Henrietta Cernosek
Chris and Linda Srubar
Janice Smajstrla
Bryce and Joann Lebeda
Anton and Maggie Becka
Francis H. Ripper
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Ray and Carolyn Palla
Mary Ann Srubar
Donnie and Debbie Charanza
Anne and Rex Mahy

Deacon Joey and Mary Targac
EJ and Peggy Kusy
Mary Ann Henneke
Loretta Brugger
Deacon Paul and Adrienne Hunsucker
Hank and Maxine Holub
Robert and Kay Heger
Maurice and Connie Kasper
Patricia Divin
K of C Council #2153, Weimar
Al and Martha Shimek
Harvey abd Sandra Michna
Frank and Mary Ann Brenner
Edward and Margaret Matocha
Hardy and Jo Ann McCullough
Bob and Rita Srubar
Elsie Vasek
James Wostarek Family

Acolyte

In memory of Johnny Prihoda by:

Andrew Srubar Family
Karl and Sharon Hutchins
M/M Richard G. Cernosek
Kenneth J. and Louise Berger
Leslie and Dorothy Bacak
Deacon John and Eileen McCourt
Dennis and Lorrie Lebeda

Leonard and Barbara Zbranek
Walter and Sandra Stoever
James & Carolyn Prihoda, Michele
Prihoda, Theresa & Bradly Janak Family,
Andrea & Tim Pepe Family, Vivien &
Greg Mendel Family, Greg & Shelly
Prihoda Family, Joanna & Paul Rogers
Family, Juliana Prihoda & David Deen,
Matt & Shantelle Prihoda Family, Patrick
Prihoda Family, Samuel & Allison
Prihoda Family, Joseph & Lisa Prihoda
Family, Marianna & Russell Measom
Family, Carmela & Sean Tribble Family,
Anthony & Veronica Prihoda Family
James and Carolyn Prihoda
M/M Franklin Addicks
Engle Farmers Mutual

• Rev. Msgr. John C. Bily Seminary Burse #2

Lector

In memory of Johnny B. Prihoda by
Daniel C. Bernice Ulbricht

Acolyte

In memory of Lucy Lednicky, sister of Rev.
Msgr. John Bily, on her birthday by
Jesse and Nancy Lednicky

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

Lector

In honor of Rev. Philip Brune by:
Robert and Carol Schertz
Sts. Peter and Paul Parish Altar Society,
Frelsburg

• Rev. Kristopher L. Fuchs Seminary Burse

Acolyte

In memory of Joshua Michael Flessner, our
grandson, and cousin to Rev. Kristopher
Fuchs by Paul and Helen Flessner

• Rev. Scott Hill Seminary Burse

Lector

In memory of Donald Leo Wass by
Daryl and Joan Hill

• Rev. Msgr. Joseph Hybner KC #3204 Seminary Burse

Lector

In memory of Rev. Msgr. Joseph Hybner by
the Family of Rev. Msgr. Joseph Hybner

Candidate

In memory of Rev. Msgr. Joseph Hybner by
K of C Council #3204, Ganado

• Josephat R. Janak Seminary Burse #2

Lector

In memory of Chris Jerome Janak by
Larissa Migl

• K of C #9088 – Holy Family Church – Victoria Seminary Burse

Candidate

In memory of Arlin R. Hauboldt by
K of C Council #9088, Victoria
In memory of Robert P. Bryarly, Jr. by
K of C Council #9088, Victoria
In memory of Ramiro M. Longoria by
K of C Council #9088, Victoria
In memory of David J. Bongers by
K of C Council #9088, Victoria
In memory of Carmen R. Alicardi by
K of C Council #9088, Victoria

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

Lector

In memory of Ralph Mendoza, father of
Rev. Jacob Mendoza by
Daryl and Joan Hill

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

Lector

In honor of Rev. Msgr. John Peters by
Soila Sanchez
In memory of Daniel Melnar by:
Rosetta T. Gentry
Ineta Karttunen

• Henry A. Schoenfeld Seminary Burse

Lector

In memory of Johnny Prihoda by
Bernice Schoenfeld

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

Lector

In memory of Gary Greive by
Elsie Farek

• Elorine Bluntzer Tumlinson Seminary Burse

Acolyte

Donation by Donald and Olivia McDonald

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

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

Education of Seminarian Fund

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

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

Lector

Paz and Andrea Morales
in Memory of Father Dan Morales

Catholic Daughters of the Americas -
Court St. Michael #559, Weimar

Victor and Gail Dvorak
in Memory of Johnny Prihoda

Dan and Barbara Respondek
in Memory of Don Hall

Acolyte

James and Barbara Janak
Dr. Jorge and Juanita Duchicela
in Memory of Johnny Prihoda

Catholic Daughters of the Americas -
Our Lady of the Blessing #2546, Blessing

Knights of Columbus #1329, Victoria
in Memory of Chris Janak

Candidate

Catholic Daughters of the Americas -
Texas State Court

Transitional Deacon

KJZT Family Life

Priest

Catholic Union of Texas - KJT

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

Diocese Of Victoria
Education of Seminarian Fund
P. O. Box 4070
Victoria, TX 77903



Lent is time to get closer to God and humanity

Editor's note: Sister Mildred is out this week, so we are reprinting her Lenten message from March 2017.

Headlines of natural disasters, political unrest, violent crimes and other calamities bombard us every day. Closer to home, even in our own homes and communities, we see the heart-breaking situations caused by deaths, accidents, illnesses, unemployment, consequences of poor judgment, crimes or other misfortunes.

Sometimes we feel so overwhelmed with these woes that we give up. Consequently, we may end up doing nothing, which only makes the situation worse because of the non-caring example we give to those around us.

Fortunately, the Church in its wisdom provides us with liturgical seasons that help us pause and reflect upon our relationship with God and our neighbor. Lent is such a season; it calls us to conversion through prayer, fasting and giving alms.

Let us explore how these activities address the woes that have been mentioned above. For example, we can pray for peace of mind and soul for the victims of adverse conditions. Pope Francis tells us, "... we can pray in communion with the Church on earth and in heaven. Let us not underestimate the power of so many voices united in prayer!" Through praying, we can strengthen our relationship with God by repeatedly giving praise, asking for favors, and then giving thanks for blessings that we have received.

Let us appreciate the power of prayer. Even scientific research has shown that hospital patients who have been prayed for have quicker recovery rates and have fewer complications than patients who have not.

Along with prayer, we are called to fast during this season. Pope Francis suggests that we fast from indifference towards others. He wrote, "Indifference to our neighbor and to

Sisterly Thoughts

By Sister Mildred Truchard, IWBS



God also represents a real temptation for us Christians. Each year during Lent we need to hear once more the voice of the prophets who cry out and trouble our conscience." The pope continues his comments on the results of giving in to the temptation of indifference. "We end up being incapable of feeling compassion at the outcry of the poor, weeping for other people's pain, and feeling a need to help them as though this were someone else's responsibility and not our own."

Regarding almsgiving, Pope Francis writes, "... we can help by acts of charity, reaching out to both those near and far though the Church's many charitable organizations. Lent is a favorable time for showing this concern for others by small, yet concrete signs of our belonging to the one human family." Therefore, let us give in a spirit of charity and remember, "Whatsoever you do"

Therefore, may this penitential season be a time of continuing conversion as we embrace prayer, fasting and almsgiving as a means of strengthening our relationship with God and with one another.

— Pope Francis' quotes were taken from www.Vatican.va "Messages of Pope Francis for Lent."



SEMINARIANS TAKE STEP FORWARD TO PRIESTHOOD — Joseph Blackburn and Aaron Padilla received the Ministry of Lector from Bishop Mark Seitz of El Paso on Feb. 16. Lector is a Ministry of the Word of God and is the first ministry a seminarian receives on his way to the priesthood. Acolyte is the next step, then transitional deacon, before being ordained to the priesthood.

SUPPORTING SEMINARIANS

— Joyce Kurtz, state director of KJZT Family Life, presented a \$1,789.29 check to Bishop Brendan Cahill from the organization's Clerical Endowment Fund.

The funds were collected to support the education of seminarians in the Diocese of Victoria.



INEZ — Catholic Daughters of the Americas, Court of St. Joseph, Protector of Mary #2475 hosted their annual Valentine's party for single seniors over 60 on Valentine's Day at St. Joseph's church hall. This provides a special day for the senior members to share a meal and fellowship. Betty Wood and Willie Rios were crowned King and Queen of the event.

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YORKTOWN — Catholic Daughters of America Court Holy Cross No. 1598 said they had loads of fun making 62 Valentine bags for the residents of their local nursing home and shut-ins during their Feb. 2 meeting.



Sacred Heart School Holds Catholic Knowledge Bowl

HALLETTSVILLE — Sacred Heart Catholic School wrapped up Catholic Schools Week with its annual Catholic Knowledge Bowl. Twenty-eight teams participated.

Students had to answer three rounds with 20 questions in each round. Msgr. John Peters opened the activities with a prayer, and he and Father Scott Hill took turns reading questions.

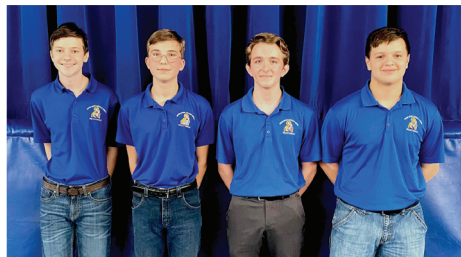
The first-place team in the High School division, with 50 points, was “Quade’s Crusaders,” consisting of Quade Henneke, Garrett Ridgeway, Brett Sestak and John Luke Wysocki. Second place, with 47 points, was “Help Wanted” team with Ethan Jacobs, Trenton Kraatz, Trey Ridgeway and Adam Steffek. Third place, with 46 points, was the “Jesus” team of Bailey Haas, Arianna Henke, Jules Janak and Katherine Pavliska.

In the Junior High division, “Camo Kitties Catholic Crusade” came in first with 44 correct answers. Team members were James Cesarz, Klayton Chance, Peyton Cull, and Wade Shimek. “Julie’s Angels,” with Maryn Machac, Anneliese Noska, Haley Noska, and Braxtyn Sitka came in second with 42 points. Third place went to “The Philippians,” with Lance Barton, Caleb Brooks, Brianna Clark and Kaycee Schindler compiling a score of 41.

There was a new award this year, for the most creative and clever name with a religious twist. First place in high school went to Erin Fawbush, Victoria Kraatz, Dallas Layton and Bailey Schindler, with the name “Mountain Lifting Mustard Seeds,” recalling Jesus’ words that faith as small as a mustard seed could move mountains. “CCC - Christ’s Christian Crew,” with Rania Bustmante, Ella Demel, Alaina Halata and Madelyn Kurtz, won the junior high division.

Some of the teams will participate in the Diocesan Catholic Knowledge Bowl in Victoria, where they hope to bring home more bragging rights.

— Submitted by Ana Henke, Sacred Heart School Counselor.



High school first place, Quades Crusaders, from left, Brett S., Quade H., John Luke W. and Garrett R.



Junior High first place, Camo Kitties Catholic Crusade, from left, Peyton C., Wade S., Klayton C. and James C.



High School first place team name, Mountain Lifting Mustard Seeds, from left, Bailey S., Dallas L., Erin F. and Victoria K.



Junior High first place team name, CCC - Christ’s Christian Crew, from left, Rania B., Alaina H., Madelyn K. and Ella D.



WEIMAR — Eighth-grade students from St. Michael Catholic School essays on “The meaning of Virtue and how you live and embody the virtue of Charity” for the Knights of Columbus Council #2153 annual Catholic Citizenship Essay Contest. Winners included Kelly M., first place; Brooke W., second; and Rayleigh H., third. The council also sponsored its annual Keep Christ in Christmas Poster Contest for students in kindergarten through eighth grade. Winners were Lillie H. (K-second), Chloe B. (third-fifth), and Wyatt W. (sixth-eighth). From left, are Grand Knight Jack Muggie with essay winners Kelly M., Brooke W. and Rayleigh H., and KC Youth Activities Director Mike Koeth. Muggie and Koeth also posed with poster winners, from left, Lillie H., Chloe B. and Wyatt W.

Office of Youth & Young Adult Ministry

Wendy Eggert, Director
Shannon Thomas, Associate Director
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Save the Date: April 24
Bishop Fellhauer Invitational Golf Tournament
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St. Rose students winners in contest

SCHULENBERG — The following St. Rose of Lima students were recently named winners in the Fayette Soil & Water Conservation District coloring, poster and essay contests:

- 5K coloring: Andrew B., first; Raven D., second; and Jack S., third
- first-grade coloring: Gage S., first; Kynslee Z., second; and Annaston K., third
- third-grade poster: Reese D., first; Bo Brossmann, second; and Weston H., third
- fourth-grade poster: Maximo H. and

Miranda B., tied for first place; and Brenley B., second place

- fourth-grade essay: Charlie S., first; Brock S., second; and Brenley B., third
- fifth- and sixth-grade poster: Clara M., first; Lilly W., second; and Ava B., third.

Moving on in district competition are Ian R., fifth-grade poster; Ty L., sixth-grade poster; and Mary Beth K., seventh-grade essay. Those three students also will be recognized at the upcoming FSWCD Banquet.



FREE THROW CONTEST IN HALLETTSVILLE — The Knights of Columbus Council #2433 held its annual Free Throw Contest on Feb. 2 at the Sacred Heart gym, with 32 participants in ages 9 to 14. Winners in their age divisions advanced to the district contest held Feb. 9 at the Flatonia High School gym, and winners of the district contest advanced to the diocesan contest on Feb. 16 at the Sacred Heart Hallettsville gym. Those advancing past the diocesan contest will participate in the state contest on March 7 in San Antonio. Winners from the local contest are, from left, Brinlee G, 9; Bryce C., 9; Allison C., 10; Jayden S., 10; Kasen P., 11; Alaina H., 11; Adalyn P., 12; Wyatt K. 12; Brianna C., 13; Hudson K. 13; Elana G., 13; and, Klayton C., 14.



OLV Eagles Basketball Champions

VICTORIA — Our Lady of Victory Catholic School eighth-grade boys' basketball team captured the 2019-20 Diocese of Victoria AA League Championship. Team members, from left, are top row Jack W., Coach Scott Ward, Emmett L., Coach Brian Adamek and Nathan A.; bottom row, Luke O., Jesus D., Caden A., Thomas C., Nicholas A. and John C..



HALLETTSVILLE — The Sacred Heart Junior High Student Council made a donation to the Pokot Mission in Kenya recently from funds raised through a bake sale and other projects. The money was designated to support a herd of dairy camels. Sister Rebecca Janacek, who has founded the homeless housing program Promise Pointe, was stationed at the Kenya mission for 30 years.



KJZT #101, represented by Irene Brosch, left, presented Our Lady of Victory School in Victoria pencils and kolaches during Catholic Schools Week. Accepting the gift for the school is Dorothy Gehrke, school secretary.



Catholic Rural Life - Victoria

Continued from pg. 1

rural vocations in the diocese, including row crops of corn, milo, soybeans and cotton, cattle and cheese production, grapes and wineries, catfish farms and shrimping along the coast. “So we are a very rural community.”

The Diocese of Victoria, in June 2018, began the work of the first Texas chapter of Catholic Rural Life. According to the CRL website, “Chapters of CRL are part of the national network of CRL members. Often using our resources, they work to promote, edify and celebrate the rich rural traditions of our faith in their local diocese and/or parishes.”

Bishop Cahill appointed the Rev. Stephen Vacek as director and Deacon Larry Hoelscher as chairman of the local chapter.

“The bishop desired a young, energetic priest who was from a rural town with some

experience of rural life. As a newly ordained priest whose parents own a hardware store in East Bernard, I fit the description,” Father Stephen Vacek. “I remember saying I wanted to join the diocese of Victoria because ‘I could see a combine drive down Main Street during the day.’”

Vacek and Hoelscher attended a national conference to prepare to serve the rural communities.

“It is an honor to serve the people and priests of the diocese in my role as director,” Vacek said. “The goal of our chapter is to help our diocese realize that being Catholic is more than going to Mass. We bring our faith into the workplace.”

But Catholic Rural Life is not simply for farmers. As Vacek pointed out, “from seed to plate,” all humankind has a stake in what the workers and their land provide.



Clay Crocket and Nation of Believers sing for the 2020 Catechist Rally that took place Feb. 22 at the Knights of Columbus Hall in Hallettsville. The theme for the year is “Stay With Us.”

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Clergy and other participants in the Seed and Soil Mass celebrated outdoors where the work of rural Catholics is evident.

So God Made A Farmer

The following was a speech delivered at a 1978 FFA convention by the late radio personality and newsman, Paul Harvey.

And on the 8th day, God looked down on his planned paradise and said, “I need a caretaker.” So God made a farmer.

God said, “I need somebody willing to get up before dawn, milk cows, work all day in the fields, milk cows again, eat supper and then go to town and stay past midnight at a meeting of the school board.” So God made a farmer.

“I need somebody with arms strong enough to rustle a calf and yet gentle enough

to deliver his own grandchild. Somebody to call hogs, tame cantankerous machinery, come home hungry, have to wait for lunch until his wife’s done feeding visiting ladies and tell the ladies to be sure and come back real soon -- and mean it.” So God made a farmer.

God said, “I need somebody willing to sit up all night with a newborn colt. And watch it die. Then dry his eyes and say, ‘Maybe next year.’ I need somebody who can shape an ax handle from a persimmon sprout, shoe a horse with a hunk of car tire, who can make harness out of haywire, feed sacks and shoe scraps. And who, planting time and harvest season, will finish his forty-hour week by Tuesday noon, then, pain’n from ‘tractor back,’ put in another seventy-two hours.” So God made a farmer.

God had to have somebody willing to ride the ruts at double speed to get the hay in ahead of the rain clouds and yet stop in mid-field and race to help when he sees the first smoke from a neighbor’s place. So God made a farmer.

God said, “I need somebody strong enough to clear trees and heave bails, yet gentle enough to tame lambs and wean pigs and tend the pink-combed pullets, who will stop his mower for an hour to splint the broken leg of a meadow lark. It had to be somebody who’d plow deep and straight and not cut corners. Somebody to seed, weed, feed, breed and rake and disc and plow and plant and tie the fleece and strain the milk and replenish the self-feeder and finish a hard week’s work with a five-mile drive to church.

“Somebody who’d bale a family together with the soft strong bonds of sharing, who would laugh and then sigh, and then reply, with smiling eyes, when his son says he wants to spend his life ‘doing what dad does.’” So God made a farmer.



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Living Together Before Marriage: What's the Big Deal?

2020



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Paving
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Diocese of Victoria in Texas



How to Support Programs in Your Parish

The Diocesan Services Appeal (DSA) is committed to funding administration offices and programs that help us bring the light of Christ to the priorities of the Crossroads area. The DSA for 2020 has just been mailed. If you did not receive yours, you may download one at www.victoriadiocese.org/diocesan-services-appeal or call 361-573-0828.

Welcome to "On the Table," where we will discuss topics that are clearly on the table in our culture. The topics won't always be easy to digest, but I assure you they will be important to our faith, our families and our society at large.

Let's jump into the first one, which is clearly a biggie nowadays, living together before marriage.

Cohabitation by unmarried couples has certainly increased in recent years. The National Center for Family and Marriage Research stated that two out of every three couples getting married today have lived together before marriage.

So what's the big deal anyway? Why should we care whether people live together or separately before they get married?

One thing to clarify is that living together isn't actually a sin. But it leads to sin. The odds of a couple committing the marital act while living together goes up astronomically. Remember the old adage, "Don't play with fire or you're going to get burned." It

On the Table

By Justin Reyes



can apply here. Resisting temptation is hard enough, so couples really shouldn't put themselves in a situation where avoiding that sin is going to be even harder.

Another reason to not live together is the importance of having space while dating or being engaged. When a couple first meets and is dating, they should simply be getting to know each other, creating memories and seeing what their relationship could eventually be. When things get more serious, they move to engagement, when a couple really starts to envision a life together.

It's important to realize in both of these phases that a formal commitment hasn't happened yet. There is still time to walk

away if one party decides this isn't the right relationship for them. That decision to leave gets harder when barriers such as finances, leases and common property get in the way.

So what should a couple do if they're living together and decide they want a covenant marriage in the Catholic Church? Ideally, someone needs to move out! If this is not possible, a very last resort is to live as brother and sister in separate rooms until the day of their wedding or until the apartment lease ends. (If the lease ends, don't renew!) Above all, run toward the sacraments, especially penance. Jesus can forgive us of anything if we are ready to repent.

For more reading on this topic, visit <https://www.foryourmarriage.org/cohabitation/>. It will lead you to other resources for even deeper conversations.

Until next time, I hope you can discuss this topic at your own table with family and friends. And if you ever want to chat with me about what I've written, or anything else, please call me at 361-573-0828, Ext. 2265.

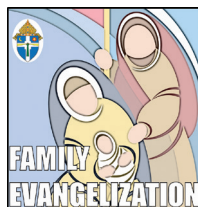
God bless!

— Justin Reyes is the director of the Office of Family Evangelization for the Diocese of Victoria. Contact him at 361-573-0828, Ext. 2265, or jreyes@victoriadiocese.org.



COLUMBUS – Knights of Columbus members marched Jan. 25 in a Pro-Life demonstration, organized by Deacon Charlie Novosad. Knight Johnathan Dooley was the speaker. There were more than 75 marchers. Pictured, from left, are, kneeling, Derek Bonner, Paul Michalsky, John Glueck, Novosad and Dooley, and, in back, Michael Fuller, Charles Fuller, Ken Berger, Kevin Fishbeck, Albert Brune, Larry "Bear" Kana, Ernie Richter, Kenneth Warstach, Charles Barrett, Rusty Thuet, and James Simons.

Office of Family Evangelization



Justin Reyes, Director
(361) 573-0838
Ext. 2265
email: jreyes@victoriadiocese.org
www.victoriadiocese.org/office-of-family-evangelization

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

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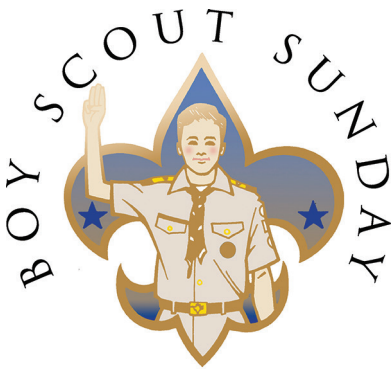
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Proceeds benefit KC's Scholarship program, the parish and school



St. Michael's
Hall



Scout Sunday was celebrated at the Cathedral of Our Lady of Victory on February 9. Bishop Brendan Cahill was the celebrant.

St. Robert welcomes music director

EL CAMPO — St. Robert Bellarmine Parish welcomed Joseph Holik as their new director of music ministry. Holik was born and raised in Wharton County and started playing drums when he was 6. He spent most of his free time at his father’s drum set, and his passion for music led him to study piano and guitar. He spent several years as a percussionist at St. Philip the Apostle Catholic Church in El Campo and many years performing with his sister at public venues in Wharton County. These opportunities allowed Holik to develop his skills as a successful accompanist with drums, piano, guitar and voice. After graduating high school in Louise, he developed his skills as a musician under the direction of Professor Joe Waldrop at Wharton County Junior College. Holik holds a bachelor of arts in music

with a concentration in percussion performance from the University of St. Thomas in Houston. He had the honor of studying percussion with Professor Lovie Smith, principal percussionist with Theatre Under the Stars in Houston and president of the Houston Professional Musicians Association. He also studied with other notable professors at the University of St. Thomas, including Dr. Malcolm Solomon, Dr. Glenn Garrido, Dr. Brady Knapp and others. Holik spent the last two years as the director of music ministry at Sacred Heart Catholic Church in Richmond and has performed with various ensembles in the Houston area, including the Houston Symphonic Band and the Fort Bend Symphony. His new assignment at St. Robert Bellarmine also puts him closer to his parents, James and Sandra Holik of Louise.



Joseph Holik plays piano with the 7 a.m. Mass music ministry. Also pictured are Ninfa Martinez, director, Jose Carrera, Teresita Mata, Guillermina Largo, Severiano Cadillacs, Dolores Aguilar and Margarita Lara.



KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS COUNCIL #4307

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Mission in Antigua carries on work of 2 beloved priests

By The Rev. Philip Brune, Pastor of
St. Robert Bellarmine, El Campo
Special to The Catholic Lighthouse

“God robbed me of martyrdom.”

Not many of us can or would want to say those words, but those were the words of Father Jose Contran, a Franciscan missionary who served as the director of Las Obras Sociales del Santo Hermano Pedro in Antigua, Guatemala, for more than 20 years.

He had lived through great suffering, which, instead of hardening his heart, made him more compassionate. He was born in the middle of World War II in Padua, Italy, and his mother often skipped meals so that he could eat. Their poverty did not push him to escape poverty, but to enter into it more profoundly, so he became a Franciscan priest at the age of 26. He served under the archbishop and martyr Saint Oscar Romero in El Salvador and also served remote villages during the Guatemalan Revolution in the late 1970s and 1980s.

Like Blessed Stanley Rother, he lived through the atrocities of that war and lost many brother Franciscans and priests. It was during this time that he was moved from one assignment to another, and the following week all the Franciscans at his previous church were martyred for caring for the poor and burying the dead.

He would relate, “God robbed me of martyrdom.”

Yet, instead of becoming crippled by these horrors it only spurred him on to more fully serve and trust in God.

During the revolution, another Franciscan, Fray Guillermo Bonilla was bringing the sick and homeless to an old government hospital in Antigua that had been destroyed by an earthquake. This was the start of Las Obras. From this humble beginning, Las Obras has grown to be the largest healthcare provider in Guatemala and provides not only for the sick, but also for malnourished babies, those with serious disabilities, and provides a home for the elderly, and recovery for alcoholics and drug addicts.

In 1994, Father Jose was assigned as director of Las Obras and continued the miraculous growth and service first begun by Fray Guillermo. Under his supervision Las Obras grew dramatically through the support of Guatemalan benefactors and international support.

Meeting him you found a soft-spoken – almost frail – man whose words, faith and conviction were quite the opposite. It was on one of his trips asking for support that



Members of Coram Deo come together Jan. 18 for a memorial Mass for Father Jose Contran who died in December. They recalled how Father Jose and Father Dan Morales of the Diocese of Victoria had been the face of God and how we are called to carry on their beautiful ministry by helping to provide for the physical, spiritual and financial needs of Las Obras, a healthcare ministry that provides for needy in Antigua, Guatemala.

he encountered the late Father Dan Morales in Port O'Connor. Father Dan accepted his invitation to come and visit Las Obras in the beautiful colonial city of Antigua. There, Father Dan fell in love with the Franciscans, the babies, the workers, the sick, and the poor of Las Obras. He so easily saw the face of God in them, and it renewed his ministry as a diocesan priest.

After his trip, Father Dan started to invite seminarians and parishioners to join him on his trips to Las Obras. Those who went also encountered the face of God in a profound. Every year they would visit the Franciscans to pray with them and the orphans and to serve in whatever capacity was needed, from washing clothes to painting the sacristy, to feeding the disabled. It was a catchall group that became a non-profit called Coram Deo “Before the face of God” whose only mission was to serve as needed and to encounter the face of God in every person they met.

This past Dec. 27, Father Jose Contran passed from this life to eternal life. He was

buried in the city cemetery called St. Lazarus beside the other residents who had died at Las Obras – the poor, the sick, the Lazaruses of Antigua whom he had spent his life serving. On Jan. 18, the members of Coram Deo came together to offer a memorial Mass for Father Jose. They recalled how Father Jose and Father Dan had been the face of God and how we are called to carry on their beautiful ministry by helping to provide for the physical, spiritual and financial needs of Las Obras.

Their work continues this year through the mission trip that will be Aug. 2-9 with registration beginning March 7. This mission trip is open to all individuals 18 years and older and is capped at 40 people. You can register for the trip or find out more information by going to www.hfccvic.org/coram-deo.

You can also donate to Las Obras on-line by visiting <https://www.hermanopedrofoundationusa.org/get-involved/>. One-hundred percent of donations go directly to Las Obras. You can also find out more about Las Obras by visiting their Facebook page at Obras Sociales del Santo Hermano Pedro.

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Priest's pro-life, spiritual Lenten campaign aimed at Latino Catholics

WASHINGTON (CNS) — As a new Lenten season begins, Father Jorge Obregon from Houston is encouraging young Latino Catholics to participate in a new spiritual campaign titled Life Savers.

"I hope this can get to as many Spanish-speaking people starting in Spain and all the way from Canada to Argentina," Father Obregon told Catholic News Service in a recent phone interview.

According to Obregon, the campaign's inspiration evolved from the 2019 film "Unplanned," which tells the true story of Abby Johnson from Bryant, Texas. Johnson became the youngest clinic director in Planned Parenthood's history. After she was asked to assist in an abortion -- which was not her role as director but the clinic was shorthanded that day -- she quit and became an outspoken pro-life activist.

Sponsored by New Fire, a project for young people and adults who want to discover the Catholic faith, the 40-day Life Savers campaign has five focus areas.

Two areas that will vary from week to week are leaving behind one's vices and a little sacrifice. These commitments include refraining from social media and hot showers. Another area is getting close to Mary, and committing to praying the rosary daily.

The campaign also challenges participants to complete 30 minutes of daily prayer to Jesus and to cultivate one's interior life by exercising additional prayer, generosity and perseverance. Father Obregon said each week, there will be a theme along with detailed videos.

Father Obregon explained why he chose Lent as the time for this spiritual campaign.

"I've seen the good practice of Lenten campaigns all over where Christians and Catholics are inspired to give a lot more or just to come closer to the heart of Jesus through that penitential moment," said Father Obregon, who is a member of the Legionar-

ies of Christ. Ordained in 2009, he works in young adult ministry.

As a priest, Father Obregon said he has seen a trend of individuals returning to confession, to the sacraments overall and especially to their prayer life during Lent, which he refers to as a "period of grace" in the liturgical year.

"Since we know that people are already going to be praying, why not give them a guideline that can help them have a clear intention?" said Father Obregon.

He told CNS that promoting the spiritual campaign to Latinos, the target population, on Instagram and Facebook has increased overall awareness of the campaign. Father Obregon said the texting and calling application WhatsApp has helped to reach Latinos worldwide because many of them utilize the app to connect and communicate.

Additionally, Father Obregon and New Fire team members have been able to spread knowledge of the campaign by sending information materials to various influencers, including priests and women religious.

Father Obregon acknowledged that it can be challenging to carve out time for personal prayer and reflection due to the busyness of life. He said that one of the purposes of the Lenten campaign's introductory video, however, is to offer concrete guidance to help participants find that time for prayer and spiritual commitments.

"Your commitment is with Jesus Christ," Father Obregon explained. "I've always believed that we have a personal relationship with a person, not with a code of spiritual commitments. Jesus is love, and he's forgiving, so if you're unable to do it, no problem."

Father Obregon said he believes that the Holy Spirit is prompting others to commit to being in love with life. He also said his prayer for this Lenten season is that people will act on the Holy Spirit's push and fully celebrate and promote the gift of life.

Lenten Events at Amor Meus Spirituality Center

Amor Meus Spirituality Center, a ministry of the Sisters of the Incarnate Word and Blessed Sacrament, invites you to take advantage of several events during the season of Lent at Incarnate Word Convent, 1101 N.E. Water St. in Victoria.

Each Sunday of Lent (March 1-April 5) solemn vespers, with brief reflections on the readings of the Sunday Mass, will be prayed in the chapel from 5 to 5:45 p.m. Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament will follow.

On March 24 Taizé prayer, a meditative sung and chanted

Christian prayer with periods of silence, reflection and liturgical readings will take place 7-8 p.m. in the Amor Meus Prayer Room on the convent grounds. This is an opportunity to reflect on our lives in relation to the life of our crucified Jesus Christ.

On March 28 a guided one-day retreat,

"You are Invited to be Transformed into Christ," will be facilitated by Sr. Marian Sturm, a sister of the Incarnate Word and Blessed Sacrament, who has her background in theology and scripture. She received her

certification as a spiritual director from The Center for Spiritual Growth and the Contemplative Life in San Antonio.

During this retreat, participants will reflect on the great challenge of the spiritual life to claim the spiritual truth that we are God's beloved. Claiming this truth, we are set free and sent on mission

to make choices for truth, love and justice, supporting the life of the Spirit in us. In this way, we can be transformed into Christ. Registration is at 9:30 pm with the retreat beginning at 10 and concluding at 3:30 p.m. Since we no longer purchase lunches, please bring your own. A love offering will be collected.



Sunday Readings from March 8 - April 7

March 8 ~ Second Sunday of Lent

Genesis 12:1-4A

Psalms 33:4-5, 18-19, 20, 22

2 Timothy 1:8B-10

Matthew 17:1-9

March 15 ~ Third Sunday of Lent

Exodus 17:3-7

Psalms 95:1-2, 6-7, 8-9

Romans 5:1-2, 5-8

John 4:5-42

March 22 ~ Fourth Sunday of Lent

1 Samuel 16:1B, 6-7, 10-13A

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

Ephesians 5:8-14

John 9:1-41

March 29 ~ Fifth Sunday of Lent

Ezekiel 37:12-14

Psalms 130:1-2, 3-4, 5-6, 7-8

Romans 8:8-11

John 11:1-45

April 5 ~ Palm Sunday

of the Lord's Passion

Isaiah 50:4-7

Psalms 22:8-9, 17-18, 19-20, 23-24

Philippians 2:6-11

Matthew 26:14-27:66

April 7 ~ Chrism Mass

Isaiah 61:1-3A, 6A, 8B-9

Psalms 89:21-22, 25, 27

Revelations 1:5-8

Luke 4:16-21

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

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The happiness we seek is always around us

The following sermon was written by Father Kram for the Third Sunday of Lent, Cycle A.

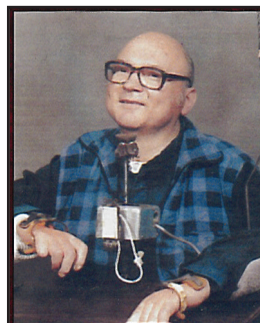
St. Augustine said that God has made us for himself alone and that our hearts will be restless until they rest in him. Like the woman at the well, we are all thirsting and searching.

If there is any one thing for which everyone is searching, it is happiness. Although different people have different notions as to what happiness is, we all want our share.

Although it would seem that the more we have of what we enjoy, the happier we will be, but the fact is that excess so quickly turns to pain. Overeating makes your stomach miserable and makes you fat. When King Henry VIII died at the age of 49, he had a waistline of 52 inches. Or take the case of the alcoholic or the drug abuser. Their lives eventually revolve around a drink or a fix. The rich and the famous have all the money and power and influence they could want, but, in reality, they are a pitiful bunch.

To put it simply, in our search for happiness, there is no rest for either the good or the wicked. Yet no one can deny that God, in whom our true happiness lies, is very much with us every day.

He made us, he conserves us in existence,



1929-2000

Father Charles Kram Corner

he provides for us. The evidence of his loving presence surrounds us. Once I said to a patient that nothing exciting had happened that day. He corrected me and pointed out the birds and the trees and flowers and how they were all exciting evidence of God's nearness. How true!

In fact, from all corners of creation, there rises up to a God a continuous chorus of praise from all such silent creatures, which have no mind to think with and no heart to love with, but which by their order and their beauty and their very existence cry out to God night and day, "How great thou art." How bleak and sad the world would be without the glories of nature.

Besides merely having God near us in his

works, we also have him dwelling within us by sanctifying grace. We are living temples of the Holy Spirit.

As if this were not enough, God has made himself visible and touchable in the person of Jesus Christ. In the divine person of Jesus are forever united the eternal nature of God and a human nature just like ours, except for sin.

Jesus is gone now, ascended to heaven in his risen and glorified body, elusive and hard to find in the flesh. But his word to us is, "Love one another as I have loved you."

Jesus is all around us in the men, women and children we meet, waiting to be treated with love. Just recently one of the nurses was giving me breakfast, and the nurse who was assigned to me came in and smiled and hugged the other nurse and said, "Thank you,

thank you." And then they said, "I like to take care of Father." We can think of many ways in which to express our love for others. Try ending your conversation sometime by saying, "Oh, by the way, I love you."

Another test of Christian discipleship is to help heal the hurt in those who endlessly complain or those who are afraid or depressed. A simple word of encouragement can go a long way.

Now one more example: Just recently I heard of a "pass it on" group. The members made a pledge that every time they have a favor done for them, they will pass it on by doing a favor for someone else.

See how much the Lord is in our midst. We might well say, "Gosh, I never saw so many Christs in my life."

As I have mentioned before in the chapel, some years ago, when the "God is dead" fad swept the country, someone scribbled a graffiti on the wall that read, "God is dead," and signed it, "Nitzsche." Nitzsche was the German philosopher who supposedly started the "God is dead" idea. Someone else wrote underneath the first graffiti, "Nitzsche is dead," and signed it, "God."

And he was right. Nitzsche IS dead, and God IS very much alive. He is very much with us and he is the end of our search for happiness.

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CCFT Preserving the past for the future

By Janet Jones, Editor
The Catholic Lighthouse

DUBINA – Culture is not about the past, it is about the future, the Most Rev. Brendan Cahill said during Mass at Sts. Cyril and Methodius Catholic Church – the first church in Texas named for the saints – on Feb. 14.

The Mass was on the saints' feast day in thanksgiving for the Czech Catholic culture brought to Texas from the Moravia and Bohemia areas in the mid-1800s. But the Mass was just the beginning of the newly formed Czech Catholic Foundation of Texas, as the bishop inaugurated its founding officers and directors.

There already are several Czech fraternal organizations in Texas, such as KJZT, KJT and the SPJST. But this organization is uniquely focused on the faith. Its stated mission is, "To document, study, preserve, celebrate and perpetuate all elements of the Czech Catholic faith transplanted to Texas by immigrants from the Czech lands; and to strengthen ties with Czech Catholics of the ancestral homeland evangelized by Sts. Cyril and Methodius."

Bishop Cahill wore a liturgical vestment with the likeness of the two saints, brothers who evangelized the area that is now the Czech Republic.

"They understood culture," Bishop Cahill said of the saints. They are credited with creating a liturgical language for the people they evangelized and helped form several Czech dialects. "Culture develops to help us cultivate what God has given us," Cahill said. And celebrating culture keeps our lives meaningful, he added.

The Rev. Stephen Nesrsta, pastor of Holy Trinity Catholic Church in Corn Hill and one of the founding officers of CCFT brought with him three priests from the Czech Republic to help celebrate the Mass. Those priests, the Rev. Ales Pisatovic, the Rev. Pavel Marek



Bishop Brendan Cahill pictured above with the newly elected board members of the Czech Catholic Foundation of Texas.



The Knights of Columbus 4th Degree served as Honor Guard for Bishop Brendan Cahill, and Father Wayne Flagg of St. Michaels Church of Weimar, during the Czech Catholic Foundation of Texas Mass at Sts. Cyril and Methodius Catholic Church in Dubina. Attending Sir. Knights were from St. Michael Assembly No. 1527 of Flatonia, Schulenburg, and Weimar. Pictured from left, Sir Knight Rodney Kalich of Schulenburg, Sir Knight Charlie Herzik of Weimar, Bishop Cahill of Victoria and Sir Knight Kenneth Berger of Schulenburg.

and the Rev. Vaclav Tomicek, came to know Father Nesrsta through a program bringing transitional deacons from the Czech Republic to Texas to learn, among other things, how the culture was transplanted here well over a century ago. After Mass the visiting priests sang the Czech hymn "Svaty Vaclave" for the congregation.

The newly organized CCFT set a goal to support the continuation of Nesrsta's program.

Marvin Marek, founder and president of CCFT, said he has a very emotional attachment to his "Czech-ness," nurtured by his immigrant grandfather and other family members who loved the Church. He grew up in Shiner and said about 75 percent of his parish family were Czech.

"It had a great impact on my life," he said. "The ethnic mosaic that has formed the Church – that's what makes the Church so beautiful. When we have a love for our own ethnicity, we can better respect other ethnicities. That's my motivation for doing this."

Mary Jo Rebeck, whose maiden name is

Cernoch, grew up in the area said she spoke mostly Czech up to about second grade. It was her great-great-grandparents who immigrated from the Czech Republic area and settled in Texas. She attended the recent Mass and the reception to learn more about the organization and said she has tried her whole life to continue Czech traditions "for the kids," exposing them to Czech music and language as much as possible.

Like Rebeck, there were many others who wanted to be a part of the celebration. Marek said he did not expect a large crowd when planning this 2 p.m. celebration, but the church was full, and so was the reception hall afterward, demonstrating the love the Czech Catholics in Texas have for their faith and culture.

The board members extended their gratitude to many people who made the event special including Bishop Cahill, the Rev. Wayne Flagg, pastor of the Dubina church and all the clergy who participated. They also expressed gratitude for the Czech hymns sung by choirs

of parishes in Dubina, Cistern, Fayetteville, Hostyn, La Grange, Praha and Shiner organized by Dorothy Blackman. Organist Margie Janecka accompanied them.

They also thanked Ed Janecka, longtime Fayette County Judge, who coordinated the event, the KJZT and KJT societies and the parishioners of Sts. Cyril and Methodius who hosted.

The Rev. Paul Chovanec, pastor of St. Justin Martyr in Houston and one of the people who helped form the CCFT, organized the liturgy for the Mass. He and Father Nesrsta are chaplains of the organization's new board.

For more information about the organization, visit www.czechcatholicfoundation.org.

Goals of the CCFT:

These are listed in order of priority, but subject to changing circumstances and further review and approval by the CCFT board of directors.

1. Promote the celebration of the liturgical feasts of the Czech Saints honored in the Roman Missal, especially in parishes founded by Czech immigrants;
2. Promote the celebration of the religious customs practiced by Czech immigrants to Texas and their early descendants;
3. Promote the designation, by the bishops of Texas, of a place of pilgrimage in Texas which honors Sts. Cyril and Methodius, the "Apostles to the Slavs";
4. Provide grants to Texas Catholic youth leaders to visit their counterparts in the Czech Republic and in Texas;
5. Provide grants, if needed, to continue the annual visits of the newly ordained transitional Czech deacons to Texas in the program established by the Rev. Stephen Nesrsta;
6. Provide grants for the translation of Czech religious writings into English and publishing them;
7. Provide scholarships for Texas college students who commit to studying Czech Catholicism's sacred music, liturgy, history and literature and their use by the Czech immigrants and their descendants, and to sharing their knowledge with Texas Czech Catholics.

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Dress for the weather as this event takes place out of doors.

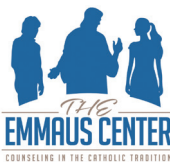
For more information, visit their Facebook page at Presidio La Bahia - Goliad, Texas.

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



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Consecrated life celebrated here, everywhere

By Janet Jones, Editor
The Catholic Lighthouse

VICTORIA — Our Lady of Sorrows hosted a World Day for Consecrated Life celebration and Mass on Feb. 2. Bishop Brendan Cahill and the Rev. Eliecer Patino of Our Lady of Sorrows concelebrated the 8:30 Mass, which was followed by a reception at Trinity Hall.

There are six religious congregations in The Diocese of Victoria:

- Missionary Catechists of the Sacred Hearts of Jesus and Mary
- Sisters of Charity of the Incarnate Word
- Sisters of the Incarnate World and Blessed Sacrament
- Vietnamese Dominican Sisters
- Vietnamese Sisters of the Incarnation, Consecration and Mission, and
- Carmelites of the Ever Virgin Mary

The congregation gave thanks to God for the religious Sisters and prayed that many more men and women would answer to the call to consecrated life.

Pope John Paul II instituted the celebration in 1997. It is celebrated on the Feast of the Presentation of the Lord, also known as Candlemas Day, celebrating the coming of Christ, the Light of the World.

According to a statement by the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, "... consecrated men and women bring the presence of Jesus to all they encounter throughout their day, allowing his spirit to live and move with them so that the truth of the Gospel can be proclaimed to all."

Each year, the USCCB Committee on Clergy, Consecrated Life, and Vocations requests a survey on members of religious communities, which is done by the Center for Applied Research in the Apostolate (CARA).

The USCCB reported the following results of the most recent survey:

- The average age of the profession class of 2019 is 39. Half of those are 34 or younger, with the youngest being 24. The oldest is 71.
- Two-thirds of those surveyed reported their primary ethnicity is white. Ten percent identify as Hispanic, and 9 percent as Asian.
- One-fourth of those surveyed earned a graduate degree before entering a congregation. The other three-fourths had earned at least a bachelor's degree.
- Nine out of 10 of those responding to the survey served in one or more church



Our Lady of Sorrows in Victoria hosted a celebration of Consecrated Life in the Diocese of Victoria on Feb. 2 as did Pope Francis and churches around the world. Religious Sisters representing five of six congregations are pictured with Bishop Brendan Cahill after 8:30 a.m. Mass on Feb. 2 at Our Lady of Sorrows. Bishop Cahill and the Rev. Eliecer Patino of Our Lady of Sorrows concelebrated the Mass on the Feast of the Presentation of the Lord, which is also World Day for Consecrated Life. The Carmelites of the Ever Virgin Mary were not present because of their cloister.

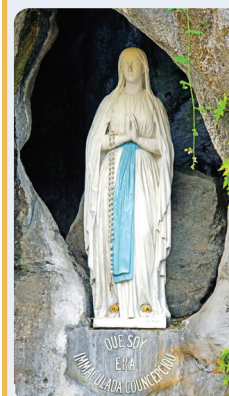
ministries before entering religious life. The most common ministries were lector, altar server, or Extraordinary Minister of Communion.

- On average, the religious reported they were 19 when they first considered a vocation to religious life, but half were 18 or younger when they first did.

More than 90 percent participated in some type of private prayer activity before

entering their religious institute. More than 60 percent participated in Eucharistic Adoration or prayed the rosary before entering. And almost 60 percent participated in spiritual direction or retreats before entering.

The full survey and resources for parishes are available at <http://cms.usccb.org/beliefs-and-teachings/vocations/consecrated-life/world-day-for-consecrated-life.cfm>.



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DOV schools honor those who tirelessly support them

By Janet Jones, Editor
The Catholic Lighthouse

VICTORIA -- When the Catholic schools of the Diocese of Victoria introduced their chosen Distinguished Alumni for 2020 there was no mention of what kind of report cards they took home. What they took with them were the values that formed them into adults that have earned the right to be called, “loyal,” “reliable,” “dedicated,” “caring,” “faithful,” and even “amazing.”

Each person honored has a long list of accomplishments to their credit that show they have a strong sense of community and a love of their faith and Catholic education. Among them were teachers, attorneys, businessmen and women, healthcare professionals, civic leaders, religious men and women, homemakers, parents and volunteers.

Bishop Brendan Cahill presented the 2020 awards during a dinner at the Diocese of Victoria Chancery on Monday, Feb. 24. It was the 9th annual dinner and the first time it was hosted at the Chancery.

Dr. John Quarry, Superintendent of Catholic Schools for the diocese, welcomed the honorees and attendees, saying, “The Office of Catholic Schools for the Diocese of Victoria is happy to sponsor this annual event to highlight the contributions of our esteemed alumni who have walked the halls of our schools over the past years and have enjoyed many accomplishments in their own rights.”

Quarry said the 2020 honorees joined the ranks of more than 100 named alumni.

“Thank you for your contribution to the legacy of Catholic education,” he said.

The honorees are:

Amy Connell Lehmann, alumnus of Holy Cross Catholic School in Bay City. A dental hygienist, she has been a missionary to Guatemala providing dental treatment to those in need as part of the organization Faith in Practice. She is a vocal advocate for her school and currently serves on the school’s advisory council. Her son is now a fifth-grader at Holy Cross.

T. Michael O’Connor, an alumnus of Nazareth Academy has served many years as the sheriff of Victoria County and was recently sworn in as U.S. Marshal of the Southern District of Texas. He and his wife, LuAnn have served the school for many years, and he has said that all he learned in school was from the nuns.

Charla Ybarra attended Our Lady of Victory from kindergarten through the eighth grade. All of her children attended OLV. She has devoted many hours to the school in the past 13 years as a parent. She served seven years on the OLV Gala committee, coached track, served as a room mother, and helped with numerous PTC fundraisers. She is a registered dental hygienist at Gulf Coast Periodontics in Victoria.

John Hemmi graduated from Sacred Heart in Hallettsville in 1961 and went on to St. Mary’s University where he received his doctor of jurisprudence in 1968. He has served in many educational and practical capacities as a family law attorney. He remains a staunch supporter of Sacred Heart school and parish and has provided tuition assistance to many families for Catholic education.

Sandy Glueck received her primary education at St. Anthony Catholic School in Columbus and went on to Bishop Forest High School, then attended Southwest Texas State University on a track scholarship. She is a medical assistant at the family practice clinic in Columbus. She has given numerous hours of her time as a volunteer in her church and for the school. She co-chairs the church festival in the fall and helps with youth groups, and ministers to the elderly and homebound.

Mark Westerman graduated as salutatorian of the St. Joseph High School Class of 1972. He went on to study finance at Texas A&M University and returned to Victoria where he had a successful 20-year career at Victoria Bank & Trust. He later became a CPA. He currently works in his own consulting business focusing on investment, tax preparation and business accounting. Giving back to the community is one of his cornerstone beliefs and he has served on several Catholic school boards and in many capacities in the Diocese of Victoria.

Rita Arlitt was honored by St. Joseph Catholic School in Yoakum for the many years she served as a teacher and principal in the Yoakum school system and at St. Joseph. She graduated from the school in 1965 and became the first person in her family to go to college. Her passion for education is still appreciated by students she had decades ago. All three of her daughters became teachers,

See 2020 Distinguished Alumni, pg. 20



‘Powerful words of understanding’: Pope backs indigenous in Amazon

By **Barbara J. Fraser**
Catholic News Service

LIMA, Peru (CNS) — Saying the world has much to learn from Amazonian indigenous peoples, Pope Francis declared the Catholic Church their ally in their struggle to protect the region’s forests and rivers.

In “Querida Amazonia” (Beloved Amazonia), the apostolic exhortation issued Feb. 12, the pope called on Catholics to respond to environmental destruction in the Amazon region with outrage and indignation while building networks of solidarity with its traditional inhabitants.

The document is Pope Francis’ response to recommendations made by participants in the Synod of Bishops for the Amazon, held in October 2019 at the Vatican.

With its often lyrical language, the exhortation takes another step toward a closer relationship with native peoples, which the pope launched in Peru in January 2017. At an encounter there with several thousand Amazonian indigenous people, Pope Francis asked his listeners to help church leaders understand their culture and their lives.

With the exhortation, the pope has made it clear that the church – and the world – must listen to them and recognize them as equals, said Moema Maria Marques de Miranda, a lay Franciscan who was an observer at the synod.

“After 500 years, indigenous peoples are recognized in their wisdom and their abilities. That is a paradigm change,” Miranda told Catholic News Service.



A leader of the Celia Xakriaba peoples walks along the banks of the Xingu River in Brazil’s Xingu Indigenous Park Jan. 15, 2020. (CNS photo/Ricardo Moraes, Reuters)

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Wharton, East Bernard



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



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



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



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



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



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



Larry ‘Bear’ Kana, FIC, LUTCF
979-877-5589
larry.kana@kofc.org
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Obispos estadounidenses interrogan al papa sobre Amazonia y otros temas

Por Catholic News Service

CIUDAD DEL VATICANO (CNS) —Al conversar sobre debates, diferencias y discernimiento, el papa Francisco le dijo a un grupo de obispos de EE.UU. que las personas enfocadas en la posibilidad de ordenar a algunos hombres casados y diaconisas para servir en la Amazonia, estarán decepcionados con su exhortación apostólica.

El Vaticano difundirá “Querida Amazonia” (Beloved Amazonia), el documento postsinodal del papa, el 12 de febrero.

El documento fue mencionado el 10 de febrero durante una conversación de dos horas y media que el papa Francisco tuvo con obispos de Nuevo México, Arizona, Colorado, Utah y Wyoming --según dijeron dos de los prelados. Los obispos estaban realizando su visita “ad limina” en Roma para informar sobre la situación de sus diócesis.

Como es su práctica habitual, el papa Francisco les dijo a los obispos que ellos podían conversar sobre cualquier tema que quisieran plantear, ofrecerle información, hacerle preguntas o incluso plantearle sus críticas, siempre y cuando las críticas sean confidenciales.

El arzobispo John C. Wester de Santa Fe, Nuevo México, le dijo a Catholic News Service que el papa les dijo a los obispos lo siguiente: “Quiero escuchar lo que tengan que decir. Las críticas, quejas y preguntas son bienvenidas. Así es como actúa el Espíritu Santo. El Espíritu Santo no puede actuar si estamos todos caminando sobre arena movediza y con miedo de decir algo”.

Entre los temas que conversaron destacan la crisis de abuso sexual por parte del Clero, la inmigración, la polarización en la sociedad y en la iglesia, la formación de seminaristas, el ministerio de los obispos y el rol de las mujeres en la iglesia --según contaron varios obispos.

El obispo Óscar A. Solís de Salt Lake City dijo que el papa Francisco no entró en detalles sobre “Querida Amazonia”, pero a los obispos sí les dio la impresión que los temas de

ordenar a hombres casados y diaconisas para el ministerio en comunidades lejanas todavía van a ser una cuestión para futuros debates y discernimiento.

“Dijo que en este momento no creía en la ordenación de hombres casados, pero qué vas a hacer con todas esas personas que están privadas de la Eucaristía”, dijo el obispo. Hay comunidades donde un sacerdote llega solamente una vez al año para oficiar Misa.

El papa Francisco sí alertó a los obispos que muchos en los medios de comunicación y el público en general pondrán atención a esos dos asuntos --hombres casados y diaconisas-- en tanto él quería enfocarse en los retos sociales, pastorales, ecológicos y culturales que encara la región de la Amazonia.

El arzobispo Wester dijo: “Muchos de los medios algunas veces se apegan a algo porque se ajusta a una agenda en particular o provoca una controversia específica que ellos saben que va a generar un montón de futuros negocios”.

El arzobispo le dijo a CNS que al papa Francisco se le pidió “una clarificación” en cuanto al sínodo.

Contó que el papa, muy gentil y calmadamente dijo “ya saben, este asunto no fue realmente un gran punto”, aunque el tema sí surgió; pero sin decir si el tema era sobre los sacerdotes casados, diaconisas o algo así. Según el arzobispo, la esencia de la respuesta del papa fue: “Nisiquiera he pensado en este punto, avancemos porque yo no he sentido que el Espíritu Santo esté actuando al respecto en este momento”.

Resumiendo su postura en el debate sobre el documento referente al Sínodo de la Amazonia, el arzobispo Wester le dijo a CNS: “Lo que no se va a decir, es lo que la gente notará”.

El obispo retirado Gerald F. Kicanas de Tucson, Arizona, dijo que habiéndose reunido casi todos los obispos de EE.UU. para las conversaciones “ad limina”, lo que no hacían desde noviembre, estaba seguro de que el papa había recibido muchos comentarios.

pamento Bautista en Palacios. El costo es de \$175 por persona. Se hace un depósito de \$50 con su solicitud para reservar su lugar en el retiro. El resto se paga antes del inicio del retiro. Para información, llame a Martin Mendoza Villafuerte, director, 979-479-0428; Sergio Paniagua, codirector, 979-479-4601; o Eusevio, codirector, 979-241-2960

Mensaje de Cuaresma del papa: Reconciliarse con Dios conduce a la sanación

Por Carol Glatz

Catholic News Service

CIUDAD DEL VATICANO (CNS) — La Cuaresma es un momento para un diálogo más profundo con Dios por medio de la oración, una gratitud renovada a la misericordia de Dios y una mayor compasión hacia las personas cuyas vidas están siendo atacadas, dijo el papa Francisco.

Además, la gente no debe mostrar generosidad solamente por sus donativos caritativos, sino que también deben trabajar por un cambio estructural real de la “vida económica” de hoy día, dijo el papa en su mensaje anual para la Cuaresma que comienza el 26 de febrero para los católicos de rito latino.

El texto del mensaje del papa fue publicado por el Vaticano el 24 de febrero.

Contemplar el gran misterio de la muerte y resurrección de Jesús y ponerlo en el centro de la propia vida “significa tener compasión por las heridas del Cristo crucificado presente en muchas víctimas inocentes de

guerras, en ataques a la vida, desde la de los no nacidos a la de los ancianos, y diversas formas de violencia”, dijo el papa en su mensaje.

Estas heridas “también están presentes en desastres del medio ambiente, la distribución desigual de los bienes de la tierra, el tráfico humano en todas sus formas y el incontrolado afán de lucro, que es una forma de idolatría”, dijo.

Los cristianos no sólo están llamados a compartir generosamente la riqueza del Evangelio y los dones de Dios, “hoy, también, hay necesidad de apelar a los hombres y mujeres de buena voluntad a compartir, en limosna, sus bienes con los más necesitados, como medio de participar personalmente en la construcción de un mundo mejor”, dijo.

“La entrega caritativa nos hace más humanos, mientras que el acumular es un riesgo de hacernos menos humanos, cautivos de nuestro propio egoísmo”, dijo.

“Podemos y debemos ir aún más allá, y considerar los aspectos estructurales de nuestra vida económica”, dijo.



Retiro en español para hombres

BAY CITY – Retiro de hombres en español de ACTS, organizado por la parroquia de Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe, se llevará a cabo del 19 al 22 de marzo. Comienza con el registro en Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe a las 5 p.m. el 19 de marzo, y termina con la misa en la iglesia al mediodía en la iglesia. Después del registro, los participantes serán transportados al Centro de Retiros de Cam-



Procedimientos de Reportaje para Abuso Sexual Sospechado o Conocido de un Menor (persona menor de 18 años de edad) o Adulto Vulnerable por un Miembro del Clero

Contactar:

• El Departamento de Servicios para la Familia y de Protección de (DFPS) Texas, dentro de 48 horas, en (800) 252-5400, www.txabusehotline.org, o Departamento de Policía local. Si la persona está en peligro inmediato llame 911.

y

• Vicki Pyatt, LMSW, la Coordinadora de Cuidado Pastoral Social, de La Diócesis de Victoria, (361) 827-7186, pastoralcare-victoriadiocese.org.

o

• Obispo o Canciller de la Diócesis de Victoria, (361) 573-0828.

Alegaciones escritas se pueden enviar a la Oficina del Obispo, P.O. Box 4070, Victoria, TX 77903 marcada como "personal y confidencial".



Si el abuso sexual de un miembro del clero ha ocurrido en otra diócesis, la Diócesis de Victoria ayudará a traer sus preocupaciones a los funcionarios de la iglesia. Para asistencia contactar a Vicki Pyatt al (361) 827-7186 o pastoralcare-victoriadiocese.org.



Meals • Picnics and More

March

Nada—Knights of Columbus Fish Frys all Fridays during Lent through April 10, at the Nada Community Center. Dine-in for all you can eat (\$13 p/p for adults and \$6 p/p for ages 6-11) and plates-to-go for \$10 p/p from 5:30-8:30 p.m. Catholic Daughters will sell homemade desserts.

Wharton—Holy Family Lenten Fish Frys through April 3, at the Family Life Center. Dine-in for all you can eat or plates-to-go available at \$10 p/p (adult), child's plate 6-10 at \$5 p/p. For more information, call (979) 532-3593.

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

Blessing—Knights of Columbus Council #4307 shrimp etouffe and gumbo meal on March 8. For more information see ad on page 10.

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

Victoria—KJZT #101 Bake Sale, March 21-22, after Masses at Holy Family. Proceeds benefit Gabriel Project: Bethlehem Maternity Home.

Cuero—Knights of Columbus Council #1682 Annual Shrimp Dinner (rice, cole slaw, and hush puppies) March 22, 11:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. at St. Michael's Church Hall. Plates-to-go only. Advance tickets for \$10 are available at the St. Michael Church office, or any KC member. Cost at the door is also \$10. Benefits Cuero KC scholarship program and special projects for St. Michael Church and school. For more information call Bill at 361-243-0136 or Anthony at (361) 564-8989. See ad on pg. 9.

Victoria—Our Lady of Lourdes Holy Name Society Annual Chicken/Sausage Dinner, March 29, at the church (105 N. William St.) from 11:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. The plates are \$10 p/p (all plates are to-go only). See ad on pg. 11.

April

Bloomington—St. Patrick's Spring Festival will be April 26, featuring barbecue brisket plates for \$10 each. To-go plates will be ready at 9 a.m., and dine in begins at 11 a.m. Live auction begins at 11:30. There also will be a silent auction, raffle, country store, cakewalk and games for children.

Weimar—St. Michael Spring Picnic will be April 26. A fried chicken and sausage dinner for \$10 p/p. Polka Mass at 10:30 a.m. Music by Czechaholics and Black Cat Choir.

Yorktown—San Luis Church, 502 E. 2nd St., will host its annual Jamaica on April 26. Mass begins at 8 a.m. at the church. At 11 a.m. a carne guisada dinner with rice and beans will be served for \$10 a plate, dine in or take out. There will be live music all day, children's bounce houses opening at noon, horseshoe and washer tournaments beginning at 1 (registration at noon), and food booths and cakewalk will begin at 2 p.m. The live auction will begin at 3. Those interested in the auction are encouraged to sign up early. There will be a raffle drawing at 7 p.m. Tickets are \$5 each or five for \$20.

Ministries • Ongoing Activities

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. For information, see Page 15.

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

Gabriel Project—Helps women experiencing a crisis pregnancy as an alternative to abortion. Victoria: Meetings are the second Tuesday of each month at 6:30 p.m. at 101 W. Convent. Light supper included. For angel workshop/training dates, contact Lisa Kainer 361-676-3264 or lisa_heysquierdo@yahoo.com; DeWitt County: Meetings are the third Monday of each month during the school year at 5:30 p.m. at the Yorktown Public Library, 103 W. Main St. Coordinators for DeWitt Chapter are Wayne and Margie Smith 361-491-0067; Lavaca County: Meets 6 p.m. (during the school year), contact Julie Kubena Lavaca County Coordinator at 361-798-3579 for dates and location. See ad, Page 10.

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

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

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

Mothers of Grace—A new mothers' group at the Cathedral of Our Lady of Victory. For information, contact Jennifer Ruiz at book.leslie@gmail.com or visit their Facebook page at www.facebook.com/Mothersofgraceolv/.

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

Amor Meus

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

See page 12 for Amor Meus Events for March.

God's Embrace

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

Upcoming Events: Weekly Prayer: Mondays, 6:30-8:30 p.m.; Adoration in GEM Chapel, Tuesdays, noon-3:00 p.m.

Pilgrimages

For more pilgrimages, see Journeys of Faith with Ceci on pg. 15.

**Do you have any
calendar of events for the
Lighthouse?**

**Submit to
lighthouse@victoriadiocese.org**



Continued from pg. 16

following her example.

Laura Sprinkle, a graduate of St. Michael Catholic School in Cuero, is currently pursuing a master's degree in education technology leadership. She is currently a digital learning specialist for Region III Education Service Center in Victoria, coaching teachers in ways to effectively and thoughtfully incorporate technology into classrooms. She is a St. Michael parent now serving the school's advisory committee and helping with fundraisers.

Daria Emmel was chosen by St. Michael Catholic School in Weimar for her selfless service in her community, her church, and the school. Though she describes herself as "an ordinary person who tries to help wherever help is needed" her community has called her "extraordinary" for the various talents she has shared to better the lives of the people around her.

Marie Rod graduated in 1962 from St. Philip the Apostle Catholic School in El Campo. After graduating from the University of Houston-Victoria she went on to teach for 38 years in El Campo schools, including eight years at St. Philip. As a parent, she served on the school's PTC, Booster Club, advisory council and in many other ways. Now retired, she continues to offer her time and talent as an on-demand substitute at the school.

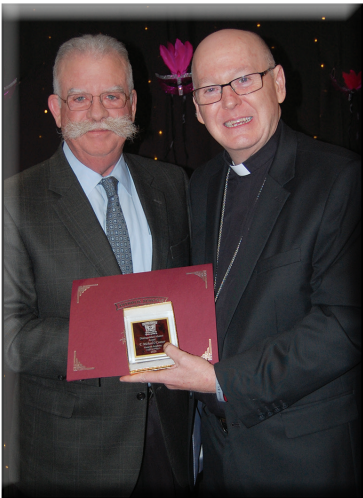
Carolyn Osina has been a long-time benefactor of St. Rose of Lima Catholic School in Schulenburg as a parent, parishioner, board member and employee. For the last 15 years she has worked at St. Rose as cafeteria business manager and bus driver. She has implemented cafeteria improvements while there. She is a charter member of the Friends for Catholic Education.

Henry Pesek, a retired businessman, was called "one of the greatest gifts Shiner Catholic School has." A product of a Catholic education, he made sure his children also with through the Catholic school system and enjoys seeing them be loyal to Catholic education as well. He has been a recipient of the Mother Seton award for volunteerism for schools. Like the other honorees of 2020, he is one of the people who does not know the meaning of "no" or "I don't have time," when asked for help.

2020 Distinguished Alumni



*Amy Connell Lehmann
Holy Cross, Bay City*



*T. Michael O'Connor
Nazareth Academy*



*Charla Ybarra
Our Lady of Victory*



*John Hemmi
Sacred Heart, Hallettsville*



*Sandy Glueck
St. Anthony, Columbus*



*Mark Westerman
St. Joseph High School*



*Rita Arlitt
St. Joseph, Yoakum*



*Lisa Sprinkle
St. Michael, Cuero*



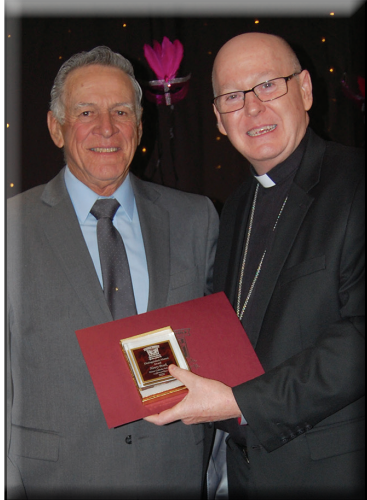
*Daria Emmel
St. Michael, Weimar*



*Marie Rod
St. Philip, El Campo*



*Carolyn Osina
St. Rose, Schulenburg*



*Henry Pesek
Shiner Catholic School*