

Inside ...

3 DOV Announces
Staff Changes

8 Moulton Church
Receives Special Gift

9 Snow Fun
Pictures



The Catholic Lighthouse

The Cradle of Texas Immigration



OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE DIOCESE OF VICTORIA IN TEXAS

VOL. 34, NO. 11

www.victoriadiocese.org



MARCH 2021

Bishop Janak a 1st for DOV

JANET JONES

The Catholic Lighthouse

He was among the first priests to be ordained in the Diocese of Victoria, now he is the first priest from the diocese, since it was created in 1982, to become a bishop.

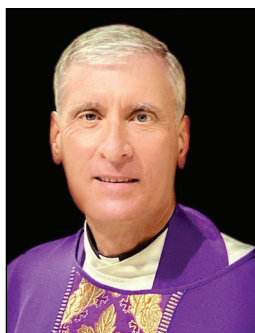
Bishop Gary Janak's episcopal ordination will take place at St. Mark the Evangelist Catholic Church in San Antonio on April 20 and he will begin serving the Archdiocese of San Antonio as auxiliary bishop.

Bishop Janak has chosen the episcopal motto: "Give to your servant a listening heart," from 1 Kings.

"That's what I want to do as a bishop," he said, and having the heart of a counselor, he knows the importance of listening before speaking. "If I speak before I listen, it's about me. So I have to listen more."

In some ways, his new role will be like a homecoming. He attended seminary in San Antonio and Rev. Michael Boulette was his spiritual advisor. During Janak's priestly

ordination, Boulette was one of the priests who laid his hands on Janak's head invoking the Holy Spirit and conveying that special blessing.



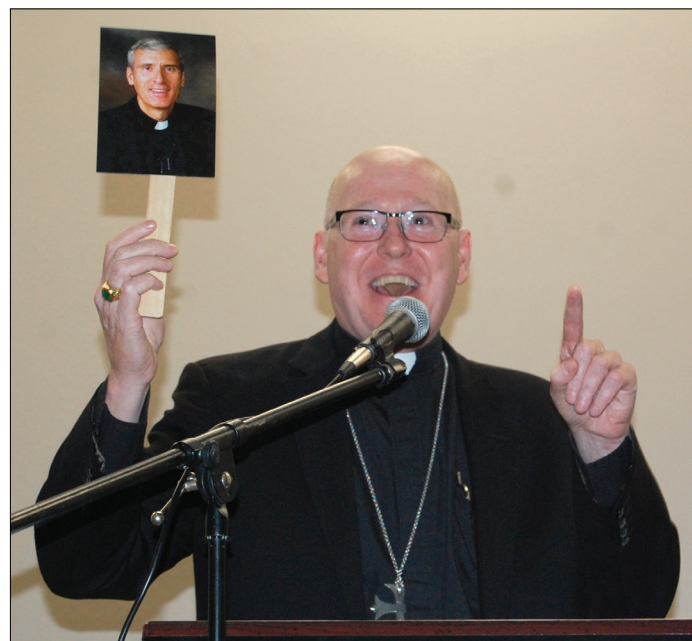
Bishop Gary W. Janak

Now Boulette, also an auxiliary bishop for the Archdiocese of San Antonio, will witness Janak's episcopal ordination 33 years later, and again will lay his hands on Janak's head and convey a blessing. Together they will serve the people of the archdiocese with Archbishop Gustavo Garcia-Siller.

The archbishop called Janak "a great gift from the Diocese of Victoria."

When asked what he thinks the biggest strength Janak will bring to the archdiocese, he said, "The main thing is his pastoral experience. ... enriched by the other roles of leadership." To the Diocese of Victoria as a whole, he said, "You trained him well."

Bishop Brendan Cahill is also happy that Janak has been selected and says it's a reminder that we are part of a universal Church. "That's something that's beautiful about being



Bishop Brendan Cahill holds up a photo of Father Gary Janak. The photo was taken in 2018 during a "Roast and Toast" of Janak to benefit the Emmaus Center. Janak, a counselor himself, said opening the counseling center was one of his best moments as a priest in the Diocese of Victoria.

a Catholic. And it's a beautiful reminder that the pope in Rome ... he knows South Texas."

Janak, as chancellor of the Diocese of Victoria, has worked closely with Cahill for years. And, though Janak's designation as bishop was a surprise, Bishop Cahill was not

exactly shocked. Janak's years of experience and leadership have made him a promising candidate. "I can't think of a better person than Father Gary," Cahill said.

See Bishop Janak, pg. 16

JANET JONES

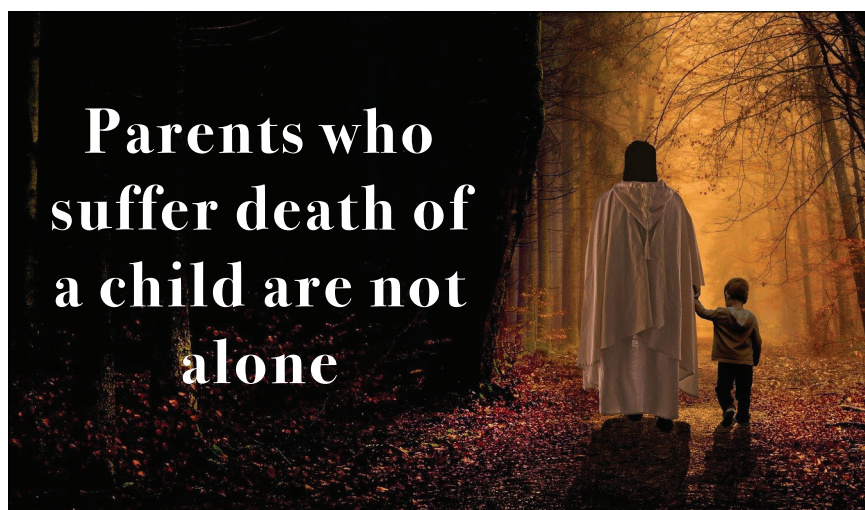
The Catholic Lighthouse

Not a day goes by that Deacon Larry Hoelscher doesn't think about Christina, his 18-year-old daughter who was killed in a car accident 20 years ago.

Hoelscher, who ministers at St. Philip the Apostle Catholic Church in El Campo, and his wife, Patricia, who is a spiritual director for the Emmaus Center, are leading a grief support retreat for parents who, like them, have lost a child. The retreat, created through the Office of Family Evangelization at the Diocese of Victoria, is 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, March 13, at Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary in Ganado.

Anyone who has lost a child at any age, no matter how long ago, is encouraged to attend. What they can expect, according to Deacon Hoelscher, is to hear presentations by clergy and other parents who have had the experience of losing a child.

See Parents who suffer death of a child are not alone, pg. 12



Registration for the retreat is free and required in advance so the organizers can plan for lunch and materials. There is an online form on the Diocese of Victoria website under the Office of Family Evangelization or call Patricia Hoelscher, 979-257-9984, or Deacon Larry Hoelscher, 979-578-3934.



My choice: ‘I will go where you send me’

A Shepherd’s Message

By Bishop Brendan Cahill



Dear Brothers and Sisters,
On my calendar I’ve started to include the Tuesday morning meetings of the praesidium of the Legion of Mary at the Cathedral. My decision to once again become a spiritual director for a local chapter of the Legion of Mary came out of my prayer on the Ignatian retreat I took in January.

One of the exercises in the retreat is called writing a personal “election,” or “choice”, coming out of days praying about the ministry of Jesus. Each day, for 30 days, I spent five one-hour prayer sessions meditating on different scenes – following the Spiritual Exercises of St. Ignatius (“Draw Me Into Your Friendship. The Spiritual Exercises: A Literal Translation and a Contemporary Reading,” David L. Fleming, S.J., The Institute of Jesuit Sources, St. Louis, 1996).

The prayer was really intense, and I thank God for the prayers and support of so many while I was totally disconnected from TV, cell phone and the outside world.

The first part of the retreat focused on the choice between good and evil, the reality of Satan and hell and reflection on my personal sinfulness and the sin of the world. From there, the different prayer periods focused on God’s plan for the salvation of people, leading to the choice of Mary to say “yes” to being the mother of the Savior. Then, step by step, the prayer periods walked through the childhood, young adulthood and the ministry of Jesus along the Sea of Galilee and in Jerusalem.

On one of these days with the ministry of Jesus I felt the presence of all the people of the diocese of Victoria at the Sermon on

the Mount. I’ve been trying to think of how to explain this to you, but I felt the presence of Jesus Himself preaching Matthew 5 to all of us and we being sent out to bring healing, hope and truth to the world. I also felt His mother, Mary, being close by his side, as she was present throughout His ministry. In my mind I went to every parish and mission and prayed: “Blessed are you” I could see many of your faces and spoke with you by name.

Shortly after this prayer experience I had my daily meeting with my spiritual director. She mentioned that someone had sent me flowers and a package. The package included a spiritual bouquet from the Diocese of Victoria and many of the ministries I support. Overwhelmed, I shared with my director that this seemed to confirm the sense of being sent. Also, looking back on my life, it is a sense of being sent by Mary to bring Jesus to the world.

Experiences like this led to the writing of my election:

“Mary, I am all yours, I will go where you send me. Sweetest Jesus, I hide within Your wounds – grant me knowledge of and rejection of all worldliness and vanity. As a sign of my election I will ask Deacon Luan if there is a praesidium in need of a spiritual director for the Legion of Mary.”

May you and your families be blessed with the merciful love of Jesus in this Lenten season, may we be brave in bringing this mercy to the world, and may we be united in keeping one another in prayer.

+Brendan



January						
With love and prayer 2021						
Spiritual Bouquet – Your diocese was praying for you.						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						12/26
						Carmelite Sisters in Meyersville remembered you at Mass & Divine Office
12/27	12/28*	12/29	12/30*	12/31*	1	2
CDA Crt #2275– El Campo – offered a rosary for you today.	The DOV PCLs kept you in payer today.	The Youth and Young Adults of the DOV prayed the Divine Mercy Chaplet for you today.	The DOV Deacons prayed for you today.	The Legion of Mary in the DOV and Houston Senatus prayed for you today.	The Missionary Catechists prayed for you today.	The SVdP Society prayed a rosary every hour from 6 a.m. – 6 p.m. for you today.
3*	4	5*	6	7	8*	9*
The Dominican Sisters kept you in prayer today.	The DOV Men’s Ministry offered a rosary for you today.	The DOV Seminarians kept you in prayer today.	The IWBS Sisters remembered you at Mass in Healthcare & at Divine Office	Nazareth Academy in Victoria is celebrating Mass for your intentions.	The Chancery, Emmaus Center, Presidio & SRC staff kept you in prayer today.	The Hispanic Ministry group & AOS Ministry kept you in prayer today.
10*	11*	12	13	14	15	16
The DOV Women’s ministry & Liturgical Commission kept you in prayer today.	Our Lady of Victory Catholic School in Victoria is celebrating a Mass for you today.	Holy Cross Catholic School in Bay City celebrated a Mass for you today.	Sacred Heart Catholic School in Hallettsville is celebrating a Mass in your name today.	St. Anthony Catholic School in Columbus is celebrating a Mass for you today.	St. Michael’s School Catholic in Cuero is celebrating Mass in your name.	ABVM – Ganado ministry & the Communities of Faith prayed for you today
17	18	19	20	21	22	23*
The Knights of Columbus & Serra Club prayed for you today	Shiner Catholic School is praying for you today!	Our Lady of the Gulf in Port Lavaca is offering up special prayers for you today.	St. Joseph’s Catholic School in Yoakum is celebrating Mass in your name.	St. Rose of Lima in Schulenburg is dedicating their school Mass to you today.	St. Philip Catholic School will honor you in their school Mass today.	The PRIESTS of the DOV and the Intercommunity formation Sisters kept you in prayer today.
24*	25	26	27	28	29	30
Homeschooling families & the Prison Ministry in the DOV & CRL kept you in prayer today.	St. Michael Catholic School in Weimar offered a rosary for you today.	The students at St. Joseph High School are praying for you today.				
31						

Blessings to you on your retreat. We miss you.



This calendar is part of the spiritual bouquet sent to Bishop Cahill during his 30-day silent retreat in January. To read more about the Spiritual Bouquet that Bishop Cahill received, visit www.victoriadiocese.org.



Diocese of Victoria
in Texas



We are the Church together

The 2021 Diocesan Services Appeal has been mailed to parishioners throughout the diocese. Each parish has a goal amount to raise for the DSA to help support various programs and resources for the Diocese of Victoria.

Visit www.victoriadiocese.org/DSA-2021-1 to learn how your dollars help others.



Bishop Cahill's Schedule

March 5	3 p.m. Holy Hour; chancery	19	Opening Mass for Women's Lenten Retreat at the Spiritual Renewal Center; Victoria
6	5 p.m. Mass and ground-breaking at Queen of Peace; Sweet Home	20	9 a.m. talk on the Spirituality of St. Joseph for Men's Ministry at Queen of Peace; Hostyn
7	11 a.m. Confirmation Mass for Sacred Heart Catholic Church; Flatonia	21	1 p.m. Confirmation Mass at St. Mary's; Hallettsville 5:00 p.m. Confirmation Mass at St. Rose; Schulenburg
8	2:30 p.m. Communities of Faith meeting	23	9:30 a.m. Legion of Mary Praesidium meeting; Cathedral Center 11:30 a.m. Staff Lenten Retreat; Cathedral Center 6 p.m. Adult Confirmation Mass at the Cathedral of Our Lady of Victory; Victoria
9	9:30 a.m. Legion of Mary Praesidium meeting; Cathedral Center 11:30 a.m. Staff Lenten Retreat; Cathedral Center 6 p.m. Adult Confirmation Mass at the Cathedral of Our Lady of Victory; Victoria	24	3:30 p.m. Confessions at the Cathedral of Our Lady of Victory; Victoria
10	10 a.m. Presbyteral Council; Chancery 2 p.m. Catholic Relief Services U.S. Engagement Committee meeting; Virtual 6 p.m. Confirmation Mass at St. Michael's; Weimar	26	4:30 p.m. supper with Healthcare Sisters at Incarnate Word Convent
11	7 a.m. Catholic Relief Services Board meeting; Virtual	27	Mass with the Carmelites; Meyersville 5 p.m. Confirmation Mass at St. Robert Bellarmine; El Campo
13	Mass with the Carmelites; Meyersville	28	6:00 p.m. Palm Sunday Mass at the Cathedral of Our Lady of Victory; Victoria
14	9 a.m. Mass at the Cathedral of Our Lady of Victory; Victoria	30	10 a.m. Chrism Mass at the Cathedral of Our Lady of Victory; Victoria
15	Noon Catholic Sisters Week appreciation lunch; chancery	April 1	6:30 p.m. Holy Thursday Mass at the Cathedral of Our Lady of Victory; Victoria
16	6:30 a.m. Relevant Radio interview call in 9:30 a.m. Legion of Mary Praesidium meeting; Cathedral Center	3	8 p.m. Easter Vigil Mass at the Cathedral of Our Lady of Victory; Victoria
17	2:30 p.m. Finance Council Meeting; chancery 4:30 p.m. Building Board, chancery	4	9 a.m. Easter Sunday Mass at the Cathedral of Our Lady of Victory; Victoria

Official Appointment

Father Huehlefeld named chancellor



Very Rev. Matthew Huehlefeld

Bishop Brendan Cahill on Friday announced that Father Matthew Huehlefeld would become chancellor beginning April 6. He will take the place of Bishop Gary Janak, who was recently appointed as auxiliary bishop for the Archdiocese of San Antonio.

“In addition to the continuation of his duties as pastor of St. Joseph, Yoakum, and its mission of St. Ann’s in Hochheim, and judicial vicar of the Diocese of Victoria; I am pleased to announce that Father Matthew Huehlefeld has been appointed as Chancellor for the Diocese of Victoria,” Bishop Cahill stated.

DOV welcomes new face, new position

Aldo Camacho joined the Diocese of Victoria on Feb. 22, as coordinator of the Hispanic Ministry for the Diocese of Victoria.

Under the direct supervision of Justin Reyes, director of Family Evangelization, Camacho is responsible for the administrative support of the daily inquiries, training and liaison support related to the Hispanic community and ministry.

Camacho is originally from Chihuahua, Mexico, and has a strong Hispanic culture background. He has more than 10 years of experience in parish ministry with youth, young adults and adults. He has a passion for teaching the Catholic faith and seeking ways of encouraging others to grow and share their faith. Aldo holds a master's degree in theological studies from the University of

See DOV welcomes new face, pg. 4



Aldo Camacho

Front desk coordinator accepts new post



Angela Martinez

Angela Martinez, who has served the Diocese of Victoria for five and a half years at the chancery office, is leaving her position to become the new assistant at the Spiritual Renewal Center.

As the front desk coordinator, she is usually the first face people see when they come into the chancery. She also has accomplished a long list of duties in her role at the front desk.

She started her new post on Monday, March 1. Her direct supervisor is Matthew Boyle and her email address will remain as amartinez@victoriadiocese.org. Her new phone number is (361) 572-0836 and extension of 3223.

The DOV is currently looking for applicants to fill the position of front desk coordinator. To read the job description, visit www.victoriadiocese.org/employment-opportunities-1.



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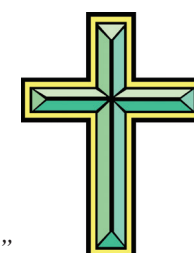
Please remember in prayer the priests of the Diocese of Victoria,

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

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

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

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





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

Barbara & Dan Respondek
in Memory of Ron Friedel

Murlene Enke
*in Memory of Robert Bochat, Ron Friedel
and Deacon Jerome Kotzur*

Bob & Bea Welfl
in Memory of Julius Belicek

Edwin Kandler
Jimmy & Pam Nix
Bumgardner Morrison & Co LLP
James & Donna Conti
Kay & David Roberts
in Memory of Robert Bochat

Alan & Bitsy Lockley
in Memory of Patsy Valenta

Glen & Deborah Machicek
in Memory of Carol Lehnert

Carolyn Hubanek
JoAnn Preisler
Adolph & Edith Rachunek
Wilbor & Eleonor Schunka
Dolores Koenig
Susan Morris Rothwell
Linda L. Hernandez
Gary & Irene Hlavinka
Catholic Daughters of the Americas
Court Our Lady of the Clergy #1990
Raymond & Doris Brandes
Weston Brandes
Douglas & Romana Krenek
Bennie & Valaria Hundl

Wharton County Farm Bureau
Austin County Farmers Mutual
Fire Insurance
James & Annette Hlavinka
Darlene Munoz
in Memory of Mary Ann Krenek

Isabel K. Barbee
Wilbur & Eleonor Schunka
V.A. & Lynette Listak
in Memory of Viola Anders

Acolyte

Cliff & Cathy Thomas
Bill & Helen Kriz
in Memory of Robert Bochat

Edna Krenek Family
Theo Marek
in Memory of Mary Ann Krenek

Catholic Daughters of the Americas
Court #2546

Candidate

~

Transitional Deacon

Monica & Tim Travis
in Memory of Mary Ann Krenek

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

Seminary Endowment Fund

Seminary Endowment Fund (formerly known as Seminary Burses) is a permanent fund used for the education of future priests for the Diocese of Victoria. The goal of each burse is \$15,000. The **interest from this amount** is applied yearly to the education of seminarians. The burses are in memory of or in honor of an individual priest or layperson, living or deceased. Publication of the burses will appear periodically when new contributions are received. **Donation Categories: Lector - \$.01 - \$99.99; Acolyte – \$100 - \$499.99; Candidate – \$500 - \$1,499.99; Transitional Deacon – \$1,500 - \$2,499.99; Priest – \$2,500 >.**

February 24, 2021

• **Rev. Msgr. John C. Billy Seminary Burse #2**

Acolyte
In memory of Sir Knight David V. Wanjura
by St. Michael K of C Assembly #1527
of Flatonia, Schulenburg and Weimar

• **CDA Court of St. Ann #369 Seminary Burse #2**

Acolyte
In memory of Louise Prince, Dolores
Schroller, Grace Brown, Barbara Yanta,
Vickie Kowalik, Yolanda Monroy,
Theresa McPherson, Carol Lehnert,
Wendy Hrncir and Daniel Jalufka by
CDA Court St. Ann #369

• **Rev. Msgr. Joseph M. Hybner Seminary Burse**

Priest
Donation from the Estate of Rev. Msgr.
Joseph M. Hybner

• **Josephat R. Janak Seminary Burse #2**

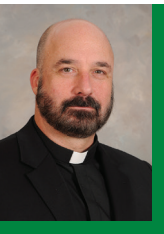
Lector
In honor of the Most Rev. Gary Janak's 59th
birthday March 22 by Rose Marie Janak
In memory of my Grandson, Brandon Janak
by Rose Marie Janak

• **Rev. Timothy Kosler Seminary Burse**

Acolyte
In memory of Brother Knight Daniel Miksch
by K of C Council #2902, Schulenburg

Happy Birthday to
Our Seminarian

Richard Barfield is in a Pastoral Assignment
at Our Lady of the Gulf in
Port Lavaca. His birthday is
March 8. Write to Richard
at: Our Lady of the Gulf
Church, 415 W. Austin St.,
Port Lavaca, TX 77979.



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

Matthew 4:18-22

• **Donald McDonald, Sr. Seminary Burse Priest**

In memory of Donald Floyd McDonald, Sr.
by Mrs. Olivia McDonald

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

Lector
In memory of John, Jr. and Tillie Peters by
Deacon Joey and Mary Targac

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

In memory of Regina Matlock by Helen
and Billy Dolezal

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

Lector
In memory of Harry Klapuch by:
Andrew Besetzny
Stuart and Joanie Krischke
Ralph and Bonnie Besetzny

• **Elorine Bluntzer Tumlinson Seminary Burse**

Priest
In memory of Elorine Bluntzer Tumlinson
by Mrs. Olivia McDonald

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

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Seminary Endowment Fund
P. O. Box 4070
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DOV welcomes new face, new position

Continued from pg. 3

St. Thomas in Houston.

He said he is excited to join the diocese to collaborate with others in ministering to the Hispanic communities and the entire people of God.

“I am very happy to be able to work directly with the Hispanic community of the Diocese of Victoria. It is a great honor to be able to share the gifts and talents God has given me with all of you,” he said.

“My mission is to continue to build bridges, which the diocese itself has already begun to build, to bring Christ to all, including those who speak other languages. I am very excited about this opportunity. I look forward to collaborating with others to help educate and form more Hispanic leaders. In this way, we can help give our Hispanic community a sense of belonging and acceptance in our diocese.”



Glimpse of immortality helps conquer fear of death

EDITOR'S NOTE: Father Charles Kram wrote this sermon he titled, "Death, the Gateway to a Better Life," for the fifth Sunday of Lent, Cycle B.

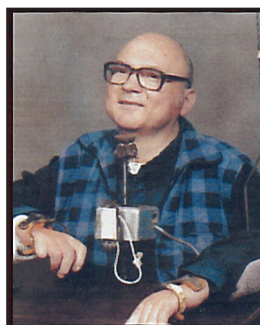
God had surrounded us with so many reminders of our mortality. We see the buds of spring gradually growing to maturity, then harvest time and, finally, the dead of winter.

We see the newborn baby growing into childhood, then youth, then adulthood and then, in the fullness of old age, departing from this world, leaving everything behind.

It seems so futile even to be born.

But life goes on. The cycle of life repeats itself. Every generation dies out completely and passes on to the next the gift of life it has received, along with everything else it has inherited from the past.

In the world of the spirit, these things also are true because, at death, the life of the individual is not ended, but is merely changed. If we have died in God's friendship, our life will be forever happy. We will never more be



1929-2000

Father Charles Kram Corner

subject to temptation and sin. We will never more experience weakness and illness or sorrow and pain. We will have only the joy and vigor of the springtime of eternal life.

On the Mount of Transfiguration, Jesus showed himself to his disciples in his glory. In those brief moments, Peter, James and John tasted immortality and we so thrilled

that they did not want to leave, for Jesus had shown them what life would be like after the Resurrection. When our own mortal bodies are raised to life on the last day, we will be like Him in glory.

But, first, we must all past through the mystery of death.

Death has been compared to the birth of a child. Before a baby is born, it feels safe and secure where it is. It is never hungry or thirsty or cold; never uncomfortable or in need of anything. It cannot imagine a better world and does not want to leave its secure little home. But once it is born and has heard voices and music and the songs of birds and has seen lights and colors and has been held in loving arms, it would never want to go back into that confined and dark old space.

In spite of the tribulations we must endure in this life, we are also reluctant to leave the security of our earthly home. We fear the unknown. We do not want to face the strange and unfamiliar new existence of another world. But once we have entered into glory and have seen the face of God, we would in

no way wish ever to come back to this vale of tears, for it is beyond our imagination, what the Heavenly Father has prepared for those who love Him.

I have met several persons who have had a near-death experience. They told me that they had left their bodies and had seen a great light and had felt so much joy and peace that they did not want to come back. They also told me that they were not afraid of death anymore.

When we see ourselves growing old and see the control of the things we have loved the most gradually slipping away from us, we could become anxious or discouraged, OR we could commit ourselves ever more fully to everything the Lord Jesus still expects of us.

Sometimes we ask ourselves, "Do I have to do this?" or "Would this be a sin?" Why not ask ourselves instead, "What would Jesus want me to do?" And if some trial tempts us to ask, "Why me, Lord?" we might ask instead, "Why NOT me, Lord? After all, I am one of your followers."

St. Teresa of Avila once asked Jesus why he let his friends suffer so much. His reply was, "It is because I love them." Teresa then said to Him, "No wonder you have so few friends."

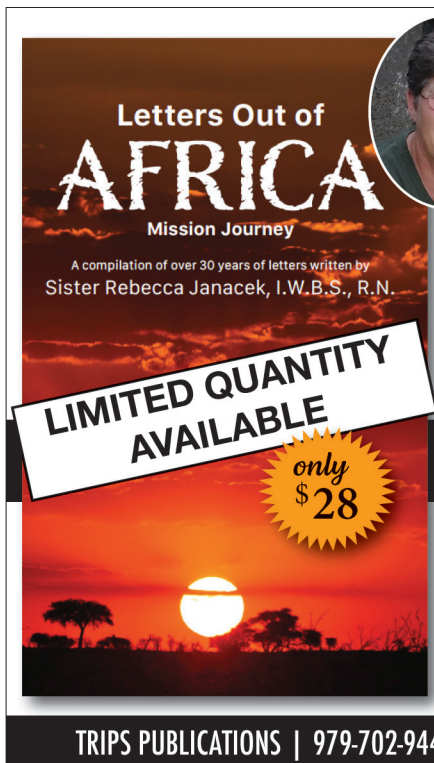
We do not like to suffer, but Jesus arrived at the glory of the Resurrection only through the cross, and so must we.

Lord Jesus, thank you for numbering us among your followers. Help us in all our struggles, to keep our hopes always fixed on you. Grant that when you return accompanied by your angels and their trumpet blasts to judge the world, the time for our glorifications may be at hand. Amen.




KJT donation

St. Joseph KJT Society 115 donated funds for a televised Mass to be held on Sunday, March 21, at the Cathedral of Our Lady of Victory. Donald Dusek, vice president, left, and Joe Pustka, treasurer, made the presentation to Bishop Gary W. Janak, pastor/rector of the cathedral. (Contributed Photo)



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To find Jesus, look no further than the suffering you know

Last month we reflected on Lent as a time of penance and practicing care of one another as we continue observing guidelines to safeguard one another. Meanwhile, we seek the Jesus, who said, “Whatsoever you do . . .” an excellent practice at this time and at all times.

During Lent, one of my favorite quotes is, “You must climb Calvary to find me,” the message given by Jesus to our foundress of the Incarnate Word Sisters, Jeanne Chezard de Matel. Jeanne had a life-long quest to find Jesus, the Incarnate Word. Much of her searching – and writing – focused on His Passion, including His struggle to climb Calvary.

Now each of us has his/her Calvary that we must climb to find Jesus. For some of us, it may be suffering the loss of a loved one. For others, it may be sickness, financial difficulties or some personal tragedy.

For those of us who are still wondering what to do, Jesus Himself tells us that we can find Him by feeding the hungry and giving drink to the thirsty and so on. Hence, Calvary is the anguish of the parent who is unable to feed or properly shelter his or her children;

Sisterly Thoughts

By Sister Mildred Truchard, IWBS



it is the bewilderment of those who cannot find meaning in existence and in the longing of those who are spiritually starving in this time of pandemic.

What can we do to help assuage this physical and spiritual hunger of these suffering persons and, in so doing, find Jesus?

Jesus goes on to tell us that we can also find him in the stranger, in the sick and in the imprisoned. Who are these strangers who find themselves on the Calvary of unfamiliar surroundings, bereft of friends, in need of someone to welcome them and, thereby, welcome Jesus? Can we recognize Jesus and

reach out to the undocumented immigrant or the outsider in our midst?

Can we see Jesus in the sick and all those struggling with pain, loneliness, and discouragement, needing our prayers, our support. These are the suffering Jesus. Are we willing to help them by our caring friendship, thereby finding Him, in such circumstances?

Let us, therefore, journey with and – as much as possible, during COVID-19, and into the future – alleviate the sufferings of the hungry, the thirsty, the homeless, the naked, the stranger, the sick and the imprisoned. Then, in accompanying them on their climb to Calvary, we will encounter Jesus.

May all of us find Him this Lent.



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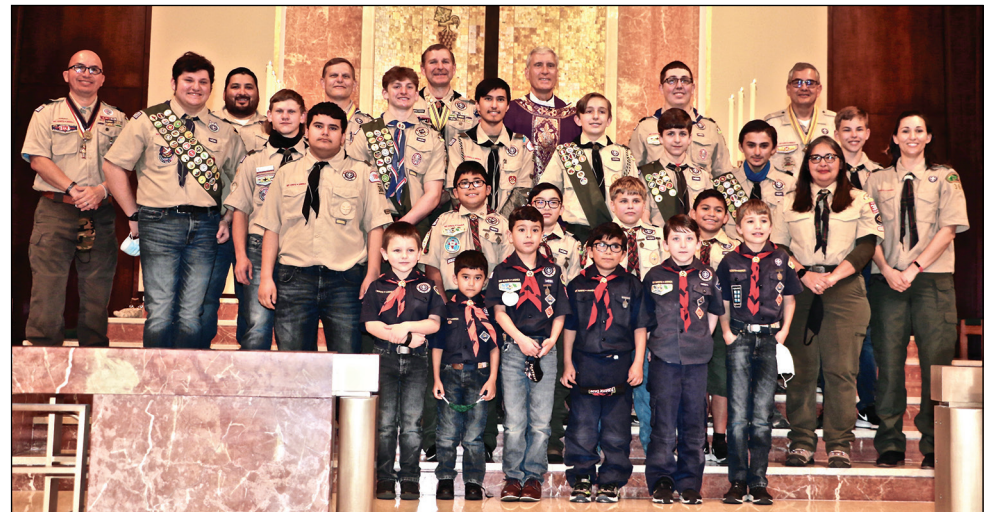


KJZT Family Life donation

Joyce Kurtz, representing KJZT Family Life, presents a check for \$7,851.21 to Bishop Brendan Cahill. The money is from the organization's Clerical Endowment Fund to support the education of seminarians.



Youth and leaders recognized during Scout Sunday



VICTORIA – Our Lady of Victory's Cub Scout Pack 364 and Boy Scout Troop 364 celebrated Scout Sunday on Feb. 21 at the Cathedral of Our Lady of Victory. Bishop-elect Gary Janak was the celebrant.

Various religious groups created special emblem programs to help the youth grow stronger in their faith. During the Mass, the awards for these programs were presented.

Jake Kovar, Henry Neisser and Sean Novak received the Agnus Dei medal, designed specifically for Catholic scouts in the first and second grades. During this time, the boys are preparing to receive the sacraments of reconciliation and First Communion. The two sacraments are highlighted in the Agnus Dei program.

Isaac Bonorden, Henry Neisser, John Novak, Miguel Livar, Isaiah Garcia and Alex Dickson received the Light of Christ medal. The Light of Christ program helps Catholic Wolf Scouts in the second grade develop a personal relationship with Jesus with the hope that they will come to see Jesus as a real person and friend.

Boy Scout Troop 364 Scoutmaster Roger Lawrence was given the Bronze Pelican award to recognize individuals for their outstanding contributions to the development of Catholic youth in the Boy Scouts. Lawrence's contributions include promoting religious scouting awards, observance of Scout Sunday, assisting with the Cub Scout retreat, the Ten Commandments Hike, being a lector and a member of the Knights of Columbus.

Janak, the rector of the Cathedral of Our Lady of Victory who has recently been appointed as auxiliary bishop in San Antonio, received the St. George emblem. It is given to members of the laity and clergy, scouts and non-scouts alike, who have made significant contributions to the spiritual development of Catholic youths through scouting. He has served as a counselor and moderator in religious emblems; encouraged other clergy support of scouting religious programs; celebrated Mass at scout retreats and campouts; and maintains a Catholic-Chartered Scouting Unit at Our Lady of Victory (continuous since 1958).

"These young men make us very proud by showing us that God comes first in the lives of our scouts," Charles Bonorden, Assistant Scout Master for Troop 364 stated. About Lawrence and Janak he said, "The OLV scouting program has been blessed to have these two gentlemen involved in the spiritual formation of our scouts as we strive to turn them into faithful and devoted men of God."



Yoakum KCs present donations

YOAKUM – At the St. Joseph Endowment Fund stew supper Feb. 5, Yoakum Knights of Columbus Council 1582 made a \$7,500 contribution to St. Joseph Catholic School and a \$2,500 contribution to the St. Joseph Endowment Fund. Pictured from left are Patrick Matussek, endowment fund president; St. Joseph Principal Sean Mooney; and Jimmy Mudd, chairman of the stew supper.

In Memoriam

Deacon Leopold's mother passes away



Suzanne Leopold

Suzanne Marie Wendt Leopold, 65, of Houston, passed away February 7, 2021. She was born on January 12, 1956, in El Campo to the late Emil "Cookie" and Georgia Sciba Wendt.

She is survived by her daughter, Stacey Herndon and husband Scott of Tenn.; sons, Clint Leopold and wife Kaelynn of East Bernard and Dusty Leopold and wife Stacey of Nada; grandchildren, Colton, Dakota, Hannah,

Madison, Cade, Easton and Brenna; sisters, Georgia Carson, Jeanette Parker and Mary Ann Derrick and husband Ed; brother, Tom Wendt and wife Jeanna and brother-in-law, Dan Kana.

Suzanne was preceded in death by her parents; sister, Linda Kana and brothers-in-law, Arnold Parker and Paul Carson.

Funeral Mass was held at St. Philip the Apostle Catholic Church, El Campo, with the Rev. Michael Rother officiating. Burial followed at Holy Cross Memorial Park.



Honoring the past with something new

St. Joseph's new church organ honors Moulton's Evelyn and Frank J. Darilek

By **BOBBY HORECKA**

Special to the Lighthouse

MOULTON — Members of St. Joseph's Catholic Church recognized two long-serving Moulton parishioners and their family's warm generosity when, in a special ceremony just after the homily during Mass on Feb. 7, the Rev. Gabriel Maison began telling the story behind the new church organ.

"I'm sure some of you might remember about a year ago when our organ simply stopped playing one day, right in the middle of the Mass," Father Gabriel began.

Slowly, heads began bobbing up and down in recognition of the day Father Gabriel mentioned, mostly among the ladies in attendance. The men, most of them stoic and poker-faced, never let on one way or another. Of course, it was also Super Bowl Sunday, so their thoughts likely elsewhere.

"It simply stopped working," the priest continued. "I didn't know what we would do. It was a big burden, losing that organ."

One of the parishioners graciously set up a smaller, portable version so the music could continue at their services. Appreciated, absolutely, but it wasn't anything like before.

Church organs, for those who may not know, tend to be rather pricey. Most models — of the size that the Moulton church would need — start with a four-digit dollar figure and only go up from there.

Plus, St. Joseph's just began a major church repair project right about then. There wasn't much spending money about that wasn't already earmarked elsewhere.

Then there was that awful coronavirus in 2020. Although it may not have shown up yet — roughly a year ago when the old organ finally played out — it was simply a matter of weeks before it would.

Getting a replacement organ then prob-



The late Frank and Evelyn Darilek, both lifelong St. Joseph's parishioners and dedicated community servants, recently inspired their children to donate a new organ the Moulton Catholic Church. They were honored in a special ceremony Sunday for the generous gift, given in memory of their parents. The six Darilek siblings include, from left, Joan James, Beverley Darilek, Robert Frank Darilek, Diana Kloesel, Elyse Chaloupka and Michael Darilek.

Robert Frank Darilek poses with Father Gabriel Maison following Sunday's Mass at the new church organ donated by his family in memory of his parents' many years of service to the church and community. (Photos contributed by Bobby Horecka)



ably seemed next to impossible, especially after churches statewide got shut down for several weeks straight last year.

So, the weeks soon stretched to months, with no ready end in sight.

Then one day, the phone rang.

"This man calls me out of nowhere and tells me he wants to buy the church a new organ," Father Gabriel told Sunday's congregation. "I couldn't believe it. Really, I had tears in my eyes as we hung up."

The caller was none other than Moulton native Robert Frank Darilek, a hometown boy who left for the San Antonio city lights some four decades prior and now owned several booming business ventures.

Darilek made just one request: He wanted to donate the new organ in the memory of his parents, longtime St. Joseph's parishioners, Evelyn and Frank J. Darilek of Moulton, who

devoted some 70 years of their lives to serving the people of Moulton and St. Joseph's parish.

With Robert Darilek and siblings Joan James, Beverley Darilek, Diana Kloesel, Elyse Chaloupka and Michael Darilek as honored guests, the church unveiled its new organ during a special mid-Mass ceremony, complete with a formal blessing for the new organ itself, followed by a rousing performance by visiting organist Christopher Nava of Sealy.

Nava played a medley of church favorites, each filled with rich lingering tones that resonated every surface in sight, from church pew to hardwood floor. The notes he played were not so much heard as they were felt. Nava got a standing ovation for his playing, but not before the Darileks got theirs for making such a performance even possible.

Robert Darilek, who at age 12 would bor-

row his dad's truck so he could get to this very church for altar boy service, said he learned first about St. Joseph's need for a new organ on June 3, the same day his family gathered at the church where he grew up to offer their final respects to his father.

Frank, the late Darilek family patriarch, had lived to the ripe old age of 95. A carpenter, farmer and rancher by trade, he held community service to a high esteem, serving as both a Moulton ISD trustee and its board president, a lifelong member of both the VFW and American Legion, and a longtime member of the local Knights of Columbus council. He spent years, in fact, as one of the KC's head cooks at church picnics and other events.

Frank died on a Wednesday, finally reunited with his late bride of more than 69 years, Evelyn, who passed away on June 11, 2016, at the age of 88.

"It's all about my mother and father, really," son Robert said. "I wanted to do something in their honor to remember the legacy they left behind. When I heard that the church needed a new organ, I just knew it was a perfect fit for them."

Perfect, as Robert put it, because while his father's funeral may have sparked the idea for the donation, it was his mother who inspired a true love for church music and the organ.

Because back in 1976, the Darileks told us, their mother, Evelyn, almost 50, decided to learn the instrument so she could fill in for the regular church organist, who was moving away from Moulton later that year. She learned everything from how to read the notes to how to play them on the organ, all by means of a few how-to music books and almost constant practice.

"She was self-taught," her children said proudly. She learned to play well enough that she took over as St. Joseph's lead organist, a post she held for many years.

It was her constant dedication that continues to inspire her children, even after she is gone.

"They both always gave so much of themselves, their time, and their money," Robert Darilek said. "This is our small way of honoring their commitment. It is our hope that they will be remembered here in Moulton for many years to come."

• *Bobby Horecka is managing editor at Luling Newsboy & Signal, The Moulton Eagle and Managing Editor at the Yoakum Herald-Times.*

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It's SNOW FUN

Snow doesn't happen often in South Texas, and it did cause its share of trouble on the week of Feb. 14. But when you are young – or just a kid at heart – it's time to play. These pictures show the children from our Catholic schools making the most of it.

... Photo from St. Philip the Apostle, El Campo: Pool toy gets a new purpose.

... Photo from Sacred Heart, Hallettville: Let's make "snow" cones.

... Photo from Shiner Catholic Schools: Olaf lives!

... Photo from St. Anthony Columbus: Fort made of snowy bricks.

... Photo from Sts. Cyril & Methodius, Shiner: A new sister joining them. It was Sister Mary Elsa.

Office of Youth & Young Adult Ministry

Wendy Eggert, Director
Shannon Thomas, Associate Director
ym@victoriadiocese.org
(361) 573-0828

www.victoriadiocese.org/youth-young-adult-ministry

Blessed and ready



In the photo above, Bishop Brendan Cahill leads a blessing of the soon-to-open Bethlehem Maternity Home during its Feb. 25 open house. Lisa Howard, the director of the new home said, "We will be welcoming the moms, hopefully, in a few weeks." Below, Emily Benavides of St. John Bosco in Vanderbilt and Father Jasper Liggio, pastor of St. Michael in Cuero pose with Bishop Cahill after receiving trophies for their participation in the first-ever Walking with Moms in Need virtual 5K, coordinated by the Diocese of Victoria's Office of Pro-Life Ministry. All donations and entry fees received went directly to the maternity home, a creation of the Gabriel Project of the Crossroads to help women in crisis pregnancies who need stable housing. Every deanery in the diocese was represented in the 5K and \$4,475 was raised. St. Michael Catholic Church in Cuero raised the most money and St. John Bosco in Vanderbilt had the largest number of participants.



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Sacred Heart announces winners in Catholic Knowledge Bowl



High school first place: Goodwyne, Jacobs, Kraatz and Ridgeway



High school second place: Layton, Kraatz, Ventura and Shank



High school third place: Henneke, Wysocki, Ridgeway, and Sestak



Junior high first place: Barton, Kutac, Steffek and Bludau



Junior high second place: Kostelnik, Brooks, Schindler and Clark



Junior high third place: Olivarez, Clark, Chance and Whited

HALLETTSVILLE – As part of Catholic Schools Week, Sacred Heart Catholic School students in grades five through 12 participated in the Catholic Knowledge Bowl on Feb. 5.

This annual event tests students' memories of religion lessons learned and challenges them with questions they have not yet studied. There were three rounds with 20 questions each, read by Monsignor John Peters, pastor of Sacred Heart Church, as teacher Geralyn Klimitchek served as timekeeper. Sister Emiliana Grafe composed the questions.

First-place winners in high school, with 54 points were Trenton Kraatz, Ethan Jacobs, Trey Ridgeway and Joseph Good-

wyne. Seniors Beth Ventura and Katy Shank, with juniors Victoria Kraatz and Dallas Layton took second place with 51 points. Answering 48 questions correctly for third place were Quade Henneke, Garrett Ridgeway, John Wysocki and Brett Sestak.

In the junior high division, Hudson Kutac, Lance Barton, Sam Bludau and Andrew Steffek took the gold with 47 points. Kaycee Schindler, Brianna Clark, Karley Kostelnik, and Annika Brooks came in second. Third place went to Kenzie Chance, Jillian Whited, Lacie Olivarez, and Alli Clark with 45 points. Their team name, "The Whales That Ate Jonah," also won for cleverest/funniest team name with a Christian connection.

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Mi elección: ‘Iré a donde tú me envíes’

Mensaje del Pastor

By Obispo Brendan Cahill



Queridos hermanos y hermanas,
En mi calendario he comenzando a incluir las reuniones de los martes por la mañana del praesidium de la Legión de María en la Catedral. Mi decisión de convertirme una vez más en director espiritual de un capítulo local de la Legión de María surgió de mi oración en el retiro Ignaciano de enero. Uno de los ejercicios del retiro se llama escribir una “elección” personal que surge de los días de oración por el ministerio de Jesús. Cada día, durante treinta días, pasé cinco sesiones de una hora en oración meditando en diferentes escenas, siguiendo los Ejercicios Espirituales de San Ignacio (“Atraeme a tu Amistad. Los Ejercicios Espirituales: Una Traducción Literal y Una Lectura Contemporánea”, David L. Fleming, SJ, Instituto de Fuentes Jesuitas, St. Louis, 1996). La oración fue realmente intensa y agradezco a Dios por las oraciones y el apoyo de tantos mientras estaba totalmente desconectado de la televisión, el teléfono celular y el mundo exterior.

La primera parte del retiro se centró en la elección entre el bien y el mal, la realidad de Satanás y el infierno y la reflexión sobre mi pecaminosidad personal y el pecado del mundo. A partir de ahí los diferentes períodos

de oración se centraron en el plan de Dios para la salvación de las personas que llevaron a la elección de María para decir “sí” para ser la madre del Salvador. Luego, paso a paso, los períodos de oración recorrieron la infancia, la juventud y el ministerio de Jesús a lo largo del Mar de Galilea y en Jerusalén.

En uno de estos días con el ministerio de Jesús sentí la presencia de toda la gente de la Diócesis de Victoria en el Sermón de la Montaña. He estado tratando de pensar en cómo explicarle esto, pero sentí la presencia de Jesús mismo predicando Mateo 5 a todos nosotros y nos envió a traer sanidad, esperanza y verdad al mundo. También sentí a su madre María estar cerca de él, ya que estuvo presente durante todo su ministerio. En mi mente fui a cada parroquia y misión y oré: “Bendito seas...” Pude ver muchos de sus

rostros y hablé con ustedes por su nombre.

Poco después de esta experiencia de oración tuve mi encuentro diario con mi director espiritual. Ella mencionó que alguien me había enviado flores y un paquete. El paquete incluía un ramo espiritual de la diócesis de Victoria y muchos de los ministerios que apoyo. Abrumado, le dije a mi director que esto parecía confirmar la sensación de ser enviado. Además, mirando hacia atrás en mi

vida, tengo la sensación de haber sido enviado por María para traer a Jesús al mundo.

Experiencias como esta llevaron a escribir mi elección:

“María, soy todo tuyo, iré a donde tú me envíes. Dulce Jesús, me escondo entre Tus llagas, concédeme el conocimiento y el rechazo de toda mundanidad y vanidad. Como señal de mi elección, le preguntaré al diácono Luan si hay un praesidium que necesite un director espiritual para la Legión de María”

¡Que ustedes y sus familias sean bendecidos con el amor misericordioso de Jesús en esta temporada de Cuaresma, que seamos valientes al llevar esta misericordia al mundo y que estemos unidos para mantenernos unos a otros en oración.

+Brendan

Diócesis contrata coordinador para el ministerio hispano

Aldo Camacho se unió a la Diócesis de Victoria el 22 de febrero, como coordinador del Ministerio Hispano de la diócesis.

Con la supervisión directa de Justin Reyes, director de Evangelización Familiar, Camacho es responsable del apoyo administrativo de las consultas diarias, capacitación y apoyo de enlace relacionado con la comunidad y el ministerio hispano.

Camacho es originario de Chihuahua, México, con un fuerte trasfondo de cultura hispana. Tiene más de 10 años de experiencia en el ministerio parroquial con jóvenes, adultos jóvenes y adultos. El es apasionado



Aldo Camacho

enseñar la fe católica y buscar formas de animar a otros a crecer y compartir su fe. Camacho tiene una maestría en estudios teológicos de la Universidad de St. Thomas en Houston.

Dijo que está emocionado de unirse a la diócesis para colaborar con otros en el ministerio a las comunidades hispanas y a todo el pueblo de Dios.

“Estoy muy contento de poder trabajar directamente con la comunidad Hispana de la diócesis de Victoria. Es un gran honor el poder compartir los dones y talentos que Dios me ha dado con todos ustedes. Mi misión es la de seguir construyendo puentes, los cuales la misma diócesis ya ha comenzado a cimentar, para llevar a Cristo a todos, incluyendo a aquellos que hablan otros idiomas. Estoy muy contento con esta oportunidad y trabajaré arduamente para ayudar a educar y formar a más líderes hispanos. De esta manera, ayudar a darle a nuestra comunidad Hispana un sentido de pertenencia y aceptación en nuestra diócesis”.

Sacerdote del DOV nombrado obispo de la Arquidiócesis de San Antonio



Obispo
Janak

El padre Gary Janak, sacerdote de la Diócesis de Victoria durante 33 años que actualmente se desempeña como pastor / rector de la Catedral de Nuestra Señora de la Victoria, canciller de la diócesis y director ejecutivo del Centro Emaús, ha sido nombrado obispo auxiliar de la Arquidiócesis de San Antonio.

El anuncio se hizo el 15 de febrero y su ordenación episcopal se llevará a cabo el 20 de abril en la Iglesia Católica San Marcos Evangelista en San Antonio.

El padre Matthew Huehlefeld, párroco de St. Joseph en Yoakum y vicario judicial de la diócesis ha sido nombrado nuevo canciller de la diócesis a partir del 6 de abril.



Padre
Huehlefeld



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Parents who suffer death of a child are not alone

Continued from pg. 1

Deacon Hoelscher said he and Patricia have been called on many times to help comfort others who have suffered the loss of a child. When called on they would go visit the parents. He would often hear them say, “Help me.” He said he tells them, “I can’t give you the answers that you’re looking for.” But he lets them know he’s there for them and that what they need to find is peace.

“I just tried to find peace in the smallest increments of time,” he said. First a moment, then a minute, later a day, and so on.

Deacon Hoelscher stressed the importance of offering comfort, not just at the time of a death, but perhaps months later when the loneliness can be the worst.

He also said he is aware that many marriages do not survive the loss of a child. He

said grief is overwhelming and no one grieves in the same way. He learned first-hand that you cannot assume your spouse feels the same way, and that husbands and wives need to be sensitive to each other’s struggles and feelings.

After their daughter died, Deacon Hoelscher said, others who had experienced the death of a child would make it a point to speak to them and tell them that they had suffered a loss, too. He said of parents who have lost children: “You kind of become part of a group.”

The Rev. Kirby Hlavaty, pastor of Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary Church in Ganado, is serving as a spiritual director for the retreat. He has done retreats like this before, but said this is the first time the Diocese of Victoria has organized a grief support

retreat.

In the past year, it has become even more difficult for many to grieve in the way they normally would because of restrictions that the pandemic has brought about. “From my perspective, the way in which people grieve now has changed. We’re having to chart our path through grief differently.”

Justin Reyes, director of the Office of Family Evangelization for the diocese said Father Kirby’s involvement will help make the retreat a success.

“Father Kirby is a huge blessing given his retreat experience, spiritual direction expertise and willingness to help,” Reyes said. “He is so generous in the many ways he has served people all around the diocese.”

Having Father Kirby host the retreat in Ganado is another blessing Reyes is counting. “We were hoping for a centrally located site for this outreach, and when we looked at the map, Ganado was one place that came to mind. Father Kirby seemed to be a perfect fit pastorally, so we decided to ask him and were so glad he said yes. God clearly has a plan for this ministry and brought all the pieces together – the Hoelschers, Ganado and Father Kirby.

Sunday Readings from March 7 - April 4

March 7 ~ Third Sunday of Lent
Scrutiny Year A Readings
Exodus 17:3-7
Psalms 95:1-2, 6-7, 8-9
Romans 5:1-2, 5-8
John 4:5-42

March 14 ~ Fourth Sunday of Lent
Scrutiny Year A Readings
1 Samuel 16:1b, 6-7, 10-13a
Psalms 23: 1-3a, 3b-4, 5, 6
Ephesians 5:8-14
John 9:1-41

March 21 ~ Fifth Sunday of Lent
Year B Readings
Jeremiah 31:31-34
Psalms 51:3-4, 12-13, 14-15
Hebrews 5:7-9
John 12:20-33

March 28 ~ Palm Sunday
of the Lord’s Passion
Mark 11:1-10
Isaiah 50:4-7
Psalms 22:8-9, 17-18, 19-20, 23-24
Philippians 2:6-11
Mark 14:1—15:47

April 3 ~ Holy Saturday At the Easter
Vigil in the Holy Night of Easter
Genesis 1:1—2:2
Psalms 104:1-2, 5-6, 10, 12, 13-14, 24, 35
Genesis 22:1-18
Psalms 16:5, 8, 9-10, 11
Exodus 14:15—15:1
Exodus 15:1-2, 3-4, 5-6, 17-18
Isaiah 54:5-14

Psalms 30:2, 4, 5-6, 11-12, 13
Isaiah 55:1-11
Isaiah 12:2-3, 4, 5-6
Baruch 3:9-15, 32—4:4
Psalms 19:8, 9, 10, 11
Ezekiel 36:16-17a, 18-28
Psalms 42:3, 5; 43:3, 4
Epistle: Romans 6:3-11
Psalms 118:1-2, 16-17, 22-23
Mark 16:1-7

April 4 ~ Easter Sunday The Resurrection
of the Lord
Acts 10:34a, 37-43
Psalms 118:1-2, 16-17, 22-23
Colossians 3:1-4
John 20:1-9

Special Days in the Catholic Church

March 30 ~ Chrism Mass
Isaiah 61:1-3a, 6a, 8b-9
Psalms 89:21-22, 25 and 27
Revelations 1:5-8
Luke 4:16-21

April 1 ~ Holy Thursday
Evening Mass of the Lord’s Supper
Exodus 12:1-8, 11-14
Psalms 116:12-13, 15-16bc, 17-18
1 Corinthians 11:23-26
John 13:1-15

April 2 ~ Good Friday
of the Lord’s Passion
Isaiah 52:13—53:12
Psalms 31:2, 6, 12-13, 15-16, 17, 25
Hebrews 4:14-16; 5:7-9
John 18:1—19:42

A Prayer for Lent

(From Catholic Rural Life online resources)

DEAR Lord, we are now in the holy season of Lent. We begin to realize anew that these are the days of salvation; these are the acceptable days. We know that we are all sinners. We know that in many things we have all offended Your infinite majesty. We know that sin destroys Your life in us as a drought withers the leaves and chokes the life from the land, leaving an arid, dusty desert.

Help us now, Lord, in our feeble attempts to make up for past sin. Bless our efforts with the rich blessing of Your grace. Make us realize ever more our need of penance and of mortification. Help us to see, in our ordinary difficulties and duties, in the trials and temptations of every day, the best opportunity of making up for past infidelities.

Every day we are so often reminded in field and wood, in sky and stream, of Your own boundless generosity to us. Help us to realize that You are never outdone in generosity, and that the least thing we do for You will be rewarded, full measure, pressed down, shaken together, and flowing over.

Then we shall see, in our own souls, how the desert can blossom, and the dry and wasted land can bring forth the rich, useful fruit that was expected of it from the beginning. Amen.

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.





Change is constant, but God is steadfast

Monday, Feb. 15, brought exciting news for our diocese and many within and beyond its bounds, as Father Gary Janak was named an auxiliary bishop for the Archdiocese of San Antonio.

Like many, I went through several emotions over the next 24 hours, including joy for him and the church, sadness at such a great person leaving our diocese, and a bit of uncertainty thinking about the future. Father Gary has been such an integral part of this diocese for decades, and in my time here in Victoria he has been an incredible mentor, leader and friend. What would life be like without him so close by? Without his visits to my office to offer guidance and support? Without his calming presence and astute decision-making?

Then, as a friend of mine and Father Gary's said via text message that day, "All things in life change."

Yes, this friend, one of Father Gary's parishioners, who has grown extremely close to him over the years, offered some keen wisdom. All things in life do change. In fact,

On the Table

By Justin Reyes



it seems that change is one of the constants in life. But, thanks be to God, something else in life never changes – God Himself. He is the same yesterday, today and tomorrow (Hebrews 13:8). Great is His faithfulness, and His Mercy endures forever (Psalm 136:1). We are so blessed to have a Creator whose steadfast love is constant.

Lately, I've been reading in the Book of Genesis and Exodus. Time and time again, God's followers – even his chosen leaders – fall short of their covenantal commitments. But God never falls short on His and rescues His people from their failings repeatedly. For example, when Moses is up on Mount Sinai receiving the Ten Commandments from God, the Israelites at the base of the

mountain fall into worship of a golden calf, led by none other than Aaron, Moses' second-in-command. Yet God, in His infinite mercy, rectifies the situation and offers His people another chance. Our God does this for us over and over in our lives and within the lives of our families.

So, perhaps change is a blessing. Through change, we are able to let go of things we hold onto, and re-fix our gaze and hope upon God Himself.

In the course of family life, many changes happen day in and day out. Just the other week, within a period of just a few days I had one son prescribed glasses, and another needing a visit to the emergency room. I'm sure many parents can relate to stories like this. I was talking to one parent the other day who had to visit the emergency room three times in a single weekend. Raising boys sure does provide gray hair, as well as many joys.

But in all of these moments – when life throws curve balls at us – if we can view them through a lens of faith, we will be better for it. God never takes something away

to hurt us. He may be teaching us a lesson, but our harm is never His end goal. For He knows well the plans He has for us, plans for our future and hope (Jeremiah 29:11).

This Lent, what change is He inviting you to? We are all called to change during this season, to let go of certain things in order to more firmly hold onto God. While some changes in life seem to "happen" to us, Lent is one of those times where we decide the change. What can you change, in order to grow in faith the remainder of this season?

Let us all embrace change – whether given to or initiated by us – to grow as people of faith. Let us allow change to help us see the everlasting faithfulness and love of Our Creator. And let us pray for Father Gary, as he embraces this exciting change in his own life. May God bless him, and use him for his purposes, as he has already done so in many, many ways around our beautiful Diocese of Victoria.

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

Baby Joseph arriving in the Year of St. Joseph

Congratulations to Justin and Laura Reyes who are expecting the arrival of their fourth son very, very soon. In fact, by the time the Lighthouse arrives in mailboxes, Joseph may already be here. After they chose the name Joseph, they were excited when Pope Francis declared this year the Year of St. Joseph. The family was surprised with a "curbside shower" on Feb. 24 provided by the Diocese of Victoria chancery staff. "That was really not expected and such a huge blessing for us as we await the arrival of Joseph," said Justin. "Moving here, having no family in the area, time and time again the diocese has felt like our family. We are so grateful. ... My wife (from Columbia) said there is some saying in Columbia that when God gives you a baby under one arm, under the other He will give you the loaf of bread (i.e. things the baby needs)." Joseph will also join brothers Justin, Peter and Giorgio. Justin is director of the Office of Family Evangelization. (Photo contributed by Melissa Salinas, director of Human Resources for the Diocese of Victoria.)



Bishops write letter opposing Equality Act

WASHINGTON – Five committee chairmen of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops wrote to members of Congress opposing the recent reintroduction of the Equality Act (H.R. 5).

The bishops warned of the threats posed by the proposed legislation to both people of faith and of no faith, with respect to mandates impacting charities and their beneficiaries in need, health care and other conscience rights, taxpayer funding of abortion, freedom of speech, women's sports and sex-specific facilities, and more. Their letter explained:

"[E]very person is made in the image of God and should be treated accordingly, with respect and compassion. This commitment is reflected in the Church's charitable service to all people, without regard to race, religion, or any other characteristic. It means we need to honor every person's right to gainful employment free of unjust discrimination or harassment, and to the basic goods that they need to live and thrive. It also means that people of differing beliefs should be respected."

The letter is available at https://www.usccb.org/resources/Letter_to_Congress_on_Equality_Act_Feb_23_2021.



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.

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Spring cleaning accomplished through Lent

MICHELE ROHDE

Special to the Lighthouse

The first day of spring is March 20, and the annual theme of clearing out the clutter, cleaning and organizing will blow in along with the wind and pollen. Spring is anticipated by those who can't wait to throw open their windows to let the sun and fresh air inside while spotting the new blooms. It's also right in the middle of the Lenten season. Springtime, tidying up and Lent have a lot in common. They're all good for the soul – if they're positively utilized.

A robust UCLA study found that physical clutter is linked to depression. Social scientists, anthropologists and archeologists all concluded that clutter has a profound impact on mood, self-esteem and stress levels.

"Trying to be happy by accumulating possessions is like trying to satisfy hunger by taping sandwiches all over your body."
– George Carlin, comedian

Here's why clutter causes those unfavorable effects:

Physical clutter actually takes up mental space and energy and often causes an emotional result, which in turn, can manifest an even greater physical symptom. Clutter causes our senses to work overtime with excessive, unnecessary visual, olfactory and tactile stimuli. It distracts our attention and resources away from what matters, makes it difficult to relax as our conscious and subconscious minds constantly try to process and solve the problem of the clutter, and signals to us that our work is never complete. Learned emotions associated with clutter could be shame, guilt, embarrassment, frustration and low self-esteem.

Gosh, it's depressing reading this in and of itself. But do not despair; this bad habit is one of the easiest to clean up out of all the

recognized sources of stress (i.e. relationships and careers.) Not only that, it's the appropriate season for some extra wind in your sails, so let's pull your anchor up and set our sights on the how.

"First clean the inside of the cup, so that the outside of the cup will be clean. too."
(Matthew 23:26)

Otherwise known as a "truth bomb" or "mic drop" in today's culture, that's some great advice Jesus gave the hypocritical Pharisees back in the day. We need to take a look at ourselves first and ask, "How did we get here?"

In more recent times, James Clear, author of "Atomic Habits," echoes this same sentiment in his excellent book on breaking bad habits and replacing them with the ones you want. One of Clear's many tips is to separate yourself from your current identity, if unfavorable, and claim the habits of the new identity you desire. After all, "every action you take is a vote for the type of person you want to become."

To put it simply: If your goal is to complete your first 5K, start to call yourself a runner and then you'd probably need to start eating, sleeping and running like a runner. Don't decide to run a 5K and continue to call yourself a couch potato. Your brain and body won't deliver your best results on the path of least resistance if you maintain those kinds of contradictions. If you want to clean

up your habits, don't constantly claim yourself to be an unorganized hot mess, or your brain will keep finding ways to agree and align with that identity. Instead, visualize the environment you desire and the new identity you'd enjoy as the person who maintains that environment. This working backwards from

the action to the ideal identity helps with all habits. And notice, it's working backwards all the way to the identity and not stopping at just the desired outcome. For example, it's great to identify that you want to lose weight and to know the

actions you want to take to lose the weight, but losing weight shouldn't be your identity. I'm sure you can see how that would be potentially harmful and perpetual. Instead, you might want to visualize yourself as the epitome of ultimate health and happiness and make that the goal that will drive the changes. Little mindset shifts like these can really make all the difference when it comes to reducing burn out and increasing sustainable success.

Now that we have the stuff between our ears a little more lined out, we can get to work on a plan of action. I'm going to lean on the disciplines of Lent -- prayer, fasting and almsgiving.

When it comes to clearing out the clutter of any sort, it helps to start and end the day mindfully. Prayer can help. There are many methods, so explore what suits you and start there. Simply give thanks for what you have, ask for help with what you lack and consider what you have done and need yet to do.

Fasting can be more than giving up chocolate or sodas from now until Good Friday. You can fast from television, social media, gossip or complaining. When you fast from something, it makes you recognize and appreciate its absence for better or worse and can create space where new thoughts, feelings and habits can bloom. The ultimate goal is not to go rushing back to your vice when Lent ends, but to become transfigured as a result – to become new in Christ, and ultimately changed for the better.

Almsgiving is the act of giving to the needy your money, goods and/or time. What better way to clear out your physical clutter than by keeping this benevolence in mind as you purge? As a result, you may notice some of the mental clutter dissipate as you shift your focus to others' needs. To ensure you are giving fruitfully, I might add that it is important to vet non-profit causes first and perform a little research. You can gain the opinion of your priest who may be more familiar with worthy causes and also check the organizations' web pages to view what percentage of donations is utilized for the cause verses how much goes to their payroll for example. Organizations that spend at least 65 percent of their total expense on program activities are a great start. Give.org is one such website that can help in your vetting.

"He is no fool who gives what he cannot keep to gain what he cannot lose." – Jim Elliot

All in all, if you desperately want to reduce the chaos and countless messes in your life, I know of no better way than this (next to Marie Kondo on YouTube): Order "Atomic Habits" and jump into a Lenten study or devotional. It's never too late. You just might, by accident, gain a new best friend who happens to be "the King of cleansing."


• Michele Rohde is a licensed financial advisor and certified coach and president of the Rohde Financial Group in Victoria.



Catholic Life raffle winner

Catholic Life Insurance representative, Wendy Janak, right, presents a \$1,000 prepaid Visa card to local winner, Dennis Daniels of Weimar. Daniels purchased the ticket from his son Trey who is a junior at Sacred Heart High School in Hallettsville. A big thank you to everyone that supported Catholic Schools in the Diocese of Victoria by purchasing a raffle ticket in the 2021 Catholic Schools Sweepstakes program sponsored by Catholic Life Insurance.


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Meals • Picnics and More

March

Hillje – St. Procopius Spring Festival March 7 at the parish hall. A fried chicken, white rice, gravy and corn dinner will be served starting at 11a.m. at \$10 each (plate-to-go only). There will be a raffle drawing after meal served.

April

Victoria – Our Lady of Sorrows and Santísima Trinidad 2021 Raffle Sale will be held April 18, at Our Lady of Sorrows after the 2 p.m. Mass. Tickets are \$5 each for a chance at 30 prizes (need not be present to win). To purchase tickets they will be sold before and after Mass, at the Rectory, or call Louis Rodriguez 361-648-3971, Cruz Cervantes 361-676-6258, Susie Verver 361-218-8320, or Mercedes Robles 361-218-5839.

INVITATION TO LIVE-STREAMED SOLEMN VESPERS

Amor Meus Spirituality Center
at Incarnate Word Convent, 1101 N.E.
Water Street, Victoria, Texas is inviting
you to join us online for

Solemn Vespers by “liking” us on our
Facebook page at
<http://www.facebook.com/iwbs.victoria>

March 7, 14, 21 & 28

Solemn Vespers will be followed by
Benediction from **5:00 – 5:45 p.m.**

A SILENT LENTEN RETREAT

AMOR MEUS SPIRITUALITY CENTER

is offering a silent Lenten Retreat,

The Pandemic and the Passion
at Incarnate Word Convent Auditorium

Saturday, March 27

9:00 – 11:30 a.m.

It will be facilitated by
Father Albert Yankey

The retreat is **limited to 20 persons.**
Masks and social distancing
will be required.

Please call **(361) 575-7111** to register.
There is no fee; however, a free-will
offering will be accepted.

Ministries • Ongoing Activities

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

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

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

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

Crisis Pregnancy Center of Victoria – A sister organization to the Gabriel Project staffed by volunteers that offers help to girls and women who find themselves in a difficult situation due to an unplanned pregnancy. Office located at 1501 E. Red River, is open 1-4 p.m. on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays. Free pregnancy tests offered and medical referrals are made for prenatal care. New volunteers are welcome. For information call 361-575-6171.

Emmaus Center – Offers individual, couple, family, adolescent and children’s counseling, as well as specialized support groups. Spiritual direction is also available if requested. To make an appointment, call 361-212-0830.

What’s on the web?

Weekly Wednesday Webchats

Each week Justin Reyes, director of Family Services, posts an interview with someone in our diocese. Sometimes he will interview a member of the clergy, and sometimes it is the personal story of one of the faithful. One Wednesday a month he will post “Cinco Preguntas!” a Spanish-language interview featuring a local minister.

Bite-Sized Catholic

Check out this new Facebook page that helps explain Catholicism a bite at a time. This was created to help Catholics share their faith with others who may be seeking answers. It is a good way to engage in conversations about what we, as Catholics, believe. Visit www.facebook.com/bitesizedcatholic.

Year of the Family Prayer Jar

Did you know we have a prayer jar for special intentions during this Year of the Family? Place your intentions in the prayer jar by going to <https://forms.gle/UGR46RC739AntJbp8>. Visit www.victoriadiocese.org to learn more about the Year of the Family resources.

Do you have any calendar of events
for the Lighthouse?

Submit to
lighthouse@victoriadiocese.org

Engaged Encounter 2021 Dates: April 16-18, June 4-6, September 17-19, November 12-14. Registration is on a first-come, first-served basis. Fee must accompany registration form. For information, call 361-573-0828 or visit www.victoriadiocese.org.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Retrouvaille – Retrouvaille, meaning “rediscovery,” is a marriage-healing ministry offered in the diocese to couples in difficult marriages. Contact John and Jennifer Vincent at jbvjov@sbcglobal.net or 361-580-2770; or call 800-470-2230; or visit www.helpourmarriage.org or www.retrouvaille.org.



Bishop Janak a 1st for DOV

Continued from pg. 1



Some people might call Janak, the product of a strong Czech Catholic family, a natural. His mother, Rose Marie Janak, recalls him as a 5-year-old teaching the neighbor children how to make the sign of the cross.

When asked what her reaction was to the announcement about his appointment, Rose Marie said, “I’m still in shock.”

His sister, Sharon Foltyn said, “I think I always thought he was bishop-worthy.” But the reality of it did take all of them by surprise. “We are very, very thrilled,” she said, “I always envisioned him retiring and teaching at the seminary. So it’s still soaking in.”

His older sister, Cindy Juneck, said “Our lives are going to change, but it’s all going to be OK. We’re so excited.”

Cindy said she considered, like many others, how much he does in the Diocese of Victoria and what’s going to happen there. “He said, ‘Cindy, I’m not indispensable.’ He considers everybody a team.”

She said her parents raised all of them with a strong work ethic, and he has always been the type to teach and preach. She said as a child in a building behind the house he would have church and school with their friends.

Rose Marie, who wrote a piece for a vocations newsletter about her son’s vocation as a



Bishop Michael Boulette is shown with Janak during Janak’s ordination as a priest some 33 years ago. Both men will now be auxiliary bishops in the Archdiocese of San Antonio. On April 20, during Janak’s episcopal ordination, Boulette will again have the opportunity to convey a blessing on Janak through the laying of hands. Also shown on this page are Janak’s parents, Joe and Rose Marie, who raised their family in the Czech Catholic tradition and accompanied their son through his journey to priesthood and beyond. Rose Marie has kept a scrapbook of his days as a priest, shown above.

priest included some of the “signs” from his childhood. The article states, “After we moved to Palacios, it was not long before Gary had converted our back-yard storage building into a combination school house and church. His younger sister quickly learned her numbers and the alphabet in the makeshift school. Mass was also held daily over an altar complete with flowers and a crucifix. Dad’s old ties were used as vestments and Mother’s cookie cutter, which was missing more often than not from the kitchen, was used to cut hosts from flattened slices of bread.”



Father Gary Janak on his day of ordination with Bishop Charles Grahmann.

Rose Marie has kept a scrapbook of his journey through the seminary and priesthood, preserving even small articles and letters. Her mother’s heart on full display, Rose Marie’s concerns are for her son’s happiness and well being, as they have been from the beginning when he decided to become a priest. She wants to know where he will live, what he will eat (since he doesn’t cook, she said), and those human things that mothers worry about. “I don’t know any member of his family,” Archbishop Garcia-Siller said, “But for sure

we want them to know that Father Gary is a gift of his family. We want to assure them that Bishop Gary is going to be supported and well taken care of. We also hope that they will find another home (in the Archdiocese of San Antonio.)”

While serving as chancellor, Janak also has been pastor/rector of the Cathedral Our Lady of Victory and executive director of the Emmaus Center for counseling, among other things, so there will be many offices to fill when he transitions to his new role as auxiliary bishop.

Bishop Cahill isn’t worried, he said, because “God provides.” The bishop recently made a 30-day silent retreat without worry. “The diocese ran fine. It’s a tribute to a good organization.”

Bishop Janak said one of his greatest moments in the Diocese of Victoria was “to see a dream come true in the Emmaus Center” where people can seek counseling from a Catholic perspective.

Bishop Janak’s most challenging time, he said, would be restoring the cathedral after Hurricane Harvey, which took millions of dollars and years to complete. “I’ll always be grateful for what I learned” going through that challenge, he said. “There’s a story in everything – from the roof to the murals inside.”

He’s been instrumental in several building projects in the diocese, not the least of which is the Cathedral Center, once an old JCPenny building that was gutted and brought back to life for the benefit of the entire diocese.

Beyond brick and mortar, Janak has also been the motivator and creator of programs including Choosing to L.O.V.E., a retreat to strengthen marriage and the Office of Family Evangelization.

Still with all the big things that have been built throughout his priesthood, Janak reflected on the small town of Palacios where his inspiration to be a priest took hold. He loves the hard-working people and the mix of cultures and languages and traditions. He said, culturally, San Antonio is a lot like that, too, just much bigger.

Many from Palacios and other rural areas in the Diocese of Victoria, before it was a diocese, were incardinated in the Archdiocese of San Antonio. Janak said, “I’m going to be part of a continuing tradition.”