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# The Catholic Lighthouse

The Cradle of Texas Immigration



OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE DIOCESE OF VICTORIA IN TEXAS

VOL. 34, NO. 1

www.victoriadiocese.org



MAY 2020

## What now? What next? COVID-19 crisis has taught us a few lessons

By JANET JONES, Editor  
*The Catholic Lighthouse*

Normal routines stopped in their tracks about a month and a half ago. Pastors and staff members in the Diocese of Victoria, like people everywhere, got a fast education in how to have remote relationships.

Major events such as confirmations and baptisms have been canceled, and a lot of sadness has been expressed over the fact that people cannot physically attend Mass and receive the Eucharist.

At press time for the May *Lighthouse*, plans for returning to normal had not been announced. Diocesan leaders continue to follow best practices recommendations from local, state and national advisors while considering the health of the flock. People of the diocese are still being encouraged to check for updates on social media, the diocese website and their parish websites.

Bishop Brendan Cahill also has encouraged people to reach out to the priests by telephone if they need help, because they are still working.

### Good things happen

Some parishes that did not before now have websites and Facebook pages that have been critical to keeping in touch with parishioners. Messages that might have reached only the ears of one church's parishioners normally were shared widely on the internet.

During Lent, the community and, really the world, was given a chance to pray the Stations of the Cross with the Rev. Stephen Vacek of Our Lady of Victory. A Divine Mercy Novena was coordinated with representatives from all corners of the diocese leading the prayers each day.

Hundreds – sometimes thousands – of people were praying together during live feeds, and people have become acquainted with other people they may never have met in normal times.

Wendy Eggert, director of Youth and Young Adult Ministry for the diocese said, “This pandemic has forced me to step out of my comfort zone and into the social media world. I have been blessed to be able to live-stream several Masses for my parish. At each Mass, I try to be mindful of all of those who strongly desire to receive the Eucharist physically, but who are unable to at this time. My prayer through this pandemic is that our

*See What now? What next?, pg. 14*



Three students from Sacred Heart in Hallettsville are shown in the “virtual” classroom.



Holy Week services weren't the same with empty churches and the faithful participating from home. This photo shows Easter Sunday Mass at Our Lady of Victory. OLV's 9 a.m. Sunday Mass is always on television for the homebound, which is almost everyone at this time.

## Bishops urge FDA to develop vaccine ethically

WASHINGTON (CNS) — The chairmen of four U.S. bishops' committees, joined by the leaders of several health care, bioethics and pro-life organizations, “urgently and respectfully” implored the commissioner of the U.S. Food and Drug Administration to ensure any vaccines developed for the coronavirus “are free from any connection to abortion.

“To be clear, we strongly support efforts to develop an effective, safe, and widely available vaccine as quickly as possible,” the leaders said in an April 17 letter to Dr. Stephen M. Hahn, the FDA commissioner. “However, we also strongly urge our federal government to ensure that fundamental moral principles are followed in the development of such vaccines, most importantly, the principle that human life is sacred and should never be exploited,” they said.

Copies of the letter were sent to President Donald Trump, Vice President Mike Pence and Health and Human Services Secretary Alex M. Azar. The text of the letter was released late April 17 by the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops.

“We are aware that, among the dozens of vaccines currently in development, some are being produced using old cell lines that were created from the cells of aborted babies,” they said.

They noted that, for example, Janssen Pharmaceuticals, Inc. has a substantial contract from HHS and “is working on a vaccine that is being produced using one of these ethically problematic cell lines.” Other vaccines such as those being developed by Sanofi Pasteur, Inovio and the John Paul II Medical Research Institute “utilize cell lines not connected to unethical procedures and methods.”





# Let us become the ‘living heart of the world’

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Psalm 34:18 reminds the believer that “The Lord is near to the broken-hearted, and saves the crushed in spirit.” I feel with the world a broken heart and a crushed spirit for all those who are suffering today. The spread of the coronavirus is continuing around the world and there seems to be a lot of finger pointing in the middle of a crisis. At the same time signs of hope and healing arise all around us.

I’ve been celebrating the Mass in an empty cathedral – with a community of believers joined by television and the Internet. People have been connecting in new ways to share our faith and prayer. Confident that our God is strong and has always seen us through, we gather and pray.

The believer acknowledges our pain and fear and turns to the Lord who is near to us in our time of need. The treasury of devotions, art and liturgical prayers guides the believer through the valley of fear and darkness. We can look to the great examples of saints who witness the power of our faith in every generation.

Fr. Alfred Delp was a Catholic priest arrested by the Nazi Gestapo on Jan. 11, 1945,

## A Shepherd’s Message

By Bishop Brendan Cahill



*“The Lord is near to the broken-hearted, and saves the crushed in spirit.”*

Psalms 34:18

and imprisoned until his execution on Feb. 2, 1945. During that time, one of the meditations he wrote said, “Very often, during the suffering and disturbance of these last few months and bent down under the weight of violence, I have been conscious of peace and joy invading my soul with the victorious

power of the rising sun ...

“The Holy Spirit is the passion with which God loves himself. Man has to correspond to that passion. He has to ratify it and accomplish it. If he learns how to do this, the world will once again become capable of true love. We cannot know and love God un-

less God himself seizes hold of us and tears us away from our selfishness. God has to love himself in and through us and we shall then live in God’s truth and love will once more become the living heart of the world.” (cited in Yves Congar, OP, I Believe in the Holy Spirit, Vol. II: Lord and Giver of Life, p. 127; The Seabury Press, New York, NY).

We are now in the Easter season praying for the fresh outpouring of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost. God can make us the “living heart of the world,” if we freely open our heart to Him. As I’m writing this article I don’t know what our circumstances will be. What I do know is that if I turn to God and accept His will over my selfishness I can receive an outpouring of the Holy Spirit and become “capable of true love.”

May God grant you and your families peace and joy in the Holy Spirit. May we all remain confident in the love of Mary, our Mother, who faithfully intercedes for all God’s children. May we be the witnesses of hope that flows from the merciful heart in every generation.

+Brendan

# Convirtámonos en el “corazón vivo del mundo”

Queridos Hermanos y Hermanas,

El Salmo 34:18 le recuerda al creyente que “el Señor está cerca de los quebrantados de corazón, y salva a los quebrantados de espíritu”. Siento con el mundo un corazón roto y un espíritu aplastado por todos los que sufren hoy. La propagación del coronavirus continúa en todo el mundo y parece que hay muchos señalamientos en medio de una crisis. Al mismo tiempo, surgen signos de esperanza y curación a nuestro alrededor.

He estado celebrando la misa en una catedral vacía, con una comunidad de creyentes unida por la televisión e Internet. La gente se ha conectado de nuevas maneras para compartir nuestra fe y oración. Confiados en que nuestro Dios es fuerte y siempre nos ha visto, nos reunimos y rezamos.

El creyente reconoce nuestro dolor y miedo y se vuelve hacia el Señor que está cerca de nosotros en nuestro momento de necesidad. El tesoro de las devociones, el arte y las oraciones litúrgicas guían al creyente a través del valle del miedo y la oscuridad.

Podemos mirar los grandes ejemplos de santos que presencian el poder de nuestra fe en cada generación.

El Padre Alfred Delp era un sacerdote católico arrestado por la Gestapo nazi el 11 de enero de 1945 y encarcelado hasta su ejecución el 2 de febrero de 1945. Durante ese tiempo, una de las meditaciones que escribió dijo: “Muy a menudo, durante el sufrimiento y Perturbación de estos últimos meses y bajo el peso de la violencia, he sido consciente de que la paz y la alegría invaden mi alma con el

poder victorioso del sol naciente ...

“El Espíritu Santo es la pasión con la que Dios se ama a sí mismo. El hombre tiene que corresponder a esa pasión. Tiene que ratificarlo y lograrlo. Si él aprende cómo hacer esto, el mundo volverá a ser capaz de tener verdadero amor. No podemos conocer y amar a Dios a menos que Dios mismo se apodere de nosotros y nos separe de nuestro egoísmo. Dios tiene que amarse a sí mismo en y a través de nosotros y luego viviremos en la verdad de Dios y el amor volverá a ser el corazón

vivo del mundo “. (citado en Yves Congar, OP, I Believe in the Holy Spirit, Vol. II: Lord and Giver of Life, p. 127; The Seabury Press, Nueva York, NY).

Ahora estamos en la temporada de Pascua orando por la nueva efusión del Espíritu Santo en Pentecostés. Dios puede hacernos el “corazón vivo del mundo”, si le abrimos libremente nuestro corazón. Mientras escribo este artículo, no sé cuáles serán nuestras circunstancias. Lo que sí sé es que si me vuelvo a Dios y acepto su voluntad sobre mi egoísmo, puedo recibir un derramamiento del Espíritu Santo y ser “capaz del verdadero amor”.

Que Dios les conceda a ustedes y a sus familias paz y gozo en el Espíritu Santo. Que todos sigamos confiando en el amor de María, nuestra Madre, que intercede fielmente por todos los hijos de Dios. Que seamos testigos de la esperanza que fluye del corazón misericordioso en cada generación.

+ Brendan



Photo by Janet Jones

Chrism Mass 2020 on April 7, looked very different with social distancing.

## Bishop’s Holy Week message one of ‘hope and healing’

*Priests honored for significant anniversaries*

BY JANET JONES, Editor

*The Catholic Lighthouse*

VICTORIA – During the Chrism Mass, celebrated on Tuesday of Holy Week, the Cathedral of Our Lady of Victory normally would be filled with priests and religious, school children and others as priestly vows are renewed and the holy oils are blessed in preparation for the sacraments.

This year, in a nearly empty cathedral, Bishop Brendan Cahill began his homily by acknowledging the sadness and pain of the world at this time, but said, “In the midst of tears is hope.”

He outlined his homily with three main themes: “The anointing of the Holy Spirit, the hope that comes from the Holy Spirit, and the healing that we offer for the world.”

Bishop Cahill honored priests of the diocese who have significant anniversaries this year, including:

Monsignor Arnold “Buzz” Anders, who on May 27, celebrates 70 years as a priest. Bishop Emeritus David Fellhauer, celebrates 55 years of priesthood on May 29, and May 28 is his 30th anniversary of becoming the

bishop of the Diocese of Victoria. Also named were, the Rev. Joseph Mai, retired in Palacios, 50 years; the Rev. Albert Yankey, chaplain for the Sisters of the Incarnate Word and Blessed Sacrament, 40 years; the Rev. Johnson Owusu-Boateng, 35 years; the Rev. George Henninger, 35 years (retired); the Rev. Charles Dwomoh, 35 years; the Rev. Gabriel Mensah, 30 years; the Rev. Antonio Perez, 30 years; Bishop Cahill himself, 30 years; the Rev. Barnabas Kyeah, 25 years; the Rev. Robert Knippenberg, 20 years; the Rev. Robert Guerra, 20 years; and the Rev. Kristopher Fuchs, the Rev. Scott Hill, the Rev. Jacob Koether, and the Rev. Francis Nguyen, all 5 years.

“We see and acknowledge that these men are brother anointed to bring hope and healing to the world,” Bishop Cahill said.

Addressing the faithful who were watching the Mass via live stream on the Internet, he said, “I want to promise you, your priests are here.” He encouraged them to call their pastors if they need them and added, “We are longing for our return to our physically present community.”

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](mailto:lighthouse@victoriadiocese.org) (361) 573-0828 / (361) 573-5725 FAX • [www.victoriadiocese.org](http://www.victoriadiocese.org)

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## Official Announcements

EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2020:



**THE REV. SAMUEL APPIASI** is appointed pastor of Holy Family Catholic Church in Wharton and its mission, Saint Joseph Catholic Church in Boling, and is relieved of his duties as pastor of Saint Patrick’s Catholic Church in Bloomington.



**THE REV. OSCAR KOFIAMO** is appointed pastor of Saint Patrick Catholic Church in Bloomington and is relieved of his duties as parochial vicar of Saint Philip the Apostle Catholic Church in El Campo.



**THE REV. STEPHEN VACEK** is appointed pastor of Holy Cross Catholic Church in Bay City and its mission, Sacred Heart Catholic Church in Wadsworth, and is relieved of his duties as parochial vicar of the Cathedral of Our Lady of Victory in Victoria.



**THE REV. FRANCIS TAM NUYGEN III** is appointed parochial vicar of Holy Cross Catholic Church in Yorktown and its mission, San Luis Catholic Church, and Chaplain for Catholic Outreach Prison Ministry at the Clarence N. Stevenson Unit in Cuero, and is relieved of his duties as parochial vicar of Saint Anthony Catholic Church in Palacios.



**THE REV. ELIECER PATINO** is appointed parochial vicar of Saint Anthony Catholic Church in Palacios and is relieved of his duties as parochial vicar of Our Lady of Sorrows Catholic Church in Victoria and its mission of Capilla de la Santisima Trinidad.

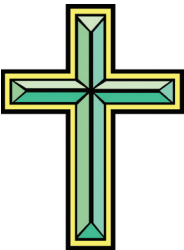
*Please remember in prayer the priests of the Diocese of Victoria, who were ordained during the month of May:*

|                              |            |  |
|------------------------------|------------|--|
| Rev. Gary W. Janak           | 05/14/1988 | The Cathedral of Our Lady of Victory       |
| Rev. Michael W. Petering     | 05/15/1999 | St. Agnes Church, Edna                     |
| Rev. Greg E. Korenek         | 05/15/1993 | Holy Cross Church, Bay City                |
| Rev. Edward J. Winkler       | 05/17/1986 | Sacred Heart Church, Flatonia              |
| Most Rev. Brendan J. Cahill  | 05/19/1990 | Ordination to the Priesthood               |
| Rev. Stephen Vacek           | 05/20/2017 | The Cathedral of Our Lady of Victory       |
| Rev. Jacob Mendoza           | 05/20/2017 | St. Michael Church, Cuero                  |
| Rev. Robert F. Guerra        | 05/20/2000 | Parish of the Nativity Church, Eagle Lake  |
| Rev. Philip L. Brune         | 05/24/2014 | St. Robert Bellarmine Church, El Campo     |
| Rev. Jasper J. Liggio        | 05/24/2014 | St. Michael Church, Cuero                  |
| Rev. Msgr. John C. Bily      | 05/24/1958 | Retired                                    |
| Rev. Patrick S. Knippenberg  | 05/26/2012 | Holy Family Church, Victoria               |
| Rev. Msgr. Arnold Anders     | 05/27/1950 | Retired                                    |
| Rev. Daniel P. Kahlich       | 05/28/1966 | Holy Rosary Church, Hostyn                 |
| Rev. Msgr. Gerard Cernoch    | 05/28/1964 | Retired                                    |
| Rev. Bryan O. Heyer          | 05/29/2004 | Sts. Cyril and Methodius Church, Shiner    |
| Rev. Kirby F. Hlavaty        | 05/29/1999 | Assumption of the BVM Church, Ganado       |
| Most Rev. David E. Fellhauer | 05/29/1965 | Ordination to the Priesthood               |
|                              | 05/28/1990 | Bishop Emeritus of the Diocese of Victoria |

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

|                      |            |
|----------------------|------------|
| Rev. Emmett Kolodzie | 05/01/1986 |
| Rev. Patrick Fidgeon | 05/14/1994 |
| Rev. William Doran   | 05/25/2000 |

Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,  
I will fear not evil, for you are with me;  
your rod and your staff comfort me. (Psalms 23:4)







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 bursar 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 >.**

April 15, 2020

• **Rev. Msgr. Joseph Hybner KC #3204 Seminary Bursar**

*Lector*

In memory of Rev. Msgr. Joseph Hybner by Midge Elam

• **Rev. Timothy Kosler Seminary Bursar**

*Lector*

In memory of Gladys Raabe by Henrietta Veselka  
In honor of Rev. Timothy Kosler's 49th Priestly ordination by Henrietta Veselka

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

*Lector*

In memory of Maxine Billeck by Henrietta Veselka  
In honor of Rev. Msgr. John Peters' 46th Priestly ordination by Henrietta Veselka

Education of Seminarian Fund

The Education of Seminarian Fund is a fund in which **all of the monies** donated to this fund, as well as the earnings, are available to cover the cost of educating seminarians. The proceeds of the special collection on Holy Thursday are deposited into the Education of Seminarian Fund. Publication of this fund will appear when new contributions are received. **Donation categories: Lector - \$01 - \$99.99; Acolyte - \$100 - \$499.99; Candidate - \$500 - \$1,499.99; Transitional Deacon - \$1,500 - \$2,499.99; Priest - \$2,500 >.**

**Lector**

Paz & Andrea Morales  
*in Memory of Father Dan Morales*

Lillian M. Thurk  
*in Memory of Charles Kutchka, Sr.*

**Acolyte**

Catholic Daughters of the Americas  
Court of St. Paul No.1604

Catholic Daughters of the Americas  
Court St. Theresa The Little Flower #1350

**Candidate**

~

**Transitional Deacon**

~

**Priest**

~

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

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

In Memoriam

Sister Adriana Cernoch, IWBS

VICTORIA — Sister Adriana Cernoch, 89, died April 14, 2020. She was born Feb. 5, 1931, in Holman, Texas, to the late Vladimir (Ladi) Cernoch and Annie Mazoch. She was the fourth in a family of five children — four boys and one girl.

Sister Adriana attended Pecan Elementary School in La Grange, Texas, and graduated from Nazareth Academy in Victoria. She became a Sister of the Incarnate Word and Blessed Sacrament in Victoria on Sept. 3, 1950, and made first profession of vows on Sept. 4, 1951.

Sister Adriana received her BA degree from Incarnate Word College in San Antonio. Her years of ministry included serving as principal and/or teacher at Nazareth Academy in Victoria, Immaculate Conception in Sealy, Sa-

cred Heart in Crosby, Assumption of the BVM in Ganado, St. Leo's in San Antonio, Sacred Heart in Floresville, St. Mary's in Nada, Our Lady of Victory in Victoria, Sacred Heart in La Grange, Blessed Sacrament Academy in San Antonio, and St. Patrick's in Dallas.

She enjoyed cooking and working on "Find a Word" puzzles. She was an avid reader and enjoyed outings with her friends. Her kind, joyful, gentle and peaceful spirit were a constant inspiration to all who knew her. She had a great love and devotion to her family. Her last years were spent in the Apostolate of Prayer and Suffering.

She is preceded in death by her parents and two brothers, Bennie and Johnnie Cernoch. She is survived by her brothers, Frank Cernoch (Karen) and Laddie Cernoch (Marie); and many nieces, nephews, grandnieces and grandnephews.

A private graveside service was held Thursday, April 16, 2020. A memorial Service will be held at a later date.

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

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Save the Date: September 18

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Dear Mother Mary, We need help!

Sisterly Thoughts

By Sister Mildred Truchard, TWBS



When I was very young, I remember my dad telling me to ask Mother Mary to pray for me whenever I needed help. I don't remember the circumstances, but it probably had something to do with my natural tendency to get into trouble. However, whatever the circumstances were, I took the message to heart and Mary has always been there for me as an intercessor.

There have been times in my life, when the knowledge that she was there and ready to intercede for me, that I have achieved a sense of peace. For example, in the past whenever I faced some difficulty, or for example, I was scheduled for surgery, I would ask her to pray for the surgeon and those assisting in the surgery. I always felt reassured that I was in good hands.

Now is a time that the whole world needs

help in facing the current pandemic. So, let us remember to call on Mother Mary especially in May, her month.

Moreover, we all have to do our part in slowing down, or better yet, stopping the spread of COVID-19. We've seen how health care professionals, food providers, and myriads of workers in essential services, often

with inadequate protection, provide for our well being while trying to safeguard themselves and the rest of us. We've seen and heard of many ways that people are reaching out to help keep others safe and preventing others from getting this illness. We realize that we, or those we come in contact, with may be contagious even though no symptoms may be evident. Sometimes we may not be aware of the fact that following safety guidelines may be ways of practicing Christian charity.



Fortunately, society helps us by providing policies such as social distancing, frequent hand washing, wearing facemasks, and "Stay Home and Stay Safe" guidelines during the current health crisis. May we all support and follow these requirements as a way of caring for our brothers and sisters.

I find it easier to be patient with the restrictions that affect us at this time when I look at them as a way of caring for our neighbors through a religious perspective. We are all brothers and sisters in this effort. Let us all take care of one another. And, most importantly, let us call on Mary, as well as all our other heavenly intercessors, for her prayers in this time of crisis, as we say so often, "Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners, now and at the hour of our death. Amen."

Peace of mind

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



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# Prayer blanket ministry covers people in prayer

By ELENA WATTS  
Victoria Advocate

Members of the Catholic Daughters of America at Holy Family Catholic Church are covering hundreds of people with prayers – literally – through the Prayer Blanket Ministry.

Claudia Sheblak, Ginger Wagner and Kay Jasek pray as they piece together panels of fabric with their sewing machines. A blanket can take anywhere from one to six hours to construct depending on its complexity and additions such as custom embroidery. Ted Sheblak, Claudia’s husband, does the embroidery by machine. Marcia Neely then takes the pieced-together blanket tops and quilts them with batting and backing on her Longarm quilting machine. The three women hand-stitch binding around the raw blanket edges to finish them.

Sewn into the corner of each blanket is a tag with the image of Jesus, Mary and Joseph and a passage that reads, “You are covered in prayer. This prayer blanket has been constructed, prayed over and blessed at Holy Family Parish. Be healed in Jesus’ name we pray.” A priest or deacon at Holy Family Catholic Church blesses each of the finished products.

Finally, gift tags are added with messages such as “May the comfort of God’s love fill you with hope and peace,” and “With God, all things are possible,” before they are available to be given as gifts.

A collection of some completed prayer blankets, made by Claudia Sheblak, Kay Jasek and Ginger Wagner, lie folded on a table. “They are sacred blankets by the time we finish them,” said Wagner.

Last year, Sheblak gave a prayer blanket to her neighbor, Dona Sabin, when she became sick with pancreatic cancer. Sabin took the blanket to Houston for each of her chemotherapy treatments. She had all of the nurses and doctors who helped her sign the blanket so she could pray for them, too. “I felt comfort



One of many personalized blankets made byhand by Catholic Daughters at Holy Family Catholic Church in Victoria.

Contributed Photo

and peace, and just love,” Sabin said. “I felt loved and not alone.”

Stephannie Rojas, Sheblak’s hairstylist, gives the blankets as gifts frequently to her clients, friends and family. She asks them to share their favorite color and theme, and remarkably, finds the perfect fit for each of them when she goes to select a blanket.

She found a fish-themed blanket for a friend who likes to scuba dive who was in a car accident.

For an Army veteran dying of cancer, she found a blanket with a red, white and blue cross. When she was looking for a lilac blanket, she found lilac, and when she wanted turquoise, she found turquoise.

“They all have been so special for every person in my life that I’ve given a blanket to,” Rojas said.

Neely finds fulfillment in helping make the blankets. While they often are given to individuals going through a health crisis, they also serve as gifts for newlyweds and newborn babies, among other happy milestones, she said.

“It comforts them, tells them someone cares, wraps them in a hug, wraps them in love,” Neely said.

The women always are working on blankets from which people can choose, but special requests are taken, too. Someone

might want a particular fabric theme or an embroidered name or Bible verse on a blanket. Jasek makes blankets that depict the rosary with hand-sewn beads.

The women get thank-you notes from grateful blanket owners, which reaffirms their purpose and keeps them going, Wagner said.

Since 2013, the women, who work individually in their own homes, have made

Reprinted with permission. Elena Anita Watts covers arts, culture and entertainment for the Victoria Advocate. Emree Weaver is a photographer for the Victoria Advocate. [https://www.victoriadvocate.com/news/features/prayer-blanket-ministry-covers-people-in-prayer/article\\_c29e1e38-7299-11ea-8ac0-e3dd6dbb06d8.html](https://www.victoriadvocate.com/news/features/prayer-blanket-ministry-covers-people-in-prayer/article_c29e1e38-7299-11ea-8ac0-e3dd6dbb06d8.html)



From left, Claudia Sheblak, Kay Jasek and Ginger Wagner

Photo by Emree Weaver  
Victoria Advocate

Below is a contributed photo of another one of their lap blankets.



# Pictures tell story of schools’ creativity

BY DR. JOHN QUARY  
The Catholic Lighthouse

Almost 3,000 students around the diocese are having to stay at home due to our Catholic schools being shuttered. I am nevertheless amazed by the creativity of our teachers and the resilient spirits of our students.

During this time of uncertainty and fear of the unknown, the hundreds of photographs that have been shared with the Office of Catholic Schools tell a very different story. Our students are finding quality time amid their many distance-learning and at-home assignments to enjoy the comforts of home. Smiles abounding, engaging lessons, families sharing, parents teaching, children learning, and teachers preparing and caring in ways no one could have imagined.

Our buildings may be closed temporarily, but our mission of “teaching minds and touching hearts” continues to open doors of learning and loving throughout the nearly 10,000 square miles of the Diocese of Victoria.

Though we may be miles apart for the moment, we are always together and united in One Spirit and One Truth. Our Catholic faith is the common thread that joins us one to another. To borrow from the scriptures, “As a body is one though it has many parts, and all the parts of the body, though many, are one body, so also Christ.” (1 Corinthians 12:12-27)

Until we are able to be together again, face to face, in our Catholic schools, we must continue to be together prayerfully and carefully, knowing that, “We can do all things through Christ who strengthens us.”

Now, more than ever, our teachers, administrators, parents, staff members, students, and faith-filled parish and school communities are working together to ensure that Catholic schools endure and provide a “F.I.R.S.T. Class” education for all; for life.

• Dr. John E. Quarry is Superintendent of Catholic Schools for the Diocese of Victoria.



Teachers and students have new ways to communicate these day, and many are sending heartfelt messages via photos like this one on Facebook. See Pages 8 and 9 for more of what learning at home looks like.

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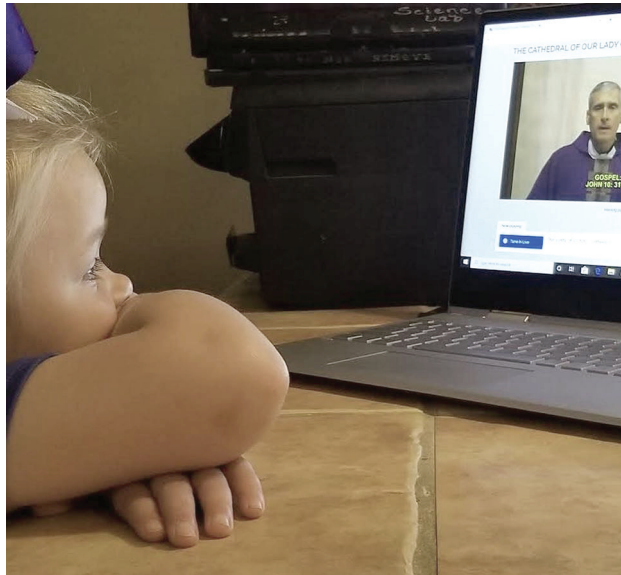




# Pictures tell story of schools' creativity



Virtual Spirit Week:  
Take your pet to class



School Mass continues every week on the computer.



A high school student makes masks.



"We think Ms. Dent misunderstood the memo about wearing a mask..." from Our Lady of the Gulf School Facebook page.



This teacher from OLV used a cake stand to prop up one of her three computers used to teach through Zoom.





# Three things you can do to grow faithful Catholics

Parents, what kind of legacy do you want to leave? This is a question we all ask ourselves at one point or another. The idea of legacy is very important, realizing that our time on this earth is short, and we want to leave it better than we found it. We also want the ripple effects of our own lives to make a positive impact for decades to come.

How do we create a beautiful legacy in our own homes, particularly one of faith? I'd like to present three simple ways we can make sure we keep our children Catholic, when data nowadays shows more and more young people are leaving the faith.

No. 1: Go to Mass as a family. Did you know that a 1994 Swiss study found that in families where Dad attends religious services every week, children are most likely to practice their religion growing up?

In fact, in homes where Mom attends regularly and Dad does not, only 2 percent of children became regular churchgoers, and 37 percent irregular. If both parents go, 33 percent became regular attendees, and 41 percent irregular.

The most shocking statistic of all? If Mom does not go, but Dad does, even more kids practice the faith when older – 38 percent regularly and 44 percent irregularly. Moms, I'm not saying don't attend with Dad. But

## On the Table

By Justin Reyes



this data clearly shows that it's important to be there every week with your children – especially Dad – if you still want them to practice the faith when they grow up. The football games can wait.

No. 2: Have open, honest dialogue with your children on issues of faith and morals, especially hot topics. A popular Catholic podcast personality asked his audience, "If your kids still practice the faith, what did you do as they were growing up?"

The summarized response: real conversations in the home.

Don't wait for your children to learn about the birds and the bees from their classmates. Talk about it with them. When they ask a tough question, stop what you're doing, and give your best answer. And even if you don't have the "right" answer, be honest with your child – then do your research and come back with a better response. You'll learn a lot along

the way as well.

As the Catechism states in paragraph 2223, "Parents have the first responsibility for the education of their children." Don't let anyone or anything – especially fear – take that away from you. God trusts you with this responsibility. He gave it to you in the first place.

No. 3: Get involved in parish life. The Fuller Youth Institute did research a few years back on what makes faith "stick" when children are older, and one of their findings was that they need more adult mentors than just Mom and Dad. In fact, they came up with the number of five. Children need at least this many mentors in their faith to help ensure it matters to them as grownups.

Get involved in your parish. Spend time with other families you trust, so those parents can impact your children. As the saying goes,



"It takes a village to raise a child." We're all in this together, and this is why God gave us the church – so we don't have to go it alone.

I hope these three pillars for passing on the faith to our children will be helpful to you, as you dream of the legacy you will leave behind.

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](mailto:jreyes@victoriadiocese.org).



# Greatest tragedy ever became greatest victory

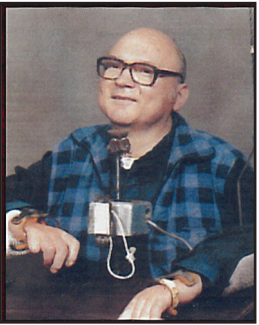
*Editor's Note: The following is an Easter sermon from the Rev. Charles Kram.*

If we consider the greatest tragedy that ever happened since the foundation of the world, it could only have been the death of the Father's only begotten Son.

But if we consider the greatest blessing that has ever befallen the human race since the fall of Adam, it would have to be the same death of the Father's dearly beloved Son.

What if Madalyn Murray O'Hare, while she was still alive, did not believe that God existed, and that Jesus was only a myth, and that Easter was just a fine time to celebrate the beginning of spring?

What if the Jew still celebrate this season as a commemoration of the Passover and their hasty flight from Egypt, still awaiting the coming of the Messiah?



1929-2000

## Father Charles Kram Corner

What if, for many, this is nearly the season for Easter bunnies, Easter clothes and Easter breaks from school?

For the believing Christian, surrounded by a sea of fantasy, controversy and error, this is the season for joyfully celebrating the Resurrection of our Blessed Savior, the feast of the empty tomb, the feast that changed creation's greatest tragedy into its greatest blessing.

The Jews used to visit the tomb of a loved one who had died, for three days after the burial because they believed that the spirit of the person who had died lingered there for that length of time, until the body had begun to decay.

Jesus died on Friday, and the reason why his friends did not visit his tomb immediately the next day was that the next day was the Jewish Sabbath and the Jewish law forbade traveling on the Sabbath. To take the short walk from the city to the tomb on the Sabbath would break the law, so Mary and the others waited until early Sunday morning to visit the tomb.

Tombs like the one in which Jesus was laid were chambers cut into the rock, with a groove in the ground in front of the entrance. To seal the tomb, a rock shaped like a wheel was rolled across the entrance. In the case of Jesus' tomb, the authorities made double sure by sealing the stone in place and posting a guard.

So, no wonder Mary Magdalen was astonished to find the tomb open and empty. She rushed back to the city and got Peter and John. John outran Peter because he was younger and faster. The tomb WAS empty.

## Presidio La Bahia

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

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



## The Emmaus Center

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



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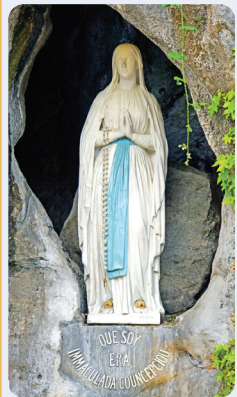
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Sunday Readings from May 10 - June 14

|   |   |
|---|---|
| May 10 ~ Fifth Sunday of Easter<br>Acts 6:1-7<br>Psalms 33:1-2, 4-5, 18-19<br>1 Peter 2:4-9<br>John 14:1-12                 | May 31 ~ Pentecost Sunday<br>Acts 2:1-11<br>Psalms 104:1, 24, 29-30, 31, 34<br>1 Corinthians 12:3B-7, 12-13<br>John 20:19-23                                  |
| May 17 ~ Sixth Sunday of Easter<br>Acts 8:5-8, 14-17<br>Psalms 66:1-3, 4-5, 6-7, 16, 20<br>1 Peter 3:15-18<br>John 14:15-21 | June 7 ~ The Solemnity of the Most Holy Trinity<br>Exodus 34:4B-6, 8-9<br>Daniel 3:52, 53, 54, 55, 56<br>2 Corinthians 13:11-13<br>John 3:16-18               |
| May 24 ~ The Ascension of the Lord<br>Acts 1:1-11<br>Psalms 47:2-3, 6-7, 8-9<br>Ephesians 1:17-23<br>Matthew 28:16-20       | June 14 ~ Solemnity of the Body and Blood of Christ<br>Deuteronomy 8:2-3, 14B-16A<br>Psalms 147:12-13, 14-15, 19-20<br>1 Corinthians 10:16-17<br>John 6:51-58 |

For daily and Sunday readings, as well as a daily reflection video, visit [www.usccb.org/bible/readings](http://www.usccb.org/bible/readings). Brought to you by: Catholic Communications Campaign

FAITH

Catholic Rural Life - Victoria

May ~ Feast Day of St. Isidore the Farmer

May 15 marks the Feast Day of St. Isidore the Farmer. On May 6, the diocese is invited to join together and begin praying a novena in his honor, according to the Rev. Stephen Vacek, director of the Victoria chapter.

The prayer is as follows:  
*O dear St. Isidore, as a farmer you so patiently worked the land that it might give fruit. And by your example we have learned to share our food with the hungry and to work for the salvation of mankind. We who share your zeal for a fruitful land are encouraged by the compassion you showed to all who needed your help. We are convinced of your gracious intercession and with confidence implore you to obtain for us favorable weather.*

*O St. Isidore, you whose heart reflects the giving nature of our gracious God, whisper our prayer into the merciful ears of the Infant Jesus. Accept our humble appeal, as we pray for a successful growing season.*



*Grant us favorable weather to produce an abundant harvest. We ask this in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. AMEN*

According to the Catholic Rural Life website, “In February 1947, St. Isidore was constituted as the special protector of American farmers and of Catholic Rural Life. It was said that two angels appeared and joined St. Isidore in his daily work plowing the fields. There are over 400 miracles attributed to his intercession.”

Typically, a Mass would be celebrated on the feast day, but that is still undetermined at press time. Please continue to look for updates on the diocese Facebook page and website [www.victoriadiocese.org](http://www.victoriadiocese.org) for information on local events.

Also, visit [www.catholicrurallife.org/feast-of-st-isidore-the-farmer](http://www.catholicrurallife.org/feast-of-st-isidore-the-farmer) to see other resources for celebrating his feast day.

God gave everyone a perfect mother

Recently I was wondering just how many names Mary, the mother of Jesus, went by. I looked it up and found 137 in just one place on the Web.

If what I’m reading is true, this pandemic has meant that people are finding solace in devotion to Mary, praying the rosary more than usual. Some are joining in online rosaries and some are spending their newfound family time to pray the rosary together.

Our Lady, Undoer of Knots, one of her titles, seems to be fitting when we are so bound by circumstances beyond our control and limited in what we can do. From the hair on a child’s head to their shoestrings, what mother hasn’t tackled a frustrating knot for their child’s sake?

Our Lady, Comforter of the Afflicted, Our Lady, Health of the Sick – so many offices the Blessed Mother holds for help in any time. Earthly mothers also can identify with all the tasks that fall under the umbrella of motherhood. They stay up all hours with sick children, clean and dress wounds, provide nutrition, groom and clothe, comfort and protect, cheer and counsel.

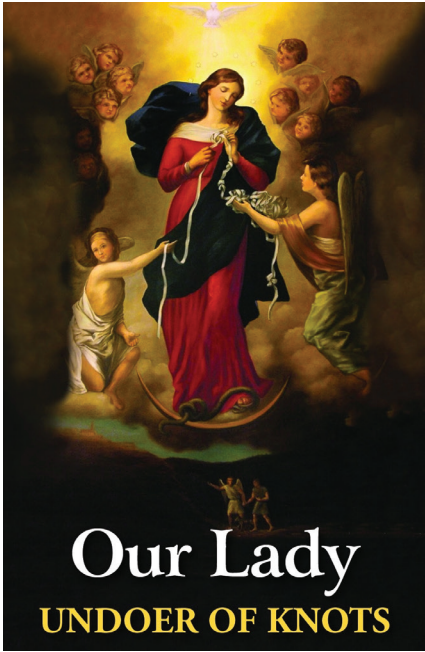
I remember my mother, an RN for 40 plus years, telling me one time that even the oldest of patients at the end of their lives will call out for their mothers, no matter how long their mothers have been gone from this earth. When in pain or afraid, absolutely nothing can compare to the comfort of a mother.

Look Up

By Janet Jones, Editor  
The Catholic Lighthouse



Bearing the pain and sadness of children is one of the most difficult jobs a mother does, but one she will do without hesitation. In



the movie “Terms of Endearment,” Emma (played by Debra Winger) said about motherhood: “As hard as you think it is, you end up wishing it were that easy.” That is why God has made us capable of great love. Imagine how much more loved we are by the Blessed Virgin who has revealed herself to us and asked us to come to her with our needs.

Not everyone has been mothered in the traditional sense. Some have grown up without an earthly mother. But in God’s plan of salvation for us, in sending us a Savior in human form, he also gave the whole world a mother.

As we enter the month of May, let us seek special ways of honoring the Blessed Mother at home. A lot of ideas are given on [Catholicexchange.com](http://Catholicexchange.com). Go there and use the search words “may” and “Mary.” It offers some great ideas for reading and more. Look up how to start a Mary’s garden. Gardening can make you feel so peaceful and close to God. If you are at home and need a project, this can be done on a small or large scale. According to online sources, the practice is gaining popularity recently, although Mary’s gardens have been around a long time.

There are as many ways to honor Mary as there are reasons for her to be honored. This month, let us move ourselves, prayerfully, under the loving and protective mantle of Mary. Together, let us embrace her as the Mother of the World.

ESPAÑOL

Obispos en México, Inglaterra: edad no debe determinar cuidado medico

BY DAVID AGREN  
Catholic News Service

CIUDAD DE MÉXICO (CNS) — La Conferencia del Episcopado Mexicano ha publicado orientaciones éticas a medida que la crisis del COVID-19 se agrava en México y el personal médico podría verse forzado a tomar decisiones de vida o muerte sobre cuales pacientes reciben tratamiento y a quienes se les niega el acceso a equipo.

De manera parecida, los obispos de Inglaterra y Gales se pronunciaron sobre la posible adjudicación de cuidados de salud a pacientes con coronavirus entre crecientes temores de que se estén agotando los equipos de protección y salvación de vidas.

En ambos casos, los obispos reconocieron que aunque se tengan que tomar decisiones muy difíciles durante la pandemia, la edad no debería ser el único criterio para decidir cuáles pacientes reciben cuidado médico.

Las orientaciones de los obispos mexicanos reconocen que el triaje, “la clasificación de los pacientes sea ordenada y justa, de acuerdo con sus posibilidades de sobrevivencia”, es necesaria y tiene lugar en todo el mundo.

Pero los obispos advirtieron que “es previsible que en México sea preciso realizar procesos de selección de pacientes con la finalidad de asignar distintos tipos de atención. Estos procesos se deben realizar tomando en cuenta de manera simultánea: la urgencia del caso, el tipo de necesidad a atender y que los



Personal médico protesta fuera de un hospital en Ciudad Juárez, México el 15 de abril de 2020 para exigir mejor equipo de protección personal para cuidar a pacientes con COVID-19. (Foto CNS-José Luis González, Reuters)

recursos asignados sean lo más beneficiosos posibles para el paciente”.

En una declaración del 20 de abril, los obispos de Inglaterra y Gales dijeron que las decisiones de vida y muerte, tales como “una decisión en contra de ofrecer cierto tratamiento que pueda prolongar la vida de una persona, nunca deberían ser un juicio basado en los merecimientos de la vida de esa persona, incluyendo su edad u otras características sociales, sino más bien una decisión pragmática sobre las posibilidades de que la persona se beneficie de la intervención dada

su condición médica”.

“El valor humano no es un valor de nuestra capacidad mental o física o de nuestra función social, nuestra edad, nuestra salud, ni cualquier otra valoración cualitativa”, decía la declaración.

Las orientaciones de los obispos mexicanos, publicadas el 16 de abril, llegan en el momento en que México se enfrenta a una crisis de COVID-19 cada vez más grave, que podría sobrepasar un sistema médico con bajas finanzas y equipo.

Papa pospone Reunión Mundial de Familias, Jornada Mundial de la Juventud

CIUDAD DEL VATICANO (CNS) — El papa Francisco aceptó una recomendación del Dicasterio para los Laicos, la Familia y la Vida de aplazar un año las próximas reuniones del Encuentro Mundial de las Familias y la Jornada Mundial de la Juventud.

“Debido a la actual situación sanitaria y a sus consecuencias para el desplazamiento y la reunión de los jóvenes y las familias” se ha decidido aplazar el próximo Encuentro Mundial de las Familias hasta junio del 2022 y la próxima Jornada Mundial de la Juventud, prevista en Lisboa hasta agosto de 2023, dijo el Vaticano.

El cardenal Kevin Farrell, prefecto del dicasterio, dijo a Catholic News Service el 20 de abril que ahora es la temporada en la cual su oficina firmaría contratos con hoteles y aerolíneas si la Reunión Mundial de las Familias aún se realizaría en 2021, “pero nadie sabe qué ocurrirá”, así que parecía prudente aplazar la reunión un año.

El dicasterio tampoco iba a celebrar dos grandes reuniones durante el mismo verano, dijo, por lo cual se retrasó la Jornada Mundial de la Juventud.

La otra razón, dijo el cardenal Farrell, es que aunque la gente está hablando de “volver

a la normalidad” y los líderes del gobierno están haciendo planes para eliminar gradualmente restricciones y reabrir negocios, “no creemos que los viajes sean tan extensos” en el corto plazo.

El dicasterio ha cancelado todas las reuniones internacionales hasta enero de 2021, aunque está planeando que algunos jóvenes de Panamá, donde se celebró la Jornada Mundial de la Juventud en 2019, entreguen la cruz de la Jornada Mundial de la Juventud a algunos jóvenes de Lisboa el 22 de noviembre para la fiesta de Cristo Rey.

La entrega de la cruz originalmente estaba programada para el 5 de abril, Domingo de Ramos, pero se pospuso debido a las restricciones y prohibiciones de viaje para frenar la propagación del coronavirus. Si los jóvenes



Una bandera portuguesa aparece cerca del papa Francisco mientras saluda a la multitud antes de celebrar la misa por los peregrinos de la Jornada Mundial de la Juventud en el Campo San Juan Pablo II en la Ciudad de Panamá el 27 de enero de 2019. La Jornada Mundial de la Juventud y el Encuentro Mundial de las Familias se aplazaran un año debido al coronavirus, anunció el Vaticano. (Foto CNS-Alessandro Bianchi, Reuters)

representantes de Panamá y Portugal no pueden viajar a Roma en noviembre, dijo el cardenal Farrell, los panameños y portugueses que ya viven en Roma participarán en el evento.

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email: [zkmnt@tisd.net](mailto:zkmnt@tisd.net)  
[www.pathwayswithpatti.com](http://www.pathwayswithpatti.com)

Safe  
Environment

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

Contact:

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

and

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

or

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

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





# What now? What next?

*Continued from pg. 1*

desire for the Eucharist will set our hearts on fire. I am grateful for the opportunity to feel more comfortable live-streaming and hope that this will positively impact our ministry and grow the love for the Eucharist and the Mass.”

She said the following quote from St. Francis de Sales has sustained her: “Do not look forward to the changes and chances of this life in fear; rather look to them with full hope that, as they arise, God, whose you are, will deliver you out of them. He is your keeper. He has kept you hitherto. Do you but hold fast to his dear hand, and he will lead you safely through all things; and, when you cannot stand, he will bear you in his arms. Do not look forward to what may happen tomorrow. Our Father will either shield you from suffering, or he will give you strength to bear it.”

Shannon Thomas, assistant director of Youth and Young Adult Ministry also turned to saintly words for inspiration. “St. Zelig Martin reminds us that ‘The good Lord does not do things by halves; He always gives what we need. Let us then carry on bravely!’

“ ‘Carry on bravely’ has become my mantra,” Thomas said. “Youth ministry at its core is about accompaniment; accompaniment with our youth and those who minister to them. Physical distancing has made this challenging, but not impossible. E-mails, social media, and other outlets have allowed youth ministers to remain connected with those to whom they minister. We have been challenged to find new ways to communicate, which will hopefully continue to grow our ministry in the future. The physical distancing has, for me at least, created a deeper desire to be reunited with the Church in community.”

## Schools rise to the challenge

School staffs have been schooled in running virtual classrooms, which will continue through the end of the school year. It has meant a lot of sacrifices, and the changes had to happen quickly to keep students learning at an adequate pace.

Principals and teachers rallied to make online learning work and creativity has surged. Some have hosted a virtual “Spirit Week” and have made a lot of memorable moments online. Students and parents have reciprocated by posting to Facebook to show the teachers that they are also getting creative. (See Catholic Schools pages for more.)

About the photographs, Ana Henke,



*Bishop Brendan Cahill holds up a sign just before participating in a car parade to honor the administrative assistants at the chancery for Administrative Professionals Day. Many people are having to compromise to comply with proper social distancing.*

*“ ‘Carry on bravely’ has become my mantra. Youth ministry at its core is about accompaniment; accompaniment with our youth and those who minister to them. Physical distancing has made this challenging, but not impossible. E-mails, social media, and other outlets have allowed youth ministers to remain connected with those to whom they minister. We have been challenged to find new ways to communicate, which will hopefully continue to grow our ministry in the future. The physical distancing has, for me at least, created a deeper desire to be reunited with the Church in community.”*

— Shannon Thomas, assistant director of Youth and Young Adult Ministry for the Diocese of Victoria

marketing director for Sacred Heart School in Hallettsville, said, “We are hoping that it brings smiles to parents, teachers, and kids – to see how we are all jumping in and trying to make the best of a really difficult situation for everyone.”

Our Lady of the Gulf posted a comment from “a veteran OLG teacher” to her fellow teachers: “At the end of last week, it hit me. I felt like I was in my first year of teaching – again – planning lessons, organizing everything, figuring out how to structure my classes .... Just a reminder: We don’t have to be perfect! We just have to be there!”

## Financial issues

According to Tony Martinez, chief financial officer for the Diocese of Victoria, the first week of Mass without congregations meant about a 50-75 percent reduction in church offerings. The second week saw about a 50 percent reduction.

On April 17, he said, it looked as if the offerings were down about 25 percent, so some offerings were coming back.

To help the churches, the diocese set up an online giving page on its website [www.victoriadiocese.org](http://www.victoriadiocese.org), which launched on March 26. In three weeks, \$21,300 was given online in various amounts to 41 par-



*A Divine Mercy Novena streamed over Facebook brought the diocese together as different groups from different towns led the prayers each day.*

ishes. Though some parishes already had online giving and parishioners can still mail in their offerings, it has helped to have this option available, Martinez said.

Martinez said the diocese will keep the page after the COVID-19 crisis has passed, as it gives a convenient option for many people who prefer to give online.

But fear of the unknown and layoffs are starting to hit, Martinez said, so it is hard to say what the financial picture will be in the near future. Besides that, many parishes have canceled their main fundraisers for the year and will have to reschedule or find other ways to raise funds.



## Meals • Picnics and More

### May

**All May Church Picnic/Festivals have been cancelled or postponed to a later date.**

### June

**St. Mary**—St. Mary Picnic June 14 has been cancelled.  
**Port Lavaca**—June 14 – Our Lady of the Gulf Catholic Daughters Court #2267 will host their annual games party 1-5 p.m. at St. Jude Hall, 415 W. Austin St., Port Lavaca. Cost is \$8 per person. This event, like others, is subject to being postponed based on the corona virus precautionary measures. Bring your favorite game to play, your friends and enjoy an afternoon of fun and a variety of refreshments beginning at 2 p.m.. Along with door prizes, there will be a raffle and silent auction. For more information and/or table reservations, please call Margaret 361-552-3233; Doris, 361-987-2387; or Nancy 361-212-5838.



## Sacred Heart Parish Spring Picnic

### Hallettsville

## Cancelled

Raffle Drawing Held Sunday, May 24

The Spring Picnic has been cancelled. We will have the regular raffle tickets and have the drawing on Sunday, May 24. The Kawasaki tickets will continue to be sold until the Fall Picnic on Sunday, September 6. The total number of tickets sold will remain the same.

We will be accepting No Picnic Picnic Donations.  
**For more information contact:**  
**Sacred Heart Church Rectory at 361•798•5888**

## National Catholic Rural Life Novena

The Diocese of Victoria will participate in the National Catholic Rural Life’s St. Isidore Novena May 7-15 at 10 a.m. at [www.catholicrurallife.org](http://www.catholicrurallife.org). We will share it on the Diocese of Victoria’s Facebook page. Bishop Brendan Cahill will lead the novena May 7-8, followed by Bishop Robert Gruss of Saginaw, Mich., Bishop John Folda of Fargo, ND, and Bishop Shawn McKnight of Jefferson City, Mo. It will be in English and in Spanish and will conclude with a Mass on May 15, the feast day of St. Isidore.

## EVENTS

## Ministries • Ongoing Activities

**ACTS Retreats**—Anyone needing any information regarding ACTS Retreats in the diocese should email [dovactschapter@victoriadiocese.org](mailto: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 11.

**Engaged Encounter 2020 Dates** – 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](http://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](mailto: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



## Shiner Catholic Church Picnic Stew

## Sunday May 24th

### at the KC Park

In lieu of of annual Spring Picnic, we will be offering our **Famous Shiner Picnic Stew To Go**. We will also have our regular **Raffle Prize Drawing and Auction online** for items only found at a Shiner Church Picnic!  
*\*Stew available as pre-orders ONLY\**  
Please follow us on facebook, check our website or call the church office for additional information and updates.  
 **[www.sscmshiner.org](http://www.sscmshiner.org) ~ 361-594-3836**  
**Shiner Catholic Church Picnic**

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 11.

**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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:book.leslie@gmail.com) or visit their Facebook page at [www.facebook.com/Mothersofgraceolv/](http://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](mailto:susannekoch614@gmail.com). Also in the Cuero area contact, Ashley Rodriguez at 361-293-0700 or [ashleyfay09@gmail.com](mailto: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](http://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](mailto:jbvjov@sbcglobal.net) or 361-580-2770; or call 800-470-2230; or visit [www.helpourmarriage.org](http://www.helpourmarriage.org) or [www.retrouvaille.org](http://www.retrouvaille.org).

### Pilgrimages

For more pilgrimages, see *Journeys of Faith with Ceci* on pg. 11.

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

Submit to  
[lighthouse@victoriadiocese.org](mailto:lighthouse@victoriadiocese.org)





Contributed Photo

Several members of the Knights of Columbus help load “House in a Box” items to help get families back in their homes with the basic necessities.

## Diocese still helping Harvey victims

BY JANET JONES  
*The Catholic Lighthouse*

If you watched the Divine Mercy Sunday Mass at the Cathedral of Our Lady of Victory, you might have noticed that there is still scaffolding related to hurricane repairs.

In August it will be three years since Hurricane Harvey hit the area, putting many people in temporary housing. Some are still not back home. And the diocese continues to help people recover from those losses.

The COVID-19 crisis has sent some traveling volunteer groups back home to hunker down with their families until they feel safe returning. That means even longer waits for many families to get into safe, permanent housing, according to Ashley Hernandez-Razo, the Disaster Services Manager for the Diocese of Victoria.

Razo said the diocese, with grant funding earmarked for Hurricane Harvey recovery, is one of few entities still funding unmet needs. The office has been working with the Long Term Recovery Groups in Calhoun, Victoria and Wharton counties.

“It’s been amazing assisting families within our community in their recovery from Hurricane Harvey. To be a part of their

journey, from not knowing how or where to start their recovery to having their home and family life restored, and seeing their relief and gratitude is a feeling that I cannot put into words,” Razo said. “It makes all the work I do so rewarding. I feel so grateful that I have been able to work with such amazing partner organizations that have been able to reach so many families.”

So far, the diocese has provided \$2.7 million in assistance to 663 households, Razo said. Funds have been spent on interior and exterior repairs, appliances, plumbing, utilities and temporary housing. A large amount has been on the “House in a Box” program. A signature program of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul, it provides homeowners the basic household furnishings following a disaster.

Razo said the Long-Term Recovery Group reported in January that they are still getting 40-50 calls a month for assistance. She said most are applying so late because they simply did not know there was additional help available.

If anyone is still seeking assistance, they should call the Long-Term Recovery Group at 361-703-5567, Razo said.

## U.S., Canada bishops will consecrate nations to Mary on May 1

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Archbishop Jose H. Gomez of Los Angeles, president of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, has announced the U.S. bishops will join the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops May 1 in consecrating the two nations to the care of the Blessed Mother under the title “Mary, Mother of the Church.”

“This will give the church the occasion to pray for Our Lady’s continued protection of the vulnerable, healing of the unwell and wisdom for those who work to cure this terrible virus,” said Archbishop Gomez in a letter to the U.S. bishops. Each year, the church seeks the special intercession of the Mother of God during the month of May.

“This year, we seek the assistance of Our Lady all the more earnestly as we face together the effects of the global pandemic,” he said.

This consecration reaffirms the bishops’ previous consecrations of the United States to Mary. In 1792, the first bishop of the United States, Bishop John Carroll, consecrated the

nation to Mary under the title Immaculate Conception, and in 1846, the bishops unanimously chose Mary under that title as the patroness of the nation.

In 1959, Cardinal Patrick O’Boyle of Washington again consecrated the United States to the Immaculate Heart of Mary. This was the year when construction of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington was completed. The national shrine was elevated to minor basilica status by St. John Paul II Oct. 12, 1990. This was renewed by the U.S. bishops Nov. 11, 2006.

Archbishop Gomez will lead the prayer of reconsecration May 1 at 3 p.m. (EDT) and has invited the bishops to join in from their respective dioceses and asked them to extend the invitation to the faithful in their dioceses for their participation.

This reconsecration follows the Latin American bishops’ council who consecrated Latin America and the Caribbean to Our Lady of Guadalupe on Easter.



CNS photo