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# The Catholic Lighthouse

The Cradle of Texas Immigration



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MAY 2021



Jennifer Ruiz, organizer of the Mothers of Grace group at Our Lady of Victory Cathedral, holds her 3-year-old daughter. She also has four boys and a sixth child on the way. She said the mother's group is a great way for busy moms to make friends and find support. (Photos by Janet Jones/The Catholic Lighthouse)

## Moms groups offer support and a little escape from the day-to-day

**JANET JONES**  
*The Catholic Lighthouse*

When Jennifer Ruiz moved to Victoria with her husband, Kevin, and children, she was looking to make connections like the ones she found in her Houston area parish, St. Edith Stein. There, she was part of a mother's group that met regularly and helped support one another on their journeys as moms.

"There were just there for each other; it was just beautiful," she said. "The women there just started deepening my faith."

She found herself missing the Houston mother's group and asking herself, "How do you make friends at this age?" She and Kevin own Goodwin Personnel and have five children ages 11, 8, 6, 3 and 16 months. And number six is on the

way.

Ruiz called the rectory at Our Lady of Victory and asked if there was a mother's group. There was not one at the time and she asked if she could start one.

Jenny Vincent, pastoral associate for OLV, remembers that call and said, "I told her, 'I think that's a wonderful idea.'" Vincent had to meet with the Rev. Gary Janak, then-pastor, and

get the green light. While they were all praying about it, other moms began to ask about mother's groups. "The need was obvious," Vincent said.

Ruiz was given the green light to organize a mom's group and Mothers of Grace was born in 2016. It has about 30 members who

*See Moms groups offer,*  
pg. 20

## Second-grader's First Communion means hope for others

**JANET JONES**

*The Catholic Lighthouse*

COLUMBUS — Carson Crosby, a student at St. Anthony Catholic School, is one of about a thousand or more children who received his First Communion in the Diocese of

Victoria this year. But his excitement — and anxiety — of participation in the Sacrament is magnified by the challenge he had to overcome to receive the Precious Body of Jesus.

*See Second-grader's First Communion, pg. 11*



Carson Crosby, a second-grader at St. Anthony Catholic School in Columbus, receives First Holy Communion a little differently than his classmates at St. Anthony School. He has a feeding tube and cannot consume food in the way most people do.



# Stella Maris – Star of the Sea a light to lead us to hope

## A Shepherd's Message

By Bishop Brendan Cahill



Dear Brothers and Sisters,  
St. Bernard of Clairvaux wrote the following words in reflecting upon Mary as Stella Maris, Star of the Sea:

“In danger; in distress, in doubt, reflect upon Mary, call upon Mary. Let her not leave your lips, let her not leave your heart and do not abandon your dealings with her if you wish to gain the object of your prayer. Following her, you will not stray; praying to her, you will not despair; reflecting upon her, you will not go wrong. With her taking your hand, you will not fall down; with her protecting you, you will not fear; with her leading you, you will not grow weary...” (In Praise of the Virgin Mary).

In this month in which we honor Mary with our traditional May crownings, devotions and prayers, many of us can reflect upon times when we have called upon her for help and our prayers were answered.

The Christian tradition of praying for Mary’s guidance goes back well before St. Bernard wrote his inspiring, heart-felt words in the 1100s. Mary continues to guide her children through the storms and trials of life, leading us with the light of her Son.

The beautiful image of the Star of the Sea reminds us that we are never alone. This past year has been especially challenging in that the circumstances of life made many of us feel alone and isolated. I remember well last year at this time when I felt helpless in the midst of so many conflicting messages

beyond my control. In the middle of all of that, I felt that I could look to the Star and pray for hope. Even in the midst of suffering and death, the prayer of the rosary gently reminds us that Jesus lived to teach us that those who believe in Him “will never die” (John 11:26).

Mary, our Mother and Star of the Sea, offers comfort to each one of us as her child. The words Stella Maris signify, too, the international Catholic ministry among people of the sea.


On May 20, I will be offering a prayer for the U.S. Department of Transportation’s Maritime Day in which we as a nation “recognize the hard-working men and women of the U.S. Merchant Marine and the maritime industry for the vital services they provide in support of our nation’s economic well-being and national security.”

That evening, the Stella Maris ministry in the United States will offer a prayer service with the special intention for all women and men who serve on the seas.

Turning our hearts to Mary, our heavenly mother, leads us also to honor our earthly mothers and the special women who have given us hope and healing. May each of your families have a blessed and holy Mother’s Day, and may we always honor all of the women who have passed on to us the gift of life; let’s keep each other in prayer!

+Brendan








**#SolidaritywithSeafarers**

What does Pope Francis say about maritime workers?

- Without seafarers, the global economy would come to a stand still
- Without fishermen, many parts of the world would starve
- We must listen to the spiritual & material concerns of seafarers and fishermen

**Seafarers are key essential workers too!**

#crewchangeCrisis #SeafarersAreKeyWorkers #NeptuneDeclaration #NoShippingNoShopping



CNS photo/Paul Haring



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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## Bishop Cahill's Schedule

<b>May 5</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• AOS-USA National Conference; virtual</li><li>• 7 p.m. Confirmation Mass at Parish of the Nativity; Eagle Lake</li></ul>	<b>17</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 6 p.m. Appreciation and send-off banquets for 8th graders at St. Anthony School; Columbus</li></ul>
<b>6</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 1 p.m. Pension Board meeting; Chancery office</li></ul>	<b>18</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 6:30 a.m. Relevant Radio interview</li><li>• 9:30 a.m. Legion of Mary Praesidium meeting; Cathedral Center</li></ul>
<b>7</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Cahill Classic Golf Tournament; Tomball</li><li>• 6 p.m. Confirmation Mass at St. Andrew; Hillje</li></ul>	<b>19</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 4 p.m. Building Board meeting; Chancery office</li></ul>
<b>8</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Mass with the Carmelites; Meyersville</li><li>• Noon Lunch and reflection for Life After Divorce day of reflection at the Spiritual Renewal Center; Victoria</li><li>• 5:30 p.m. Confirmation Mass for St. Robert Bellarmine; El Campo</li></ul>	<b>20</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 6 p.m. Stella Maris National Day of Prayer and Remembrance for Seafarers; virtual</li></ul>
<b>9</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 6 p.m. Confirmation Mass at Holy Cross Church; Bay City</li></ul>	<b>21-23</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Texas State Council Knights of Columbus Meeting; Austin-Pflugerville</li></ul>
<b>10</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 5 p.m. Liturgical Commission meeting; Chancery office</li></ul>	<b>23</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 10 a.m. Confirmation Mass at St. John Bosco; Vanderbilt</li><li>• 4:30 p.m. Confirmation Mass at Our Lady of Sorrows; Victoria</li></ul>
<b>11</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 9:30 a.m. Legion of Mary Praesidium meeting; Cathedral Center</li><li>• 6:30 p.m. Bishop's Dinner Fundraiser for St. Dominic's Village; Houston</li></ul>	<b>25</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Kenedy Foundation Board of Directors meeting; Corpus Christi</li></ul>
<b>12</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 10 a.m. Presbyteral Council; Chancery office</li><li>• 4 p.m. Installation Mass for Father Patrick Knippenberg at Our Lady of Lourdes; Victoria</li></ul>	<b>27</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 6 p.m. Father Calloway Event for St. Joseph; The Cathedral of Our Lady of Victory; Victoria</li></ul>
<b>14</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 11:30 a.m. Irish Studies Advisory Board Meeting; virtual</li></ul>	<b>29</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Mass with the Carmelites; Meyersville</li><li>• 6:30 p.m. Confirmation Mass at St. Peter; Blessing</li></ul>
<b>15</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Mass with the Carmelites; Meyersville</li></ul>	<b>30</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 10:30 a.m. Confirmation Mass at St. Agnes; Edna</li></ul>
<b>16</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 9 a.m. Mass at The Cathedral of Our Lady of Victory; Victoria</li></ul>	<b>31</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Memorial Day - Chancery Office Closed</li></ul>
		<b>June 1</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 9:30 a.m. Legion of Mary Praesidium meeting; Cathedral Center</li><li>• 6:45 p.m. meeting with Mothers of Grace Ministry at the Victory Annex; Victoria</li></ul>

## Official Appointments



Father Bob Knippenberg

**Father Bob Knippenberg**, pastor of Holy Rosary in Hostyn and Sts. Peter and Paul in Plum is assigned to be Pastor of Sts. Peter & Paul Catholic Church in Frelsburg and St. Roch Church in Mentz, effective July 1, 2021.



Father Felix Twumasi

**Father Felix Twumasi**, parochial vicar of St. Rose of Lima in Schulenburg, St. John the Baptist in Ammannsville and St. Wenceslaus in Holman is assigned to be administrator of Holy Rosary in Hostyn and Sts. Peter and Paul in Plum, effective July 1, 2021.

## Bishop Fellhauer's Confirmation Schedule

<b>May 15</b>	5 p.m. Confirmation Mass for Queen of Peace & St. John the Baptist Church; Sweet Home
<b>16</b>	9:30 a.m. Confirmation Mass for Holy Cross Catholic Church; Yorktown
<b>23</b>	9:30 a.m. Confirmation Mass for St. Joseph; Moulton
<b>30</b>	2 p.m. Confirmation Mass for St. Patrick's; Bloomington



Father Scott Hill

**Father Scott Hill**, parochial vicar of Sacred Heart in Hallettsville, St. John in St. John and St. Mary in St. Mary is assigned to be pastor of St. Rose of Lima in Schulenburg, St. John the Baptist in Ammannsville and St. Wenceslaus in Holman, effective July 1, 2021.



Father Jacob Mendoza

**Father Jacob Mendoza**, parochial vicar of St. Michael and Our Lady of Guadalupe in Cuero, Sts. Peter and Paul in Meyersville and St. Aloysius in Westhoff is assigned to be pastor to all parishes mentioned, effective July 1, 2021.

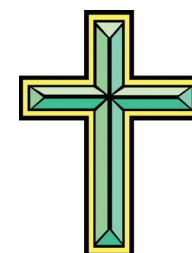
*Please remember in prayer the priests of the Diocese of Victoria, who were ordained during the month of May:*

Bishop Gary W. Janak	05/14/1988	Archdiocese of San Antonio
Rev. Michael W. Petering	05/15/1999	St. Agnes Church, Edna
Rev. Greg E. Korenek	05/15/1993	Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Victoria
Rev. Edward J. Winkler	05/17/1986	Sacred Heart Church, Flatonia
Most Rev. Brendan J. Cahill	05/19/1990	Ordination to the Priesthood
Rev. Stephen Vacek	05/20/2017	Holy Cross Church, Bay City
Rev. Jacob Mendoza	05/20/2017	St. Michael Church, Cuero
Rev. Robert F. Guerra	05/20/2000	Parish of the Nativity Church, Eagle Lake
Rev. Philip L. Brune	05/24/2014	St. Robert Bellarmine Church, El Campo
Rev. Jasper J. Liggio	05/24/2014	St. Michael Church, Cuero
Rev. Msgr. John C. Bily	05/24/1958	Retired
Rev. Patrick S. Knippenberg	05/26/2012	Our Lady of Lourdes Church, Victoria
Rev. Daniel P. Kahlich	05/28/1966	Retired
Rev. Bryan O. Heyer	05/29/2004	Sts. Cyril and Methodius Church, Shiner
Rev. Kirby F. Hlavaty	05/29/1999	The Cathedral of Our Lady of Victory, Victoria
Most Rev. David E. Fellhauer	05/29/1965	Ordination to the Priesthood
	05/28/1990	Bishop Emeritus of the Diocese of Victoria
Rev. James Dvorak	05/30/2020	Our Lady of the Gulf Church, Port Lavaca
Rev. Dalton Ervin	05/30/2020	The Cathedral of Our Lady of Victory, Victoria
Rev. Chase Goodman	05/30/2020	St. Philip Church, El Campo

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

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

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



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**DEADLINE IS THE 15th OF THE PRECEDING MONTH**

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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*

Catholic Daughters of the Americas  
Our Lady Queen of the Clergy, Wharton  
*in Memory of Estelle Heimann*

Joe & Sheryl Rhodes  
Karen & Jimmie Jedlicka  
Alan & Bitsy Lockley  
Irvin Ullmann  
Rebecca McKnight  
Marla Martinez  
Matthew & Sarah Horner  
Attorneys at Law, Wadler, Perches,  
Hundle, Kerlik  
Bob & Debbie Quarles  
JC & Liz Grissom  
Keith & Amy Ermis  
*in Memory of Felix & Linda Sopcak*

Carol Anders  
Hamilton H. Redmon  
Charles & Patty Schaar  
Rita Anders  
*in Memory of Msgr. Arnold Anders*

Acolyte

Mary Agnes Grissom  
*in Memory of Felix & Linda Sopcak*

Catholic Daughters of the Americas  
Court St. Paul, Shiner

Sisters of the IWBS  
*in Honor of Bishop Gary Janak*

Waldemar & Catherine Huebner  
Kristin & Michael Nester  
*in Memory of Msgr. Arnold Anders*

Candidate

Catholic Daughters of the Americas  
St. Theresa the Little Flower, Edna  
*in Memory of Msgr. Arnold Anders*

Transitional Deacon

The KJT: The Catholic Union of Texas

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 >.**

April 22, 2021

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

Lector

In memory of Rev. Msgr. Arnold Anders by  
Darry and Barbara Meyer and Family

• Rev. Kristopher L. Fuchs Seminary  
Burse

Acolyte

In honor of Rev. Kristopher Fuchs' birthday  
May 13 and his 6th anniversary of his  
priestly ordination on June 6 by his  
Grandparents, Paul and Helen Flessner

• Chase Goodman Seminary Burse

Acolyte

In memory of Deacon Jerome Kotzur,  
Ronald Friedel, Charles Meisner, Dr.  
Walter Konzen and Angela Schroeder by  
Mark and Julie Goodman

• Josephat R. Janak Seminary Burse #2

Lector

In honor of Bishop Gary Janak by  
Helen and Billy Dolezal

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

Candidate

By Holy Family K of C Council #9088 in  
memory of:  
Michael N. Martin  
Walter S. Gillett, III  
Stephen D. Futz  
Revis J. Abshire  
Marvin J. Tomas  
Albert J. Bures  
Rudolph B. Klecka, Jr.  
Daniel N. Jalufka  
Eugene A. Lucas

Happy Birthday to  
Our Seminarian

Joseph Blackburn is in Theology II at  
St. Mary's Seminary in  
Houston. Joseph's home-  
town is Our Lady of the  
Gulf in Port Lavaca. His  
birthday is May 17. Write  
to Joseph at: St. Mary's  
Seminary, 9845 Memorial  
Dr., Houston, TX 77024.



• Rev. Timothy Kosler Seminary Burse  
Lector

In memory of Gertrude Janak by  
Henrietta Veselka  
In memory of Gladys Berger by  
Henrietta Veselka  
In memory of Bernice Herzik by  
Henrietta Veselka  
In honor of Rev. Timothy Kosler's 50th  
anniversary of ordination by Henrietta  
Veselka

Acolyte

In memory of Brother Knight Albert E.  
Olsovsky by K of C Council #2902,  
Schulenburg

• John E. and Josephine B. Meisner  
Seminary Burse #2

Acolyte

In memory of Charles Meisner by  
Gus and Irene Mullins

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

Lector

In honor of Msgr. John Peters' 47th  
anniversary of ordination, in  
thanksgiving by Rev. Msgr. John Peters  
In memory of Rev. Msgr. Arnold Anders  
for his many years of Priestly service, in  
thanksgiving by Rev. Msgr. John Peters  
In memory of Albert Olsovsky by:  
M/M Leon Kristynik  
Henrietta Veselka

• Rev. Michael Rother Seminary Burse  
Acolyte

Donation by Chris and Gina Bludau  
*Transitional Deacon*  
Donation by a friend

• Rev. Jerome J. Stryk Seminary Burse  
#2

Lector

In memory of James Orsak by  
Dan Stryk

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



**MEMORIAL DAY**  
REMEMBER AND HONOR

THE CHANCERY OFFICES  
WILL BE CLOSED MONDAY, MAY 31  
HAVE A BLESSED AND SAFE WEEKEND

THE CHANCERY OFFICES WILL REOPEN ON  
TUESDAY, JUNE 1  
8:30 A.M. - 4:30 P.M.



# Shepherdless, we are easy prey

**EDITOR'S NOTE:** The following sermon was written for the fourth Sunday of Easter, Cycle A and titled "The Good Shepherd."

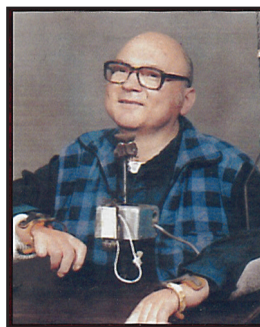
We all like to be independent. Little children like to play with scissors and matches when their mothers aren't watching. Older children look forward to being liberated from the control of their parents. Teenagers rebel and defy authority. Employees resent being checked up on at work. The elderly who can no longer live alone refuse to go to the nursing home.

A school principal told me that he once had to escort a young man off the school campus during a basketball game and later found his tire slashed.

An elderly patient once told me that if her doctor told her once more that she should go to the old folks home, she would tell him, "You go."

St. Augustine said that in his earlier days he had enjoyed stealing apples from his neighbor's tree. He did not even like apples. He fed them to the hogs. The only reason he took them was that they were forbidden.

We all want to be independent – some of us more so than others. But not everyone can handle it equally well.



1929-2000

## Father Charles Kram Corner

And so the world is full of people who visit psychiatrists, marriage counselors, lawyers, astrologists, gurus, and what have you, looking for guidance. Sometimes wives even ask help from their husbands.

I once told a group of teenagers who were visiting a patient that they seemed so mature and so self-confident, but to my surprise, they were quick to tell me that they actually felt unsure of themselves and quite insecure. And a young man told me that the growing responsibility he was facing made him plenty scared.

The fact is that everyone has a good

reason to feel insufficient. No one can know it all and no one can be competent in everything, and this is where Jesus the Good Shepherd fits into the schedule.

A teacher once asked her class this question: "If there were 10 sheep in a pen and one got out, how many would be left?" A little boy answered, "None," and the teacher said, "Son, you don't know arithmetic," and the boy replied, "Teacher, you don't know sheep."

There are two things that every shepherd or sheep raiser knows about sheep. One is that they easily go astray and the other is that they do not know how to protect themselves from their enemies.

My dad used to raise sheep and I remember how when there was a hole somewhere in the fence, one of the sheep would find it and get out, and then the whole flock would follow it and go astray. One night stray dogs attacked the flock and left them bleeding and

dying because they had no one to defend them.

We are all like those sheep. We tend to go easily astray. We have many enemies, especially the evil spirits, who can and will destroy us if no one helps us.

If you are young, don't worry about what your friends think of you when you refuse to let them bring out the worst in you. They may ridicule you, but they will respect you, and when they are in trouble and need someone to talk to, they will come to YOU.

If you are a parent, of course, strive to get along well with your spouse; build a strong marriage and a strong family life. Don't be afraid to make firm rules for your children. Back up the teachers in maintaining school discipline.

At your job or around town, don't be afraid to take a stand where right or wrong are concerned. There are still plenty of good souls who will join you in the fight.

So ... what if we ARE like sheep? We need not go astray and we need not let our enemies destroy us. In all our efforts, Jesus the Good Shepherd will guide us and protect us and will come looking for us when we are lost. "The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want."

*Lord Jesus, thank you for being a shepherd to sheep like us. Help us to accept guidance and discipline whenever we may need it. Grant that, in the end, we may all be found with you, where we will stray and be in danger no more. Amen.*

## Two seminarians to become transitional deacons

By **FATHER TOMMY CHEN**

*Director of Vocations for the Diocese of Victoria in Texas*

With great joy, I wish to inform you that seminarians Richard Barfield and Tran Dinh have petitioned for the Order of the Diaconate in the Diocese of Victoria in Texas through the imposition of hands and the invocation of the Holy Spirit by Bishop Brendan Cahill.

The ordination has tentatively been scheduled for Saturday, June 12, 2021, at 10 a.m. at the Cathedral of Our Lady of Victory in Victoria, Texas.

Thank you to the people of the diocese for your generous support of all our seminarians during their time of formation. It is through your prayers, encourage-

ment, and support that we have vocations such as these.

If you have any grave concerns affecting their ordination to the diaconate, please contact me in writing enclosed in an envelope marked "CONFIDENTIAL" and addressed to: The Rev. Tommy Chen, Vocations Director, 415 W. Austin St., Port Lavaca, TX 77979.

### Serran Prayer for Vocations

O God, Who wills not the death of a sinner, but rather that he be converted and live, grant we beseech You, through the intercession of the Blessed Mary, ever Virgin, Saint Joseph, her spouse, Blessed Junípero Serra and all the saints, an increase of laborers for your Church, fellow laborers with Christ to spend and consume themselves for souls, through the same Jesus Christ, Your Son, Who lives and reigns with You, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God forever and ever.

Amen.



Richard Barfield



Tran Dinh

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# May reflections lift our gaze heavenward

We may not realize it but we are experiencing a glorious time. In the Church we are still celebrating Jesus' resurrection, which brings so much joy and hope to all Christendom.

Whenever I spend time reflecting on this reality, I remember an incident that occurred during a student discussion on the topic of Jesus' ordeal, which He suffered in order to bring about our salvation. A young man asked, "Wouldn't it be horrible for someone to have an awful life, such as life-long pain, a severe crippling condition, or some other terrible livelihood and no hope of a happy afterlife in Heaven?"

The question sparked a profound reaction in the group. I know that I have often thought about the significance of the events of Holy Week and Jesus' Resurrection in light of that discussion. Sometimes we can get so caught up the routine of daily life, that the significance of what we're celebrating gets lost.

There is so much is happening in our Church celebrations to sustain our faith

## Sisterly Thoughts

By Sister Mildred Truchard, IWBS



life. Our Holy Father has declared a year in which we celebrate St. Joseph, a quiet man who was so faithful in carrying out his duty as a devoted spouse and parent – a real model for all of us.

Then our Holy Father has designated this year as The Year of the Family. The Holy Spirit is really active! The diocese is in the midst of a year in which we focus on the family. Let us continue to be open to respond to the grace and growth realized through participation in our own families.

At the same time, we continue to open our spiritual eyes through participation in

devotions to Mary, our Mother, as we celebrate activities that honor her during the month of May.

Let us not forget Mothers' Day when we celebrate our own mothers who have, and continue to, reflect God's love to us. Also let us continue to participate in the special events observed in the Liturgical Year: Ascension, Pentecost, the Feast of the Holy Trinity, and Corpus Christi (The Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ): all events which can direct our focus toward God.

It seems that even our environment about us reminds us to lift our hearts and minds heavenward, as we surround ourselves with the beautiful foliage of new and revived vegetation. Also, I think that all of us are relieved and thank God for vaccines and those who have developed them.

Let us continue to rejoice in our status as redeemed persons through the resurrection of Christ and carry this awareness through the events that sustain our spiritual life.



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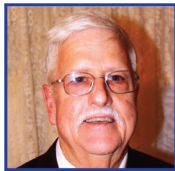
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## Blue Sunday celebrated

VICTORIA – Bishop Brendan Cahill, right, reads from a card with a prayer for victims of abuse during the Blue Sunday Mass on April 25. He also recognized all people of the diocese who work in the Safe Environment program instituted to train all workers on how to recognize and report abuse of any type. Many wore T-shirts acknowledging April as Child Abuse Prevention Month or blue clothing.

## A Prayer for Healing Victims of Abuse

Holy Spirit, comforter of hearts, heal your people's wounds, and transform brokenness into wholeness. Grant us the courage and wisdom, humility and grace, to act with justice. Breathe wisdom into our prayers and labors. Grant that all harmed by abuse may find peace in justice. We ask this through Christ our Lord, Amen.



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## In Memoriam

## Msgr. Arnold “Buzz” Anders passes away on Easter Sunday



Msgr. Arnold Anders

Monsignor Arnold “Buzz” Anthony Anders, the longest serving priest in the Diocese of Victoria, went to his eternal reward on Easter Sunday, April 4, 2021. Father Anders, as he preferred to be called, was born in Dubina, Texas, on Dec. 11, 1926, to Frank and Annie Guenther Anders.

Upon completion of his studies at St. John’s Seminary in San Antonio, he was ordained on May 27, 1950 in San Fernando Cathedral by the Most Rev. Robert Lucey for the Archdiocese of San Antonio. He had to receive a special dispensation to be ordained at the age of 23, which was given to him by Pope Pius XII. The minimum age is 24 to be ordained. He later received his master’s degree in education from Our Lady of the Lake University in San Antonio.

His assignments in the Archdiocese of San Antonio included The Shrine of St. Anthony of Padua, St. Peter, Prince of the Apostles, Our Lady of Sorrows and St. Dominic’s and St. Michael the Archangel in Weimar. With the formation of the Victoria diocese, he was assigned to St. Mary’s in Victoria (twice), St. Mary’s in Nada, St. Andrew’s in Hillje-Louise, St. Robert’s Bellarmine in El Campo and The Church of the Immaculate Conception in Goliad where he also ministered to four early Texas Missions, namely Charco, Berclair, Fannin and La Bahia. His last pastoral assignment was in Ganado at the Church of The Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary. After his retirement, he moved down south to serve as chaplain to the Carmelite Sisters of the Divine Heart of Jesus. He spent 20 years ministering to the Sisters, the residents of Mount Carmel Assistant Living Home and helping in churches throughout the Diocese

of Corpus Christi, making lifelong friends along the way. Mt. Carmel Home closed its doors in 2017. Father Anders returned to San Antonio to live at Padua Place where he reconnected with many old friends and fellow priests.

Father Anders enjoyed traveling the world, his travels included all six continents and miles that would circle the world three times. His favorite place to visit was the Holy Land, which he visited three times. He studied one summer there, and on another trip he took part in the “Via Dolorosa” (Way of the Cross) in Jerusalem. He also studied in Rome at the Pontifical North America College, where he met then-Pope John Paul II, now St. John Paul.

Father Anders is preceded in death by his parents, Frank and Annie, sisters, Margaret and husband Bernard Hartensteiner, Leona and husband Tony Garza; brothers, Arthur and wife Sophie, Frank and wife Leona, and John; nephews, David Hartensteiner and Michael Anders; great-nephews, Thomas W. Anders and Henry Anthony Anders; great-niece, Mary Louise Adams; and great-great-nephew, Dyrk Burcie. He is survived by his sister-in-law, Adelle Anders, wife of John and 24 nieces and nephews and many great-nieces and great-nephews, and lifelong friends from all over.

We would like to thank the Sisters of Missionary Servants of St. Anthony and Padua Place staff who dedicate their lives to taking the absolute best care of our retired priests. They treated Father Anders with love, gentleness and compassion for the three years he lived there.

The funeral took place Thursday, April 15, at St. Michael the Archangel Catholic Church in Weimar. The rite of final committal took place at Sts. Cyril and Methodius Catholic Cemetery in Dubina after the funeral.

In lieu of flowers, please make donations to Seminary Education Fund, Diocese of Victoria, P.O. Box 4070, Victoria, TX, 77903; or Padua Place, 80 Peter Baque Rd., San Antonio, TX 78209.



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Catholic Schools**



Migrant children from Central America take refuge from the rain in the back of a U.S. Border Patrol vehicle in Penitas, Texas, on March 14, as they wait to be transported after crossing the Rio Grande into the United States. With the thousands of children, as well as families, men and women, crossing the border, Catholic Charities are asking for volunteers to help meet the immigrants' needs. Three Sisters from the Incarnate Word and Blessed Sacrament convent in Victoria are among those who are answering the call for help. (CNS photo/ Andres Latin, Reuters)

# IWBS Sisters helping care for immigrants

JANET JONES  
*The Catholic Lighthouse*

No matter how you feel about how immigration is being handled, the reality is that there are thousands of children who have crossed the border without their parents and who need help.

Sister Laura Toman and Sister Marian Sturm of the Incarnate Word and Blessed Sacrament will be going to McAllen May 6-20 to work with the immigrants. And Sister Rosario Resendez is volunteering with the youth at the Freeman Center in San Antonio.

"I'm excited," Sister Laura said. She had planned to go and work with immigrants a while back, but discovered she had cancer and was too ill to travel. She started working instead at Promise Pointe in Victoria that helps provide housing for the underprivileged.

But she got a second chance when Sister Marian, who had gone down there to work before and when planning this trip asked Sister

Laura to go along. "She knew I wanted to go in that direction," Sister Laura said.

They will be working with Sister Normal Pimentel, director of Catholic Charities of the Rio Grande Valley who was made famous when she was named one of the 100 most influential people in the U.S. by Time magazine.

"My love is children," Sister Laura said. Some of the scenes and stories of the immigrant children's plight have touched her heart and moved her to tears. "I just want to do something," she said. "We have to help the poor. We have to help the immigrants. I just feel like if I could done one small thing, I want to do it."

Before she started her first shift at the Freeman Center in San Antonio, Sister Rosario said, "I'm super excited about it." Though she works full time as the assistant to Bishop Brendan Cahill, she said there was no barrier to her going. Everyone from whom she sought approval said, "Yes, go!"

Sister Rosario has already put in a shift at the Freeman Center, overseeing groups of boys ages 13-17. She said the experience was good.

Because she's bilingual, she was able to communicate with the children and help translate for English speakers who are there helping.

She said the boys were very polite, and were drawn to her because she is a religious Sister. There are actually other religious Sisters helping, but Sister Rosario wears the veil and is more recognizable as a religious Sister. "They were so happy to be with me," she said.

Sister Rosario said the children are treated very well there and have a good attitude toward one another as they wait for family members to come and pick them up.

"When a family comes to pick them up, the whole dorm cheers," she said.

Sister Rosario is planning to take whatever shifts she can handle for the time the children are in San Antonio, she said.

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## Personal stylist wears her faith on her sleeve

When it comes to living your faith, it can be as simple as getting dressed each day. I learned that when a promotion for Meghan Ashley's blog landed in my email inbox.

Though I get thousands of Catholic tidbits in my e-mail, many of which are spiked because one person could not possibly read all of it, this one caught my attention.

Meghan Ashley Sabo Sokolowski's business is fashion, but she has made fashion a form of glorifying God instead of our own bodies. She's even written a book, "The Catholic Wardrobe."

I began to read her fashion blog. She presents very pretty and modest clothing. But she will sometimes suggest blue for a Marian feast day and explain why the Mother of God is usually depicted draped in blue cloth. She noted that in any reported apparition of the Blessed Virgin "she (Mary) is intentional with what she wears."

There is simple and elegant jewelry Meghan can recommend to remind such as rosary rings, which are beautiful and remind us to pray. With each recommendation, Meghan scouts out examples of merchandise on the internet and share in her blog.

Originally from California, Meghan said she got a degree in theology and then went into the fashion industry doing design illustrations. She ended up working as a personal stylist and found her passion.

She said her husband, who works for a Catholic charity, suggested that her own styling business target Catholic women.

"I had this 'How do I do that? feeling,'" she said. But she figured it all out and has run with it.

She said people will be "wowed" by a

### Look Up

By Janet Jones, Editor  
The Catholic Lighthouse



beautiful scapular as an accessory, and she can show them how to dress stylishly without being immodest.

"A big part of it is the mentality of getting dressed," she said. "It's about dignity and respect for God."

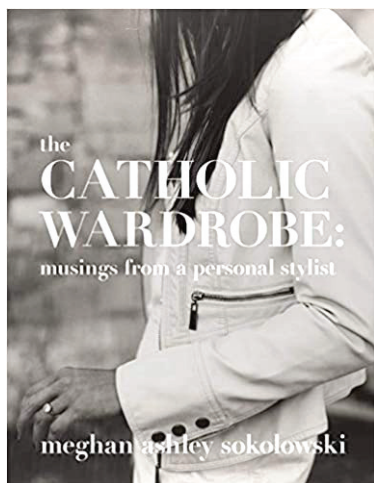
She also said the consequences of dressing well is a better mood and more positive attitude. "Once you just dress appropriately for the day, it removes the stress."

Meghan said her favorite part of being a fashion consultant is one-on-one interaction with women who seek her help. "Because they feel so good afterward."

To keep her focus on her mission, she said she tries to have a very consistent prayer life and routine.

And how does she like to dress? She told me that she's 80 percent classic with a "peek of fun," like a simple garment with just a touch of fur or ruffles.

As someone who really hates shopping for clothes, I have found her suggestions very practical and budget-friendly and really kind of fun to read. You can look her up, too, at [www.meghanashleystyling.com](http://www.meghanashleystyling.com) if for no other reason to discover how this woman has made the wardrobe another way to remind us that we are God's children.



### Chrism Mass 2021

Bishop Brendan Cahill mixes the sacramental oils during the Chrism Mass the Tuesday of Holy Week. The holy oils he blesses are used in sacraments throughout the year. The Mass also is a time to celebrate the priesthood and Diocese of Victoria priests attended to renew the vows they took during their ordinations.



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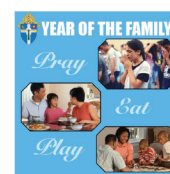
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The Rev. Greg Korenek, right, of the Diocese of Victoria was one of Bishop Janak's chosen chamberlains, along with the Rev. Carlos Velazquez of the Diocese of San Antonio. Both men were seminarians with Bishop Janak.



John Michael Talbot, songwriter and long-time friend of Bishop Janak was present to perform "Holy Is His Name," as a meditation before the ordination Mass. Bishop Janak thanked him not only for lending his voice and prayers to the ceremony but also for the influence Talbot's ministry has had on shaping his priesthood.



Bishop Brendan Cahill lays hands on Bishop Gary Janak.

Retired Bishop David Fellhauer brought special gifts to the ordination. Bishop Janak said the new ring and pectoral cross ordered for him had not arrived in time for the vespers during which they were to be blessed, but Bishop David Fellhauer gifted him with a pectoral cross that he received as a gift from Pope John Paul II during an ad limina visit in Rome. It was particularly special for Janak since he had served at a Mass that St. John Paul II had during a visit to San Antonio. Fellhauer also presented him with a ring that was a replica of the ones given to bishops during Vatican Council II. The ring originally belonged to the late Bishop Charles Grahmann, first bishop of the Diocese of Victoria, and the man who presided at Janak's ordination as a priest for the Diocese of Victoria in 1988.



There were 24 bishops – active and retired – attending the ordination including Bishop Emeritus David Fellhauer (left). Though many were from Texas, there was also a bishop from Matamoros, Mexico, and the Bishop of Memphis, Tenn. Cardinal Daniel DiNardo of the Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston also attended.

## Ordination of Bishop Janak a testament to the family

### JANET JONES

The Catholic Lighthouse

One of the most notable things about the ordination of Auxiliary Bishop Gary Janak of the Archdiocese of San Antonio is how much his family was a part of the celebration. His family was present and acknowledged at every event leading up to the ordination on April 20.

His mother, Rose Marie, sister, Sharon Foltyn, brother, Allan Janak, along with in-laws, nieces and nephews and great nieces and nephews were able to attend the vespers, receptions and the ordination. And prayers were offered for his sister, Cindy Junek, who is in the hospital at M.D. Anderson, and

unable to attend.

Several times Archbishop Gustavo Garcia-Siller addressed Bishop Janak's mother, assuring her that he would be well cared for in the archdiocese. After vespers on the evening before the ordination ceremony, his family was able to see the new bishop's new home at the Assumption Seminary.

Many people from the Diocese of Victoria, who have been a family to him throughout his priesthood, also attended the celebration, including many of his brother priests from the DOV.

Bishop Brendan Cahill was a co-consecrator at the ordination Mass. He also spoke of his time with Janak's family.

Bishop Janak discussed how much family means to him and to the Christian community recalling Jesus arrival as an infant; part of a human family. "He becomes small for us. When we understand that smallness we can understand how we are connected to one another."

He told a gathering during brunch before the ordination that being connected to a parish family is one thing he will miss the most.

"It really is all about family. I wish I could've invited everyone, but you here are a cross-section of my heart," he said to those gathered.

Archbishop Gustavo Garcia-Siller many times expressed his gratitude for Janak's faithful fam-

ily and the Diocese of Victoria family who helped form his priesthood. He said, "I would say,

'Sorry' to Victoria and Bishop Brendan, but I am happy to have him here."



Bishop Gary Janak's Family



## Second-grader's First Communion means hope for others

*Continued from pg. 1*

He has a genetic mitochondrial disease that prevents him from consuming food and drink orally, so he receives nutrition via feeding tube and has since infancy. The Church does not allow the Body of Christ to be given via feeding tube.

But on April 24, he received the Sacrament for the first time with the rest of his class at St. Anthony Catholic School. A fraction of the Host was dissolved in a small amount of distilled water which he was able to tolerate.

"I always knew that this was going to be a topic," Jenna Crosby, his mother, said. "I have had a little anxiety about this."

Carson also had been anxious to the point that he was suggesting ways he might receive Communion. "He just kept apologizing for not being able to do it and for being the way he is," Jenna said. "We didn't want him to think that this was ever his fault."



*Carson Crosby, shown with his second-grade class at St. Anthony Catholic School in Columbus. His mother, Jenna, said her son, who has special needs because he receives all of his nutrition through a feeding tube, has thrived at the school. (Photos by Janet Jones/The Catholic Lighthouse)*

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*"Just as the Church must do all in its power to help ensure persons with disabilities a secure place in the human community, so it must reach out to welcome gratefully those who seek to participate in the ecclesial community." — Pastoral Statement of US Catholic Bishops on Persons with Disabilities: Conference of Catholic Bishops, 1998*

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*Carson and his classmate compare height while lining up for group photos after their First Communion at St. Anthony Catholic Church. Thanks to a feeding tube for nutrition, Carson, despite having a mitochondrial disease that prevents him from consuming food orally, he is able to keep up with his peers.*

The family's conversations have led to theological discussions that have worked to deepen their faith and his desire to receive the Eucharist.

"He really asks some tough questions about faith," Jenna said.

After consulting with Christella Alvarez of the Office of Catechetical Ministry at the Diocese of Victoria, and, subsequently with Bishop Brendan Cahill, and with Charleen Katra, executive director of the National Catholic Partnership on Disability (NCPD), the solution of the dissolved Host was devised, and the Rev. Augustine As-

ante, pastor of St. Anthony Catholic Church, prepared for Carson ahead of time. It wasn't only a solution for his First Communion, but is a sustainable solution for Carson and Father Augustine. The same thing will be prepared for Carson whenever he attends Mass.

Carson is not the first or the last person to face this kind of challenge, and his experience brings to light just one way the Church can accommodate those

who cannot participate in the Mass or the Sacraments the way others do.

"God will use him (Carson) to touch other people's heart," Katra said. "He's exactly the way God intended him to be and we have to make sure his faith journey is as joyful as yours or mine."

The organization Katra leads is dedicated to, among other things, training Catholic communities to help people with disabilities have meaningful participation in the Mass and the Sacraments.

Katra said people with different needs are often underrepresented in the pews and

her office is working to change that. The NCPD does assessments and presentations in English and Spanish all across the country. It is not only physical needs that need to be met, but also helping people with autism and mental illness be fully included in the Church, she said.

Alvarez said the Guidelines for the Celebration of the Sacraments with Persons with Disabilities states: "Catholics who require nourishment through feeding tubes are encouraged to receive Holy Communion, as are all the Catholic faithful ... the norm of receiving through the mouth remains the same for those who otherwise use a feeding tube for sustenance, and Holy Communion is not to be administered through a feeding tube."

Alvarez said that was the critical point in trying to find a solution for Carson, and Katra, through her experience with another diocese, suggested the dissolved host.

Jenna said as they prepared for First Communion, Carson became less anxious and happy that he was able to receive Jesus in the Eucharist in a different way. But, she said, he is very empathetic and "in tune with things," so there were also plenty of mo-

ments of apprehension for Carson and his family.

"There was a lot of digging and discussions," Jenna said. "Carson is very smart and very aware of what's going on. I didn't want there to be 'no' for an answer."

She said Alvarez worked with her on trying to figure out what the protocols were. "Nobody really knew," she said.

After the April 24 Mass at St. Anthony, Carson said his experience was good. It was easy for him to consume the Precious Body as it was given to him. His prayer before bedtime on Saturday, Jenna said, was this: "I am thankful to Jesus that I was able to receive my first communion and change the way people like me can do communion and churches can bless the water for us to drink."

Jenna said that, all things considered, she knows Carson is a special blessing and his story will bless others.

"His life has just been very different and is very different," Jenna said. She said he is among many "special angels" who teach others to appreciate what they have. "My child has completely changed the trajectory of our lives. I am so

much stronger in my faith."

She also credits St. Anthony School for opening their arms to Carson and his needs. His mitochondrial disease means that he has to have an attendant with him at school to provide nutrition.

"It just really affects everything from head to toe," Jenna said, explaining that the mitochondria are the "power house" of human cells and Carson's work at 10-30 percent capacity. "Every time he is sick he could end up in the hospital because he has a weak immune system."

Jenna attended St. Anthony as a child. She and her husband, Justin, lived in Katy previously and moved to the Eagle Lake area just in time for Carson to start school at St. Anthony.

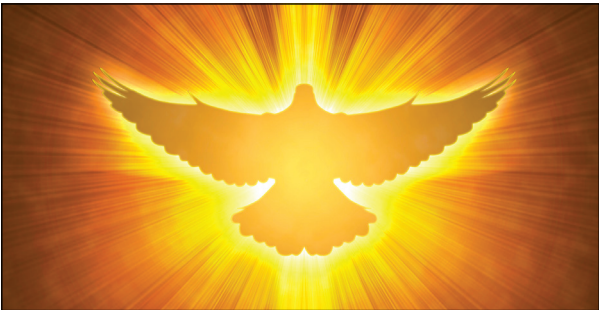
"I just knew St. Anthony's was the place that he would need to be," she said. "St. Anthony's has been super accepting of him. Carson has just thrived there."

She also feels blessed that he has great doctors at Texas Children's Hospital in Houston. "You look at him and you don't think that there's anything wrong with him. That's all thanks to his feeding tube."



**Confirmation tour**

Bishop Brendan Cahill has been traveling throughout the Diocese of Victoria administering the sacrament of confirmation. Pictured left, is the confirmation class at Holy Family in Victoria. Bishop Emeritus David Fellhauer is also celebrating confirmations.



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**Texas historic tiny church**

Tombstones are seen outside St. Martin's Catholic Church in Warrenton, Texas, April 10, 2021. The historic church is located in central Texas between Austin and Houston and is one of the world's smallest active Catholic churches. Originally built in 1888, Mass is celebrated once a month in the 192-square-foot church, which holds six rows of pews, seating about 20 people. (CNS photo/Isabelle Baldwin)



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# Texas Senate OKs abortion bills

AUSTIN (CNS) -- The Texas Catholic Conference of Bishops was “thrilled to report” the state Senate passed several pro-life bills supported by the conference, executive director Jennifer Allmon said March 31.

“These include our top priorities, the Chemical Abortion Safety Protocol, S.B. 394, and the Human Life Protection Act, S.B. 9. We have great hope that these bills, which provide further protections for women and unborn children, will become law,” she added in a message in the Texas Catholic Voice, the online news outlet of the Austin-based conference.

On March 30, the Texas Senate approved seven bills restricting access to abortion; one of the measures bans abortion if the U.S. Supreme Court ever overturns 1973’s *Roe v. Wade* decision legalizing abortion nationwide. Now the measures must be taken up by the Texas House of Representatives.

The approved bills are:

- Heartbeat Act, S.B. 8, bans abortions after the child’s heartbeat is detectable, which could be as early as six weeks of pregnancy. The bill has an exception for medical emergencies but not for rape or incest.

- Trigger Abortion Ban Act, S.B. 9, which would outlaw most abortions and would take effect if *Roe* is overturned. Texas would only abortions if the pregnancy threatens the mother’s life.

- Regulating Abortion-Inducing Drugs Act (or Chemical Abortion Safety Protocol), S.B. 394, would prohibit chemical or “pill-induced” abortions after seven weeks. The U.S. Food and Drug Administration’s guidelines approve the use of abortion pills up to 10 weeks. The bill also would ban people from receiving abortion medication by mail.

- Stop Taxpayer-Funding of Abortion Logistical Support Act, S.B. 650, would bar

local city governments from funding “logistical support” for those seeking an abortion, such as money for child care, travel to or from an abortion provider, housing, food and counseling that may encourage a woman to have an abortion.

- Every Mother Matters Act, S.B. 802, would require a third party under contract with Texas Health and Human Services to offer a consultation and inform a woman seeking an abortion of available resources before she undergoes the procedure.

- Preborn Non-Discrimination Act, S.B. 1173, would ban abortions “on the basis of race, ethnicity, sex, probability or confirmed diagnosis of Down syndrome, or probability or diagnosis of a disability.” It also would ban abortions in the third trimester of pregnancy unless there is a medical emergency.

- Texas Abolition Strategy Act, S.B. 1647 combines the provisions of S.B. 8 and S.B. 9.

Ahead of the votes, the Texas affiliate of the American Civil Liberties Union condemned the state Senate and Lt. Gov. Dan Patrick, who presides over the Senate, for considering the bills.

Patrick “continues to push his extreme agenda by forcing seven anti-abortion bills through the Texas Senate,” said Drucilla Tigner, policy and advocacy strategist for the ACLU of Texas, in a statement. “Most Texans believe abortion should be legal, yet Lt. Gov. Patrick has made banning abortion a top priority.”

Tigner said the Senate “should stop peddling” what she called Patrick’s “extreme agenda” and “instead focus on the real crises facing Texans.”

## Spiritual Renewal Center

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

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

Handicap accessible.

For more information or to reserve the SRC contact Matthew Boyle, director, by email [src@victoriadiocese.org](mailto:src@victoriadiocese.org) or at 361-572-0836.



## Pope urges Catholics to pray in May for end to Covid-19 pandemic

DEVIN WATKINS

Vatican News

Catholics across the globe are encouraged to dedicate the Marian month of May to praying for an end to the pandemic.

The initiative, behind which the Pope has thrown his support, involves 30 Marian Shrines from various parts of the world.

The Pontifical Council for Promoting the New Evangelization announced the news with a press release on Wednesday afternoon.

It takes place under the theme “The whole Church was fervently praying to God,” which recalls a verse in the Book of Acts (12:5).

Pope Francis will open the Marian month of prayer on May 1, with a Rosary broadcast across Vatican Media’s platforms.

Each day will see Vatican News broadcast the recitation of the Rosary at 6 p.m. Rome time from the various Shrines taking part in the initiative.

The Pope will also close the initiative on May 31, with another specially-broadcast Rosary.

This year’s dedication of May to pandemic-related prayer recalls a similar occurrence during the first wave in March 2020.

## Life After Divorce

*A day of reflection for anyone who has experienced divorce or separation*

*Sponsored by the Diocese of Victoria in Texas*

All who have experienced divorce or separation are invited to a day of reflection at the Spiritual Renewal Center, the retreat center of the Diocese of Victoria in Texas. Presenters will include Bishop Brendan Cahill, and there will be ample time for reflection, prayer and silence.

*Saturday, May 8, 2021*

*9am to 3:30pm*

*Sign-in at 8:30am*

*Spiritual Renewal Center*

*718 Gussie Schmidt Rd, Victoria, TX 77905*

**Register for \$10 at [www.victoriadiocese.org/survivingdivorce](http://www.victoriadiocese.org/survivingdivorce)**

**or call 361-573-0828 x 2265**



*“I came so that they might have life and have it more abundantly.” - John 10:10 (NABRE)*





## Volunteers honored with Mother Elizabeth Ann Seton Awards

SHINER — Catholic schools in the Diocese of Victoria are powered by dedicated volunteers. Some of the best received the Mother Elizabeth Ann Seton Awards on April 15 at the Knights of Columbus hall in Shiner. The award is given to one volunteer from each school who emulates the devotion of the American saint, who was known as a pioneer in Catholic education.

An appreciation dinner was planned by the Office of Catholic School for the Diocese of Victoria, and Bishop Brendan Cahill was present to present awards to the recipients chosen by the schools.

• **Dr. Humberto Rivas**, director of pediatrics for the Gonzales Healthcare Systems and on staff at Gonzales Memorial Hospital, Dell Children's Hospital, St. David's Medical Center, and Seton Medical Center, was nominated from Shiner Catholic schools. Dr. Rivas plays an essential role in working with the Shiner Catholic School administration and nurse to keep the students safe and healthy.

• **Tiffany Cervantes** was chosen by Holy Cross Catholic School in Bay City. Her journey with Holy Cross began in 2015 when her two children arrived on campus. She signed up to be the head room parent in her child's class and has continued this tradition for several years. She now coordinates all room parent activities and volunteer hours and provides food and gifts for monthly staff meetings, staff appreciation, and holiday parties. She has chaired her children's activities and games not only for the school's spring bazaar, but also for the parish festival. She has decorated several prize-winning parade floats for Holy Cross.



*Pictured from left are, standing, Leslie Book, Steven Steffek, Dr. Humberto Rivas, Darlene Rippamonti, Bishop Brendan Cahill, Jennifer Jahn, David Hartman and Dr. John and Jennifer Wright; and, seated, Jennifer Steffek, Rhonda Garcia, Linda Heller, Billie Southern, Tiffany Cervantes and Peggy Kusy. Not pictured is Brent Bubela, who unable to attend because of a volunteer commitment. (Janet Jones/The Catholic Lighthouse)*

• **Darlene Rippamonti** has given many years of service to Nazareth Academy in Victoria. She began her relationship with NA when her daughter Hannah, presently an eighth-grader, entered the school in PK4. She has served as PTC officer and room mother and has been instrumental in many fundraisers, especially the annual Fall Festival. She also has chaperoned many field trips and athletic events, helped with Kids Night Out, set up and worked concessions, and always stays until the very end of the events and activities to help with clean up.

• **Peggy Kusy** was chosen by St. Rose of Lima Catholic School in Schulenburg. She

was a teacher at St. Rose for 20 years and served as principal for five. Peggy is an alum of SRS and graduated from Bishop Forest High School in Schulenburg. All four of her children graduated from St. Rose and she has three grandchildren currently attending. She and her husband annually donate items for the students from their business, Prime Products. Her volunteerism includes substitute teaching, working and supporting fundraising events, days at the food pantry and working with Meals on Wheels. Peggy is also active in the parish as Eucharistic minister, lector, Catholic Daughters Secretary, Altar Society member, and works Knights of Columbus events with her husband.

• **Brent Bubela**, as an alum of St. Philip the Apostle Catholic School in El Camp. He served on the School Advisory Council and Publicity Committee. He also began coaching volleyball and basketball. Along with coaching, he started our girl's athletics conditioning camps and strengthened this program with a dedicated consistency that enabled their opportunities to grow. Bubela started the school's annual Jam4God Live Concert Event so students and alumni could share their musical talents.

• **Billie Southern** came to the rescue of St. Michael's Catholic School in Cuero this 2020-2021 school year to play the piano for the choir. She volunteers every Thursday to practice with the students, and then she plays at the school Mass every Friday. On Fridays during Lent, she plays for the Stations of the Cross as the children lead the prayers. As a longtime parishioner, she plays every weekend for Mass. She has been a musical

presence in the church for many years and with her support of the school in its time of need, she has shown her support of Catholic education.

• **Linda Heller** is a lifelong member of the St. Michael Weimar community. She was born and raised in this Weimar and continues to be an active member in many organizations. Heller has been a parishioner of St. Michael Church for 67 years. She is proud of her faith and has served as a Eucharistic minister and usher. She attended St. Michael Catholic School and continues to support the school by helping in the cafeteria and library. She consistently helps with fundraisers, events, and with just about anything she is asked to do.

• **Leslie Book** was chosen from Our Lady of Victory Catholic School in Victoria. She has joyfully shared her time and talents in school and church. She has served on the OLV Advisory Council for four years and is currently Advisory Council Vice President and committee liaison for Student Life on campus. Additionally, Leslie serves on the school's finance committee. She is active in the parish's Mothers of Grace, a ministry for mothers who want to raise their children with faith and a strong foundation of Catholic values. She also was one of the architects who worked on the design of The Cathedral Center.

• **Dr. John and Jennifer Wright** were chosen by Our Lady of the Gulf Catholic School in Port Lavaca for their many years

*See Volunteers honored, pg. 15*

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## Volunteers honored with Mother Elizabeth Ann Seton Awards

*Continued from pg. 14*

of service in a variety of ways. Dr. Wright spent six years on the School Advisory Council and served as chairman and on the finance committee. In addition to these important roles, he also provides his medical expertise with annual physicals for athletics, and is serving on the COVID Task Force Team to help the school develop protocols and address day-to-day COVID concerns. Jennifer has been part of the Christmas Pageant and performing arts costume squad for the past several years providing her expertise from her many years of experience with the local community theater. She been a blessing to our school in many ways.

• **Steven and Jennifer Steffek** received the award for Sacred Heart Catholic School in Hallettsville. Both graduated from SHS, along with two of their three children, and their youngest graduates in May. The couple has served on the Athletic Booster Club for more than 10 years with Steven serving as president for five years. Jennifer has always assisted in Steven's booster club duties. Steven also served on the SH School Advisory Council Board for six years and served as president for five of those years. The couple chaired the annual fried chicken meal for five years and co-chaired the annual booster club fudge making and sales. Jennifer served nine years on the annual SH Extravaganza Planning Committee and the Steffeks served as the event's bar chairman as well. They could be seen working at concession stands, battering chicken, selling SH spirit items and so much more.

• **Rhonda Garcia** received the award for

her service to St. Anthony Catholic School in Columbus. She has been actively involved in the SAS since 2006 when her oldest daughter started school. She currently has two daughter at SAS and is constant presence at the school. She has chaired the Halloween Carnival for several years and has even chaired the Spring Gala. These are the two largest fundraising events and the school could not thrive without them. Rhonda is also actively involved in the St. Anthony Church picnic as well.

• **Jennifer Jahn** was recognized as an award recipient by St. Joseph Catholic School in Yoakum. She has been an involved parent at St. Joseph School for more than 13 years, serving in various capacities including head room mother, PTC officer, gala chair-

man, long-term teacher substitute, and years of co-chairing JCDA for our parish. She also chaperones and drives for field trips and is always jumping on board with fun projects that recognize and benefit the students at SJS, whether that be repainting restrooms or supplying popsicles for rewards of achievement.

• **David Hartman** received the award for his dedication to St. Joseph High School in Victoria. He has coached at the school for ten years -- all on a volunteer basis while still working full time with his family business. He has coached football, powerlifting, and 7V7 football. Hartman Distributing supported St. Joe fundraisers for many years and he and his wife have personally helped students and families with the cost of tuition. His son, Kyle, graduated from STJ in 2012, but Hartman continues to be a presence in the school and on the sidelines.



*Jennifer Jahn, Mother Elizabeth Ann Seton Award recipient from St. Joseph School in Yoakum receives her award from Bishop Brendan Cahill.*



### Read-A-Thon winners

EL CAMPO — St. Philip Catholic School recently completed its annual Read-A-Thon. Students build a love of reading, raising funds for the School Endowment Fund and earning prizes and rewards. Students read from Feb. 22 to March 5, and sought donations for their reading efforts through March 19. This year students in preK-3 through eighth grade raised \$25,537.57 and read for 137,100 minutes.

(above) Top readers, from left, are front row, Acey Srubar, Ally Srubar, Jordan Wrobliski, Layton Tompkins, Callen Tompkins, Lane Dorotik; middle row, Macy Ellis, Kinley Whittington, Scollie Saha, Abigail Porter, Caroline Little; and back row, Stella Nohavitza, Abby Wallis, Brennen Wied, Anaclare Key, Presley Henke, Malorie Ellis, Bryan Cisneros.

(below) Top fundraisers, from left, are, front row, Wyatt Prasek, Acey Srubar, Case Janssen, Liesl Holub, Chandler Holub, Weston Williams, Pierson Prasek; and, back row, Isabel Wiese, Allie Zalman, Stella Nohavitza, Creed Nohavitza, Evelyn Harris.



Subject to change due to COVID

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### 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](http://www.victoriadiocese.org/youth-young-adult-ministry)

### Office of Family Evangelization



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

website: [www.victoriadiocese.org/office-of-family-evangelization](http://www.victoriadiocese.org/office-of-family-evangelization)



Women’s conference exceeds expectations

VICTORIA — On Saturday, April 24, nearly 200 women participated in the first annual diocesan women’s gathering, where they celebrated Mass, participated in a Eucharistic Procession and heard presentations by Bishop Brendan Cahill, television personality Father Cedric Pisegna, CP, and author Janice Carleton. The primary theme of the conference was “Arise and live life in the Holy Spirit,” fully encountering God’s love and letting it transform us. More than 80 women filled out response cards indicating they would like to deepen their involvement with women’s ministry opportunities within the diocese. In March a similar men’s gathering took place and also helped spark more involvement in developing ministries. Both gatherings took place at the Cathedral Center of Our Lady of Victory Cathedral and included men and women from across the diocese. *(Photos by Regina Janak/The Catholic Lighthouse)*

Sunday Readings from May 9 - June 13

May 9 ~ Sixth Sunday of Easter  
Acts 10:25-26, 34-35, 44-48  
Psalms 98:1, 2-3, 3-4  
1 John 4:7-10  
John 15:9-17

May 16 ~ Solemnity of the Ascension of the Lord  
Acts 1:1-11  
Psalms 47:2-3, 6-7, 8-9  
Ephesians 1:17-23  
Mark 16:15-20

May 23 ~ Pentecost Sunday  
Mass during the Day  
Acts 2:1-11  
Psalms 104:1, 24, 29-30, 31, 34  
1 Corinthians 12:3b-7, 12-13  
John 20:19-23

May 30 ~ The Solemnity of the Most Holy Trinity  
Deuteronomy 4:32-34, 39-40  
Psalms 33:4-5, 6, 9, 18-19, 20, 22  
Romans 8:14-17  
Matthew 28:16-20

June 6 ~ The Solemnity of the Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ  
Exodus 24:3-8  
Psalms 116:12-13, 15-16, 17-18  
Hebrews 9:11-15  
Mark 14:12-16, 22-26

June 13 ~ Eleventh Sunday in Ordinary Time  
Ezekiel 17:22-24  
Psalms 92:2-3, 13-14, 15-16  
2 Corinthians 5:6-10  
Mark 4:26-34



CDA poetry and essay contest winner

Flatonia Catholic Daughter Court #2570 Sacred Heart of Mother Teresa awarded AnaLyn Kozelsky, center, with a check for her two first-place entries in the National CDA Education Contest. AnaLyn entered the Essay and Poetry categories in Division 3 (Grades 9-12). This year’s theme is “Let all you do be done with Love” from 1 Corinthians 16:14. Entries were accepted until Feb. 1 from grades 4-12. Pictured with Kozelsky are Kathleen Svatek, education contest chair, left, and Karen Novak, court treasurer. *(Contributed Photo)*

Meetings for grieving parents

GANADO — Coping with the death of a child is very difficult. Parents are in a place they have never been before, often overwhelmed by the grief that follows. Grief does not end in a prescribed number of days, weeks, months or years. A group of parents who have suffered the loss of a child are having monthly meetings from 6:30 to 8 p.m. at Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary Catholic Church, 108 S. 6th Street, Ganado.

Meetings include the opportunity to pray, listen to presentations by clergy and other parents who have lost a child, and meet others on the grief journey. Participants are not required to share anything, and may just remain silent and listen if they’d like. Registration is free online at [www.victoriadiocese.org/](http://www.victoriadiocese.org/) Upcoming meeting dates are May 11, June 8, July 13 and Aug. 10.

Please also save the date for a weekend retreat Oct. 29-31 at the Spiritual Renewal Center in Victoria.

For more information, please contact Patricia Hoelscher 979-257 9984, [phoelscher@victoriadiocese.org](mailto:phoelscher@victoriadiocese.org) or Deacon Larry Hoelscher, 979-578 3934, [lhoelscher@victoriadiocese.org](mailto:lhoelscher@victoriadiocese.org).

Meeting dates and webpage for grief support: <https://www.victoriadiocese.org/grief-support>

Safe Environment

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

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

and

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

or

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

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





## Family event May 22 mixes faith with fun

One thing I've learned as a parent is that the faith needs to be fun for small children to stay interested and engaged. My wife does a great job reminding me of this, as I sometimes want to make sure the kids know the right things or pray the right way. She reminds me time and time again that they are kids, and need to be able to act like kids.

With that in mind, the diocese is hosting an Easter event for families with children of all ages from 9 a.m. to noon Saturday, May 22, at Holy Family in Victoria. It offers a chance to pray, play games, do a craft, and enjoy a picnic lunch with cake. The focus of the day will be on the significance of Jesus' resurrection and there will be many kid-centric activities. I hope your loved ones can join us by registering at <http://www.victoriadiocese.org/FIAT>.

Thinking back, this lesson of fun and faith played out for me personally. Growing up, my family didn't always attend Sunday Mass. We didn't understand the importance. But my parents did put me in a Catholic school where I met priests and religious who could change my life. They genuinely cared about me, and the community was full of fun things to do. Because of this, I had great memories of the church.

When I entered college, I took a break

### On the Table

By Justin Reyes



from God by not going to Mass except on rare occasions. This left me broken, empty and confused. When I was at my lowest, it occurred to me that I should return to Mass. Had it not been for the great memories growing up, I would not have looked that way. But, because of the relationships from growing up around the church and the moments I could remember seeing that God was present, I turned back to Him.

Every child should look back on their time in the church and have fond memories. The church should be a place of love for them, where they know they can come when life gets hard. Hopefully they never take a break like I did. Life is best when we spend it with Jesus.

Make sure families, and especially children, feel welcome at church. Make sure they are having fun. This can come in the form of giving them a smile at Mass, complimenting their parents in the parking lot, and helping

your parish to host events like upcoming diocesan Easter gathering. Together, we can all make the church a welcoming place for families and children, so they come to know the love God and always want to stay close to Him.

If you want information on how to start family-based activities at your parish, please give me a call or email me at 361-573-0828 x 2265 and [jreyes@victoriadiocese.org](mailto:jreyes@victoriadiocese.org). We have a whole playbook of events parishes can do that are fun and engaging for families with children.

Until next time, I hope this reflection is something you can discuss with your family. What are you doing to help the children have fun with the faith? Respond to Jesus' command to "... Let the children come to me, and do not prevent them; for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these." (Matthew 19:14)

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

## Catholic Rural Life coordinates national St. Isidore novena

Another national novena to St. Isidore will take place through the efforts of U.S. bishops and the Catholic Rural Life organization.

The novena begins May 7 and goes through May 15 when a Mass will be celebrated by Bishop Brendan Cahill, president of the board of directors for Catholic Rural Life.

Bishop Cahill also will open the novena by leading Day 1 of the prayers.

Each day of prayers will be broadcast on the Catholic Rural Life Facebook Page so that anyone can join in. There also are Spanish-language videos from last year on the Catholic Rural Life website.

Last year people viewed



the livestreamed Mass from all corners of the United States.

The leaders for this year are as follows:  
May 7, Friday - Day 1, Bishop Brendan Cahill

May 8, Saturday, Day 2, Bishop John Folda

May 9, Sunday, Day 3, Bishop Robert Gruss

May 10, Monday, Day 4, Bishop Shawn McKnight

May 11 - Tuesday, Day 5, Archbishop Paul Etienne

May 12 - Wednesday, Day 6, Bishop Gerald Vincke

May 13 - Thursday, Day 7, Bishop Michael Sis

May 14 - Friday, Day 8, Bishop Myron Cotta

May 15 - Saturday, Day 9, Bishop Brendan Cahill

May 15 - Mass to St. Isidore, Bishop Brendan Cahill

## 35<sup>th</sup> Annual SHINER Catholic Church Spring PICNIC Sunday May 30, 2021

At the KC Park - 102 South Ave. G in Shiner, Texas



Pre-Picnic Event on Saturday, May 29th  
Motorcycle Run - Registration 11:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.  
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2:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.

**SHINER HOBO BAND**

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2:00 pm – 4:00 pm ♦ toLoveandRescue

4:00 pm – 6:30 pm ♦ Steven Curd

6:30 pm – 10:30 pm ♦ Chris Rybak Band

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**BIG COUNTRY AUCTION** at 12 pm

Cattle Auction 3 pm

**BINGO** in A/C Dining Room

3 p.m. – 7 p.m.

**GROCERY WHEEL** – 5 p.m.



# Stella Maris - Estrella del Mar una luz que nos lleve a la esperanza

## Mensaje del Pastor

By Obispo Brendan Cahill



Queridos hermanos y hermanas,  
San Bernardo de Clairvaux escribió las siguientes palabras al reflexionar sobre María como Stella Maris, Estrella del Mar:

“En peligro; en la angustia, en la duda, reflexiona sobre María, llama a María. No dejes que ella abandone tus labios, no dejes que abandone tu corazón y no abandones tus tratos con ella si deseas ganar el objeto de tu oración. Siguiéndola, no te desviarás; rezándole, no desesperarás; reflexionando sobre ella, no te equivocarás. Con ella tomando tu mano, no caerás; con ella protegiéndote, no temerás; con ella guiándote, no te cansarás...” (Alabanza a la Virgen María).

En este mes en el que honramos a María con nuestras tradicionales coronaciones de mayo, devociones y oraciones, muchos de nosotros podemos reflexionar sobre los momentos en que la hemos pedido ayuda y nuestras oraciones fueron respondidas.

La tradición cristiana de orar por la guía de María se remonta mucho antes de que San Bernardo escribiera sus inspiradoras y sentidas palabras en el siglo XII. María continúa guiando a sus hijos a través de las tormentas y pruebas de la vida, guiándonos

con la luz de su Hijo.

La hermosa imagen de la estrella del mar nos recuerda que nunca estamos solos. El año pasado ha sido especialmente desafiante porque las circunstancias de la vida hicieron que muchos de nosotros nos sintiéramos solos y aislados. Recuerdo bien el año pasado en este momento cuando me sentí impotente en medio de tantos mensajes contradictorios fuera de mi control. En medio de todo eso, sentí que podía mirar a la Estrella y rezar por esperanza. Incluso en medio del sufrimiento y la muerte, la oración del rosario nos recuerda gentilmente que Jesús vivió para enseñarnos que los que creen en Él “no morirán jamás” (Juan 11:26).

María, nuestra Madre y Estrella del Mar, nos ofrece consuelo a cada uno de nosotros como su hijo. Las palabras Stella Maris también significan el ministerio católico internacional entre la gente del mar.

El 20 de mayo, ofreceré una oración por el Día Marítimo del Departamento de Transporte de EE. UU. En el que nosotros, como nación, “reconocemos a los hombres y mujeres trabajadores de la Marina Mercante de EE. UU. Y la industria marítima por los

servicios vitales que brindan en apoyo del bienestar económico y la seguridad nacional de nuestra nación”.

Esa noche, el ministerio Stella Maris en los Estados Unidos ofrecerá un servicio de oración con la intención especial para todas las mujeres y hombres que sirven en los mares.

El volver nuestros corazones a María, nuestra Madre celestial, nos lleva también a

honrar a nuestras madres terrenales y a las mujeres especiales que nos han dado esperanza y curación. Que cada una de vuestras familias tenga un bendito y santo Día de la Madre, y que siempre honremos a todas las mujeres que nos han transmitido el don de la vida; mantengámonos en oración!

+Brendan



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## Meals • Picnics and More

## May

**Victoria** – Day of Reflection for anyone who has experienced divorce or separation, May 8, from 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. at the Spiritual Renewal Center. Presenters include Bishop Brendan Cahill. Cost is \$10 to register. Lunch is included. For more information, contact Justin Reyes, director of Family Evangelization at the Diocese of Victoria, 361-573-0828, Ext. 2265.

**Cuero** – St. Michael Annual Parish Spring Festival on May 16, on the parish grounds. A roast beef dinner with all the trimmings will be served from 11 a.m. until 1 p.m. All plates will be packaged as to-go plates, with options for outdoor dining on-site or drive thru for plates to-go. Meal tickets are \$12.00. See ad on pg. 8.

**Wharton** – Our Lady of Mount Carmel Bazaar Dinner and Raffle, May 16, 11 a.m.-1 p.m. at 506 S. East Ave. A drive-thru Chicken fried chicken dinner catered by Rena's Café will be sold for \$10 per plate. Tickets Available Pre-Sale (also on the day of the meal) after all masses, Parish Office or contacting Tina Rivera at 979-531-9390 or Lizzie Aguilar at 979-330-3639. A virtual raffle will be held at 1 p.m. on their Facebook page OLMCWharton.

**Victoria** – Father Donald Calloway, MIC, will be in Victoria May 27 for a presentation and signing of his book "Consecration to St. Joseph," which has sold thousands of copies around the world. He will be at Our Lady of Victory's Cathedral Center at 7 p.m. Doors open at 6 p.m.

**Hallettsville** – Sacred Heart Spring Picnic, May 30, at the Knights of Columbus Hall. Serving fried chicken, stew, homemade dressing and more. Auction at 1 p.m.; music throughout the day from 1-7 p.m.; Washing Pitching tournament at 5 p.m. See ad on pg. 12.

**Shiner** – Sts. Cyril and Methodius Spring Picnic, May 30, at the Knights of Columbus Hall. Serving fried chicken, stew, sausage, and more. Music throughout the inside and outside from 11 a.m.-midnight; auction at noon; petting zoo from 2-5 p.m. See ad on pg. 17.

## June

**East Bernard** – The Annual Czech Kolache Klobase Festival will be June 12 from 10:30 a.m. to 8 p.m. at Riverside Hall sponsored by KJT Society No. 40. Admission is \$8 per person and children 12 and under free. Entertainment indoors and under pavilion with water fan-cooled comfort. Sausage and barbecued chicken plate lunches available for purchase beginning at 11 a.m. Hamburgers and sausage sandwiches available in the afternoon. There will be arts and crafts and a cake walk. For more info, go to [www.kkfest.com](http://www.kkfest.com) or call 979-335-7907.

## August

**Victoria** – A Retrouvaille Marriage Weekend is scheduled for Aug. 6-8 for the Victoria area. The event is for hurting marriages. For information, visit [HelpOurMarriage.org](http://HelpOurMarriage.org) or call 1-800-470-2330 for confidential inquiries.

## September

**MARK YOUR CALENDARS:** The 34th annual Catholic Conference for the Diocese of Victoria will take place Sept. 25. The event is still in the planning stage and more details will be published later.

## 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 e-mail [dovactschapter@victoriadiocese.org](mailto:dovactschapter@victoriadiocese.org).

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

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

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

**Surviving Divorce** – Surviving Divorce will help you work through the emotional upheaval of separation and divorce; find personal healing and hope; discover a deeper understanding of God's love for you; gain wisdom and comfort from experts and others who share your experience; navigate new concerns like custody, court hearings, and finances. We have a group currently meeting and registration is closed for this season. We plan to host another group in fall 2021. If you have any questions or need support, please contact the Office of Family Evangelization at 361-573-0828 x 2265 or [jreyes@victoriadiocese.org](mailto:jreyes@victoriadiocese.org)

**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** – 2021 Dates: 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 <http://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 at 361-676-3264 or [lisa\\_heysquierdo@yahoo.com](mailto:lisa_heysquierdo@yahoo.com); DeWitt County meetings have changed: For meetings, call or text the coordinator for the Dewitt chapter, Wayne Smith, at 361-491-0339.

**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](mailto:id916victoria@gmail.com).

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

**Mothers of Grace** – A mothers' group at the Cathedral of Our Lady of Victory. For information, contact Leslie Book at [book.leslie@gmail.com](mailto:book.leslie@gmail.com) or visit their Facebook page at [www.facebook.com/Mothersofgraceolv/](http://www.facebook.com/Mothersofgraceolv/).

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

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

**Retrouvaille** – Retrouvaille, meaning "rediscovery," is a marriage-healing ministry offered in the diocese to couples in difficult marriages. Contact John and Jennifer Vincent at [jbvjov@sbcglobal.net](mailto:jbvjov@sbcglobal.net) or 361-580-2770; or call 800-470-2230; or visit <http://www.helpourmarriage.org>

## 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. Look on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/dovfe>. Or you can search out the podcasts by going to <http://www.buzzsprout.com/1404520>.

## 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 <http://www.victoriadiocese.org> to learn more about the Year of the Family resources.

## Walking with Moms in Need

This is a special project that the USCCB is encouraging in parishes around the nation to help struggling mothers. Find out ways you can help by visiting <https://www.walkingwithmoms.com>.



## Moms groups offer support and a little escape from the day-to-day

*Continued from pg. 1*

come when they can. “That’s how I’ve met all my friends. It makes you feel so much more a part of the community,” Ruiz said.

The Mothers of Grace is not designed solely for moms from the OLV parish. There are women from other parishes and even other towns. They have had members who are not Catholic and some who have had no religious affiliation.

“It’s mothers from all walks of life,” Ruiz said.

Different ages are welcome, too, though currently the mothers are all younger with small children.

Vincent said she attended one with a panel of more mature moms, calling themselves “Mothers of Grays,” so the younger moms could benefit from their wisdom and experience as mothers.

Ruiz said the group meets every other week, which seems to work best for their busy schedules and try to provide childcare when requested so moms are able to make it to the meetings. She encourages all moms to come at least once if they are curious or in need of support. “Once someone comes the first time, they’re going to know if it is for them,” she said.

Aftan Puente joined the group shortly after it was formed and said, “I was looking in the church bulletin and I thought this would be a nice way to get to meet more people. So I went.” Last year she did not attend because she went through the RCIA program and said the group has helped her faith grow. “It was eye-opening to see what is being done at home – the different things they do.” She said books and reflections have been shared that help her in creating the domestic church.

The groups May meetings are the 4th and the 18th, when Father Dalton Ervin will give a presentation on spiritual warfare.

Some moms groups have been around for a long time. The Confraternity of Christian Mothers Society 716 is a ministry of Sacred Heart in Hallettsville. The group got its start 110 years ago, according to Ana Henke, the group’s president.

According to a written history, the group was originally a German organization that met after the last Mass on Sundays to pray for one another – “for the grace to become better wives and mothers and to pray for their children.”

They adopted the English language in the 1930s.

Henke said she was looking for a group to join and was invited to come to the mother’s group. She said they enjoy many different age groups from new moms to grandmothers and serve as an outreach to expectant mothers and to people in nursing homes.

“We have a St. Gerard’s committee whose purpose is to educate all women to the dignity of motherhood, the joys and blessings attached by God to this condition of life, and to foster child welfare and provide mutual aid to the expectant mothers. Members with their first child are given a quilt, which is quilted by the committee,” according to a written profile of the group, provided by longtime member Barbara Grahmann. “Our Cheer and Sunshine Committee visits the sick, nursing home patients, and shut-ins. They also send get-well cards to our members and sympathy cards to members who have lost a loved one.”

Other projects sponsored or supported by the Christian Mothers include:

- Baptismal bibs for newly baptized in the parish since 1971
- Pre-school children’s bulletin given out each Sunday since 1994.
- First Communion Pins for the First



*Jennifer Ruiz plays with her two youngest children in her back yard. She and her husband have five kids and one on the way. When they moved to Victoria she sought out a mom’s group. She discovered there was not one, so she helped organize Mothers of Grace at Our Lady of Victory Cathedral.*

Communicants of the parish since 1996.

- Church bulletin once a year.
- Radio broadcast of Sunday Mass once a year.
- Sacred Heart School Marathon donation
- Sacred Heart School Jr. High Scholarship Fund.
- Scholarship to a Sacred Heart and Hallettsville High School senior.
- A donation sent to the Philippines for a needy family.

Henke said one of the most popular things they do is bunco night because it gives moms a chance to escape for a while and enjoy the fellowship of other women.

Also, they have interesting presenters from the community that allow them to stay informed on what is going on and what resources are available.

Karen Franz heads up the Confraternity of Christian Mothers at St. Joseph Catholic Church in Inez, which is a little different than the other groups. “Our purpose mainly is to pray for families,” she said.

Her group was more active when it began in 1980, but now they are more behind the scenes supporting important events at the church – like moms do. They are the ones who make the cakes and kolaches and such for the picnics and jump in wherever they can help.

They used to have regular, more formal, meetings when the group was bigger. “I think we met more after the meetings, if you know what I mean.” Again, the fellowship was the best part.

“It really helped, because the older ones were there to help us,” Franz said.

## A Prayer in Gratitude for Our Mothers

Good and Gentle God,

we pray in gratitude for our mothers and for all the women of theory who have joined with you in the wonder of bringing forth new life. You who became human through a woman, grant to all mothers the courage they need to face the uncertain future that life with children always brings.

Give them the strength to live and to be loved in return, not perfectly, but humanly.

Give them the faithful support of husband, family and friends as they care for the physical and spiritual growth of their children.

Give them joy and delight in their children to sustain them through the trials of motherhood. Most of all, give them the wisdom to turn to you for help when they need it most.



- Author Unknown