

Inside ...

7 Carmelite sisters mark 2 years in the diocese and plan for future here.

14 Father Dan Kahlich celebrates 80th birthday, retirement at the same time.



The Catholic Lighthouse

The Cradle of Texas Immigration



OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE DIOCESE OF VICTORIA IN TEXAS

VOL. 34, NO. 3

www.victoriadiocese.org



JULY 2020



Communio

Catholic Conference 2020 will be different

BY JANET JONES
The Catholic Lighthouse

For decades the Diocese of Victoria has announced date, theme, lineup, speakers and so on for its Catholic Conference each fall.

The big news this 33rd year is that the diocese is actually having a conference, especially when surrounding dioceses have canceled theirs, according to Christella Alvarez, director of the Office of Catechetical Ministry in Victoria.

"Communio: Together with Christ" is the theme for the 2020 conference on Oct. 17. And it is undergoing some very big

changes in order to meet the needs of the faithful and be proactive in protecting everyone's health. "It is going to be different. It is going to be a challenge. It is going to be exciting," said Alvarez.

First of all, it is not going to be in one central location. Instead, the conference committee is selecting multiple sites in different areas of the diocese that can accommodate an in-person/virtual hybrid conference. The committee has discussed the importance of the conference as a chance to have people come together. But in light of the pandemic, the need to be innovative with the format

was evident.

Patsy Krennek, parish catechetical leader at Holy Cross in East Bernard said she's excited that the diocese is providing something to educate catechists, parents and anyone else who wants to learn more about their faith. She has been a regular participant in the conference and said it has been a great way to learn.

"That was the time I could go meet people from other parishes. I got inspiration from being around others," she said. "And

See Catholic Conference, pg. 16

Unity is needed to fight racism

EDITOR'S NOTE: Bishop Brendan Cahill is one of many leaders in the faith community who gather regularly to discuss issues and ideas. The following is a collective statement that illustrates the common ground on which they stand regarding racism and recent events. The list of signatures shows the diversity of backgrounds of those who want to work together for healing and hope.

In the chilling aftermath of George Floyd's death, we cannot allow the sorrowful wails of family and friends or the furious voices of legitimate protesters to be silenced by the deafening shrieks of destructive riots and the tragic loss of an additional 17 lives.

The painful images of a man gasping for his final breaths of air while restrained by a police officer's knee must serve as a heart-wrenching wake-up call for all civilized human beings.

As we reflect upon the gruesome images, what have we learned? If we learned nothing, then the death and destruction were truly in vain. We cannot allow that

See Unity is needed, pg. 16



What can I do?

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

On Pentecost Sunday, Bishop Shelton Fabre of Houma-Thibodeaux delivered a homily reflecting on the reality of racism in light of the death of George Floyd. One of the questions he addressed for the listeners was: “What can I do?”

In speaking to those who were not African-American, he invited us to do one simple thing. That simple thing was to ask an African-American friend: “How did seeing the video of George Floyd’s death make you feel?” In asking the question, he asked us to give space for the person to respond. I remember hearing clearly in the response of one friend an expression of deep pain.

At our meeting of the African-American Affairs Subcommittee of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops on the following day, we realized that many people were asking us similar questions – “What can I do?” We produced a list of possible actions that parishes or communities could follow to help facilitate a conversation about racism and its impact on our families. I think any one of

A Shepherd’s Message

By Bishop Brendan Cahill



these possibilities can open a path to greater understanding and true dialogue.

My hope as I share these ideas this month is that as we celebrate the anniversary of the Declaration of Independence, we may be open to realizing the fullness of the words of that foundational document of our nation.

May God bless you and your families with the fullness of His Love in this summer season, may God bless our nation with a time of listening and understanding, and may we always keep one another in prayer, entrusting

our hearts to the Sacred Heart of Jesus and Immaculate Heart of Mary.

+Brendan

Reflection Guide

1. Read (or re-read) “Open Wide our Hearts: The Enduring Call to Love – A Pastoral Letter Against Racism” using the accompanying Study Guide: <http://www.usccb.org/racism>.

2. Racism is evil because it attacks the

inherent dignity of the human person, created in the image and likeness of God.

3. The persistence of racism demands our attention now. Racism emerges in the actions and inactions of individuals; and it is embedded in our institutions and public policies. Our faith calls us both to personal conversion and to transformation of our society.

4. Create various large and small group opportunities for parishioners to process their feelings in the midst of news and commentary about vulnerable populations and law enforcement. Encourage participants to reflect or share their own upbringing regarding comments in the home, from parents and individuals, media and entertainment, even practices of the Church about the merits or demerits of certain groups of people made to be “the other.” Ask, “How have I knowingly or unconsciously made this formation part of my world view?”

See What can I do?, pg. 4

¿Que puedo hacer?

Mensaje del Pastor

By Obispo Brendan Cahill



Queridos Hermanos y Hermanas,

El domingo de Pentecostés, el obispo Shelton Fabre de Houma-Thibodeaux pronunció una homilía reflexionando sobre la realidad del racismo a la luz de la muerte de George Floyd. Una de las preguntas que dirigió a los oyentes fue: “¿Qué puedo hacer?”

Al hablar con aquellos que no eran afroamericanos, nos invitó a hacer una cosa simple. Esa cosa simple fue preguntarle a un amigo afroamericano: “¿Cómo te hizo sentir ver el video de la muerte de George Floyd?” Al hacer la pregunta, nos pidió que le demos espacio para que la persona responda. Recuerdo haber escuchado claramente en la respuesta de un amigo una expresión de dolor profundo.

En nuestra reunión del Subcomité de Asuntos Afroamericanos de la Conferencia de Obispos Católicos de EE. UU. Al día siguiente, nos dimos cuenta de que muchas personas nos hacían preguntas similares: “¿Qué puedo hacer?” Produjimos una lista de posibles acciones que las parroquias o comunidades podrían seguir para ayudar a facilitar una conversación sobre el racismo y su impacto en nuestras familias. Creo que cualquiera de estas posibilidades puede abrir un camino hacia una mayor comprensión y un diálogo verdadero.

Mi esperanza al compartir estas ideas este mes es que, al celebrar el aniversario de la Declaración de Independencia, podamos estar abiertos a comprender la plenitud de

las palabras de ese documento fundamental de nuestra nación.

Que Dios los bendiga a ustedes y a sus familias con la plenitud de Su Amor en esta temporada de verano, que Dios bendiga a nuestra nación con un tiempo de escucha y comprensión y que siempre nos mantengamos en oración, confiando nuestros corazones al Sagrado Corazón de Jesús y Inmaculado Corazón de María.

+Brendan

Guía de reflexión

1. Lea (o vuelva a leer) “Abra de par en par nuestros corazones: el llamado duradero al amor: una carta pastoral contra el racismo” utilizando la Guía de estudio adjunta:

<http://www.usccb.org/racism>.

2. El racismo es malo porque ataca la dignidad inherente de la persona humana, creada a imagen y semejanza de Dios.

3. La persistencia del racismo exige nuestra atención ahora. El racismo emerge en las

acciones e inacciones de los individuos; y está incrustado en nuestras instituciones y políticas públicas. Nuestra fe nos llama tanto a la conversión personal como a la transformación de nuestra sociedad.

4. Crear varias oportunidades de grupos grandes y pequeños para que los feligreses procesen sus sentimientos en medio de noticias y comentarios sobre poblaciones vulnerables y la aplicación de la ley. Aliente a los participantes a reflexionar o compartir su propia educación con respecto a los comentarios en el hogar, de padres e individuos, medios de comunicación y entretenimiento, incluso prácticas de la Iglesia sobre los méritos o deméritos de ciertos grupos de personas hechas para ser “el otro”. Pregunte: “¿Cómo he hecho consciente o inconscientemente que esta formación forme parte de mi visión del mundo?”

5. Organice un espacio seguro para que los jóvenes reflexionen y recen sobre el racismo y los eventos recientes. Escucha las experi-

encias actuales de los jóvenes. Fomentar y permitir su expresión creativa. Invítelos a generar metodologías que sean significativas para ellos.

6. Asistir a una discusión intergeneracional e interracial del ayuntamiento virtual sobre racismo. Respetar que para algunos afroamericanos, hablar de experiencias raciales personales en un entorno de raza mixta es doloroso y es como reabrir un poder que no se había curado por completo.

7. Use una lente pastoral y no partidista para responder a las preocupaciones de los feligreses, el clero y el personal sobre el racismo, la vigilancia y la seguridad pública. No politices esto. En cambio, apóyate en los valores del Evangelio.

8. Reúnase con los capellanes y los jefes de los departamentos de policía para discutir posibles acciones. Involucre a los consejos pastorales y financieros de la parroquia en esta discusión.

9. Invite a una conversación entre el obispo o el pastor y un grupo de hombres afroamericanos / latinos / indígenas y / o jóvenes sobre sus experiencias personales con la policía.

10. Aliente a los homilistas a predicar contra el racismo y a la responsabilidad personal de erradicarlo. Explore cómo se ve el antirracismo. Continúe estudiando y entendiendo el racismo como se manifestó en el pasado y en la actualidad.



Bishop Cahill's Schedule

July

- 4:** Mass with the Carmelite Sisters, Meyersville
- 5:** 9 a.m. Mass at the Cathedral of Our Lady of Victory in Victoria
- 7:** 5:30 p.m. Installation Mass for Father Samuel Appiasi at Holy Family Church, Wharton
- 8:** 6 p.m. Mass followed by groundbreaking ceremony for new rectory at St. Robert Bellarmine, El Campo
- 11:** Mass with Carmelite Sisters, Meyersville
- 12:** 10 a.m. Installation Mass for Father Greg Korenek at Our Lady of Lourdes, Victoria
- 13:** 2:30 p.m. Interfaith Community of Faith meeting
- 16:** 6 p.m. Mass for Feast of Our Lady of Mount Carmel with Carmelite Sisters at Sts. Peter and Paul; Meyersville
- 17-18:** Texas State Knights of Columbus organizational meeting in San Marcos
- 19:** 10 a.m. Installation Mass for Father Stephen Vacek at Holy Cross Church in Bay City
- 21:** Call in guest on Relevant Radio, 6:30 a.m.
- 22:** Retreat for Church Staff/Personnel at Holy Name Retreat Center, Houston
- 25:** Mass with Carmelite Sisters, Meyersville
- 26:** Viewing of the movie "Unplanned" at Holy Cross Church, Yorktown

August

- 1:** Mass with Carmelite Sisters, Meyersville



A priest for 70 years

SAN ANTONIO -- The Rev. Monsignor Arnold "Buzz" Anders celebrated the 70th anniversary of his priestly ordination on May 27 at Padua Place in San Antonio, where he has resided since July 2017. He served parishes in both the Archdiocese of San Antonio and the Diocese of Victoria. Monsignor Anders' family says he has many fond memories of the people and parishes he has served over the many years, and he feels truly blessed to have served and touched many lives. Because of COVID-19 restrictions, he celebrated with the retired priests at Padua and the staff. He was served a catered meal of his favorite food, fried chicken and German chocolate cake for dessert.

Incarcate Word & Blessed Sacrament Gift Shop



(361) 575-7111

1101 NE Water St.
(in Old Victoria)
Victoria, TX 77901

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

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

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



USPS-001015 (ISSN 0894-7740)

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

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

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

DEADLINE IS THE 15th OF THE PRECEDING MONTH

Periodical postage paid at Victoria, TX and additional Entry Offices

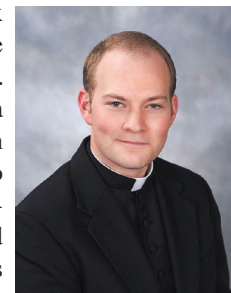
POSTMASTER: Send address changes to P.O. Box 4070, Victoria, TX 77903

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

Official Announcements

EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2020:

The Rev. Max Landman will be in residence at St. Mary's in Victoria beginning July 1. On Aug. 20 he leaves to join the Jesuit Spirituality Center in Grand Coteau, La., for his two-year novitiate period.



Father Landman, ordained in 2016, has been the parochial vicar at Our Lady of the Gulf in Port Lavaca.

Before he was Our Lady of the Gulf, he was parochial vicar at Sacred Heart Parish in Hallettsville and its mission churches.

He said he has for a long while been attracted to the spirituality of the society and as he's prayed, the desire to learn more has grown. Last year he began his formal discernment with the Jesuits.

Father James Dvorak, ordained May 30, will succeed him as parochial vicar at Our Lady of the Gulf.

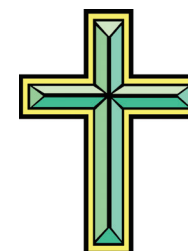
Please remember in prayer the priests of the Diocese of Victoria, who were ordained during the month of July:

Rev. Gabriel Maison	07/01/1978	St. Joseph Church, Moulton
Rev. Charles E. Otsiwah	07/07/1985	Holy Cross Church, East Bernard
Rev. Peter Yeboah-Amanfo	07/10/1983	Nativity of the BVM Church, Nada
Rev. Dominic Antwi-Boasiako	07/11/1981	Queen of Peace Church, Sweet Home
Rev. Gabriel Bentil	07/14/1984	Holy Family Church, Victoria
Rev. Gabriel J. Mensah	07/15/1990	St. Peter Church, Blessing
Rev. Samuel Appiasi	07/17/1983	Holy Family Church, Wharton
Rev. Clement Quainoo	07/17/1982	St. Andrew Church, Hillje
Rev. Felix Twumasi	07/17/2004	St. Rose of Lima Church, Schulenburg
Rev. Augustine Nsiah Asante	07/18/1998	St. Anthony Church, Columbus
Rev. Charles Owusu Dwomoh	07/19/1986	St. John the Baptist Church, Hungerford
Rev. Albert Yankey	07/20/1980	IWBS Convent, Victoria
Rev. Johnson Owusu-Boateng	07/27/1985	St. John Bosco Church, Vanderbilt
Rev. Barnabas Kyeah	07/29/1995	St. Joseph Catholic Church, Inez

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

Rev. Alfred Hoenig, OSB	07/12/1994
Rev. Msgr. Stanley Petru	07/25/2013

*Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life;
whoever believes in me, even if he dies, will live,
and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die.
Do you believe this?" (John 11:25-26)*





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 >.**

June 23, 2020

• General Seminary Burse

Acolyte

In honor of Shirley Kruse’s birthday, June 4
by Richard and Molly Cernosek

• Rev. Msgr. Arnold Anders Seminary Burse

Acolyte

In honor of Rev. Msgr. Arnold Anders’ 70th
anniversary of ordination as a Priest, May
27 by Ed and Betty Rotter

• Rev. Msgr. Edward C. Bartsch Seminary Burse #2

Lector

In memory of Rev. Msgr. Edward C.
Bartsch by Mildred C. Elam

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

Acolyte

In honor of Rev. Msgr. John C. Bily’s 87th
birthday, June 2 by:
Kelly and Karen Mudd
Jesse and Nancy Lednický

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

Lector

In memory of Doris Kubicek by
Elbert and Joan Brune
In honor of Rev. Philip Brune’s 6th
anniversary of ordination as a Priest, May
24 by Lambert and Carol Brune
In memory of Anton Halfmann by:
Lambert and Carol Brune
Elbert and Joan Brune
In memory of Pete and Doris Kubicek by
Jim and Michelle Kubicek
In honor of Father James Dvorak’s
ordination as a Priest by
Jim and Michelle Kubicek
In memory of Jurline Halfmann Huebel by
Elbert and Joan Brune

• Rev. Michael Rother Seminary Burse

Lector

In memory of Annie Dolezal by
Bridgette Barnett
In memory of Frank Munoz by
M/M Bernard Rother

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

Lector

In memory of John H. Briones by
Arnold and Rosemary Riske
In memory of Helen Marie (Smolik) Belcik
by Arnold and Rosemary Riske

Candidate

In memory of Rev. Msgr. Joseph Hybner by
Flatonia K of C Council #3295
In memory of Rev. Msgr. Joseph Hybner
by CDA Court Sacred Heart of Mother
Teresa #2570

• Josephat R. Janak Seminary Burse #2

Lector

In honor of Very Rev. Gary Janak’s 32nd
Priestly Ordination anniversary on May
14 by Rose Marie Janak and Family

Acolyte

In memory of our son, Chris J. Janak by
Victor and Doris Janak

• Rev. Daniel P. Kahlich Seminary Burse

Acolyte

In honor of Rev. Dan Kahlich’s retirement
by:
Hostyn KJT Society #3
Arnold and Helen Janda

Candidate

In honor of Rev. Dan Kahlich’s retirement
by Albert and Rita Kozel and Family

• Rev. Timothy Kosler Seminary Burse

Acolyte

In memory of Brother Knight Erwin
Cernoch by K of C Council #2902,
Schulenburg

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

Lector

In honor of Rev. Msgr. John Peters’
ordination anniversary to the Priesthood
by Mary Ann Henneke
In memory of John, Jr. and Tillie Stock
Peters
Donation by Soila Sanchez
In memory of Lillian Besetzny by
Georgia Pavliska and Family

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

S. & V. Keefe

Acolyte

Knights of Columbus
Council #1329, Victoria
in Memory of Leonard Svrcek

Catholic Daughters of the Americas
Court of Resurrection #2054, Bay City
in Honor of Philippe Dubourdieu’s Birthday

Candidate

~

Office of Family Evangelization



Justin Reyes, Director

(361) 573-0838

Ext. 2265

email: jreyes@

victoriadiocese.org

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

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

Lector

In memory of Lillian Besetzny by
Milton and Diane Holub

Acolyte

In memory of Lillian Besetzny by
Karen and John Sliker

• Rev. Chase Goodman Seminary Burse

Lector

In honor of Rev. Chase Goodman’s
ordination to the Priesthood by
Arnold and Rosemary Riske

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

Transitional Deacon

Victor & Gail Dvorak
in Memory of Father Dan Morales
in Honor of Fr. Tommy Chen
in Honor of Father Chase Goodman,
Father Dalton Irvin, & Father James
Dvorak on their priestly ordination

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

What can I do?

Continued from pg. 2

5. Arrange a safe space for young people to reflect and pray about racism and recent events. Listen to the current experiences of young people. Encourage and allow their creative expression. Invite them to generate methodologies that are meaningful to them.

6. Attend and intergenerational, interracial virtual town hall discussion on racism. Respect that for some African Americans, talking about personal racial experiences in a mixed race setting is painful and it is like reopening a wound that hadn’t fully healed.

7. Use a pastoral and non-partisan lens to respond to concerns of parishioners, clergy and staff about racism, policing and public safety. Do not politicize this. Instead, lean on Gospel values.

8. Meet with chaplains and chiefs of police departments to discuss possible actions. Engage the parish pastoral and finance councils in this discussion.

9. Invite a conversation between the bishop or pastor and a group of African American/Latino/Indigenous men an/or young people about their personal experiences with law enforcement.

10. Encourage homilists to preach against racism and for personal responsibility to eradicate it. Explore how anti-racism looks. Continue to study and understand racism as it manifested in the past and does today.

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

Matthew 4:18-22



Ancient path to the future

Carmelites hope to grow congregation, stay in Meyersville

By **FRED AFFLERBACH**

Special to *The Lighthouse*

MEYERSVILLE — It's midnight in Meyersville, a tiny community in South Texas about 25 miles northwest of Victoria. Crickets sing a lullaby. Stars sparkle overhead. And two Carmelite nuns rise to pray and worship the Lord.

In February 2018, Sister Maria of Divine Mercy and Sister Mary Ruth of the Eucharist, nuns of the Ancient Observance of Carmel, converted the vacant rectory at Sts. Peter and Paul Church in Meyersville into a temporary "monastery": Carmelites of Mary Ever Virgin. Sister Mary Ruth is a Kansas native who entered the order in 1999. Sister Maria, born in Corpus Christi, earned

"The Sisters' presence is spiritually uplifting and heartwarming. It's a tremendous blessing for the people of the whole diocese."

Bishop Brendan Cahill

two bachelor's degrees from the University of Texas in Austin. Her father, Charles Afflerbach, is a native of nearby Yoakum. She took her solemn vows in 1992.

With the blessing of the Catholic Church here in the United States and in Rome, the Sisters left their home at the Carmel of Mary Monastery in Wahpeton, N.D., to reconnect with the roots of their 800-year-old order,

founded on Mount Carmel in the Holy Land.

Working with family members and volunteers from the Sts. Peter and Paul Parish, the Sisters converted the humble, single-story rectory into a monastery that sleeps four with a parlor and small chapel in the front of the building. The Sisters agree that the rural setting is ideal for a cloistered

monastery. Towering oak trees dripping with Spanish moss reach out and embrace the nascent monastery and adjacent 80-year-old church. In springtime, a palette of red, yellow, blue and orange wildflowers covers the landscape. A visitor will likely see more cattle than people.

Sister Maria said founding a monastery closely linked to the Order's roots was a spiritual yearning that could not be denied. "In our reading and our study, we discovered an aspect of the Carmelite life we wanted to recapture, the treasures of those first centuries that were formative years," Sister Maria said. "Over the centuries, the Order

See Ancient path to the future, pg. 7

Peace of mind

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



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



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



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



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



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



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



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



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



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



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



This Could Be You!
Contact Tom for
Career Opportunities

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



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



Knights of Columbus®
INSURANCE
YOUR SHIELD FOR LIFE®



Seek spiritual and political freedom for all

Every year at this time we are reminded, through flags, banners, and patriotic songs and events, of the blessings of the country that we are so fortunate to enjoy.

Freedom has long been part of our religious and political tradition. For example, in early biblical times, the Exodus was viewed as God's way of freeing the Hebrews from slavery in Egypt. And during the time of Christ, political freedom was often limited to citizens of Greek or Roman society. Unfortunately, only a small minority of the population enjoyed this freedom.

Even when our nation was founded, this political freedom, which was so valiantly treasured, was limited to white male property owners. Although we've come a long way, we often still fall short in our dreams for fully realized political freedom for everyone.

How can we guarantee this freedom for every one of our citizens? This is where all people who follow an almighty God come in. We all know that a loving God has created every person that is alive or has been alive. We know that every person is created in the image and likeness of that all-knowing loving God. Every person is therefore our brother or sister and deserves to be treated

Sisterly Thoughts

By Sister Mildred Truchard, IWBS



as such.

Moreover, we can all experience the spiritual freedom that Christ effected for all of humanity by his passion, death and Resurrection. St. Paul, who lived in the above-mentioned Greek-Roman society, which prized earthly political freedom, tells us that the freedom granted through Christ's saving action set us free from the bondage of sin and gave us the rights of a free state.

He wrote, "our commonwealth is in heaven" (Phil 3:20) and that here on earth

we are already a colony of free heavenly citizens. This freedom also extends beyond this life and refers to the Christian's future glory that has not yet been achieved.

However, Paul warns us that freedom is not license, but allows us to serve through Christ with love. He also tells us, "Where

the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom." (2 Cor 3:17)

So let us use our freedom to serve and respect one another and let us be mindful that it is the presence of the Spirit of the Lord that brings true freedom. May everyone experience true spiritual and political freedom.



Technology upgrades hastened by pandemic

By JANET JONES
The Catholic Lighthouse

About two weeks after having no public Masses, St. Joseph Church in Yoakum started live streaming on Facebook. Father Matthew Huehlefeld, pastor, had an organist, cantor and two parishioners helping with the streaming. But they have had ongoing challenges from signal strength to sound quality.

"It's like having a kite and a key, praying for a lightning strike," Father Huehlefeld said.

Instead of a lightning strike, they got a little windfall that will provide the means to have a much more professional production.

"Our problem is where the church is located," Father Huehlefeld said. The signal was poor, so Father Huehlefeld bought a signal booster and it helped. "But the sound was not the best," he said.

They have been using a cellphone strapped to an old Vivitar camera tripod with a rubber band and have been moving around the church, opening windows and using antennas, whatever they can do to get the best quality. They even tried going to St. Ann's in Hochheim to live stream Mass because the church is on a hill, but the sound was not much better.

Regardless of the quality, a good number of people have been logging on to participate

in Mass at their home parish from their home computers. So it has continued despite the struggles. "We've had to replace the rubber band already," Father Huehlefeld said with a chuckle.

A parishioner who has benefitted from the

many ministers were given a hard shove into the "virtual" world, and he knew he had to do something to reach his congregation other than advising them to watch EWTN. He wanted them to continue to experience Mass in the parish they call home.

"I said, 'How hard is it to get live stream going?' And it was like, 'Boom!' Done!" said Father Rother.

It started with a cellphone, then a camcorder for a better picture, then hooking up to the sound system for a better sound. Now Father Rother is ready to purchase more professional cameras to enhance the experience of those who are continuing to watch online.

His vision is to continue doing a live feed of the 10 a.m. Mass each week and probably streaming or recording special services or events.

Of course both churches are going to have to recruit a dedicated group of people who willing to serve as camera/Internet crew to keep the broadcasts going.

Of course, having the new capacity gives them tools to develop new ideas.

"At first it was just Mass, but more things are kind of coming to mind," said Father Rother. For example he is considering recording the altar servers to create a learning tool for new servers.

"They sky is the limit," he said.



virtual format and wants it to continue and offered the money to hardwire the church and purchase a camera that will work with their sound system and cover four angles, so Mass can be seen and heard clearly. In return, the church will commit to regularly broadcasting its 9 a.m. Sunday Mass on the Internet.

Father Michael Rother at St. Philip the Apostle Church in El Campo is doing similar upgrades. He said the idea has been on his heart for a while, even before the COVID-19 crisis, but there had not been a big push for it.

When public Masses were suspended,

Office of Youth & Young Adult Ministry



**Save the Date:
September 18**

*Bishop Fellhauer Invitational
Golf Tournament*

*For hole sponsorships and more
information
call (361) 573-0828*

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



Ancient path to the future

Carmelites hope to grow congregation, stay in Meyersville

Continued from pg. 5

of Carmel itself grew and developed and sometimes the older ways were forgotten, or not used. It's like if you had discovered this old statue in your closet. You pull it out and start cleaning it off and you discover this is really beautiful. So you clean it up and you have this beautiful treasure from the past. You feel a link from those before. It's not just a nostalgic link; it's something valuable today. It's not so much a return to the past; it's more a path into the future. We're picking up that path they followed and living it today as women in the 21st century."

A woman interested in a cloistered monastic vocation is welcome to visit for a few days and gain a firsthand perspective of life devoted to God in a quiet, rural setting. "Our desire is to create a community that will become, in time, a full monastery of Carmelite nuns of the Ancient Observance," Sister Maria said. "To be in Meyersville, in a rural area, in a largely rural diocese, for our contemplative life, it's like an oasis. It's ideal.

We're accessible and we're remote enough to preserve a contemplative life."

A day at the monastery is spent mostly in silence, except for the Sisters' prayers. They sing psalms in the Latin Gregorian chant seven times daily. At the end of each hour of the Liturgy, the Sisters chant an antiphon to honor the Virgin Mary, which reflects the early Carmelite tradition. But one hour each day is reserved in which the Sisters share conversation and take walks. The Sisters also attend Mass daily at Sts. Peter and Paul next door, or another nearby church, until priests can regularly offer Mass at their monastery.

Bishop Brendan J. Cahill (Diocese of Victoria) celebrates Mass two or three Saturdays each month for the nuns at Sts. Peter and Paul Parish. He says the Sisters' presence is spiritually uplifting and heartwarming.

"It's a tremendous blessing for the people of the whole diocese," Cahill said. "For the people of Meyersville, in particular, their presence presents a spiritual atmosphere. We believe in the efficacy of their prayer. I think the graces that we receive are beyond what we realize. Imagine the healing that flows from their prayers. I think in the

world how we imagine power and we tend to think of military arms or lots of money. I feel these women who have given up their whole lives in prayer, that's true power, the power of God. For me, going in there, it is a sense of being otherworldly. I have great respect for it. It's like you're more deeply into the world, and that's the beauty of contemplative life. We do get involved in worldly affairs and that's our call. It's not negative. But the contemplatives, the ones who used to go out in the desert and now live the contemplative life, in a sense, have a deeper appreciation of reality."



Sister Mary Ruth in Ss. Peter and Paul Church prays to Saint Ann, secondary patron of the Carmelite Order.

Back in 2017, Cahill heard about the two Carmelite nuns temporarily living in Dallas who were looking to find a monastery. So he invited them down. The first place he showed them was not a good fit, with an interstate freeway nearby and trains clattering down adjacent railroad tracks blowing their horns at all hours.

"It was too much noise and commotion. They really focus on silence," Cahill said. "We don't realize how distracted we are by noise and by busyness. For their spirituality, we had to look for a place that was quiet and peaceful so they could enter more deeply a contemplative life. I remember that struck me, wow, they're deep. Realizing how serious the contemplative life is, you want a really quiet place for them. Then Meyersville opens up. It's a very simple house. But for them, it's fine right now. What they appreciate is the quietness of it."



Sister Maria and Sister Mary Ruth outside their residence at Sts. Peter and Paul in Meyersville. (Photos from the Carmelites of Mary Ever Virgin)

The simple house has, in fact, served them well. But with several young women now considering joining them, the Carmelites are not sure how long the rectory will suffice. "Once we have a vocation join us, we'll have only one room left for someone to discern with us. When two join us, we'll be bursting at the seams!" Sister Mary Ruth said. But the Sisters are confident that God will provide a way to expand. "Our desire is to remain in the Meyersville area," Sister Mary Ruth added.

And the parishioners at that church have opened their arms, too, fully embracing their new members. The nuns often find fresh produce from local gardens at their doorstep. One man built them special furniture adapted to a monastic life. And for the past two years on July 16, the Solemn Commemoration of Our Lady of Mount Carmel, a full church has joined the Sisters in celebrating a special Mass, followed by a reception in the parish hall.

"We knew that we were two strangers moving in without a lot of forewarning to the parishioners, so we had no idea what their reaction might be," Sister Mary Ruth said. "But from day one, their outpouring of love has astounded us, and our amazement and gratitude grow daily as their love seems to be an ever-gushing spring."

You can find the monastery online here: <https://maryevervirgin.org>. And you can reach it at this number: 361-277-8972.



**New Date for
DC, NYC and NIAGARA
September 18-26, 2020**

**Visit
Ireland
July 19-29
2021**



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

**~ Germany & Austria ~
Christmas Markets
December 5-13**

Call or email for more details.

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



Everyone's journey of faith unique

Recently, we released a web series entitled “Fully Alive” where five men from the diocese shared their conversion stories on video – how God became real to them and changed their lives.

Each story was unique. Cody's life was changed by God working through his family. Philip had a St. Paul-like experience through an ACTS retreat. Eamon went from being a “compliant” Catholic to a committed one, and Rick, who never left the faith, grew in it over time.

The last story is mine. I was surprised at the emotions I went through as I recounted my journey and how, 11 years ago, I decided to start following Jesus for the first time since I was a kid who loved singing at Mass. It made me reflect upon how my life is different since then, and how God has continued to work on me to make me – hopefully -- a better man.

Has God been made real in your life? Do you try following Him, or do you see God as more of a policeman who watches what you do, or a sage who is very wise?

I assure you that if you haven't experienced it already, God is a loving father who wants to know and love you like his own child.

On the Table

By Justin Reyes



We don't truly live until we follow God.

During the series, we explored what might get in the way of us fully embracing life with God – pride (wanting to be the captains of our own ships); distractions (pursuing achievements or money instead of God); and a lack of interest (thinking life is OK as is). But we chose the title of the series for a reason. We don't truly live until we follow God. Without Him, our life just doesn't make sense.

There is the famous quote from St. Augustine: “Our hearts are restless until they rest in You (God).” The truth is that we can all benefit from a reminder of how much God loves us, and how we are called to rest in Him. This reminder can come in the form of recounting our own journey with God, or listening to the journey of others.

I encourage you to give the series a listen. You can find it at www.victoriadiocese.org/fully-alive. Each video takes about one hour to listen to, including time to review accompanying questions and resources. I promise it won't be time wasted.

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 Family Evangelization for the Diocese of Victoria in Texas. E-mail Justin at: jreyes@victoriadiocese.org.

Heavenly Helpers



Christian Store

(979) 543-2850

1603 N Mechanic

El Campo, TX 77437

M-F 9:30 - 5:30 Sat. 9:30 - 3:00

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



Pregnant? Need Help?

Confidential and caring assistance available for the following needs:
• Emotional • Material • Spiritual • Educational • Providing immediate and practical help.

We have a special concern for you and your unborn child.

Victoria Gabriel Project

Toll Free 1-866-MARY AID

1-866-627-9243

www.victoriagabrielproject.org

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

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

NOW PAYING

3.65%* APY

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



HALLETTSVILLE

Wendy Janak, FIC
(361) 798-4311



VICTORIA

Eugene Rehak, FIC
(361) 575-4982



WEIMAR

Karen Kutac, FIC
(979) 725-8919



WEIMAR

Mike Scardino, FIC
(979) 725-8860



SCHULENBURG

Royce Shimek, FIC
(979) 743-4313



SHINER

Patrick Klozik, FIC
(361) 594-8160



VICTORIA

Robert Melnar, FIC
(361) 578-2957



HALLETTSVILLE

Jennifer Kraatz
(361) 798-9181



EL CAMPO

Calvin Pfeil, FIC
(979) 541-6520



EL CAMPO/NADA

Dianne Shimek Cerny
(979) 541-6346



NADA/GARWOOD

Chris Merta, FIC
(979) 543-1059



HALLETTSVILLE

Charles Leopold, FIC
(361) 798-4311



EAST BERNARD

Albert Smaistrila, FIC
(979) 335-4473

CATHOLIC LIFE INSURANCE

*Interest rates are subject to change. Minimum guaranteed rate is 1.00%.
Home Office: San Antonio, Texas. #A-SU 5.20



Where there is life, there is hope

EDITOR'S NOTE: The following is from a sermon written for the 11th Sunday in ordinary time, cycle B.

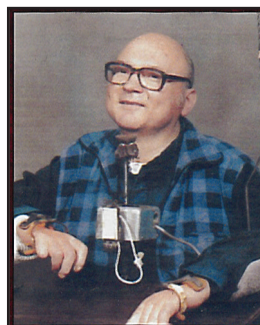
Life is full of disappointments. So many things can go wrong. We sometimes refer to Murphy's Law, which states that if anything can go wrong, it will. Or as a poet once said, "The best laid plans of mice and men go oft astray."

The course of events can disappoint our hopes and so can the weakness and imperfections of others.

In fact, a preacher once asked his congregation, "Is there anyone here who is perfect? Let him stand up." Everyone looked around, some nudged others, but no one would stand up. Then the preacher pushed his point one step further and asked, "Is there anyone here who has ever even heard of anyone who was perfect?" Immediately a man jumped up and said, "Yeah, my wife's first husband."

Actually, no man alive is perfect and our best efforts are flawed, yet in personal relationships and human efforts in general, it can be said that while there is life there is hope.

Hope indeed springs eternal. Farmers plant one seed for the insects, one for the drought and one for the harvest. People in



1929-2000

Father Charles Kram Corner

"Hoping too much for what cannot be can only lead to disappointment or even despair."

love marry alcoholics, hoping to reform them. Parents make many sacrifices in bearing and bringing up children, hoping one day to be proud of them.

We must all keep up our hopes, but in the face of so many forlorn hopes, our hopes must be realistic. Hoping too much for what cannot be can only lead to disappointment or even despair.

A gambler who loses his shirt on a long shot may end up committing suicide. An individual who insists that a loved one who is terminally ill must recover may lose his mind. A sinner who waits to repent at the hour of his death stands to lose his soul.

Once there was a man whose life was full of interruptions and frustrations. For a long time he struggled to cope with them and try

to eliminate them. But it was impossible. He finally came to the conclusion that his life's work consisted of interruptions and frustrations and his thought restored this hope in the purpose of his life.

In addition to all the reasons to hope that we can find in the natural world, God gives to every soul that achieves the state of grace the supernatural virtue of hope – that virtue which we firmly expect God to give us everything we need to be saved, and in the end salvation itself.

This supernatural hope is strengthened every time we receive the sacraments. For example, Jesus promised to give eternal life to those who would receive Him in Holy Communion. In Confession, the words of absolution, "I absolve you from your sins," brings peace and reconciliation and hope for a new beginning. The anointing of the sick heals and strengthens both body and soul.

So, indeed, in spite of everything, the material world and the world of the spirit are full of reasons to hope.

Lord Jesus, thank you for giving us so many reasons to keep up our hopes. Help us never to abuse hope by laxity or despair. Grant that when we have drawn our last breath, we will find all our cherished (hopes) fulfilled. Amen.

Find a way to create peace and offer peace

When the world shut down and so many were confined to their homes, spending long periods alone, I saw several Facebook posts from people who said they just needed a hug. It made me ache for the people who are worried and lonely. I didn't care to send a "virtual" hug, because if I said I was starving, I sure would not want to see "virtual" food in the comments.

For the well being of everyone, I pray that the day comes soon when no one is afraid to be any closer than 6 feet away from another human being. I worry less about the virus than I do about the anxiety and fear it causes. And when I looked up hugs, I found that mental health professionals say people really do NEED hugs.

There is evidence that people who give and receive hugs have lower blood pressure and better immune systems. According to Healthline.com, "In a study of over 400 adults, researchers found that hugging may reduce the chance a person will get sick. The participants with a greater support system were less likely to get sick. And those with the greater support system who did get sick

Look Up

By Janet Jones, Editor
The Catholic Lighthouse



had less severe symptoms than those with little or no support system."

I am still programmed so that, when I meet someone, I put out my hand to shake his or hers. I pull back my hand and apologize when I remember that we are not supposed to do that. Those moments make me sick in spirit; it just feels wrong.

Circumstances being what they are, I think we have to start being intentional about focusing on good things and good thoughts.

There are resources out there for some self-guided therapy. Tell yourself, "No bad days," and keep a journal, writing down all the good stuff that happens each day. Take

your rosary and go for a walk and meditate.

When I get overwhelmed and feel hopeless I have gone outside and looked at the vastness of the sky. I imagine looking down on the earth from somewhere else in the cosmos and seeing that my big problems are

really pretty little in the scheme of things. When I looked up ideas for anxiety relief, I found one that said "Look up!" Same idea as what I thought was exclusively my tech-

See Find a way, pg. 10

Summer Specials

Victoria

361•575•0204

Tee's Music House

Beeville

361•362•0828

~ Stay Safe ~

Kids Ukuleles - Friction Style Pegs	\$24.99
Available in Natural • Red • Blue • Purple	
Manano - Mahalo - Savannah Soprano	\$44.99
Ukuleles with geared machine heads	
Available in Eleven (11) colors	
Lark 12-hole Harmonica (Key of C)	\$7.99
Johnson Blues King 10-hole Harmonica	\$8.99
Available in 12- Different Keys	
De Rosa 39" Junior Acoustic Guitar Package	\$89.99
Assorted Colors	
Tubular Guitar Stands	\$12.99
Tambourines 6" & Larger Starting at	\$8.99



Thank You For Your Continued Support During These Times!!



Sunday Readings from July 5 - August 9

July 5 ~ Fourteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time Zechariah 9:9-10 Psalms 145:1-2, 8-9, 10-11, 13-14 Romans 8:9, 11-13 Matthew 11:25-30	July 26 ~ Seventeenth Sunday in Ordinary Time 1 Kings 3:5, 7-12 Psalms 119:57, 72, 76-77, 127-128, 129-130 Romans 8:28-30 Matthew 13:44-52
July 12 ~ Fifteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time Isaiah 55:10-11 Psalms 65:10, 11, 12-13, 14 Romans 8:18-23 Matthew 13:1-23	August 2 ~ Eighteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time Isaiah 55:1-3 Psalms 145:8-9, 15-16, 17-18 Romans 8:35, 37-39 Matthew 14:13-21
July 19 ~ Sixteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time Wisdom 12:13, 16-19 Psalms 86:5-6, 9-10, 15-16 Romans 8:26-27 Matthew 13:24-43	August 9 ~ Nineteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time 1 Kings 19:9A, 11-13A Psalms 85:9, 10, 11-12, 13-14 Romans 9:1-5 Matthew 14:22-33

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



Find a way to create peace and offer peace

Continued from pg. 9

nique. I am validated and I will put that down in my journal.
Some things will only take a minute to improve your mood. For example, force yourself to laugh. Just going through the physical mechanics of “ha-ha-ha-ha” can reduce stress and you might find it leads to a genuine laugh at yourself. I have done this in a group setting and the energy in the room went from awkward to awesome.
I think there’s one thing we all need to do and do often, especially now: wish someone else happiness and mean it.
And as soon as possible, give them a hug.



Next Victoria Area Weekend
July 31 - August 2, 2020

For confidential inquiries call:
John or Jennifer Vincent
(800) 470-2230 / (361) 580-2770
email: 2046@retrouvaille.org
or visit the web site listed above

Catholic Rural Life - Victoria

Pope Francis has called for a year-long celebration of “Laudato Si,” his encyclical written in 2015. The year is from May 24, 2020, to May 24, 2021. The following is a prayer dedicated to Laudato Si Year.

Loving God,
Creator of Heaven, Earth, and
all therein contained.
Open our minds and touch our
hearts,
so that we can be part of Creation,
your gift.

Be present to those in need in these difficult times,
especially the poorest and most vulnerable.

Help us to show creative solidarity
as we confront the consequences of the

global pandemic.
Make us courageous in embracing
the changes required to seek the common good.

Now more than ever, may we all feel
interconnected and interdependent.

Enable us to succeed in listening
and responding
to the cry of the Earth and the
cry of the poor.

May their current sufferings
become the birth-pangs
of a more fraternal and sustainable world.

We pray through Christ our Lord,
under the loving gaze of Mary Help of
Christians,
Amen.



Photo is from Catholic News Service

EDITOR'S NOTE: The following is a letter from the CRL digital newsletter.

Dear Friends,
Last week I traveled to California to help arrange a funeral for my father who passed away last month. He was 92. While going through my father’s belongings, I came across a Saint Andrew Daily Missal that my mother gave to my father on their wedding day, November 27, 1952. My mother, who passed away six years ago, wrote a sweet personal note expressing her love for my father. They were married for nearly 62 years. My siblings allowed me to take the book with me back to Minnesota and it now sits prominently on my desk in my home. What I love about the Missal is that the bookmarks are worn and the pages are bent from use. My father kept the Missal at his bedside. I miss both of my parents, but I am grateful to God for their example of love for God and for each other. Their example is one I want to emulate.
Just before my trip to California, I had the privilege of lecturing, via Zoom, to a group of students who are pursuing a Masters in Theology degree at the Saint Paul Seminary School of Divinity based in St. Paul. My topic was “Care of Creation and Catholic Rural Life”. In preparation for the class, I reread Pope Francis’s encyclical, Laudato Si’ - On Care for Our Common Home. This year is the fifth anniversary of the letter’s publication. As I perused the document, I was moved again by our Holy Father’s words of love and concern for all of us and for the planet, our common home. He urged us to bring the whole human family together to seek a sustainable and integral development. Laudato Si’ is truly a gift and treasure to our faith, one that is worth revisiting often and asking the Lord, “what do you want me to do?”

Many blessings,

James Ennis
Executive Director
Catholic Rural Life



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, or local police department. **If person is in immediate danger call 911.**

and

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

or

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

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



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.



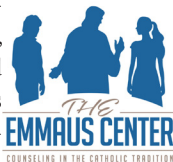
Find Us On

facebook

Diocese of Victoria in Texas

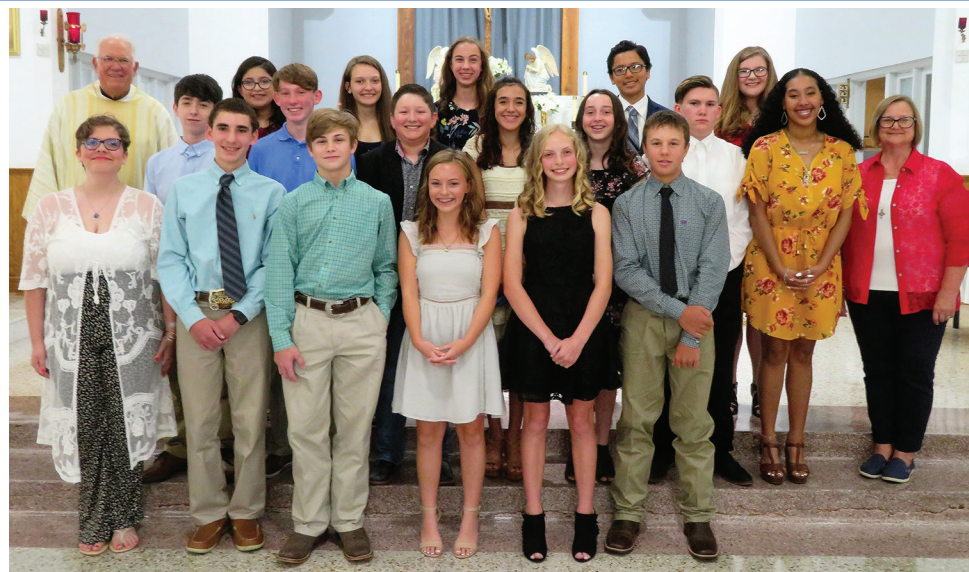
The Emmaus Center

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.



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

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



GRADUATES—On Thursday, May 21, St. Rose of Lima Catholic School celebrated their graduates during a private evening liturgy. Those receiving diplomas, left to right, were: Front – Amanda T., Nathan O., Jacob V., Annelyse G., Alyssa Z., Bryce S.; Second Row – Graylen A., Blake H., Ethan S., Makena K., Presley S., Creed W., Mariah R., Principal Rosanne Gallia; Back Row – Pastor Rev. Timothy Kosler, Arely M., Natalie O. Meredith M., Nicolas L., and Shelby L.

St. Michael Catholic Church Weimar, Texas

Harvest Feast

Sunday, August 9, 2020

Fried Chicken & Sausage Dinner

11:00 a.m. - PLATES \$10.00

* Veteran's Memorial Park - Weimar, Texas *

DRIVE-THRU TAKE-HOME PLATES WILL BE AVAILABLE AT ST. MICHAEL FAMILY CENTER \$10.00

POLKA MASS

10:30 a.m.

featuring: The Lost Cause Band

AUCTION

1:00 p.m.

BINGO

2:00 - 6:00 p.m.

License 118257

ANTIQUE & CLASSIC CAR SHOW FIREWORKS



* WASHER TOWN
4:00 p.m.

* COUNTRY STORE
* CAKE WALK
* TREASURE CHEST

KIDS GAMES

* FISH POND
* TRAIN RIDE
* PLINKO & MORE

* HAMBURGERS
* COLD DRINKS
* SNOW CONES

Music By: Shiner Hobo Band, Lost Cause & Black Cat Choir
11 a.m - 8:30 p.m.

* Saturday, August 8, 2020 *

**B-B-Q
COOKOFF**
9:00 a.m.

BINGO
4:00 p.m.
License 118257

**CORN HOLE
TOURNAMENT**
4:00 p.m.

POLKA MASS
5:30 p.m.

DANCE
The Broken Spokes
6:00 - 10:00 pm



Arriba está el logotipo de la Conferencia Católica 2020 “*Communio: Together in Christ*”, que tendrá lugar el 17 de octubre. “*Communio*” es una palabra latina para “*en unión*”. El formato ha cambiado a la luz de la pandemia, pero el comité de la conferencia decidió aceptar el desafío de asegurarse de que la conferencia continúe por su 33rd año.

Se necesita unidad para combatir el racismo

NOTA DEL EDITOR: El obispo Brendan Cahill es uno de los muchos líderes de la comunidad de fe que se reúne regularmente para discutir temas e ideas. La siguiente es una declaración colectiva que ilustra el terreno común en el que se encuentran con respecto al racismo y los eventos recientes. La lista de firmas muestra la diversidad de antecedentes de aquellos que desean trabajar juntos para la curación y la esperanza.

Tras las escalofrantes secuelas de la muerte de George Floyd, no podemos permitir que los lamentos dolorosos de familiares y amigos o las voces furiosas de los manifestantes legítimos sean silenciados por los gritos ensordecedores de disturbios destructivos y la trágica pérdida de otras 17 vidas.

Las imágenes dolorosas de un hombre jadeando por sus respiraciones finales de aire mientras está retenido por la rodilla de un oficial de policía deben servir como una llamada de atención desgarradora para todos los seres humanos civilizados.

Al reflexionar sobre las imágenes horripilantes, ¿qué hemos aprendido? Si no aprendimos nada, entonces la muerte y la destrucción fueron realmente en vano. No podemos permitir que eso suceda.

Muchos intentos sinceros de expandir el diálogo y buscar soluciones duraderas fueron interrumpidos por comentarios como “Esa no es la discusión que estamos teniendo hoy” o “No es tu turno”.

Cuando la mezquita de Victoria fue incendiada, las imágenes gráficas y las emociones enfurecidas alentaron las conversaciones que incluían no solo actitudes antimusulmanas descaradas, sino que al mismo tiempo abordaban la intolerancia, las políticas antiinmigrantes, el racismo anti negro, el anti-semitismo y el sentimiento anti gay.

Las multitudes reunidas y la gran cantidad de apoyo provenían de todos los orígenes y persuasiones y nadie cuestionó estas discusiones ampliadas como inoportunas o “fuera de turno”. Nadie sugirió que otros grupos perseguidos, aparte de los musulmanes, deberían esperar en la cola hasta que sea su turno de ser escuchados.

Todos debemos estar en esto, juntos, y

Vir Se necesita unidad, pg. 13

Conferencia Católica 2020 será diferente

BY JANET JONES

The Catholic Lighthouse

Durante décadas, la Diócesis de Victoria ha anunciado la fecha, el tema, la lista, los oradores, etc. para su Conferencia Católica cada otoño.

La gran noticia este año 33 es que la diócesis está teniendo una conferencia, especialmente cuando las diócesis de los alrededores han cancelado eventos similares, según Christella Alvarez, directora de la Oficina del Ministerio de Catequesis en Victoria.

“Communio - Together with Christ” es el tema de la conferencia 2020 el 17 de octubre. Y está experimentando algunos cambios muy grandes para satisfacer las necesidades de los fieles.

“Va a ser diferente. Será un desafío. Va a ser emocionante”, dijo Álvarez.

En primer lugar, no va a estar en una ubicación central. En cambio, el comité de la conferencia está seleccionando múltiples sitios en diferentes áreas de la diócesis que pueden acomodar una conferencia híbrida en persona / virtual. El comité ha discutido la importancia de la conferencia como una oportunidad para que la gente se una. Pero a la luz de la pandemia, la necesidad de ser innovadores con el formato era evidente.

Patsy Krenek, líder catequética de la parroquia en Holy Cross en East Bernard, dijo que está emocionada de que la diócesis esté proporcionando algo para educar a los catequistas, padres y cualquier otra persona que quiera aprender más sobre su fe. Ella ha participado regularmente en la conferencia y dijo que ha sido una excelente manera de aprender.

“Ese era el momento en que podía ir a conocer gente de otras parroquias. Me inspiró estar cerca de otros”, dijo. “Y es solo un compromiso de un día”.

Aunque la gran reunión fue una ben-

“Va a ser diferente. Será un desafío. Va a ser emocionante”, dijo Álvarez.

dición para ella, ella aprecia el hecho de que ha tenido que modificarse ya que actualmente está trabajando en cómo organizar la formación de fe de otoño en su parroquia.

Álvarez admitió que estaba sorprendida de que el comité eligiera tener la conferencia. Pidió a los miembros del comité que dieran su opinión sobre si debería cancelarse o cambiarse a un formato virtual y todos acordaron seguir adelante con algún tipo de formato virtual. Ella dijo que era, para ella, una señal de Dios de que la conferencia debía continuar.

El comité decidió que grupos más pequeños podrían reunirse en varios lugares de la diócesis y participar junto con el distanciamiento social. El plan es tener tres ubicaciones para talleres en inglés y dos ubicaciones para español.

El formato incluso podría ser beneficioso para aquellos que prefieren no conducir largas distancias. Y debido a que las diócesis de los alrededores han cancelado sus conferencias, algunos católicos en esas áreas pueden querer unirse a un sitio dentro de la Diócesis de Victoria. “Ese es un ángulo completamente nuevo y una posibilidad completamente nueva para nosotros”, dijo Álvarez.

En breve se publicará una lista finalizada

de ubicaciones y oradores. Cuando la diócesis publica la lista de sitios de conferencias y abre la inscripción, aquellos que quieran asistir pueden elegir a dónde quieren ir, ya que cada uno ofrecerá los mismos talleres.

“El obispo Brendan Cahill ofrecerá el discurso de apertura. Habrá talleres de presentadores dinámicos y llenos de fe y vendedores virtuales durante todo el día. El pastor de cada lugar ofrecerá un discurso de clausura y una bendición al final del día para enviarnos a continuar trayendo las ‘Buenas Nuevas’ al aceptar, escuchar, relacionarse y ayudarse mutuamente cada día mientras ofrecemos el amor y la esperanza de Dios en el mundo en que vivimos”, afirmó Álvarez.

“Este es un momento de cambio épico en nuestro mundo; una pandemia global (Coronavirus, también conocido como COVID-19), el desempleo récord, la educación de nuestros niños y niñas, y la violencia y tortura impías de los seres humanos en nuestro país y en todo el mundo. Además, los desafíos que enfrentan los inmigrantes, la intolerancia racial y las injusticias sociales para tanta gente de Dios”, dijo Álvarez.

“Por lo tanto, con la gracia de Dios, esperamos que la 33rd Conferencia Católica Anual brinde la oportunidad de recordar quiénes somos como iglesia. Que somos una comunidad de creyentes de todas las razas, edades y géneros. Somos ‘Communio - Junto con Cristo’. Con la oración, nuestro obispo de apoyo y los miembros dinámicos del comité de la conferencia, nos estamos preparando para una conferencia como ninguna otra en el pasado”.

• *Para obtener más información, visite el sitio web diocesano y la página de Facebook, o llame a Christella Alvarez o Brunilda Ortiz en la oficina de catequesis al 361-573-0828. Pronto habrá información adicional en el faro católico, los boletines parroquiales y otras comunicaciones en las redes sociales.*



Obispos mexicanos se comprometen a ayudar al sur de Oaxaca tras terremoto

CIUDAD DE MÉXICO (CNS) — Los obispos de México se comprometieron a ayudar a las personas afectadas por un terremoto en el estado del sur de Oaxaca que dejó al menos cinco muertos.

“Nos ponemos bajo el manto protector de Nuestra Madre, Santa María de Guadalupe, y al servicio de los posibles afectados del sismo ocurrido hace un momento”, dijo la Conferencia del Episcopado Mexicano en un tuit poco después del temblor del 23 de junio.

“Dios continuará cuidándonos y protegiéndonos”, dijo el arzobispo Pedro Vázquez Villalobos, de Antequera Oaxaca. “Pero aquí también tenemos que aprender muchas cosas. Cuidemos nuestros espacios, nuestros edificios, nuestros hogares. Es importante

que los mantengamos para que resistan estos temblores”.

En el Vaticano al día siguiente, el papa Francisco rezó por las víctimas del terremoto. “Que la ayuda de Dios y sus hermanos les dé fuerza y apoyo. Hermanos y hermanas, estoy muy cerca de ustedes”, dijo.

El terremoto de magnitud 7.4 se dio justo antes de las 10:30 a.m. con un epicentro cerca de la ciudad turística de Huatulco en la costa del Pacífico del sur del estado de Oaxaca.

Dos personas murieron en edificios derribados, mientras que a otra le cayó un muro, dijo el gobernador Alejandro Murat. Un empleado también murió en una refinería de Pemex en Salina Cruz, según la compañía.

Se necesita unidad para combatir el racismo

Continuado de, pg. 12

como muchos antes de nosotros hemos declarado enfáticamente: “Unidos estamos de pie. Divididos caemos.”

Cuando discutimos un incidente específico de racismo e intolerancia, es fácil olvidar que todas las razas, religiones, etnias y persuasiones sexuales incluyen víctimas y perpetradores.

Comprensiblemente, muchos de los que respondieron a la tragedia de George Floyd estaban demasiado cerca del bosque para ver los árboles. Este incidente fue la punta del iceberg, no el iceberg en sí.

Cuando atribuimos artificialmente la ira del racismo como si se dirigiera preferentemente a un grupo, estamos amplificando la complejidad del problema. La esclavitud estadounidense de tres millones de afroamericanos representó la encarnación de la intolerancia y el epítome del racismo. Todavía hoy, 40 millones de personas siguen atrapadas en la esclavitud moderna en todo el mundo.

Si bien el incidente de George Floyd no debe vilipendiar a la gran mayoría de los oficiales respetuosos de la ley que promueven la paz y arriesgan sus vidas todos los días para servirnos y protegernos, debemos cuestionar una cultura que ha permitido que atrocidades similares continúen sin control.

La muerte de George Floyd no es un caso simple de un hombre negro y un oficial de policía blanco. Representa los males del racismo y el abuso del poder. Solo juntos podemos interrumpir el ciclo. ¿Si no es ahora, cuando?

Firmado por: miembros de Comunidades de Fe:

Gary Branfman, President, Temple B’nai Israel.

Rev. Fred H. Hobbs, Mount Nebo Missionary Baptist Church

Jim For, President, Unitarian Universalist Church of Victoria

Intern Kara Hairell-Speed, Christ in the Country Cooperative

Rev. Willie Mae Ford, Pastor of Salter Chapel AME Church

Imam Osama Hassan, Victoria Islamic Center

Brendan Cahill, Catholic Bishop of Victoria

Danna Cole, Executive Director, Center for Peace Victoria

Stephana Marbach, Catholic Sister at Incarnate Word Convent

Laurel Graham, People of Hope ELCA

Sister Rebecca Janacek, Executive Director of Promise Pointe

Cheryl Kester-Schmidt, Christ the Victor Lutheran Church ELCA

Mildred Truchard, Catholic Sister at Incarnate Word Convent

Rev. Dr. Wm C. “Bill” Hassel, People of Hope, ELCA

Nafees Ali, Victoria Islamic Center

Dr. John Carmona, Jerusalem Family Praise Center

Paul Morrison, People of Hope ELCA

Papa: pandemia destaca la necesidad de proteger refugiados, la creación

CIUDAD DEL VATICANO (CNS) — Entre los tantos desafíos que ha destacado la pandemia de coronavirus está la necesidad de salvaguardar los derechos y la dignidad de los refugiados, dijo el papa Francisco.

Recordando la celebración del Día Mundial de los Refugiados durante su discurso del Ángelus el 21 de junio, el papa dijo que la crisis global que surgió de la pandemia de COVID-19 “ha puesto en relieve la necesidad de asegurar la protección necesaria también a las personas refugiadas, para así garantizar su dignidad y seguridad”.

“Os invito a uniros a mi oración por un empeño renovado y eficaz de todos en favor de la protección efectiva de cada ser humano, en particular los que se han visto obligados a huir debido a situaciones de grave peligro para ellos o sus familias”, dijo.

La pandemia, agregó, también destacó la relación entre la humanidad y el medio ambiente.

Durante los primeros meses de la crisis, las principales ciudades encerradas en China,

Italia y Estados Unidos informaron una fuerte caída en la contaminación del aire, así como el regreso de la vida silvestre a áreas altamente pobladas o contaminadas.

El papa dijo que la reducción de la contaminación “reveló una vez más la belleza de tantos lugares libres de tráfico y ruido”. A medida que más y más ciudades relajan sus restricciones, agregó, “todos deberíamos ser más responsables de cuidar la casa común”.

Alentando a las iniciativas locales dedicadas a la limpieza de áreas contaminadas, el papa expresó su esperanza de que puedan “fomentar una ciudadanía cada vez más consciente de este bien común esencial”.

El papa también conmemoraba el día de la fiesta de san Luis Gonzaga, el famoso sacerdote jesuita que murió el 21 de junio de 1591, durante una plaga en Roma.

“Hoy recordamos a san Luis Gonzaga, un muchacho lleno de amor a Dios y al prójimo; murió muy joven, aquí en Roma, porque se ocupó de los enfermos de la peste. A su intercesión confío a los jóvenes de todo el mundo”.



La foto de la derecha es una estatua de San Aloysius Gonzaga llevando a una víctima de la peste que arrasó Roma en el siglo XVI. El Papa Francisco confió a los jóvenes de todo el mundo a su intercesión.

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

Oberammergau Rescheduled!

June 20 - 30, 2022

**See the Passion Play in Oberammergau
Tour Germany, Austria and Switzerland
Details coming soon!**

**More pilgrimages are in the works
as travel opens up summer of 2021!**

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

You can follow Journeys of Faith with Ceci on Facebook!



*with Father
Kristopher Fuchs*



Father Dan Kahlich stands outside of his last building project at Holy Rosary Church in Hostyn. A covered walkway from the parking lot to the church foyer. (Photo by Janet Jones)

1 day after 80th birthday, Rev. Dan Kahlich retires

By JANET JONES

The Catholic Lighthouse

HOSTYN — The Rev. Daniel Kahlich has spent nine years as pastor of Queen of the Holy Rosary Church and Sts. Peter and Paul in nearby Plum. He has served the Diocese of Victoria for 28 years and celebrated the 54th anniversary of his ordination on May 28.

Now it's time for some rest, and his timing is just right. He had an 80th birthday celebration on the eve of his June 30 birthday, spent his actual birthday moving the last of his belongings out of the Hostyn house, and became officially retired on July 1.

He also has just completed his last building project at the church, a covered walkway from the parking lot to the church foyer. He saw the church through other renovations in 2016.

When asked to talk about himself, Father Kahlich shrugged and said, "I'm just an ordinary priest."

Some may consider his career a little more interesting than that. He became a priest in 1966, incardinated in the Archdiocese of San Antonio — 19 years before the Diocese of Victoria was formed. He was ordained at St. Rose in Schulenburg, his home parish, by Bishop Stephen A. Leven.

While serving as a parish priest, he volunteered his service as a chaplain at Lackland Air Force Base. Five years into his vocation, he became a U.S. Army Reserve and U.S. Air Force Reserve chaplain.

He ended up serving 29 years of commissioned military service as chaplain, including four years of active duty at the Reserve Air Force Headquarters in Georgia (1988-1992). He retired with the rank of lieutenant colonel on his 60th birthday.

"That was another lifetime," he said.

He asked to be incardinated into the Diocese of Victoria after he left the military. And, besides Hostyn and Plum, he has pastored St. Anthony in Columbus and Holy Cross in Yorktown.

Katie Janda, one of Father Kahlich's current parishioners said, "He's the epitome of what I think a parish priest should be. He's just full of love, mercy and kindness."

Janda said he will be greatly missed.

Though retired, he still has things he needs to do. Father Kahlich is part-time caretaker for his oldest brother who lives in Schulenburg. "That's going to be my continuing ministry," he said.

He owns a house on Canyon Lake, where he goes on days off, and enjoys feeding the deer, caring for his plants, and keeping up his exercise. He also said he has offered to

be available to be a fill in priest if he is able to. "We'll see how that works."

While Father Dan enjoys his retirement in Canyon Lake, Father Bob Knippenberg will take his place as pastor at the Hostyn and Plum churches. Father Knippenberg comes to Hostyn from Holy Family Catholic Church in Wharton.

Following is a list of all other clergy moves effective July 1:

Father Samuel Appiasi will succeed Father Bob Knippenberg as pastor of Holy Family Catholic Church in Wharton.

Father Oscar Kofi-Amo will succeed Father Appiasi as pastor of St. Patrick in Bloomington.

Father Chase Goodman, ordained May 30, will succeed Father Kofi-Amo as parochial vicar at St. Philip the Apostle in El Campo.

Father Greg Korenek will become the pastor of Our Lady of Lourdes in Victoria.

Father Stephen Vasek will succeed Father Korenek as pastor of Holy Cross in Bay City and its mission, Sacred Heart in Wadsworth.

Father Dalton Ervin, ordained May 30, will succeed Father Vasek as parochial vicar at Our Lady of Victory Cathedral in Victoria.

Father Francis Tam Nguyen III has been appointed parochial vicar of Holy Cross Catholic Church in Yorktown and its mission, San Luis.

Father Eliecer Patino will succeed Father Nguyen as parochial vicar of St. Anthony Catholic Church in Palacios.

Father James Dvorak, ordained May 30, will become the parochial vicar at Our Lady of the Gulf in Port Lavaca and its mission churches of St. Ann in Point Comfort, St. Joseph in Port O'Connor and St. Patrick in Seadrift.

Father Max Landman, who has been serving as parochial vicar in Port Lavaca will be in residence at St. Mary's in Victoria while he waits to begin his formation in the Jesuit order of priests.

How to Support DSA

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

Holy Family K of C Council #9088

Presents the

Eighteenth Annual



FISHING TOURNAMENT

Port O'Connor

Community Center & Pavilion

August 7 & 8

Friday Night Dinner: Pork Steak

Saturday Night Dinner: Fish Fry

LIVE AUCTION ★ CASH PRIZES

FOR INFORMATION ON ENTRIES, CONTACT:

SISTER ANN MELETIO AT 361-485-2044

BRENDA HERMES AT 361-564-8361

GEORGE WENZEL AT 361-649-7707

ALL PROCEEDS BENEFIT

NAZARETH ACADEMY SCHOOL, VICTORIA



What's on the web?

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

Cinco Preguntas

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

New Outreaches for Families

- Be an Amazing Parent! Live & Virtual Workshops 8/19, 8/26, and 9/2 featuring presentations by Fr. Gary Janak, Emmaus Center staff, and local couples. Childcare provided if attending in-person. Please promote using the webpage:

www.victoriadiocese.org/amazing-parents

- Witness to Love FREE info sessions for PASTORS and MARRIAGE MINISTRY LEADERS. This world-class resource for marriage ministry is coming to our diocese with live info sessions in English AND Spanish on Friday, September 11, at 6:30 p.m. (dinner provided) and Saturday, September 12, at 9 a.m. (breakfast provided). Sign up and bring anyone you'd like! Featured on EWTN: www.youtube.com/watch?v=xAM1BBPTlJE

Fully Alive Video Series!

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

Stocks ■ Bonds ■ CDs
Mutual Funds ■ IRAs



Kenneth J. French, Sr.

1501 E Mockingbird,
Ste 102
Victoria, TX 77901

Edward Jones

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

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.

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

Gabriel Project — Helps women experiencing a crisis pregnancy as an alternative to abortion. Victoria: Meetings are the second Tuesday of each month at 6:30 p.m. at 101 W. Convent. Light supper included. For angel workshop/training dates, contact Lisa Kainer 361-676-3264 or lisa_heysquierdo@yahoo.com; DeWitt County: Meetings are the third Monday of each month during the school year

at 5:30 p.m. at the Yorktown Public Library, 103 W. Main St. Coordinators for DeWitt Chapter are Wayne and Margie Smith 361-491-0067; Lavaca County: Meets 6 p.m. (during the school year), contact Julie Kubena Lavaca County Coordinator at 361-798-3579 for dates and location.

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

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

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

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

Natural Family Planning — NFP is the only church-approved form of family planning. For the CREIGHTON MODEL Fertility Care System (CrMS) featuring NaPro TECHNOLOGY™ contact Susanne Koch in Wharton at 505-710-0903 or susannekoch614@gmail.com. Also in the Cuero area contact, Ashley Rodriguez at 361-293-0700 or ashleyfay09@gmail.com.

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

Retrouvaille — Retrouvaille, meaning "rediscovery," is a marriage-healing ministry offered in the diocese to couples in difficult marriages. The next retreat weekend in the Diocese of Victoria will be July 31-August 2. 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.

Pilgrimages

For more pilgrimages, see *Journeys of Faith with Ceci* on pg. 17.

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

**Submit to
lighthouse@victoriadiocese.org**



Contributed Photo

If you or someone you know is interested in becoming Catholic or completing their sacraments, parish RCIA (Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults) programs in churches normally start in the fall. Contact your parish to find out more about its RCIA program. In this photo, Father Charles E. Otsiwah confirms RCIA candidate Whitney Stavinoha at Holy Cross Church in East Bernard on Pentecost Sunday (May 31). Initiation in to the church is normally celebrated at the Easter Vigil Masses, which were closed to the public this year.



Above is the logo for the 2020 Catholic Conference “Communio: Together in Christ,” which will take place Oct. 17. “Communio” is a Latin word for “in union.” The format has changed in light of the pandemic, but the conference committee decided to accept the challenge of making sure the conference would go on for its 33rd year.

‘With prayer, our supportive bishop, and dynamic conference committee members, we are preparing for a conference unlike any in the past.’

Catholic Conference 2020 will be different

Continued from pg. 1

it’s only a one-day commitment.”

Although the large gathering was a blessing for her, she appreciates the fact that it has had to be modified as she is currently working on how to organize the fall faith formation in her parish.

Alvarez admitted that she was surprised the committee chose to have the conference. She asked the committee members to give input on whether it should be canceled or changed to a virtual format and everyone agreed to go forward with some sort of virtual format. She said that was, for her, a sign from God that the conference must go on.

The committee decided smaller groups could meet in various locations around the diocese and participate together with social distancing in place. The plan is to have three locations for workshops in English and two locations for Spanish.

The format could even be beneficial to those who prefer not to drive long distances. And because surrounding dioceses have canceled their conferences, some Catholics in those areas might want to join at a site within the Diocese of Victoria. “That’s a whole new angle and a whole new possibility for us,” Alvarez said.

A finalized list of locations and speakers will be released in the near future. Once the diocese releases the list of conference sites and opens registration, those who want to attend can choose where they want to go since each will offer the same workshops.

“Bishop Brendan Cahill will offer the keynote address. There will be workshops

from dynamic and faith-filled presenters and virtual vendors throughout the day. The pastor from each location will offer a closing address and a blessing at the end of the day to send us forth to continue bringing the ‘Good News’ by accepting, listening, relating and helping one another each day as we offer God’s love and hope in the world in which we live,” Alvarez stated.

“This is a time of epic change in our world; a global pandemic (Coronavirus aka COVID-19), record unemployment, the education of our children being challenged, and the ungodly violence and torture of human beings in our country and around the world. Also, the challenges immigrants are facing, racial intolerance and social injustices for so many of God’s people,” Alvarez said. “Therefore, with God’s grace, we hope that the 33rd Annual Catholic Conference will provide an opportunity to remember who we are as church. That we are a community of believers of all races, ages, and genders. We are ‘Communio – Together with Christ.’ With prayer, our supportive bishop, and dynamic conference committee members, we are preparing for a conference unlike any in the past.”

• *For more information check the diocesan website and the Facebook page, or call Christella Alvarez or Brunilda Ortiz in the catechetical office at 361-573-0828. Additional information will be coming soon in the Catholic Lighthouse, parish bulletins and other social media communications.*



CNS photo

A child holds up a sign during a recent protest against racial injustice. Victoria communities of faith are encouraging peaceful discussions about how to break the cycle of racism and the abuse of power everywhere.

Unity is needed to fight racism

Continued from pg. 1

to happen.

Many sincere attempts to expand the dialogue and seek lasting solutions were cut short by comments like, “That’s not the discussion we are having today,” or “It’s not your turn.”

When Victoria’s mosque was burned to the ground, the graphic images and enraged emotions encouraged conversations that included not only blatant anti-Muslim attitudes, but simultaneously addressed bigotry, anti-immigration policies, anti-black racism, antisemitism, and anti-gay sentiment.

The assembled crowds and outpouring of support were from all backgrounds and persuasions and no one challenged these expanded discussions as untimely, or “out of turn.” No one suggested that persecuted groups other than Muslims should wait in line until it is their turn to be heard.

We must all be in this, together, and as many before us have emphatically declared, “United we stand. Divided we fall.”

When we discuss a specific incident of racism and bigotry, it is easy to forget that all races, religions, ethnicities, and sexual persuasions include victims and perpetrators.

Understandably, many who responded to the George Floyd tragedy were too close to the forest to see the trees. This incident was the tip of the iceberg, not the iceberg itself.

When we artificially attribute the wrath of racism as if it targets one group preferentially, we are amplifying the complexity of the problem. The American enslavement of three million African Americans represented the embodiment of bigotry and the epitome of racism. Still today, 40 million people remain trapped in modern slavery worldwide.

While the George Floyd incident must not vilify the vast majority of law-abiding peace-promoting officers who risk their lives

every day to serve and protect us, we must question a culture that has allowed similar atrocities to proceed unchecked.

The death of George Floyd is not a simple case of a black man and a white police officer. It represents the evils of racism and the abuse of power. Only together can we disrupt the cycle.

If not now, when?

Signed by: Communities of Faith members:

- Gary Branfman, President, Temple B’nai Israel.
- Rev. Fred H. Hobbs, Mount Nebo Missionary Baptist Church
- Jim For, President, Unitarian Universalist Church of Victoria
- Intern Kara Hairell-Speed, Christ in the Country Cooperative
- Rev. Willie Mae Ford, Pastor of Salter Chapel AME Church
- Imam Osama Hassan, Victoria Islamic Center
- Brendan Cahill, Catholic Bishop of Victoria
- Danna Cole, Executive Director, Center for Peace Victoria
- Stephana Marbach, Catholic Sister at Incarnate Word Convent
- Laurel Graham, People of Hope ELCA
- Sister Rebecca Janacek, Executive Director of Promise Pointe
- Cheryl Kester-Schmidt, Christ the Victor Lutheran Church ELCA
- Mildred Truchard, Catholic Sister at Incarnate Word Convent
- Rev. Dr. Wm C. “Bill” Hassel, People of Hope, ELCA
- Nafees Ali, Victoria Islamic Center
- Dr. John Carmona, Jerusalem Family Praise Center
- Paul Morrison, People of Hope ELCA