October a time to pray for life, peace and family

JANET JONES
The Catholic Lighthouse

Like the beads of a rosary, the prayers, intentions and opportunities in October will be numerous and connected.

Bishop Brendan Cahill opens the Rosary Congress for 2021 at 9 a.m. Mass at the Cathedral of Our Lady of Victory in Victoria. This year we look to “Christ our Peace” as we ask the Blessed Virgin for her favor and prayers. The whole month of October is dedicated to the rosary, but the Rosary Congress is week of intense prayer as someone will be praying the rosary during Adoration at all times in the diocese.

October is also Respect Life Month and the annual Life Chain takes place Oct. 3 in

See October a time to pray, pg. 3

Czech Mass in Shiner ‘a taste’ of celebration in St. Ludmila’s homeland

JANET JONES
The Catholic Lighthouse

SHINER -- Celebrating saints’ feast days in the Catholic Church is a regular happening. But this year is especially important for Czech Catholics, including the descendants of Czech immigrants who settled in this area of Texas. On Sept. 16, many of the Czech descendants joined the celebration the 1100th anniversary of the martyrdom of St. Ludmila.

The Most Rev. Gary Janak, one of two Czech bishops in the state, returned to his hometown diocese to serve as the main celebrant for the Mass at Sts. Cyril and Methodius Catholic Church. Also present were members of the Czech Catholic Foundation of Texas, inaugurated last year to “preserve, celebrate and perpetuate” the faith transplanted in Texas by their Czech ancestors, according to the group’s mission statement.

The foundation was the organizer of the special celebration, but others attended out of love for the culture and to represent the Czech Catholic organizations in Texas. The Mass included Czech hymns and guests from as far away as Chicago who joined voices with locals to make a choir.

“We recall the example of faith that St. Ludmila gives to us,” Bishop Janak said during his homily. “Like her grandson, St. Wenceslas, who also died a martyr’s death, she was to symbolize the beginnings of Czech sainthood and Czech statehood.”

St. Ludmila is one of the people who helped spread Catholicism in the Czech Republic, along with her husband, the Duke of Bohemia. Both were converts baptized by St. Methodius, one of the Apostles to the Slavs. (He and his brother, St. Cyril, brought the faith to the people in part by translating scriptures into the native language.) After her sons died, she became the educator of her grandson, St. Wenceslas, and was ultimately murdered at the order of her daughter-in-law, strangled by her own scarf.

Because of the importance of the anniversary of her death on Sept. 15, 921, Pope Francis named Cardinal Christoph Schönborn as his special envoy to the 1100th anniversary, according to Vatican news sources. The main celebration in the Czech Republic was Sept. 18 in Tetin, where she was martyred.

“This is an historic occasion. What we are doing here in Shiner is just a little taste of what they’ve been doing all year in the Czech Republic,” Janak said. Janak said research of Marvin Marek, who is one of the founders of the Czech Catholic Foundation in Texas, showed that there were two institutions named after Ludmilla in Texas, one is the elementary school in Shiner and the other was a church established in 1911 that no longer exists.

There have been seven KJZT (a Czech

See Czech Mass in Shiner ‘a taste’ of celebration in St. Ludmila’s homeland, pg. 12
‘Christ our Peace’ theme covers intentions for 2021 Rosary Congress

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

The theme for our Rosary Congress this year comes from the teaching of St. John Paul II in Rosarium Virginis Mariae (Oct. 16, 2002). Promoting devotion to the Rosary for Catholics around the world, he wrote: “At the start of a millennium which began with the terrifying attacks of 11 September 2001, a millennium which witnesses every day in numerous parts of the world fresh scenes of bloodshed and violence, to rediscover the Rosary means to immerse oneself in contemplation of the mystery of Christ who ‘is our peace,’ since he made ‘the two of us one, and broke down the dividing wall of hostility’ (Eph 2:14).” (RVM No. 6)

During the week of Oct. 3-10, there will be plenty of opportunities for prayer, fasting and spiritual offerings in which we can focus our thoughts on Jesus, who is the source of peace. As our offerings are joined with the sacrificial love of Jesus and the sacrifices of our brothers and sisters around the diocese, we can pray boldly – presenting to Jesus our specific intentions. The Letter to the Hebrews shows us the example of our prayer in the prayer of Jesus in the Garden of Gethsemane: “In the days of his flesh, Jesus offered up prayers and supplications, with loud cries and tears, to the one who was able to save him from death, and he was heard because of his reverent submission.” (Hebrews 5:7)

St. Patrick, Seadrift Fall Festival
310 Cleveland Ave
Sunday, October 31
11:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.
Turkey & Dressing Dinner
$12 per plate
Raffle, Silent Auction, Bake Sale, Country Store, Face Painting, Homemade Eggrolls, Fried Rice

From his heavenly throne, Jesus now hears our prayers and supplications. For this year’s Rosary Congress I’m asking everyone to pray for some particular intentions in addition to our personal intentions:

First, we pray for peace throughout the world, especially peace in the Middle East; for an end to the conflicts in Iraq and Afghanistan; and for God’s protection for all our military personnel, especially those serving overseas.

Second, we pray for our families, that the Holy Spirit may give us wisdom and courage; that our homes may be safe “nests” where life is nurtured and cherished; and that we may be open to the forgiveness and mercy that flows from the heart of Jesus.

Third, we pray for those who feel distanced from Jesus and feel “lost,” that the Holy Spirit may give them hope; that we may have listening hearts and be instruments of healing; that the Church may be open and welcoming to all those in need.

Fourth, we pray in reparation for the sins committed by our bishops and priests, that the Holy Spirit may bring healing to those who have been abused; that those who have committed grave sins may be led to conversion and accountability; that the Church may defend and proclaim the value of every human life.

May the week of our Rosary Congress bless all of our families as we turn our hearts and our minds to our Prince of Peace, and join with one another in offering prayers and supplications. God bless you; let’s keep each other in prayer.

+Brendan

Fall gathering
BASTROP — The priests of the Diocese of Victoria gathered recently for their fall convocation, which provides them a few days away from the office to study and reflect on Sacred Scripture in the life of a priest. Stephen J. Binz of Baton Rouge was the presenter. Binz is an award-winning author and biblical scholar who focuses on building bridges “between people, cultures and traditions,” according to his website. (Contributed Photo)
October a time to pray for life, peace and family

Continued from pg. 1

Victoria. The focus for Respect Life Month 2021 is St. Joseph Defender of Life.
Each special designation of October dovetails into the next, and one focus serves to strengthen the other.
One of the stated intentions for the Rosary Congress in the Diocese of Victoria is that our family homes are places of peace and nurture. (See Shepherd’s Message, Page 2, for the complete list.)
The diocese spent the last year celebrating its Year of the Family, which opened during the 2020 Rosary Congress. The Oct. 3 Mass will also signal a close to the formal year, but, hopefully, not an end to family activities suggested during the year.
Since October 2020, a committee of individuals from each deanery of the diocese has met to discuss initiatives for the Year of the Family and provided resources for each parish to share with families. The resources were widely distributed by schools, churches and through CCD program in the hopes that families would take time to “Pray, Eat, and Play” as a unit to grow closer to one another and to God.
To keep the momentum going, a family day honoring Mary, Queen of Families, takes place at Holy Family Church in Victoria. Bishop Brendan Cahill will join families for prayer, reflection, games and more. Families are asked to sign up on the diocese website for this event.

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

Rev. Frank B. Lenz 10/29/1994
Sacred Heart, Hallettsville
Retired

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

Rev. Joseph Vrana 10/10/2016

Even though I walk through the darkest valley,
I fear no evil for you are with me
your rod and your staff, they comfort me.  Psalms 23:4
### 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 - $0.01 - $99.99
- Acolyte – $100 - $499.99
- Candidate – $500 - $1,499.99
- Transitional Deacon – $1,500 - $2,499.99
- Priest – $2,500+

Publication of this fund will appear when new contributions are received.

### 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 - $0.01 - $99.99
- Acolyte – $100 - $499.99
- Candidate – $500 - $1,499.99
- Transitional Deacon – $1,500 - $2,499.99
- Priest – $2,500+

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### Pray 4 Vocations

**Incarnate Word & Blessed Sacrament Gift Shop**

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Acts of love too often are thankless gestures

EDITOR’S NOTE: The following sermon was written for the 28th Sunday in Ordinary Time, Cycle C, and titled, “The Power of Gratitude.”

Nine of the 10 lepers whom Jesus cleansed were Israelites. Although they came from a long line of chosen people upon whom God had, over the centuries, bestowed his choicest blessings, they were the ungrateful ones. The one appreciative one came from a half-breed, heretic nation despised by the Israelites.

“Was there no one to return and give thanks to God except this foreigner?” Jesus lamented.

Although in our day, leprosy—now known as Hansen’s disease—is relatively rare, ingratitude is not.

Have you ever given some prized possession to a friend and have him sell it or throw it away? Have you ever given money to someone who was down on his luck and later discovered that he had spent it on a drink or a fix? Have you ever heard a person in need of food or clothing say, “My children don’t like to eat that,” or “We don’t want a shirt with a button missing.”

An elderly friend of mine once donated her cherished old wheelbarrow to a fundraiser auction. It carried with it many pleasant memories of days gone by. “They didn’t even try to eat that,” or “We don’t want a shirt with a button missing.”

An elderly friend of mine once donated her cherished old wheelbarrow to a fundraiser auction. It carried with it many pleasant memories of days gone by. “They didn’t even try to eat that,” or “We don’t want a shirt with a button missing.”

A recent news report told of a country where the inflation rate is a staggering 1,200 percent per year, making it impossible for anyone to get ahead. Our inflation rate is only a few percent, yet we complain of small gains, hard times and high prices.

We complain of being overworked and underpaid. One American autoworker earning $12 an hour went on strike to get more. A man in Mexico was feeding his whole family on $12 a DAY.

We have insurance and pension plans and savings accounts and we have nursing homes to go to in our old age. Yet we complain about insecurity.

We live in a country where we can legally strike and protest and burn our flag and even kill the unborn.

A lady once told me, “I don’t go to church because I would be going for the wrong reasons and that’s a sin.” A man said, “I don’t go because there are hypocrites there.” I met ONE man who left the Church and never came back because a priest had once spoken a rude word to him. How many souls there are who have no church to go to and wish they had.

Of all the blessings we enjoy, we Christians count our faith in Jesus Christ as the greatest and the best. Through Him we have redemption and through Him we have the deep assurance that both life and death have true meaning. Indeed, we, of all people living on the earth today, should be the most grateful.

If love makes the world go ‘round, surely close behind it is the moving power of gratitude, and if there is any one key to favor in the future, it must surely be gratitude for favors in the past.

So today we meditate for a moment on the story about Jesus healing the 10 lepers and we take note of his great disappointment over the ingratitude of all but one.

We reflect on our own feelings toward those who have been ungrateful toward us.

We recall our own frequent lack of appreciation for what others have done for us and we resolve that from this day forward we will give thanks again and again for every favor received.

Lord Jesus, thank you for teaching us about the great power of gratitude. Help us to be ever more thankful for every favor received. Grant that a growing spirit of gratitude may come to prevail among God’s children all over the world. Amen.
Finding Beauty in Mystery
By Sister Rosario Resendez, IWBS

October has many different days to celebrate. Oct. 7 is the feast day for Our Lady of the Rosary or Our Lady of Victory. October itself is dedicated as the month of the rosary.

We sisters have our feast days or name days as some call it. Since I’m Sister Maria del Rosario, my feast day is Oct. 7; however, I claim the whole month. I’m the only sister that I know of that has a feast month!

Oct. 4 is National Taco Day. It is also St. Francis of Assisi’s feast day. In the October Lighthouse I’m sure there will be many stories about the rosary, especially since the Rosary Congress will take place again this year, and although I like to celebrate National Taco Day, today I wish to write about St. Francis.

I think we all know the story of the rich young man who gave up all that he owned including the clothes on his back so that he could live as one with the poor; how God touched this man so profoundly that the only thing that he could do was share that love with everything and everyone.

Many times we see statues or paintings depicting the saints in a certain way. St. Francis is always on a birdbath holding birds, or a garden statue holding birds, or on a window decal once again holding birds. One may think he was the patron saint of birds. Every once in a while you see him depicted as bringing Jesus down from the cross.

Sometimes you see him with a wolf by his side.

I really like that story: A wolf was terrorizing a village, and the people wanted to kill it. Supposedly, St. Francis went to the wolf and talked to it, convincing it to no longer kill any of the village people and the village people would be sure it always had food to eat. The wolf agreed and became somewhat of a pet to the villagers who fed it until it died of natural causes.

St. Francis is always portrayed with animals but he had a deep love for all of creation. He loved creation because he loved the creator. In Ladauto Si, Pope Francis writes: “Our insistence that each human being is an image of God should not make us overlook the fact that each creature has its own purpose. None is superfluous. The entire material universe speaks of God’s love, his boundless affection for us. Soil, water, mountains: everything is, as it were, a caress of God.” (Paragraph 84)

A caress of God -- a gift from Him to us that He gives us with love: I think to myself, do I love His gift with even a fraction of the love He had in giving me this gift of life on this planet? How can I make sure this gift will be here and still be beautiful for the future generations?

This year I decided not to buy any new clothes because I read that the clothing industry is one of the largest pollutants for the environment. (It’s October and I have, so far, succeeded.) Now that is far from giving up all my clothes and belongings like St. Francis did, but it’s a small step. Last year I bought silicone sandwich bags that I still wash and reuse after using them for my lunch at work. I also bring along my own water bottle and coffee cup to meetings that I have to attend so as not to use Styrofoam or disposable cups and water bottles. Again, far from anything St. Francis did, but it’s a small step. I have stopped killing bees, spiders, and such, when I am able to release them back outside. Not anywhere close to having a dialogue with a wolf, but still finding a way to not kill unnecessarily. (The death of a mosquito, in my opinion, is always necessary.)

St. Francis is a great saint, he is someone we can admire and take small steps to show God how much we love His gift to us. I think Pope Francis did well in taking his name when he became pope, and I think he’s wise to tell us: “All of us can cooperate as instruments of God for the care of creation, each according to his or her own culture, experience, involvements and talents.” (Ladauto Si, Paragraph 14).

Is there a small step we can commit to today to care for creation?
IWBS Sisters ‘tour’ 5 nations in a day

JANET JONES
The Catholic Lighthouse

VICTORIA — The Sisters at the Incarnate Word and Blessed Sacrament toured five Spanish-speaking countries on Sept. 19 without leaving the convent. It was a celebration of National Hispanic Heritage Month, which began Sept. 15 and continues through Oct. 15.

Ricardo Salinas, giving a presentation on Mexico along with Hispanic Ministry Coordinator for the diocese Aldo Camacho, kicked around a soccer ball and asked if anyone could name the national sport of Mexico. Although soccer or “fútbol” is popular there, the national sport is charreía, what Texans would call rodeo. While he did that, his wife, Melissa, the human resources director for the Diocese of Victoria, along with Melissa Perales, director of the Office of Safe Environment, offered a presentation on Spain.

With help from other diocesan employees and their families, five countries total were represented, the others being Uruguay, Guatemala, Honduras and Argentina. The Sisters each got a “passport” to be stamped upon entering each space and discovering more about the faith, the culture and the unique gifts to the world each country provides.

According to the website hispanicheritagemonth.gov, “The observation started in 1968 as Hispanic Heritage Week under President Lyndon Johnson and was expanded by President Ronald Reagan in 1988 to cover a 30-day period starting on September 15 and ending on October 15. It was enacted into law on August 17, 1988, on the approval of Public Law 100-402.

“The day of September 15 is significant because it is the anniversary of independence for Latin American countries Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras and Nicaragua. In addition, Mexico and Chile celebrate their independence days on September 16 and September 18, respectively. Also, Columbus Day or Día de la Raza, which is October 12, falls within this 30-day period.”

Sister Maria del Rosario Resendez organized the event for her community. She and Valeria Dubourdieu, a counselor at the Emmaus Center, are also featured on the podcast “Parmanezcan,” discussing their own experiences as Hispanic women and the influence their culture has had on their faith. The Spanish-language podcast is available on Spotify and Apple podcasts as well as on the Diocese of Victoria Ministerio Hispano Facebook page.

The Rev. Albert Yankey, IWBS chaplain, takes a swing at the piñata during a Hispanic Heritage Month celebration at Incarnate Word and Blessed Sacrament convent. (Contributed Photo)

(above) Sister Clare Underbrink, IWBS, decked out as a quintessential tourist ready to experience five countries in an hour and a half during a special celebration of Hispanic Heritage Month. (Janet Jones/The Catholic Lighthouse)

(left) Valeria Dubourdieu, counselor at the Emmaus Counseling Center, is a native of Uruguay who did a presentation on her country’s culture Sept. 19 for Sisters of the Incarnate Word and Blessed Sacrament during a Hispanic Heritage Month program at the convent.

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KCs donate to OLV

VICTORIA — The Knights of Columbus Council 1329 donated $500 to Our Lady of Victory School. The money will be used for supporting the 2021-22 Annual Fund. Pictured, from left, are Chris Krejci, KC treasurer; Justin Matias, OLV principal; and Donald Shellenbarger, KC grand knight. (Contributed Photo)

KCs donate to Nazareth Academy

VICTORIA — The Knights of Columbus Council 1329 donated $500 to Nazareth Academy School. The funds will be used towards the purchase of the Fountas and Pinnell Leveled Literacy Intervention bundle collection for third and fourth grades. Pictured, from left, are Donald Shellenbarger KC grand knight; Sister Ann Meletio, IWBS, NA business manager; and Chris Krejci, KC treasurer. (Contributed Photo)

St. Michael’s Catholic School

FALL FESTIVAL

Sunday, October 24, 2021
10:30 am – 4:00 pm
Mass at 10:00 am

Lunch Served
11 am - 1 pm
$12.00/plate

Home-style Chicken Fried Steak, Gravy, Mashed Potatoes, Green Beans and Dessert
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Patriot’s Day celebration

CUERO — St. Michael’s Catholic School in Cuero remembered 9/11. The students and staff prayed for peace, folded the flag with prayer and symbolism for each fold, recited the Pledge of Allegiance and sang “America the Beautiful.” The most important thing that the school remembered together was the strong patriotism that immediately followed 9/11 and the fact that we all, collectively, as a nation and with the world, no matter our religion, prayed together. They also reflected on the fact that our nation was founded with a strong commitment to God. Our children are the future. It is through their future leadership that we will become a strong, loving, and tolerant nation. (Contributed Photo)
SCHOOLS

St. Michael Student Council

WEIMAR – St. Michael Catholic School student council for the year 2021-22 are, from left, front row: Sarah Jane Berger, fifth-grade representative; Ella Herzik, sixth-grade representative; Chloe Brandt, fifth-grade representative; Andie Melnar, elementary representative; and, back row, Hudson Hillje, sixth-grade representative; Tucker Janak, seventh-grade representative; Hudson Rowland, eighth-grade representative; Hunter Shupak, secretary/treasurer; Kylie Ohnheiser, president; Brinson Huette, seventh-grade representative; Emma Koeth, vice president. (Contributed Photo)

Science enthusiasts form club at St. Rose

SCHULENBURG — St. Rose of Lima Catholic School’s Science Club members were educated and entertained recently by Laura Sherrod, a wildlife biologist at Texas Parks and Wildlife.

Mrs. Sherrod shared her knowledge of wildlife conservation including topics like: how to identify animal activity in the wild; the difference between predator and prey; and, what to do if you find a sick or injured animal.

There, students also had a surprise visitor -- Odie the Otter.

Odie was rescued as a pup after he was found in a junkyard without his mother or littermates. Mrs. Sherrod, a certified wildlife rehabilitator, has been rehabilitating him since his rescue.

The Science Club at St. Rose is in its inaugural year and open to students in grades one through eight. This year’s theme is “Nature.”

The club meets monthly and will focus on ecology, conservation, agriculture, animals, plants, recycling, and much more.

Each meeting will be lead by an expert in his or her field.

Students will be learning through hands-on experiences with the intent of enriching their knowledge, curiosity, and passion for science.

Cara Bartek is the parent who is sponsoring the club. She came to the area from Corpus Christi where her children attended St. Pius X. She began a similar club there to help enrich the curriculum and nurture a passion for science.

“My husband and I have backgrounds in science and have worked in those industries,” she stated. “From my personal experience, there is a gap in who is innovating and leading discovery.”

She said the agricultural community is dealing with complex problems to ensure a food supply to the world, and “the current environment requires that we work with more complex diseases and pests, increased regulation and much less water.”

She hopes the hands on experiences provided in the club will make passionate and caring young people who can find solutions to such problems. “And wouldn’t it be great if they also embodied Catholic values,” she added.

Penelope Bartek demonstrates how a jaw works and admires the sharp teeth of carnivores.

St. Rose students Emma Zweschper, Emma McCourt, and Abi McBride learn about the difference between a predator and prey animals by examining skulls that Laura Sherrod, wildlife biologist, brought for the school’s new Science Club. (Contributed Photos)

Odie the Otter visited St. Rose of Lima’s Science Club recently. He is being rehabilitated by wildlife biologist Laura Sherrod who was a special presenter for the club.

Diocese of Victoria Catholic Schools

SCHULENBURG — The sixth-graders of St. Rose School just completed a 20th-anniversary commemorative mosaic for September 11. Students learned and studied the events of that tragic day and made this artwork to celebrate the resilience and patriotism of our great country. (Contributed Photo)
Catechetical Sunday celebrated

VANDERBILT — The Rev. Johnson Owusu-Boateng, pastor of St. John Bosco Catholic Church in Vanderbilt, and St. Theresa in LaSalle, takes a group shot with his catechists. The churches celebrated Catechetical Sunday on Aug. 29 before Father Johnson went home to visit his family in Africa. Catechetical Sunday was celebrated Sept. 19 for most parishes. (Contributed photo)
**Safe Environment**

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

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

and

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

or

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

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

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Czech Mass in Shiner ‘a taste’ of celebration in St. Ludmila’s homeland

Catholic fraternity) societies in Texas named for St. Ludmila, Janak said. “Three of them are in existence today and two are in the Diocese of Victoria,” he said.

Janak also talked about the importance of evangelization rooted in culture. “Many of us with deep Czech roots, we offer thanksgiving to God for the gift of our Catholic Faith and take time to celebrate our Czech roots.”

“While language, culture, food and music have certainly provided the connective tissue to which we of Czech descent remain rooted in our heritage, it is our faith in Jesus, particularly our Catholicity, which binds us together and calls us to evangelize,” he said.

Janak also recalled his pilgrimages to the Czech Republic where he and others venerated the relics of the saints who furthered the faith in the area and said he was astounded by how many churches there have become not much more than interesting places to visit or hold events, other than Mass.

“We hope our churches will not become like churches in our native land – like museums,” he said. “St. Ludmila reminds us that, even at the cost of death, we will worship Christ.”

Speaking to a group of high schoolers from St. Paul in Shiner, he said, “It will be you and your generation that will continue – I pray and we all pray – you continue to pass on that faith to others.”

Continued from pg. 1

Roman Catholic Church of Victoria Diocese
545 S. Austin Rd - Eagle Lake, TX
Pavilion Across from the Hospital

Annual Fall Festival
Sunday, October 17th, 2021
Eucharist
308 N Stevenson St.
Spanish 8:00 am English 10:00 am

MEAL
BBQ Chicken & Sausage,
Buttered Potatoes & Green Beans
$12.00 per plate
Serving from 11:00 am until 1:00 pm

CURB SERVICE WILL BE AVAILABLE

Live Auction 1:00 pm
RAFFLE DRAWING (AFTER THE AUCTION)
FIRST PRIZE $500.00 GIFT CARD

Booths & Games
Food Booths, Cake & Plant Walk, Country Store, Kids Games, Soccer Tournament

Come Enjoy the Day!
Something for Everyone!

POSTERS DONATED BY JOHNNY'S SPORT SHOP - OWNER JAKE LUEDECKE

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Member of the National Association of Christian Financial Consultants (NACFC)

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

The Catholic Diocese of Victoria has the following employment opportunities available. For detailed job descriptions and qualification requirements visit:
www.victoriadiocese.org/current-job-postings

- Director: Office of Safe Environment (Chancery, Victoria)
- Administrative Assistant: Catechetical Ministry (Chancery, Victoria)
- Human Resources Coordinator (Chancery, Victoria)
- Licensed Professional Counselor (The Emmaus Center, Victoria)
- Historical Interpreter-Part-Time (Presidio La Bahia, Goliad)
- Director of Youth Ministry (St. Roch, Menard; St. Anthony, Columbus; St. Peter and Paul, Freiburg)
- Administrative Assistant (Queen of Holy Rosary, Hostyn; Sts. Peter and Paul, Plumb)

Submit applications until the positions are filled to:
Melissa Salinas, Diocesan Director of Human Resources
by email: msalinas@victoriadiocese.org or by mail: PO Box 4070, Victoria, TX 77903
For Questions Call: (361) 827-7177
Prayer to be pondered while doing your chores

Slow me down, Lord! Ease the pounding of my heart by the quieting of my mind.

Steady my hurried pace with the vision of the eternal reach of time.

Give me amidst the confusion of my day, the calmness of the everlasting hills.

Break the tensions of my nerves and muscles with the soothing music of the singing streams.

Help me to know the magical, restoring power of sleep.

Teach me the art of taking one-minute vacations … of slowing down to look at a flower, to chat with a friend, to pat a dog, to read a few lines from a good book.

Remind me each day of the fable of the hare and the tortoise that I may know that the flower, to chat with a friend, to pat a dog, to vacations … of slowing down to look at a

power of sleep.

singing streams.

muscles with the soothing music of the

ing hills.

vision of the eternal reach of time.

of my mind.

pounding of my heart by the quieting

of the world.

Remind me to commune, from the tractor seat and the milking parlor, with Our Lady of the Fields and with our special patrons, St. Isidore the Farmer and his holy wife, Maria.

Slow me down, Lord, that I may live more abundantly.

– Anonymous

From the December 1960 Catholic Rural Life magazine

Save the date

The Diocese of Victoria’s chapter of Catholic Rural Life will celebrate a Harvest Mass on Nov. 20.

The Whistling Duck Vineyards and Winery will be the host site for the 10 a.m. celebration.

The vineyard is located at 1211 CR 273, Weimar 78962.

Amor Meus begins new season of prayer opportunities

The Amor Meus Spirituality Center is opening after an absence due to the COVID pandemic. The center is a peaceful, prayerful place situated in nature’s beauty at Incarnate Word Convent, 1101 N.E. Water St. There, a day or several days can be spent away from a busy and hectic daily schedule. Retreats, spiritual workshops, and prayer services are offered to anyone of any faith tradition.

Amor Meus Spirituality Center is a ministry of the Sisters of the Incarnate Word and Blessed Sacrament of Victoria, through which they extend their spirituality of demonstrating respect for human dignity by offering opportunities to deepen one’s love of God and others.

ONE-DAY RETREATS OFFERED from 9:45 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Saturdays are:


Dec. 11 – “Our Lady of Guadalupe: Waiting with the Mother of the Word Incarnate,” presented by Father Kirby Hlavaty

March 26, 2022 – “You Are Invited to Be Transformed In Christ,” presented by Sister Marian Sturm, IWBS

For Caretakers Retreats on Nov. 13 and April 2, 2022.

“The Gift You Give Yourself,” facilitated by Deacon Leo Sharon and Terry Robinson. Caregiving begins with the caregiver taking time to rest and know God’s peace from a place of stillness and inner quiet in order to give care to others.

Solemn Vespers, consisting of the psalms, giving thanks for the day and offering praise to God, will be prayed in Incarnate Word Chapel on all Sundays of Advent (Nov. 28 to Dec. 19) and Lent (March 6 to April 10, 2022) from 5:5-4:5 p.m.

Overtight individual private retreats are available with comfortable accommodations, nutritious meals, a quiet chapel and outdoor prayer spaces to help hear the “still, small voice of God.”

Please call 361-485-0866 or email amormeusscenter@gmail.com to inquire about scheduling an overnight retreat a week in advance for one or more days. Go to Amor Meus’ website www.amormeusspirituality-center.org for suggested stipends for overnight retreats.

Masks and social distancing will be required until further notice.

To register or for further information, call Incarnate Word Convent or Sister Digna Vela, IWBS, at Amor Meus Spirituality Center, 361-575-7111 or email, amormeusscenter@gmail.com.

Office of Family Evangelization

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

For Caretakers Retreats on Nov. 13 and April 2, 2022.
Queridos hermanos y hermanas,

El tema de nuestro Congreso del Rosario de este año proviene de la enseñanza de San Juan Pablo II en el Rosarium Virginis Mariae (16 de octubre de 2002). Promoviendo la devoción al Rosario para los católicos de todo el mundo, escribió: “En el inicio de un milenio que comenzó con los terribles atentados del 11 de septiembre de 2001, un milenio que presencia cada día en numerosas partes del mundo nuevas escenas de derramamiento de sangre y violencia, redescubrir el Rosario significa sumergirse en la contemplación del misterio de Cristo, que ‘es nuestra paz’, ya que ‘nos hizo uno a los dos y derribó el muro divisorio de la hostilidad’ (Efesios 2:14)”.

(RVM No. 6)

Durante la semana del 3 al 10 de octubre, el ayuno y las ofrendas espirituales en las que podemos enfocar nuestros pensamientos en Jesús, quien es la fuente de la paz. A medida que nuestras ofrendas se unen con el amor sacrificial de Jesús y los sacrificios de nuestros hermanos y hermanas en la diócesis, podemos orar con valentía, presentándole a Jesús nuestras intenciones específicas.

La Carta a los Hebreos nos muestra el ejemplo de nuestra oración en la oración de Jesús en el Jardín de Getsemaní: “En los días de su carne, Jesús ofreció oraciones y súplicas, con fuertes gritos y lágrimas, al que podía para salvarlo de la muerte, y fue escuchado por su reverente sumisión”. (Hebreos 5: 7)

Desde su trono celestial, Jesús ahora escucha nuestras oraciones y súplicas. Para el Congreso del Rosario de este año, le pido a todos que oren por algunas intenciones particulares además de nuestras intenciones personales:

- Primero, oramos por la paz en todo el mundo, especialmente en el Medio Oriente; por el fin de los conflictos en Irak y Afganistán; y por la protección de Dios para todo nuestro personal militar, especialmente aquellos que sirven en el extranjero.
- En segundo lugar, oramos por nuestras familias, para que el Espíritu Santo nos dé sabiduría y valor; que nuestros hogares puedan ser “nidos” seguros donde se nutre y se aprecia la vida; y que estemos abiertos al perdón y la misericordia que brota del corazón de Jesús.
- En tercer lugar, oramos por aquellos que se sienten alejados de Jesús y se sienten “perdidos”, para que el Espíritu Santo les dé esperanza; para que tengamos corazones que escuchen y sean instrumentos de curación; para que la Iglesia sea abierta y acogedora para todos los necesitados.
- Cuarto, oramos en reparación por los pecados cometidos por nuestros obispos y sacerdotes, para que el Espíritu Santo traiga sanidad a aquellos que han sido abusados; que aquellos que han cometido pecados graves sean llevados a la conversión y la rendición de cuentas; para que la Iglesia defienda y proclame el valor de toda vida humana.
- Que la semana del Congreso del Rosario bendiga a todas nuestras familias mientras volvemos nuestros corazones y nuestras mentes a nuestro Príncipe de Paz, y que nos unimos a otros para ofrecer oraciones y súplicas. Dios te bendiga; mantengámonos en oración.

+Brendan
I just returned from a family vacation that was a blast – filled with fun in the sun, time by the pool, and new memories we will cherish. It was great to see so many other families in the place we were staying doing the same thing: enjoying some time together away from their day-to-day lives.

It got me thinking about how important it is for families to have fun together. While a family that prays together stays together, I think it’s also true for a family that plays together. Why is fun and rest important?

We can see examples from Scripture, even in how God Himself rested on the seventh day from all of His work, and asks us to do the same. Two years ago, in a survey of more than 300 local families, “overly demanding schedules” was the top challenge facing families can appreciate as financial concerns that are easy on the budget, which I know is a priority in our homes? It may sound silly to block off time for fun, but if we don’t, something else will surely take that time away. We need to protect what’s important to us. It doesn’t mean we need to go on a vacation, but we just simply need to carve out time for things we enjoy as a family. Here’s a few suggestions that are easy on the budget, which I know families can appreciate as financial concerns was one of the top three challenges raised by families:

No. 1: Cook a meal together. I have three boys under six in my house who always want to “help.” I have to tell myself to be patient and find a job that works for them. They love cooking with Mommy and Daddy. Can you find a family recipe to teach your children?

No. 2: Movie night. There is nothing like a good old-fashioned family movie night. Can you make time for this once a week? You can find family-friendly favorites on just about any streaming service, and also give the Catholic resource formed.org a chance. They have several films families can enjoy together.

No. 3: Game night. When is the last time you made time for this? To teach your kids a game you loved growing up, or let them teach you one they love? Or even make up a game together? Kids as young as two can play Candy Land. What else might your kids be willing to try?

I hope this list has helped you think of ways to prioritize family fun. I’d love to hear your suggestions so I can share them with others. Email them to me at jreyes@victoriadiocese.org. God Bless!

• Justin Reyes is the Director of Family Evangelization for the Diocese of Victoria in Texas.
U.K. bishops fight assisted suicide bills, plan novena to St. John Paul

SIMON CALDWELL
Catholic News Service

MANCHESTER, England — Catholic bishops of England and Wales are planning a novena to St. John Paul in the nine days before the second reading of an assisted suicide bill in the House of Lords, because the legislation will be considered Oct. 22, the saint’s feast day.

Auxiliary Bishop John Sherrington of Westminster, lead bishop for life issues, said in a Sept. 21 statement that the timing was “providential.”

“The novena, asking the intercession of St. John Paul II, who spoke courageously about the infinite worth of each human person and witnessed to the cross in his final illness, calls upon Catholics and all who share our view that assisted suicide is wrong, to pray with perseverance that this bill will be defeated,” Bishop Sherrington said.

The bishops have written the laity to encourage them to actively oppose the legislation.

Similarly, bishops of Scotland said Catholics must make politicians aware of the “serious dangers of assisted suicide” ahead of a debate over new Scottish legislation, said the church’s parliamentary liaison officer.

Anthony Horan, director of the Catholic Parliamentary Office, said Catholics must engage with elected representatives to warn them of “the deadly and irreparable consequences of its legalization.”

His Sept. 22 statement came as the Assisted Dying Bill of Liam McArthur, a Liberal Democrat member of the Scottish Parliament, began a three-month public consultation before it is considered by the Scottish Assembly next year.

“We are once again being confronted with the frightening proposal that doctors be legally permitted to help patients kill themselves by providing them with a lethal cocktail of drugs,” Horan said.

Such a law, he said, would put “immeasurable pressure on vulnerable people, including those with disabilities, to end their lives prematurely for fear of being a financial, emotional or care burden on others.”

“Incremental extensions and the removal of protections and safeguards are inevitable,” he added.

In a Sept. 22 statement announcing the consultation, McArthur said he believed “the time is right for Scotland to look again at providing our dying people with more choice at the end of life.”

The bill proposes assisted suicide for terminally ill adults with mental capacity and with the authorization of two doctors following a period of reflection.

Down syndrome advocates vow to appeal British court ruling on abortion

LONDON (CNS) — Two women who challenged the U.K. government over a law that allows abortion up to birth for disabled babies have vowed to take their case to appeal after it was dismissed by the High Court. Heidi Crowter, 26, who has Down syndrome, and Máire Lea-Wilson, whose 2-year-old son Aidan also has the condition, objected to a clause in the 1967 Abortion Act that extended the right to abortion beyond the 24-week upper limit when fetuses have disabilities.

They claimed the law breached the European Convention on Human Rights because it discriminated against disabled children, and they sought to have the clause removed from the act. They made their case in a two-day hearing in July and learned Sept. 23 that their attempt had failed when the High Court ruled that the clause was not unlawful.

Afterward, Crowter said she would seek permission to take the case to the Court of Appeal. “I am really upset not to win, but the fight is not over,” she said outside the Royal Courts of Justice in London.
Global initiative seeks to ‘unlock’ Catechism for millennials and Gen Z

BY ANNA CAPIZZI GALVEZ
Catholic News Service

WASHINGTON (CNS) — When is the last time you cracked open the Catechism of the Catholic Church? Odds are, it’s sitting on your bookshelf collecting dust.

A new global project, Real + True, seeks to “unlock” the catechism and modernize the way church teaching is presented to a digital age.

The catechism “is not just a technical book,” said Real + True co-founder Edmund Mitchell, “but it’s written to really change our relationship with Christ.”

Launched Sept. 7, the initiative includes videos, social media content and a podcast organized along the four pillars of the catechism. Each month a new unit will be released, with 12 units for each pillar, totaling 48 units.

Aimed at millennial and Generation Z audiences, the content is meant to supplement evangelization and catechesis efforts that already exist as well as be a resource to those seeking answers to questions online, said co-founder Edmundo Reyes.

The material is free and available on realtrue.org in English, Spanish, Portuguese and French.

Reyes said the inspiration for Real + True came six years ago in Portland, Oregon, when he encountered BibleProject, a nonprofit organization with a library of resources to help people read and understand the Bible.

While the organization isn’t Catholic, he was impressed by their work, which he’d “never seen done in a church setting.” After learning about BibleProject’s creative process, he came back “with the hope of one day doing something similar with the church.”

When Reyes returned home, something unexpected happened. He started watching BibleProject’s videos on his phone and three of his children joined him.

“They kept saying, ‘let’s watch the next one, let’s watch the next one.’ And at the end my son said to me: ‘Dad, I feel I learned more about my faith from those videos than all my years of religious education,’” Reyes said.

“That moved me in two ways,” Reyes said. “One is a bit of sadness of like, man, I’m letting my kid down here, but also a lot of hope that the message that we proclaim, the Gospel message. It’s truth and it’s beauty and it’s attractive in itself. We just need to be able to communicate that message in a way that is relevant to them, in a way that they can understand.”

The church is moving in the direction of an “evangelizing catechesis,” said Reyes, citing the example of Pope Francis instituting the ministry of the catechist in May and the Vatican updating the “Directory for Catechesis” June 2020. He sees Real + True as participating in that evangelizing catechesis.

Reyes quoted the catechism, which states: “Periods of renewal in the church are also intense moments of catechesis.” And with the 30th anniversary of the catechism next year, the time seemed ripe to launch the initiative.

Reyes described Real + True as a “passion project,” apart from his work as the director of the communications in the Archdiocese of Detroit.

Co-founder Emily Mentock explained that the project’s goal of “unlocking the catechism for the modern world” means bringing the “content of the text into more digital media channels to better reach the audience that we’re after” -- people that are not against the church but are curious and open to learning more about their faith.

Mentock, 29, said her own journey back to practicing Catholicism informed her work on Real + True. A pivotal step in her story was seeing a tweet quoting Bishop Robert E. Barron’s sermons podcast.

The tweet piqued her interest, so she started listening to the podcast and eventually “became compelled to go back to Mass and from there became compelled to actually read all the Gospels,” said Mentock, who works as associate director of digital strategy at the Archdiocese of Detroit.

That experience shaped “what I believe in and the ways we can use digital and social media channels as a tool to support that pathway back to Christ,” she said.

Each Real + True unit contains three videos – a proclamation video, an explanation video and a connection video – as well as a podcast that is geared toward formal and informal catechists.

Mitchell, 32, who worked in parish ministry for 10 years, said his training in a methodology of catechesis called, “the ecclesial method” by Msgr. Francis Kelly, influenced the approach to developing the structure and scripts of the videos.

The first stage is preparation, he said, by “getting the attention of the heart of someone who isn’t yet ready to hear the catechesis.” The proclamation videos are meant to rouse “spiritual curiosity” and prep the person to have a “burning question on their heart” that connects to the section of the catechism the unit covers.

Then the explanation video goes deeper into the teaching and the connection video applies the material to everyday life. For creating the video topics, Mitchell said he was influenced by podcasts like “Radiolab” and “This American Life” that aren’t Christian but explore the phenomenology of the world.

Using the natural world as a vehicle for questions posed in the videos keeps the content relevant, especially for a global audience, since “the catechism is universal,” said Mitchell.

Funded by a grant from Our Sunday Visitor, the Real + True initiative is also seeking donations to translate content into more languages and produce videos at a faster pace.

“The work of evangelization online is significant and important, especially in a world so connected, which is what we saw in the pandemic,” said Reyes.

Isolation is one of the challenges the church faces today and the initiative organizers hope that by having “content that leads to Jesus,” young people can help “get connected spiritually,” then ideally continue a “journey of discipleship toward true community and communion,” he said.

Synodal process looks to hear from voices on the margins of the church

DENNIS SADOWSKI
Catholic News Service

Pope Francis is inviting Catholics both in the mainstream of church life and on the margins to voice their dreams, ideas and concerns in preparation for the Synod of Bishops in 2023.

The process launches Oct. 17 in parishes and dioceses worldwide. The pope is scheduled to formally open the synod process at the Vatican Oct. 9-10.

Under the theme “For a Synodal Church: Communion, Participation, and Mission,” the pope is calling the church to practice synodality, that is listening to -- and hearing -- one another in all facets of church life, two of the coordinators of the effort at the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops told Catholic News Service.

The October opening “is just the first step in a larger, longer-term process of really incorporating the fruits of Vatican II and becoming a synodal church,” said Julia McStravog, a former USCCB employee who is a consultant to the bishops on the process.

“We’re going to have consultation. It’s also going to be a learning process about how to actually engage in a synodal way,” McStravog explained.

The launch begins a two-year process that culminates in the Synod of Bishops in October 2023. The synod is expected to adopt a final document that will guide the continuing development of a synodal church going into the future.
ST. ROBERT BELLARMINE CHURCH FESTIVAL
SUNDAY, OCTOBER 10, 2021
COLUMBUS CLUB HALL (Formerly KC Hall) EL CAMPO, TEXAS

FESTIVAL
Begins at 10am
Chairperson: Martin Medina
979-637-6638
Co-Chairperson: Albert Cavazos
979-637-1532

BBQ Brisket & Sausage
Buttered Potatoes, Green Beans
And all the trimmings
Catered by Texas Heavy Smokers
Competition BBQ Team
Plates $12.00/Each
Dine In, To Go Plates, or Drive thru
Serving Begins at 11am to 1pm

Kid Games
Sausage on a Stick
Cake Walk
Gorditas
Plant Walk
Hamburgers

LIVE AUCTION
Begins at 12:00pm
Auction Item Donations:
Deacon Adrian Canales
979-253-0328
Accepting Cash, Credit Cards

50/50 Raffle
Aguas Frescas
Face Painting
Candy Apples

K of C Vehicle Raffle
2021 Buick Encore GX
$100/Ticket
Only 600 Tickets Sold!!
For Tickets Contact:
Adam Gusman 979-541-6835

St. Robert’s King and Queen Contest
5, 4, 3, 2, 1 Raffle Tickets
$15,000 in Prizes!!
$50.00/each
Available at Church Office or
Call 979-543-4298
*Coronation at 11am*
**ACTS Retreats** – Anyone needing any information regarding ACTS retreats in the diocese should e-mail 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

**Emmaus Center** – Offers individual, couple, family, adolescent and children’s counseling, as well as specialized support groups. Spiritual direction are available for those suffering a loss of a baby due to miscarriage, stillbirth, infant death or abortion.

**Engaged Encounter** – 2021 Dates: 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; DeWitt County meetings have changed: For meetings, call or text the coordinator for the Dewitt chapter, Wayne Smith, at 361-491-0339.

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

**Incarnate Word Prayer Group** – Praise and worship 7:30-9 p.m. Mondays in the auditorium at Incarnate Word Convent, 1101 N.E. Water St. For information, contact Sister Louise Marie Jones at 361-575-7111 or e-mail anormeous@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 or visit their Facebook page at www.facebook.com/Mothersofgraceovl/.

**Natural Family Planning** – NFP is the only church-approved form of family planning. For the CREIGHTON MODEL Fertility Care System (CMS) featuring NaPro TECHNOLOGY™ contact Susanne Koch in Wharton at 505-710-0903 or mailto:susannekoch614@gmail.com. Also in the Cuero area contact, Ashley Rodriguez at 361-293-0700 or e-mail ashleyfay9@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, 361-225-1514, or visit http://www.raftelena.org.

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

**Strength for the Journey** – A grief ministry for parents who have lost their child meets monthly at Assumption Church parish hall, 108 6th St., in Ganado from 6:30 to 8 p.m. The upcoming meetings will be Nov. 9 and Dec. 14. For more information, please call Patricia Hoelscher 979-257-9984 or email phoelscher@victoriadiocese.org.
During July, Cathy Garcia’s family, including NayEli, Noah, Felicia and Felix, went to the cemetery to honor their deceased grandparents, great-grandparents and great-great-grandparents. She said she was grateful to know of the special intentions and to participate in a meaningful way.

Families of high school-age CCD students from St. Peter Catholic Church in Blessing and St. Robert Catholic Church in Markham had a Year of the Family Food Drive in November and December last year and were able to help 33 local families with their gifts. The CCD students are shown putting together the donations.

Helen Mikus of Yorktown does a Bible study with friends. While the moms prepare a meal, she does a lesson with her grandchildren and any other children present. The week of the Assumption, they had a scavenger hunt that ended with a special treat that represented Mary’s Assumption—Assumption Shortcake. Every ingredient in represented something related to the Blessed Virgin.

October a time to pray for life, peace and family

my 3-year-old continues to grow and become more observant during Mass, it has been a great blessing to be surrounded by other people of my Church family who continue show her what it means to know and love Jesus. It fills my heart with joy to see her bow her head in prayer, make the Sign of the Cross, or genuflect before receiving a blessing in the Communion line because she sees someone else do these reverent things. My prayer is that everyone will know that their presence in church matters. Keep showing up! Your presence is helping my child, and so many others, learn what it means to be a saint and from every part of my heart I sincerely thank you for that.”

Teresa Foegelle’s large family gathers last December to enjoy some time together building gingerbread houses at “Grandma Jane” Foegelle’s home. Some went to the makers’ homes and some stayed at Grandma Jane’s in anticipation of Christmas.

The Year of the Family made a difference, Foegelle said, in a way that is difficult to put her finger on, but it’s a positive feeling. One thing she noticed is there seems to be more men in church. “We really appreciated the focus. And it just seems like something has changed in the parish.”

“October a time to pray for life, peace and family,” Justin Reyes, director of the Office of Family Evangelization, said.