

Inside ...

- 2** Blue Mass to honor first responders. **7** Catholic conference rescheduled. **15** Tolton production coming to Victoria area.



The Catholic Lighthouse

The Cradle of Texas Immigration



OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE DIOCESE OF VICTORIA IN TEXAS

VOL. 35, NO. 5

www.victoriadiocese.org



September 2021

The truth about divorce

MINISTRY AIMS TO REMOVE MISCONCEPTIONS & OFFER PEACE

JANET JONES

The Catholic Lighthouse

"Hope and healing" is a phrase used often by Bishop Brendan Cahill, and for so many people experiencing divorce or separation a lifeline of hope has been cast to hopefully bring them to healing.

The Office of Family Evangelization is now offering the 13 session program Surviving Divorce, which begins Sept. 9 at 7 p.m. at the Cathedral Center in Victoria. The group will meet weekly to discuss relevant topics and offer a community of support.

Many say this type of ministry is long overdue because of the misunderstandings of what the Church teaches about divorce, causing some divorcees to separate from the Church.

"The feeling for me is that this is a watershed moment in the Catholic Church," said the Rev. Phillip Brune, pastor of St. Robert Bellarmine in El Campo. He was one of the people who attended a recent informational session about the new ministry.

Father Brune said he encounters people "all the time" who are misinformed about church teaching on divorce, and the new group is "a really good first step in the right direction."

See The truth about divorce, pg. 18

Family remains priority

JANET JONES

The Catholic Lighthouse

When the Diocese of Victoria's Year of the Family concludes Oct. 3, it is not an ending, but the start of lasting initiatives.

During the last 12 months a committee led by Shannon Thomas, associate director of the Office Youth and Young Adult Ministry, has gathered resources to distribute to parishes in the hopes of nurturing families in their faith. Many have embraced the theme "Play, Eat, Pray" together.

On Oct. 23, the DOV Office of Family Evangelization is hosting a family event that will include all of the elements. It's an initiative that Justin Reyes, director of the office, calls FIAT (Families in Adoration Together).

The event will begin at 9 a.m. at Holy Family Catholic Church with sign in and a holy hour led by Bishop Brendan Cahill. Afterward families will gather in the gym for an icebreaker, a short talk by the bishop on "Mary, Queen of the Family," a rosary-making family project and then a picnic meal.

Other initiatives in the works are the "Family Friday Fast," which is a simple text or email reminder

See Family remains priority, pg. 7

Boy scouts get skills for life and leave lasting impact on community

JANET JONES

The Catholic Lighthouse

VICTORIA – The Spiritual Renewal Center has some new benches that convert to picnic tables to give retreatants a new way to relax outdoors. The benches were built and installed in March, then blessed by Bishop Brendan Cahill. It was an Eagle Scout project that will serve the community for a long time.

Trey Lawrence was the scout who chose that project. On Aug. 29, after a board review, he became a full-fledged Eagle Scout. The St. Joseph High School student is one of six young men who will graduate from St. Joe with that distinction, according to his father, Roger Lawrence, who is the Troop 364 Scoutmaster.



Other seniors who will reach the rank of Eagle Scout are Gabriel Weaver, Quinn Jones, Jacob Pyatt, Hayden Land and Joshua Munoz.

A scout is trustworthy, a scout is loyal, a scout is helpful ...

The young men who are achieving the rank didn't get there quickly. They have been in the troop for

years and have worked on large and small projects to get where they are, earning other badges and honors along the way.

"I'm very proud of them. It's a really big demonstration of their ability to lead," said Benjamin Huante, the Charter Representative for the Catholic Committee

See Boy scouts get skills for life, pg. 20



Immersing families in the contemplation of Christ our Peace

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

On Sunday, Oct. 3, I will be celebrating the 9 a.m. Mass at the Cathedral as we begin another Rosary Congress in our diocese. This will be the third year that we have committed as a diocese to an intense week of prayer, with a plan to ensure that at every hour during this week someone in the diocese will be praying the rosary during Eucharistic Adoration. The theme for this year's Rosary Congress is "Immersing the Family in the Contemplation of Christ our Peace."

The Rosary Congress in our diocese is united with Rosary Congresses in dioceses across our nation. The website rosarycongress-usa.org gives the history of this movement. Inspired by Mary's words at Fatima our intention is to offer prayers and penance in reparation for our sins and the sins of others and to grow in understanding Mary's promise that "My Immaculate Heart will triumph!"

We pray that our families receive hope and healing through this spiritual battle.

That week will also mark the end of the Year of the Family for our diocese. Throughout the past year, in the midst of all the challenges the world faced many of you took the opportunity to intentionally "pray, eat, and play" together. Following some of the resources and ideas provided by our leaders, and also being creative and sharing ideas

among yourselves, you helped one another to grow in faith and trust in Jesus.

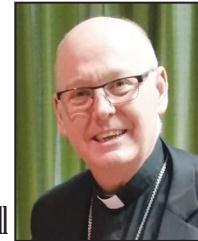
I can look back at many of the creative activities for families throughout the year. One of my favorites was a career day for youth in which I got to participate as a bishop. I thought being a bishop would be pretty impressive, but it was hard to compete with the EMT showing how to get into his full gear in under a minute! Each person participating in the day showed how they were using their God-given gifts to serve the community.

As we come to the end of the Year of the Family all of these activities affirmed for me strongly that Jesus Himself is the source of our peace and joy! It also is apparent to me that the activities, the prayers, the meals together will continue as a source for strength -- centering on what is most important and life-giving. The church continues to celebrate the global Year of the Family that concludes June 26 at the World Meeting of Families in Rome with the Holy Father.

We also continue celebrating the Year of St. Joseph in union with the global Church through Dec. 8. It is right that it coincides with the Year of the Family as St. Joseph is "Pillar of Families." May we continue to entrust our families and all of our concerns to St. Joseph. More than 200 people completed the Consecration to St. Joseph this year. Thousands have listened to the Rev. Don Calloway's talk on St. Joseph at the Cathedral Center. You can still

A Shepherd's Message

By Bishop Brendan Cahill



hear his talk on the Diocese of Victoria's Family Evangelization YouTube channel at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5g2URHfy6d4>.

May the Lord bless you and your families with a greater understanding of His presence

and with strong gratitude for His daily care, and may we all be a Light for the World to see more clearly.

+Brendan



Blue Mass 2021 on Sept. 29

Bishop Brendan Cahill is shown with a group of first responders after the first Blue Mass in the Diocese of Victoria last year. The celebration will take place this year at 5:30 p.m. Sept. 29 at the Cathedral of Our Lady of Victory. All people serving in the public safety field as first responders and personnel are encouraged to attend and receive a special blessing. The date is significant because it is the feast day of St. Michael, St. Raphael and St. Gabriel, the archangels. St. Michael is known as the protector and is the patron saint of police officers. St. Raphael is known as the patron of healers. And St. Gabriel is known as the patron of messengers. To RSVP for this Mass, email the Rev. Dalton Ervin at dervin@victoriadiocese.org or call 361-575-4741. (Janet Jones/The Catholic Lighthouse)



Parishes celebrate new pastors

Bishop Brendan Cahill installed the Rev. Jacob Mendoza as the pastor of St. Michael's Parish in Cuero during the vigil Mass on July 31. The Rev. Scott Hill was installed Aug. 21 as the pastor of St. Rose of Lima in Schulenburg. The church also celebrated the feast day of St. Rose that weekend. (Janet Jones/The Catholic Lighthouse)

Subject to change due to COVID
~ **Germany & Austria** ~
Christmas Markets
Dec. 6-14 2021

Coming 2022
Ireland~July Yellowstone & The Tetons~June
Alaska~Aug.

Call or email for more details.

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



Bishop Cahill's Schedule

September	22	• 2:30 p.m. Finance Board meeting; Chancery • 6 p.m. Auctioned Dinner with Dominican Vietnamese Sisters; Houston
3		5:30 p.m. Mass in Celebration for Father Dan Morales' life at St. Anthony Church; Palacios
4		Mass with the Carmelites; Meyersville
5	23-27	"Tolton" play at: • OLV Cathedral Center; Victoria - Saturday, Sept. 25, 7 p.m. • Our Lady of the Gulf Gym; Port Lavaca - Sunday, Sept. 26, 7 p.m. • Welder Center in Victoria - Monday, Sept. 27, 7 p.m.
6		Chancery Office Closed – Labor Day
7-8	25	Annual Catholic Conference
9	26	9 a.m. Mass at The Cathedral of Our Lady of Victory; Victoria
	27	Noon Mass with Missionary Catechists
11	28	• 9:30 a.m. Legion of Mary Praesidium meeting; Cathedral Center • 4:30 p.m. Supper with IWBS sisters in Healthcare; Victoria • 6 p.m. Adult Confirmation Mass at The Cathedral of Our Lady of Victory; Victoria
12		8:45 a.m. Confirmation Mass at Sts. Peter and Paul; Frelsburg
13	29	• Fall Bishops' Meeting at Mexican American Catholic College (MACC); San Antonio • 5:30 p.m. Blue Mass – Public Safety Field at The Cathedral of Our Lady of Victory; Victoria
14		• 9:30 a.m. Legion of Mary Praesidium meeting; Cathedral Center • 6:30 p.m. Vocation Ministry Gala; Houston
15	30	Noon Monsignor Investiture for Monsignor Dan Kahlich and Monsignor Tim Kosler; Schulenburg
16	October	
18	1	5 p.m. opening Mass for "Jesus Approaches" Women's Retreat at the Spiritual Renewal Center; Victoria
19-21		Priests Convocation; Bastrop
21	3	9 a.m. Opening of the Rosary Congress at The Cathedral of Our Lady of Victory; Victoria

Bishop Cahill appoints four new deans

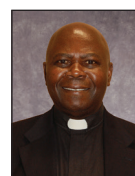
JANET JONES

The Catholic Lighthouse

Bishop Brendan Cahill has named four priests as deans in their respective deaneries following a summer of changes in the Diocese of Victoria.

The diocese is divided into six geographic areas called deaneries and each deanery has a dean (also called a vicar forane) to assist the bishop in the oversight of the diocese. When the bishop appoints a dean, they are asked to serve for a term of three years. Those chosen recently will complete the terms of their predecessors.

The **Very Rev. Dominic Antwi-Boasiko**,



Very Rev.
Dominic
Antwi-Boasiko, VF

pastor of Queen of Peace Parish in Sweet Home, has been named dean of the Hallettsville Deanery. The Very Rev. Matthew Huehlefeld was the previous dean and is the new chancellor of the diocese, following Bishop Gary Janak's departure to the Archdiocese of San Antonio. Besides Queen of Peace Parish, the Hallettsville Deanery is also comprised of Sacred Heart Parish in Hallettsville, St. John the Baptist in Koerth, St. Joseph in Moulton, St. Mary in St. Mary, Sts. Cyril and Methodius in Shiner, and St. Joseph in Yoakum.

The **Very Rev. Roger Hawes**, pastor of



Very Rev.
Roger
Hawes, VF

Holy Cross in Yorktown, has been named dean of the Cuero Deanery, an office previously held by the Rev. Jasper Liggio, who is now spiritual director at St. Mary Seminary in Houston. Other churches in that deanery are St. Michael's Parish and Our Lady of Guadalupe, both in Cuero, Immaculate Conception Parish in Goliad, and Sts. Peter and Paul

in Meyersville.

The **Very Rev. Greg Korenek**, pastor of



Very Rev.
Greg
Korennek, VF

Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary Parish in Ganado, has been named dean of the Edna deanery. The Very Rev. Kirby Hlavaty previously served as dean, but is now pastor/rector of The Cathedral of Our Lady of Victory in Victoria. Other parishes in the Edna deanery are Holy Cross and Our Lady of Guadalupe in Bay City, St.

Peter in Blessing, St. Anthony in Palacios, Our Lady of the Gulf in Port Lavaca, St. John Bosco in Vanderbilt and St. Agnes in Edna.

The **Very Rev. Robert Knippenberg**,



Very Rev.
Robert
Knippenberg, VF

pastor of Sts. Peter and Paul Parish in Frelsburg and St. Roch in Mentz, was named dean of the Schulenburg Deanery. The office was previously held by the Rev. Msgr. Timothy Kosler, who retired recently. Other churches in the Schulenburg Deanery are St. John the Baptist in Ammannsville, Sts. Cyril and Methodius in Cistern, Parish of the Nativity

in Eagle Lake, St. John the Baptist in St. John, Sacred Heart in Flatonia, Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary in Praha, Holy Rosary in Hostyn, Sts. Peter and Paul in Plum, St. Anthony in Columbus, St. Michael in Weimar, St. Rose of Lima in Schulenburg, and Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary in High Hill.

Deans of the El Campo and Victoria deaneries remain the same.

The Very Rev. Michael Rother, pastor of St. Philip the Apostle in El Campo, is

See Bishop Cahill appoints, pg. 4

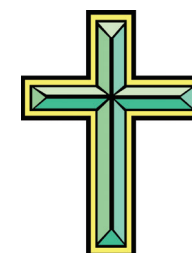
Please remember in prayer the priests of the Diocese of Victoria, who were ordained during the month of September:

Rev. Wayne N. Flagg	09/24/1988	St. Michael Church, Weimar
---------------------	------------	----------------------------

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

Rev. Dan Morales	09/03/2016
Rev. Msgr. Werner Bockholt	09/08/1992
Rev. Marcus Valenta	09/09/1984
Rev. Msgr. John J. Hanacek	09/14/1994
Rev. Donald Hayden, O.Ss.T.	09/19/2009
Rev. Jude Belisle, O.Ss.T.	09/24/1994

For if we live, we live for the Lord, and if we die, we die for the Lord; so then, whether we live or die, we are the Lord's. (Romans 14:8)



USPS-001015 (ISSN 0894-7740)

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

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

E-mail local stories, photos or festival announcements to: lighthouse@victoriadiocese.org

(361) 573-0828 / (361) 573-5725 FAX • www.victoriadiocese.org

DEADLINE IS THE 15th OF THE PRECEDING MONTH

Periodical postage paid at Victoria, TX and additional Entry Offices

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

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

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





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

Bob & Bea Welfl

in Memory of Johnnie Svatek

Acolyte

Monroe & Mary Rieger
in Memory of Robert Knippenberg, Sr.

Catholic Life Insurance Branch #23,
Shiner

Candidate

Transitional Deacon

~

Priest

~

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

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

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 >.

August 20, 2021

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

Lector

In memory of Janie Kulhanek Hammonds
by Lambert and Carol Brune

• **Rev. Kristopher L. Fuchs Seminary Burse**

Lector

In memory of Johnnie D. Svatek by:
Paul and Helen Flessner
Leon and Hattie Kristynik

• **Msgr. Daniel P. Kahlich Seminary Burse**

Lector

In honor of Rev. Daniel Kalich's birthday
by Verlene Kuntschik

• **Msgr. Timothy Kosler Seminary Burse**

Acolyte

In memory of Brother Knight Emil Joe
Chromcak by K of C Schulenburg
Council #2902

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

Lector

In memory of Marcia Hrcir by Mary and
James Akers
In memory of Tommy Grahmann, Sr. by
Gladys McMasters

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

Chancery offices
to be closed

The Chancery Offices will be
closed Monday, Sept. 6 for
the Labor Day Holiday. The
offices will remain closed
Sept. 7-8 for the chancery
staff to attend a Catholic
Leadership Training. The
offices will re-open on Thurs-
day, Sept. 9 at 8:30 a.m.

Incarcate Word &
Blessed Sacrament
Gift Shop



(361) 575-7111
1101 NE Water St.
(in Old Victoria)
Victoria, TX 77901

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

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

Find Us On

facebook

Diocese of Victoria
in Texas

**Bishop Cahill
appoints four new
deans**

Continued from pg. 3

in charge of the El Campo Deanery, which
also includes Holy Cross in East Bernard, St.
Robert Bellarmine in El Campo, St. Andrew
in Hillje, St. John the Baptist in Hungerford,
Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary in Nada,
St. John Nepomucene in New Taiton, Holy
Family in Wharton and Our Lady of Mount
Carmel in Wharton.

The Very Rev. Kristopher Fuchs, pastor
of St. Mary Parish in Victoria, is the dean of
the Victoria Deanery, which also includes St.
Patrick in Bloomington, St. Joseph in Inez,
and Our Lady of Lourdes, Holy Family, Our
Lady of Sorrows and The Cathedral of Our
Lady of Victory in Victoria.



NAZARETH ACADEMY



Fall Festival
OCTOBER 3, 2021, 10:30AM
Victoria Community Center Annex

Plates-To-Go ONLY: Turkey & Dressing Dinner \$11
No activities will be in the Community Center.
Online Auction 10/01 - 10/03
(Link to Auction will be available on school website)
Raffle Tickets (purchased online, from an NA student or
at the school)





Illness and frailty offer a chance to love more

EDITOR'S NOTE: The following sermon was written for the 23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time. Father Kram titled it, "The Healing Activity of the Lord."

Sometimes elderly persons who check into the hospital will say, "This is my first time in the hospital; I've been healthy all my life; I never take medicine."

There are others who seem never to be well, and still others who ARE well but believe themselves to be sick. Some are true hypochondriacs whom no medicine can cure.

Some illnesses such as depression do not show on the outside, which makes them so much harder to bear.

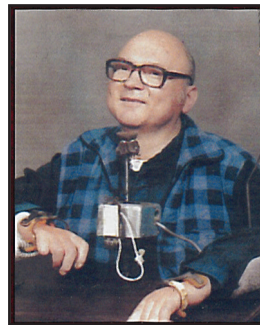
Any illness can be costly – financially, in anguish and frustration, in the inconsiderateness of others. Sometimes the sick are criticized for not getting up enough faith to be healed. Sometimes they are blamed for being sick – as a punishment for past sins. Sometimes they are sheltered and smothered with attention to the point of total dependence.

Actually, an illness or disability may or may not be a big handicap. Edison was deaf, Roosevelt was paralyzed by polio, and Freud suffered from cancer of the jaw.

There will always be those who are ill or handicapped, so what shall we do to help them cope with their limitations and perhaps succeed where others have failed?

First, we should try to develop a good attitude toward them. Rather than criticizing or blaming or smothering them, we can offer them love and moral support and prayers. Even a reassuring word or touch of the hand can be a true source of comfort and encouragement to the ill and lonely.

On the practical side, we can do small favors for those who need them. A lady once said to me, "The best way to get something done is to pass the buck." Actually, in some cases this may be very true. Often the only thing an individual may need or want is information on who fixes leaky faucets or



1929-2000

Father Charles Kram Corner

does yard work or shampoos hair.

Sometimes a highly motivated person holds back from making offers of help because of the fear of being asked again and again and again until it becomes an unreasonable imposition. We should strive to offer our help freely, which means that we must not be afraid at times to say, "No."

Where personal favors are concerned, one should not insist on doing for the handicapped the things they can do for themselves. It is easy to find out what help would be welcomed. Just ask, and if it is something you can do, then try to do it in a way the person has planned it, rather than in some haphazard way.

Lastly, sometimes we want to give a dependent person a present. We all receive gifts for which we politely say, "Thank you very much," but for which we really have no use. Much more appropriate would be a useful gift – especially a gift that helps the individual help himself. An inexpensive gift my mother used every day in her old age was an E-Z Reach, a long scissor-like gadget with which to pick up fallen objects off the floor.

But what if WE become ill or handicapped or lonely? What should WE do in OUR circumstances?

First, we should try not to feel sorry

for ourselves, lest we find ourselves crying alone.

Secondly, we should try not to use our limitations as a lever to make others take responsibilities for us that we should be bearing ourselves.

Thirdly, we should graciously accept help from others when we need it, seeing that our need may be, for someone else, a precious opportunity to carry out the command of Christ to love one another as he has loved us.

And where God is concerned, we must always look to Him for strength in our weakness, consolation in our disappointments, and in our insecurity, the assurance of His never-ending love for us.

Yes, the sick and the weak and the lonely will always be with us, and we ourselves may at times be among them. But God makes all things work together for the good of those who love Him, and we can rest assured that he has a purpose for us all.

Lord Jesus, thank you for allowing us all to have a share in your loving concern for all who are in need. Help us to grow through our afflictions and to help others to grow through theirs. Grant that no illness or weakness or anything else in life or in death may ever be able to separate us from the love of you. Amen.

In Memoriam

Robert Knippenberg, 91, father of 2 DOV priests dies Aug. 15

Robert
Knippenberg, Sr.

SHINER — Robert Edward Knippenberg, Sr., age 91, passed away Sunday, August 15, 2021. He was born March 17, 1930, in St. Paul, Minnesota to Edward Carl and Katherine Tynan Knippenberg.

He was in sales management for Hormel Meat Com-

pany. He was the center for the University of Minnesota Golden Gopher football team. He served in the U.S. Navy. Robert was a member of the Knights of Columbus. His singular passion in life was his family but he also enjoyed growing tomatoes, hunting, fishing, watching the Dallas Cowboys, Texas Rangers and Dallas Stars.

Survivors: daughters, Karen Fox (Richard) and Amy Knippenberg; sons, Rev. Robert E. Knippenberg, Jr., Todd Knippenberg (Lu) and Rev. Patrick S. Knippenberg; grandchildren, Kelly Knippenberg, Erica Fox Gibbins and William Fox along with four great-grandchildren; brothers, Thomas Knippenberg and Roger Knippenberg; sister-in-law, Wanda Knippenberg; brother-in-law, Harold Danley.

Preceded in death by his parents; wife, Betty Jean Knippenberg; infant son, Scott Knippenberg; sister, Barbara Danley and a brother, Louis Knippenberg.

Funeral Mass was held Friday, August 20, 2021 at Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Church in Victoria with The Most Rev. Brendan Cahill, officiating. Entombment took place at the Shiner Catholic Mausoleum.

Pallbearers: Rev. Robert E. Knippenberg, Jr., Todd Knippenberg, Rev. Patrick S. Knippenberg, Richard Fox, William Fox and Greg Gibbins.

Memorial contributions may be given to the Diocese of Victoria-Seminarian Education.

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

Matthew 4:18-22



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 Morales*. Listeners can call in with questions or comments. You can listen to past podcasts online.

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

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



How do we love others? Just watch how Mary does it

*“The angel came to her and said,
“Hail, full of grace! The Lord is with
you.” Luke 1:28*

On Sept. 8 we celebrate the nativity or birthday of Mary the Blessed Mother of our Lord, Jesus Christ. This is different from the Feast of the Immaculate Conception that is celebrated on Dec. 8. The Immaculate Conception is when Mary was conceived without original sin and then nine months later in September we celebrate the day she was born.

Thinking about Mary, I envision her as someone hiding away from the limelight but always there to help where needed. I do see her as someone close to Jesus during His ministry even if she isn’t mentioned as being there at all times in the scriptures. What mother doesn’t want to be near her child? Mary is seen as the one to lead us to her Son, and I think that is the perfect image for her. She is not asking that we focus our love and attention on her, but that we allow her to introduce us to our Savior.

I think of the love Jesus has for His mother as well, that He sends her to bring

Finding Beauty in Mystery

By Sister Rosario Resendez, IWBS



the people to Him. In a few months, we will be celebrating Our Lady of Guadalupe’s feast day. When Mary came right into the heart of the Americas to bring a whole new group of people to her Son. I always love how, when Mary appeared to St. Juan Diego, she came as one of his people. She spoke his language and looked like the women of his community. That in itself shows that she was meeting him where he was at and not expecting him to change who he was for her to appear to him. She knew that once we allow her to lead us to Jesus we will change, because no one can be the same after being introduced to the Lord.

Mary offers us the perfect example of how we should be when approaching oth-

ers. We shouldn’t feel in any way superior or try to assimilate their culture to ours, but instead meet them where they are and try to understand them.

We as Incarnate Word and Blessed Sacrament sisters try to live our lives where we hope to lead people to Jesus much like Mary still does today. There will be a day where I will stop writing about my formation years, but today will not be that day.

When I moved into the convent in Victoria it didn’t take long to realize things were different than what I was used to. I remember being advised by my pastor to look at communities with a larger Latino population, which I rejected knowing that the only race I hated was the one I had to run. Still, the first thing I noticed was how different the food was at the convent from what I was used to.

After several weeks without any Mexican food, I was starting to get homesick. Then one day I saw fideo on the serving table. My heart was overjoyed and I served myself a good amount. My joy quickly diminished when I took the first bite and realized it was just regular spaghetti. I was shocked when tears just rushed out of my eyes. My friend asked

me what was wrong, and with a little bit of embarrassment I told her how homesick I was and how disappointed I was that what I was eating was not fideo. (Fideo, for those who don’t know, is what I guess could be described as Mexican pasta.)

I got myself together and decided that I was just going to have to let things go and push forward. Little did I know that the sisters did notice my mini breakdown and cornered my friend asking what was wrong. When they found out, they made sure fideo was on the menu three days later.

Something so small was very significant to me, because not only did they have it prepared, they all shared in the meal with me. They met me where I was because I am different and they, with their actions, showed that they accepted and embraced me as I am.

Mary, the one full of grace, comes as one of us even though she is the Queen of Heaven because her mission is to bring us to Jesus. The mission is one of love: Her Son loves us, so she loves us. Let’s share in that mission with Mary. Let us love and embrace others so that we, too, can lead them to our Lord, Jesus Christ.

Entrust Your Long-Term & Retirement Savings to Us

OPEN AN IRA OR A TAX-DEFERRED ANNUITY OR ROLLOVER YOUR 401(k)

NOW PAYING

3.55% ^{*}
APY

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

CATHOLIC LIFE
INSURANCE

*Interest rates are subject to change.
Minimum guaranteed rate is 1.00%.
Home Office: San Antonio, Texas. #A-SU 8.21



HALLETTVILLE
Wendy Janak, FIC
(361) 798-4311



WEIMAR
Mike Scardino, FIC
(979) 725-8860



SHINER
Patrick Klozik, FIC
(361) 594-8160



EL CAMPO/NADA
Dianne Shimek Cerny
(979) 541-6346



WEIMAR
Karen Kutac, FIC
(979) 725-8919



SCHULENBURG
Royce Shimek, FIC
(979) 743-4313



VICTORIA
Robert Melnar, FIC
(361) 578-2957



NADA/GARWOOD
Chris Merta, FIC
(979) 543-1059



HALLETTVILLE
Jennifer Kraatz
(361) 798-9181



HALLETTVILLE
Charles Leopold, FIC
(361) 798-4311



EL CAMPO
Calvin Pfeil, FIC
(979) 541-6520



EAST BERNARD
Albert Smaistrila, FIC
(979) 335-4473



School gives to support missions

St. Rose of Lima Catholic School principal Rosanne Gallia, center, presented an \$1,100 donation from the school to Sister Rebecca Janacek left, and Sister Laura Toman. The St. Rose students, families, faculty and staff collected donations as a service project during Holy Week to support the IWBS Promise Pointe project in Victoria and their Mission in Africa. Sister Rebecca is the director of Promise Pointe and Sister Laura works with her at the housing ministry. *(Contributed Photo)*

New parenting workshops coming

After a successful series of parenting workshops in the late summer of 2020, the Office of Family Evangelization is bringing new speakers to the Be an Amazing Parent program.

Justin Reyes, director of the office, said last year's workshops were well received and parenting help and advice was something many people had asked for when he surveyed needs in the diocese. He said this year he is "amping it up a notch" by bringing nationally known speakers to the series.

The workshops will be online from 7:30 to 8:45 p.m. for three Wednesdays in a row starting Oct. 13.

First, Katie Warner, author and speaker,

will give the workshop titled Practical Ideas for Family Faith.

On Oct. 20, Mike and Alicia Hernon, founders of The Messy Family Project and parents of 10, will discuss Discipline: Developing a Plan that Works.

The final workshop will feature Dr. Ray Guarendi, psychologist, author and father of 10, who will present Standing Strong as a Parent.

Parents can register online at www.victoriadiocese.org/parents, or call Reyes at 361-573-0828, Ext. 2265. Contact Reyes by email at jreyes@victoriadiocese.org. Cost is \$10 per session, or \$25 to register for all three.

Family remains priority

Continued from pg. 1

encouraging families to pray and offer some sort of sacrifice as a spiritual exercise, and a new opportunity for a family consecration preparation leading up to the Feast of the Holy Family on Dec. 26.

Reyes said the idea is to help families continue to focus on Christ during the busy-ness of Christmastime.

Each month during the past year, season-appropriate resources were gathered to give ideas and inspiration to parish families. Those ideas were distributed to all parishes in the

diocese and also posted on the diocesan website. Those resources will remain available through the Diocese of Victoria website at www.victoriadiocese.org.

Bishop Cahill said the events are in line with the diocese priorities he set in 2017 – family, evangelization and human dignity.

He expects to see the fruits of the Year of the Family initiative continue to grow because of the seeds planted during the year.

See "A Shepherd's Message" on Page 2 for related information.



Conference-goers at Sacred Heart Parish in Hallettsville listen to a pre-recorded keynote address by Bishop Brendan Cahill in October 2020. For the sake of social distancing, the 2020 Catholic Conference took place at five different sites with recorded workshops. The conference also was half a day and did not include a Mass or food as it had in prior years. This year the conference was planned to again gather people in one location, but has been postponed because of a spike in the number of coronavirus cases. *(Lighthouse file photo by Janet Jones)*

34th Catholic Conference moves to April 2

JANET JONES

The Catholic Lighthouse

The 2021 Annual Catholic Conference: "Returning to the Sacraments" was also supposed to be a return to normal – or closer to normal. But things have changed again with the new spike in coronavirus cases.

The conference committee has decided to reschedule the event to April 2, predicting that the numbers of sick people will have subsided by then.

"There's just too many unknowns right now," said Greg Bentz of St. Michael's in Cuero, one of the committee members during an Aug. 25 meeting.

With the conference exactly a month away, some kind of decision had to be made so workshop presenters, vendors and people who were planning on coming that day could be informed in a timely manner.

In 2020, the pandemic was ramping up early enough in the planning stages to reorganize for social distancing before any announcements were made. The committee found several sites around the diocese and the speakers were recorded. It was also kept to half a day with no meal to further limit the chance of exposure.

The plan for the 2021 conference was

to again have all workshops in one location -- St. Joseph High School in Victoria -- with live presenters and a concluding Mass celebrated by Bishop Brendan Cahill. Those plans will remain in place as long as the schedule change will not cause any conflicts.



The theme will not change either, according to Christella Alvarez, director of the Office of Catechetical Ministry, and she expects to have the same workshops in the spring as well.

Of course, not everything is set in stone, as has been the case with most events in 2020 and 2021. "I think we're always going to have to have a Plan A and a Plan B," Alvarez said.

Alvarez said she feels really good that the decision has been made so plans can continue for a safe, healthy gathering. Anyone who already has registered for Sept. 25 will be contacted and can remain on the list of registered participants for the conference if they still want to attend on April 2.

The Diocese of Victoria website has a list of the workshops planned for the conference. Visit www.victoriadiocese.org to learn more and stay informed as the new date approaches.



Diocese
welcomes
Brenda Ortmann
to chancellor's
office

Brenda Ortmann joined the chancery staff on July 26 as the new administrative assistant for the Very Rev. Matthew Huehlefeld, chancellor and judicial vicar.

Ortmann moved “a hop, skip and a jump,” she said, from her previous office of 10 years as the receptionist at Our Lady of Victory Catholic School in Victoria.



Brenda Ortmann

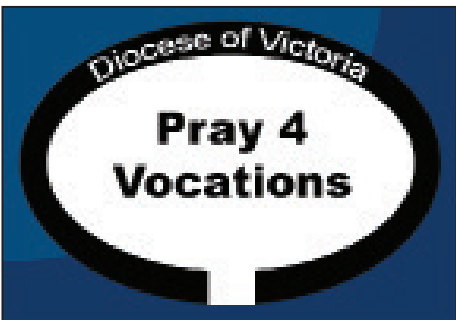
Ortmann has three sons, all of whom graduated OLV and St. Joseph High School. She enjoyed her time working at the school and says it is a big change from working with students and parents, but she feels God has led her to the new job.

She is a member of the Our Lady of Victory parish where she serves as an extraordinary minister of the Holy Eucharist. She also is an associate member of the Incarnate Word and Blessed Sacrament.



KJZT Society #101

The KJZT Society #101 made a donation and presented scholarships at a meeting recently. Pictured, top left, the Very Rev. Kirby Hlavaty, pastor at The Cathedral of Our Lady of Victory receives a donation for a TV Mass. Pam Laundry a St. Vincent de Paul Society representative receives a donation. Miranda Bazan, daughter of Holy Nevlud receives a \$300 scholarship; Evan Janecek, son of Carrie Janecek a \$300 scholarship; Mackenzie Sneath, daughter of Audrey Escobar a \$300 scholarship.



Attention High School Youth:

Youth Leadership Training Applications
Available NOW!

Email Shannon Thomas at
sthomas@victoriadiocese.org or
Wendy Eggert at weggert@victoriadiocese.org
For More Information

Holy Cross Catholic Church

Fall Festival Turkey Dinner

Online Auction

Sunday, September 26, 2021
Knights of Columbus Hall
63 CR 216 (Nichols Rd), Bay City, TX

COUNTRY STORE

charityauction.bid/HCCCFALLFEST

Music by:
Rocking W Productions

Remember to sign up for the Auction

Online Bidding
Bidding begins Sunday, September 19 at 12:00 Noon and Ends Sunday, September 26 at 2:00 pm

Turkey & Dressing Dinner

Dine In or Plates To Go 11:00AM to 2:00PM
or until we run out

\$12.00 per plate

Raffle Winners Announced Same Day!!!

For large orders (10 or more plates)
Please call church office 979-245-6379

Hollub Agency

Annuities for Texans

Pursuing
Independent financial
products and services
to better
serve clients needs
and their
investment objectives.

Review your annuities to identify
“underperforming” rates

3.80 %

Guaranteed for Year 1

2.80%

Guaranteed for Years 2-5
Simple Interest Annuity

Safe Haven Bonus Guarantee Annuities are insured by Atlantic Coast Life Insurance Company Annuity Contracts, with their terms and limitations, as well as individual features are subject to state regulations and may not be available in all states. Rates are subject to change. Product specifications vary by state, consult your agent.

Case A. Hollub, Agent
CALL TODAY!
(979) 725-8459



OSC offers teachers an inspiring start

ASHLEY NOVOSAD
Office of Catholic Schools

The Office of Catholic Schools hosted the 2021 Catholic School Seminar at the Our Lady of Victory Cathedral Center on Aug. 6. The goal of the event was to bring teachers and staff members from all the Diocese of Victoria Catholic schools together for a day of prayer and fellowship, as well as provide useful information and tools to use in their classrooms. The event was cancelled in 2020 due to COVID, so the importance of networking and collaboration between the schools was more important than ever.

The theme for the upcoming school year is “We Are the Body of Christ: United in Beauty and Truth by God’s Love.” With this theme, The Office of Catholic Schools intends to emphasize that God is the center of everything we do.

Father Jacob Koether kicked off the day with a keynote address that not only illustrated the theme with its content, but inspired our teachers integrate this Truth into every lesson, every classroom, every day. The TCCB-ED Teacher of the Year, Donna Kunz, was on hand also providing inspiration and guidance for teachers of all ages and experience levels.

The feedback from at-

tendees was overwhelmingly positive, indicating the success and usefulness of the event. One accomplishment worth noting: The OCS was able to host an indoor, in-person event without an impact to the health of our school communities.

Pictured on this page are new teachers in Catholic schools of the Diocese of Victoria who attended and had a special time for orientation.



Susan King
St. Michael School
Weimar



Ted Steinhauser
St. Michael School
Weimar



Paul Darilek
Sacred Heart School
Hallettsville



Jacob Heck
Sacred Heart School
Hallettsville



Brad Oden
Sacred Heart School
Hallettsville



Lori Boyd
Nazareth Academy
Victoria



Zoe Corona
Nazareth Academy
Victoria



Sarah Fenner
Nazareth Academy
Victoria



Michael Purnell
Our Lady of Victory School
Victoria



Ana Rubio
Our Lady of Victory School
Victoria



Nicole King
Our Lady of Victory School
Victoria



Aftan Puente
Our Lady of Victory School
Victoria



Matthew Graff
St. Philip School
El Campo



Marita Muras
Holy Cross School
Bay City



Veronica McManus
St. Joseph High School
Victoria



Kevin Mosely
St. Joseph High School
Victoria



Tricia Fisher
St. Joseph School
Yoakum

CATHOLIC SCHOOLS EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES



Holy Cross Catholic School: Bay City, Texas

- Principal
- EC-5th Grade Teacher(s)

St. Michael Catholic School: Weimar, Texas

- ELAR-5th and 8th Grade Teacher(s)
- Social Studies/Religion-5th Grade Teacher

St. Michael Catholic School: Cuero, Texas

- Principal
- PreK Teacher

For detailed job descriptions and qualification requirements visit:

www.victoridiocese.org/employment-opportunities

Submit applications until the positions are filled to:

Dr. John Quarry, Superintendent of Catholic Schools

by email: jquarry@victoridiocese.org or by mail: PO Box 4070 Victoria TX 77903

For Questions Call: (361) 573-0828



2021-22 KofC officer installation

Officers for the Archbishop Drossaerts Assembly 1131 in El Campo, from left, are, front row: Marshall Jose Martinez; Faithful Admiral Darrell D. Nohavitz; Faithful Navigator Harry A. Isenberger; Faithful Comptroller Hector Gutierrez; Faithful Friar the Very Rev. Michael J. Rother; Faithful Captain and One-Year Trustee James A. Kocurek; Color Corps Commander Joe D. Verver; and, back row, Outer Sentinel Amado R. Reyes; Faithful Purser Adam Gusman; Two-Year Trustee Kenneth A Trochta; Faithful Pilot Daniel M. Garza; Faithful Scribe Raymond L. Viktorin; and Inner Sentinel Jesus Rosalez. Not pictured is Three-Year Trustee Leroy E Dettling. *(Contributed photo)*



Weimar KC Council installs officers

Victoria Diocese District Deputy Bill Schuette installed Weimar Knights of Columbus Council #2153 new officers for 2021-22 at the council’s July meeting. The are, from left, front row: Francie “Frank” Janacek, treasurer; Jack Muggli, grand knight; Charlie Herzik, inside guard; Leo Hoelscher, warden; Herbert Ulbrich Jr., financial secretary; Bill Clifford, outside guard; McCall Ulrich, chancellor; and, back row, Bill Schuette; James Polk, trustee; Delphin Bartek, deputy grand knight; David Hassel, recorder; Bill Prihoda, advocate; and Kermit Thuemler. Not pictured are Rev. Wayne Flagg, chaplain; Emil Hudec, inside guard; James Janda, trustee; and Michael Koeth, lecturer. The Weimar Council offered its gratitude to outgoing officers Bill Briscoe, deputy grand knight; Kermit Thuemler, inside guard; and Martin Luchak, lecturer. *(Contributed photo)*

Life Chain Oct. 3
A Life Chain is scheduled to take place from 2 to 3 p.m. Oct. 3 on North Navarro Street between the intersection of Sam Houston and Magruder streets to Loop 463. Signs will be given out in the areas near Gold’s Gym, Chick-Fil-A, and Hall Electric. The Life Chain event is organized nationwide and is an opportunity for people to pray for all human life and especially to defend and protect the unborn.

Are you invested properly?
Get a second opinion.



Kenny French Sr
Financial Advisor
1501 E Mockingbird Ln Ste 102
Victoria, TX 77904
361-576-0178

Edward Jones
MAKING SENSE OF INVESTING
edwardjones.com

Member SIPC

JESUS APPROACHES
A THREE-DAY RETREAT FOR WOMEN
OCTOBER 1-3, 2021 AT
THE DIOCESE OF VICTORIA
SPIRITUAL RENEWAL CENTER

Join award-winning author and national speaker, Liz Kelly for a three-day women’s retreat based on her book: *Jesus Approaches, What Contemporary Women Can Learn about Healing, Freedom and Joy from the Women of the New Testament*. By taking a fresh look at the encounters that women had with Jesus and immersing ourselves in Church teaching on the important vocation of women, we will grow in confidence and skill in praying with scripture and in making the Gospel story our own. Past participants have called the retreat “exactly what I needed,” “really intimate, personal,” “Inspiring and fresh,” “I feel more deeply connected to all women and the gifts we all have.” Strengthen the tether between your heart and the Sacred Heart of Jesus and join us October 1-3, 2021. Space is limited, and Liz’s retreats tend to sell out, so register early.

Register at <https://www.victoriadiocese.org/women-retreats>
\$255 for double occupancy room, \$299 for single (meals included)
Retreat begins Friday at 4pm and ends Sunday at noon at 718 Gussie Schmidt Road , Victoria, TX 77905
Questions? Contact Anita at 979-541-3132 or anita.christensen@att.net



Liz Kelly is a popular speaker and an award-winning author of nine books, including *Reasons I Love Being Catholic*, which won the Catholic Press Association First Place award for Best Popular Presentation of the Faith in 2007, and *Jesus Approaches, What Contemporary Women Can Learn about Healing, Freedom and Joy from the Women of the New Testament*, which has won a number of awards, including Best Book in the Religion/Christianity category for 2017-2019. Visit her website at LizK.org.



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.



School Sisters of St. Francis, wearing black, and the Vietnamese Dominican Sisters, mingle and pose for pictures at the 25th anniversary celebration of Our Lady of the Gulf school. Both religious communities have served as teachers at the school. (Janet Jones/The Catholic Lighthouse)

Celebration of OLG and the man behind it

PORT LAVACA – On Assumption Sunday, Aug. 15, the Our Lady of the Gulf parish celebrated the school's 25th anniversary, honoring the late Father Dan Morales, who established the school. The Rev. Tommy Chen, pastor, announced that each spring, two Father Dan Morales Memorial Scholarships will be awarded to members of the Mariner Alumni Group that, as graduating seniors, have shown a true spirit of servant leadership in their community and been accepted to a college/university or trade school for the following school year.

Scholarships will be awarded based on involvement with the Mariner Alumni Group (attendance at functions and leadership within the group since graduating from OLG) and service to their community, parish, current school, and OLG school.

During the celebration they also welcomed four of the School Sisters of St. Francis from Panhandle who were among the first to teach at the school. Years later their community called them back to Panhandle and the Vietnamese Dominican Sisters from Houston came so there is still a religious community presence at the school.

Father Chen presented Paz Morales, Father Dan's father, an anchor cross carved by hand from some of the old pews in the church. He also presented handmade anchor crosses to both of the Sisters' communities.



The Rev. Tommy Chen presents an anchor cross carved from one of the old church pews to Paz Morales, father of the Rev. Dan Morales who established Our Lady of the Gulf Catholic School. (Janet Jones/The Catholic Lighthouse)



VICTORIA COUNTY'S 34TH ANNUAL CZECH HERITAGE FESTIVAL

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 26, 2021
CZECH HERITAGE POLKA MASS 9:30AM • FREE ADMISSION

Festival Admission \$10 • Children under 15 ALWAYS FREE!
Music By
The Czechualics 10:30am-12:30pm & 2:30-4:30pm
The Red Ravens 12:30-2:30pm & 4:30-6:30pm



Sorry

EVENT

CANCELLED

Czech Stew & Sausage Lunch \$10/plate 11am-1pm
Kolaches, Homemade Chicken Noodle Soup
and Sausage Wraps also available

Sponsored by: Victoria County Czech Heritage Society | [facebook.com/victoriaczechsociety](https://www.facebook.com/victoriaczechsociety)
Info: www.VictoriaCzechs.org
Victoria Community Center | 2905 E. North, Victoria, Texas



Honor guard for Assumption Mass

The Knights of Columbus, St. Michael 4th Degree Assemblies, served as honor guard for the Most Rev. Brendan Cahill, Bishop of the Victoria Diocese, in celebrating Mass at Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary Catholic Church in Praha on Aug. 15. Pictured, from left, are, front row, Rodney Kalich, Kenneth Berger, the Rev. Gabriel Maison, Bishop Brandan Cahill, the Rev. Elias Raffa, Tom Bargas, Kirby Farek, Charlie Herzik and Seminarian Dave Dominguez. (Contributed Photo)

**St. Patrick's
Catholic Church
Bloomington, TX**

**Turkey &
Dressing Plate
\$12**

Sept. 26, 2021 9:00 am St. Patrick's
Hall

Turkey, Dressing, Green Beans, Cole Slaw, Bread, & Cake
PLATES-TO-GO ONLY
Drive up Curbside Service
Call ahead on Sunday
(361) 897-1398

Raffle tickets available \$10 each
Drawing on Sunday Nov. 21 after 10 am Mass

More information contact
Thomas Pribyl (512)657-1795

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, Mentz; St. Anthony, Columbus; Sts. Peter and Paul, Frelsburg)
- Administrative Assistant (Queen of Holy Rosary, Hostyn; Sts. Peter and Paul, Plum)

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

**St. John Catholic Church
Annual
Bazaar**

**Sunday, Oct. 3rd
Hungerford Hall**

Music
by: **Blue Denim Band**
1-5pm

Sunday Mass at 9:30 AM
Barbecue Dinner
Beef - Chicken - Sausage
with all the trimmings
LIVE AUCTION DRIVE THRU
at NOON OR DINE IN
SERVING BEGINS AT 10:30 AM



Good times

EL CAMPO — St. Robert Bellarmine Catholic Daughters and the Junior Catholic Daughters Court 2275 attended a Christian concert on July 22 with performers Clay Crocket and the Nation of Believers Band from Victoria. The band opened with praise and prayer, thanking God for the blessing of gathering together. The group performed in 2019 but was unable to perform in 2020 because of the pandemic. Pictured, from left, are JCDA members NayEli Garcia, Abriana Delgado, Giselle Franco, Mariexa Medina, Nevaeh Rodriguez and Guadalupe Gavilla, JCDA Chairman. Behind them are Terri Beltran, CDA regent, left, and Roseann Delgado, St. Vincent de Paul president. (Contributed Photo)

Save the Date St. Patrick Seadrift
Fall Festival
Sunday, October 31
Turkey & Dressing Dinner
Raffle, Silent Auction, Bake Sale,
Country Store, Face Painting

Heavenly Helpers
Christian Store
(979) 543-2850
1603 N Mechanic
El Campo, TX 77437
M-F 9:30 - 5:30 Sat. 9:30 - 3:00
*First Communion, Confirmation,
Bibles, Books, Rosaries, Medals,
Statues, Baptism & Wedding Items
Inspirational Gifts*



Profession of vows

Sister Maria del Rosario Resendez professed her vows for the fourth time during an early morning Mass on Aug. 6 at the Incarnate Word and Blessed Sacrament convent chapel, with Bishop Brendan Cahill presiding. Next year, God willing, she will make her final profession of vows. Sister Kathleen Goike, right, is shown congratulating Sister Rosario after the Mass. (Photo by Janet Jones/The Catholic Lighthouse)

NEW REVISED PICNIC

ST. PHILIP
the APOSTLE CATHOLIC CHURCH

Due to the coronavirus pandemic,
we will not be having our annual in-person picnic; however,
we are still hosting our annual drive-through meal!

SUNDAY, SEPT. 26, 2021

COLUMBUS CLUB
(K.C. Hall, Armory Rd. in El Campo - serving 11 am-1 pm)

**DINNER: BBQ Beef and Sausage
with dirty rice and green beans!**

DRIVE-THROUGH ONLY: \$12.00 per plate
Homemade baked & canned goods (cakes, jellies, pickles, etc.) will also
be available to purchase in the drive-thru line while they last!

AND...we're selling tickets for our mega drawing!!
MEGA DRAWING TICKETS: \$100 each
(Drawing will be held at a later date when all tickets are sold)

\$1.00 Gift Certificate Drawing Also Available

All Drawing tickets will be available to purchase in the meal line

ONLINE AUCTION TO BE HELD AT A LATER DATE!!
Contact the St. Philip Rectory, 979-543-3770
for drawing tickets and auction registration information

Even apart, we can still come together!

Everyone in the community is invited and encouraged to join us for a great meal
and a chance at some fantastic prizes. Let us all pray for continued support
for our parish, and extend our prayers to everyone enduring this pandemic.

Investing that makes the world rejoice!



At Rohde Financial Group, we're guiding Christian investors to honor God and create a meaningful legacy with their hard-earned assets through Biblically Responsible and Faith-Based Investing (BRI & FBI). Give me a call today to get started.

Michele Rohde
AAMS, CCFC, NACFC
Financial Advisor, President
361-575-2600

5606 N Navarro, Ste 207
Victoria, TX 77904
michele.rohde@ampf.com

Ameriprise Financial provides financial services without regard to religious affiliation or cultural background. Investment advisory products are made available through Ameriprise Financial Services, LLC, a registered investment adviser.

*Certified Christian Financial Consultant (CCFC)
*Member of the Christian Franchise Advisor Network (CFAN)
*Member of National Association of Christian Financial Consultants (NACFC)





Sumergir a la familia en la contemplación de Cristo nuestra paz

Queridos hermanos y hermanas,

El domingo 3 de octubre celebraré la Misa de las 9 a.m. en la Catedral mientras comenzamos otro Congreso de Rosario en nuestra diócesis. Este será el tercer año que nos hemos comprometido como diócesis a una intensa semana de oración, con un plan para asegurar que a cada hora durante esta semana alguien en la diócesis esté rezando el rosario durante la Adoración Eucarística. El tema del Congreso del Rosario de este año es “Sumergir a la familia en la contemplación de Cristo nuestra paz”.

El Congreso del Rosario en nuestra diócesis está unido con los Congresos del Rosario en las diócesis de nuestra nación. El sitio web rosarycongressusa.org ofrece la historia de este movimiento. Inspirados por las palabras de María en Fátima, nuestra intención es ofrecer oraciones y penitencia en reparación por nuestros pecados y los pecados de los demás y crecer en la comp-

Mensaje del Pastor

By Obispo Brendan Cahill



rensión de la promesa de María de que “¡Mi Inmaculado Corazón triunfará!”

Oramos para que nuestras familias reciban esperanza y sanación a través de esta batalla espiritual.

Esa semana también marcará el final del Año de la Familia de nuestra diócesis. A lo largo del año pasado, en medio de todos los desafíos que enfrentó el mundo, muchos de ustedes aprovecharon la oportunidad para intencionalmente “orar, comer y jugar” juntos. Siguiendo algunos de los recursos e ideas proporcionados por nuestros líderes,

y también siendo creativos y compartiendo ideas entre ustedes, se ayudaron mutuamente a crecer en la fe y la confianza en Jesús.

Puedo recordar muchas de las actividades creativas para las familias durante todo el año. Uno de mis favoritos fue un día de carreras para jóvenes en el que pude participar como obispo. Pensé que ser un obispo sería bastante impresionante, ¡pero era difícil competir con el técnico de emergencias medicas mostrando como ponerse su equipo en menos de un minuto! Cada persona que participó en el día mostró cómo estaban usando los dones que Dios les había dado para servir a la comunidad.

¡Al llegar al final del Año de la Familia, todas estas actividades me afirmaron firmemente que Jesús mismo es la fuente de nuestra paz y alegría! También es evidente para mí que las actividades, las oraciones, las comidas juntas continuarán como una fuente de fortaleza, centrándose en lo más importante y vivificante.

La iglesia continúa celebrando el Año mundial de la Familia que concluye el 26 de junio en el Encuentro Mundial de las Familias en Roma con el Santo Padre.

También continuamos celebrando el Año

de San José en unión con la Iglesia global hasta el 8 de diciembre. Es correcto que coincide con el Año de la Familia ya que San José es el “Pilar de las Familias”. Que podamos seguir confiando a nuestras familias y todas nuestras preocupaciones a San José. Más de 200 personas completaron la Consagración a San José este año. Miles de personas han escuchado la charla del reverendo Don Calloway sobre San José en el Centro de la Catedral. Todavía puede escuchar su charla en el canal de YouTube Family Evangelization de la Diócesis de Victoria en <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5g2URHfy6d4>.

Que el Señor los bendiga a ustedes y a sus familias con una mayor comprensión de Su presencia y con una gran gratitud por Su cuidado diario, y que todos seamos una Luz para que el Mundo vea con mayor claridad.

+Brendan

The Emmaus Center

The Emmaus Center provides individual, couple, family, adolescent and children's counseling as well as specialized support groups from a Catholic perspective.



For more information or to schedule an appointment, please call (361) 212-0830.

ST. ANTHONY CATHOLIC CHURCH

ANNUAL PARISH FALL PICNIC

COLUMBUS HALL (FORMERLY KC HALL) 1-10 W EXIT 693

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 10, 2021

BBO

BEEF & SAUSAGE MEAL

serving 11-1

DINE IN or DRIVE THRU \$10 adult

BIG COUNTRY AUCTION

Starts at 1:00 pm

RAFFLE

50 PRIZES TICKETS \$5 EACH

TICKETS AVAILABLE from parishioners or CHURCH OFFICE
CALL: 979-732-2562

CAKE WALK

MECHANICAL BULL

MEXICAN FOOD

HAMBURGERS

ALL DAY FESTIVITIES including Old Tyme Music by **DONNIE WAVRA & The HI-LIGHTERS**

BINGO * PLANT WALK * GIFT CARD WALK

SILENT AUCTION

11am - 4 pm

STREET TACOS

3-5pm

COUNTRY STORE

*AGUAS FRESCAS * Kolache Breakfast*
*SPORTSMAN'S WHEEL * MEAT TO GO*

KID'S GAMES

- *Fish Pond*
- *Balloon Bust*
- *Cookie Monster*
- *Kid's Can Draw*
- *Ring Toss*
- and more!

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CALL 979-733-4089

Help support the Gabriel Project of the Crossroads

The Gabriel Project of the Crossroads is selling raffle tickets for an online drawing. There are dozens of prizes valued at \$100 to be won. Tickets are \$25 each and can be purchased online. The drawing will take place as a Facebook live event at 7 p.m. Oct 1. Proceeds will benefit the Gabriel Project and the new Bethlehem Maternity Home. Visit www.victoriagabrielproject.org/raffle to buy tickets.



Bethlehem
MATERNITY HOME

Offering
**Hope
Help &
Healing**
to women
experiencing a
CRISIS
pregnancy

If you are a woman between 18 and 30 in a crisis pregnancy, we can help with housing and life-affirming services in a Christian environment.
Call 1-866-627-9243 for answers.



Pregnant? Need Help?

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

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

Gabriel Project of the Crossroads

Toll Free 1-866-MARY AID

1-866-627-9243

www.victoriagabrielproject.org



Drama about first African American priest in U.S. coming to diocese

About the Production: “Tolton: From Slave to Priest” is a powerful new live production based on the life of Father Augustus Tolton, the first African American priest. This compelling true story of courage, forgiveness, and reconciliation resonates deeply with modern American audiences. Bishop Joseph Perry of Chicago, postulator for Father Tolton’s canonization cause, is calling Tolton a production that will “inspire a new era of peace, hope and forgiveness in America.”

The production runs 75 minutes, and is suitable for middle school age and up.

About Father Tolton: To characterize Father Augustus Tolton’s life as remarkable is an understatement. He was born a slave on a Missouri farm in 1854, and his mother risked everything to reach freedom in Illinois with her three small children. After settling in the town of Quincy, Ill., the family continued to experience hardships and prejudice. In spite of this, he persevered in his deep desire to become a Catholic priest. When every seminary in the United States rejected him, Augustus did not give up, and he was finally ordained in Rome. Upon his return to Illinois, Father Tolton worked tirelessly to serve people of all races, especially the former slaves who flocked to Chicago.

Father Tolton saw the Catholic Church as the antidote to the discrimination and rejection that he experienced in his own life. “It was the priests of the Church who taught me to pray and to forgive my persecutors,” he said. “We should welcome all people into the Church, not send them away.”

Catholic Charities round up help for Ida victims

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Catholic Charities in and around the areas of Louisiana and Mississippi affected by Hurricane Ida -- one of the most powerful storms to hit the continental U.S. since Hurricane Katrina in 2005 -- are collecting donations as they prepare to help with the yet-unknown damage caused by the late August storm.

Many Masses Aug. 29 had been suspended in the region as residents prepared to ride out the storm or had evacuated.

Though the hurricane had torn through much of Louisiana as a Category 4 storm on Aug. 29, the following day it was heading, as a downgraded tropical storm, but still life-threatening, toward Mississippi and then Tennessee, where flooding was the main concern.

As levees in Louisiana seemed to have

At the young age of 43, Father Tolton died after collapsing from heat exhaustion in Chicago. Now his cause for sainthood is moving forward, as more and more people are beginning to recognize the humble perseverance, courage, and compassion of this extraordinary man.

About the Actor: Jim Coleman is excited and honored to be playing the role of Father Tolton. Having appeared in more than 50 national commercials, Jim is best known for his role of Roger Parker in the hit Nickelodeon show My Brother and Me.

“Father Tolton’s story needs to be told,” says Coleman. “As a black man, this very important part of history is something that I want the world to hear about. I truly feel blessed to be the one to share Father Augustus Tolton with all who will listen!”

Jim and his wife Robin reside in Florida; they are the proud parents of six children.

About Saint Luke Productions: For nearly 40 years, Saint Luke Productions has been creating inspiring live dramas, films, radio programming, and more. Their productions on the Gospels and the lives of the saints have been seen by millions of people worldwide. For more information about Saint Luke Productions, visit www.stlukeproductions.com.

For information about the local performances, contact the Diocese of Victoria’s Office of Catholic Schools 361-573-0828, or email Ashley Novosad at anovosad@victoriadiocese.org.

stood up of Ida’s wrath, many on social media urged the public to keep in mind that help would be needed in small agricultural towns, not just for damage to New Orleans.

Catholic dioceses and organizations said they were mobilizing to help as soon as conditions allowed.

“Our local #disasterresponse teams will be ready to hit the ground when it’s safe to do so,” tweeted Catholic Charities of Baton Rouge, a few hours after the storm hit.

The Diocese of Houma-Thibodaux, Louisiana, in an Aug. 30 message on its website and social media channels, said its schools “will be closed until further notice.” The New Orleans archdiocese announced, too, that its schools and main administrative offices, would be closed until at least Labor Day.



Photo from St. Luke Productions

DATES AND TIMES

- 7 p.m. Sept. 25 at Our Lady of Victory Cathedral Center
 - 7 p.m. Sept. 26 at Our Lady of the Gulf School gym
 - 7 p.m., Sept. 27 at Leo J. Welder Center for the Performing Arts
- No admission charge, but a free-will offering will be taken.

167th ANNUAL MENTZ PICNIC



St. Roch Catholic Church – Mentz, Texas

Join us for the **Sacrifice of the Mass** at 10:30 a.m.

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 3RD

BBQ BEEF, PORK & SAUSAGE *Serving at 11:00 am*

❖ Dine In & Plates To-Go \$14.00 ❖

HAMBURGERS AT 3:00PM

R&R SHAVED ICE

GIFT CARD WALK • COUNTRY STORE • DESSERT WALK

AUCTION
1:00 p.m.

RAFFLE

MUSIC BY:
DARREL APPELT

Plenty of
Kids Activities

SILENT AUCTION
10:00a.m. - 4:00p.m.

BINGO
1:00 – 5:00 p.m.
Tax ID 74-130-5241

Check out our Facebook page for any updates. (Saint Roch Mentz)

A Prayer Of Thanksgiving For God’s Blessings

LORD, I am grateful that I am a farmer. I am glad to live close to the earth that You have made. I am happy to spend so much of my time in the open air, under the bright sun, the symbol of Your own justice and light. I am grateful for the rain and for the freshness that it brings—the rain, a symbol of Your rich and undying blessings.

I am happy to cooperate with You in Your work of continuous creation, by growing the food that men need to sustain life. By Your almighty power You make grow seeds I plant. You fill the earth with minerals, You send the rain and the sun, the wind and the snow—and the dry, hard seeds I plant are raised to soft, green life. You have given men great wisdom and cleverness to build machines that make the labor of the farmer much less burdensome.



Dear Lord, I am in Your almighty hands. I depend upon You for everything. If I sow the seed and cultivate the young plants, and You do not see fit to give me a good harvest, I will be satisfied. You are the Lord and master and creator of all things. You know what is good for me and what would do me harm. I trust You, absolutely and without question.

I thank You again for calling me to a farmer’s life. I beg of You never to let me forget its great advantages of closeness to You, absolute trust and confidence in You, and the fullness and richness of my life, close to the earth that You have made and have so marvelously blessed.

Lord, I am grateful that I am a farmer. Amen.

HARVEST MASS PLANNED



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.



Sunday Readings from Sept. 12 - Oct. 17

September 12 ~ Twenty-fourth Sunday
in Ordinary Time
Isaiah 50:5-9a
Psalms 116:1-2, 3-4, 5-6, 8-9
James 2:14-18
Mark 8:27-35

September 19 ~ Twenty-fifth Sunday
in Ordinary Time
Wisdom 2:12, 17-20
Psalms 54:3-4, 5, 6 and 8
James 3:16—4:3
Mark 9:30-37

September 26 ~ Twenty-sixth Sunday
in Ordinary Time
Numbers 11:25-29
Psalms 19:8, 10, 12-13, 14
James 5:1-6
Mark 9:38-43, 45, 47-48

October 3 ~ Twenty-seventh Sunday
in Ordinary Time
Genesis 2:18-24
Psalms 128:1-2, 3, 4-5, 6
Hebrews 2:9-11
Mark 10:2-16 or 10:2-12

October 10 ~ Twenty-eighth Sunday
in Ordinary Time
Wisdom 7:7-11
Psalms 90:12-13, 14-15, 16-17
Hebrews 4:12-13
Mark 10:17-30 or 10:17-27

October 17 ~ Twenty-ninth Sunday
in Ordinary Time
Isaiah 53:10-11
Psalms 33:4-5, 18-19, 20, 22
Hebrews 4:14-16
Mark 10:35-45 or 10:42-45

Do you have plumbing or home damage caused by the winter storms in February?

https://bit.ly/Winter_Storm_Survey

Scan Me!



Call 361-894-6264 for more information.



Choosing to LOVE
Live Our Vows Everyday



Could your marriage USE A BOOST?

Choosing to L.O.V.E. is a retreat for couples seeking to enrich their marriage by focusing on what brought it into existence: **their marriage vows**. Developed by Bishop Gary Janak and several couples from the El Campo area in 2009, it has served over 200 couples since its founding. It continues this October under the leadership of Father Michael Rother and couples from El Campo, Texas. Meant for couples wanting to strengthen their bond, and not those experiencing serious marital challenges, the weekend includes inspiring talks by married couples and clergy, within a leisurely schedule, so couples can also have private time. The cost is affordable, at just \$275 per couple.

The next retreat is October 8-10, 2021

At the Diocese of Victoria Spiritual Renewal Center in Victoria

Register today at www.victoriadiocese.org/choosingtolove.

Questions? Contact 361-573-0828 x 2665 or jreyes@victoriadiocese.org



What does the church teach about divorce?

On the Table

By Justin Reyes



Sometimes there is a bit of confusion on what the church teaches on divorce, annulments and re-marriage. I'd like to clarify some of that in this article, and also highlight the Surviving Divorce group offered in the diocese, which begins on Thursday, Sept. 9.

The first question to answer is, "What exactly does the Church teach about divorce?"

Our church teaching is clear, echoing what Jesus Christ taught. The Catechism of the Catholic Church, paragraph 2382, states, "The Lord Jesus insisted on the original intention of the Creator who willed that marriage be indissoluble. He abrogates the accommodations that had slipped into the Old Law. Between the baptized, 'a ratified and consummated marriage cannot be dissolved by any human power or for any reason other than death.'"

Our faith takes marriage very seriously and, in paragraph 2384 of the catechism, names divorce as a "grave offense against the natural law." God created marriage as an

indissoluble institution to benefit the spouses, their children, the church and the world in general.

However, in paragraph 2383, the catechism states, "The separation of spouses while maintaining the marriage bond can be legitimate in certain cases provided for by canon law. If civil divorce remains the only possible way of ensuring certain legal rights, the care of the children, or the protection of inheritance, it can be tolerated and does not constitute a moral offense." So, the church recognizes that sometimes divorce may be an option. But note: This is in extreme circumstances and does not allow for re-marriage if

one is divorced without an annulment.

So what about annulments? The Catechism explains, "...the Church, after an examination of the situation by the competent ecclesiastical tribunal, can declare the nullity of a marriage, i.e., that the marriage never existed. In this case the contracting parties are free to marry, provided the natural obligations of a previous union are discharged." (Paragraph 1629)

It's important to note that a case for annulment examines the original intent of the two couples on the day of their wedding. Sometimes, the "fruit" shown later in the marriage, good or bad, can help reveal what was in the heart and mind of each party on the day of their vows. This is why the annulment process can take some time and serves as a good tool for reflection and healing for those involved. Those considering petitioning for an annulment should seek the counsel of a priest, and can find more information at

<https://www.victoriadiocese.org/frequently-asked-questions>.

I hope this short article has been helpful to you and your loved ones. Marriage is beautiful, divorce is a difficult reality and the church is here to help. Always. God Bless!

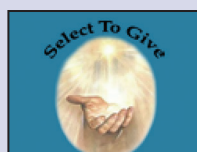
• *Justin Reyes is the Director of Family Evangelization for the Diocese of Victoria in Texas. E-mail Justin at jreyes@victoriadiocese.org.*

Register for Surviving Divorce at
www.victoriadiocese.org/survivingdivorce
Cost is \$25/includes workbook
Scholarships are available

Men and women are welcome
Call 361-573-0828, Ext. 2265
for more information.

PILGRIMAGE IS BACK!!

Join Journeys of Faith with Ceci
on these great upcoming pilgrimages in 2021-22!



December 1 - 12, 2021

Service Pilgrimage to the Holy Land in Honor of St. Joseph with Father Peter Jankowski...\$3,495 (Deposit Due Aug. 21)

The best way to celebrate the return of pilgrimage travel is to go on our FIRST SERVICE PILGRIMAGE PROGRAM!

Not only will we get to walk in Jesus' footsteps, but we will have the unique opportunity to be His hands as we visit Orphanages and Schools and aid our Christian Brothers and Sisters. An added blessing is that the proceeds of this pilgrimage goes to the Select to Give Foundation that financially supports these Orphanages and Schools! This is such a great opportunity to give thanksgiving for our own blessings!

The price of these pilgrimages will include the flights, hotels (dbl occ.), tour bus and guides, meals as indicated on the fliers. Land only pricing is available.

Information and online fliers are found at www.selectinternationaltours.com or contact me at ceci.triska@gmail.com and I will email it to you



February 18 - 27, 2022

Pilgrimage to Egypt and Jordan with Father Jeffery Dillion & Sandra Jean...\$3,905 (w/ext. Holy Land **February 27-March 5**...\$4,955) Deposit Due Nov. 2

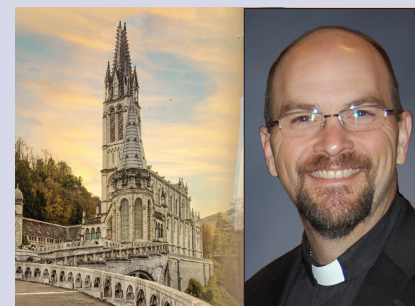
I am excited to share this program with you because I am going as a pilgrim! If you ever wanted to see Holy and Ancient Egypt with a safe group, join me on this pilgrimage!! We will visit Cairo, Ancient Cairo, Mt. Siani, Petra Madaba and Mt. Nebo as well as the Jordan River and the Dead Sea. The Holy Land extension will continue on to the Sea of Galilee area to visit Cana, Nazareth Mt. Tabor Bethlehem and Jerusalem.



June 20 - 30, 2022

Germany, Austria, Switzerland Pilgrimage with the Passion Play in Oberammergau with Father Kristopher Fuchs...\$4,795

Our postponed pilgrimage from 2020 is back on! Join us as we travel through Munich, Dachau, Our Lady of Altotting, the Passion Play, Innsbruck, Salsburg, Liechtenstein, and Lucerne! The Passion Play in Oberammergau is a must see! The whole town participates in this all day event reliving the last week of Christ's life. It is a tradition that goes back over 200 years.



October 3 - 14, 2022

A Marian Pilgrimage to Paris, Lourdes & Fatima with Father Michael Roth...\$3995

We are going to France and Portugal visiting the Marian Shrines in Paris, Lourdes and Fatima! This program will have us based in Paris for 4 nights! We will visit Nevers where St. Bernadette's incorrupt body is encased in glass, St. Vincent de Paul, Miraculous Medal Shrine where Blessed Mother appeared to St. Catherine Laboure, Mass in Sacre Coeur Cathedral, and more before we board the train to Lourdes where we will spend three nights. We will visit the Shrine of Our Lady of Lourdes, bathe in the miraculous waters, and participate in the nightly Candlelight Rosary Procession. We then head to Fatima with an evening stop at Avila and visit the convent of St. Theresa of Avila. Then on to Fatima for three nights where the highlight of our pilgrimage is attending the Mass of the Miracle of the Sun, which was our Lady of Fatima's last appearance to the three children.



The truth about divorce

Continued from pg. 1

According to Father Brune, the hesitancy about acknowledging divorce is partially a fear of “normalizing” it. In light of that, he said, the Church has done a poor job of accompanying the divorced on their troubles and struggles.

The divorced themselves can feel like second-class citizens, he said. “They feel judged, not only by the church, but by other parishioners.”

The Rev. Pat Knippenberg, pastor of Our Lady of Lourdes in Victoria, said he, too, encounters individuals and couples who are discouraged in their Catholic faith because of their marital status. He said a lot of people don’t realize that a divorce does not mean

you are not in good standing with the Church.

“If they are not remarried, they are free to have access to the sacraments,” he said.

For those who are divorced and remarried outside of the church, they cannot access the sacraments unless they go through the annulment process and remarry in the Church.

But, for some, Father Knippen-

berg said, the thought of the annulment process is upsetting. They ask why the church has so many rules. “It’s not our rules; it’s

Jesus’ rules,” he said. “It’s kind of frustrating as a priest because you want to help.”

Justin Reyes, director of the Office of Family Evangelization, said this coming session is actually the second. The program was

offered earlier in the year for the first time. It was fruitful, and it was a learning process. “We were still learning how to do the ministry,” he said.

Reyes is joined by other facilitators, John Vincent, Sheila Martinka and Daniel Derouen. Vincent and his wife, Jenny, already are involved in marriage ministry and coordinate the Retrouvaille weekends for troubled marriages. Martinka and Derouen were recently interviewed for an article in The Victoria Advocate and explained how

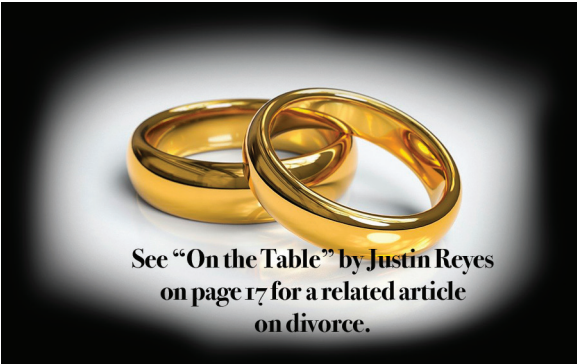
their own experiences with divorce led them to this ministry and the desire to help.

Reyes also cited a lack of information about Church teaching, not just among the divorced, but other parishioners who are not divorced. He said he’s heard stories from divorces that they were made to feel guilty or were told that they should not receive Communion, when that is not the case.

A document from the Diocese of Victoria’s Tribunal Office is posted on the Surviving Divorce web page (www.victoriadiocese.org/survivingdivorce) that discusses Church teaching on annulment and marriage. What many don’t understand is that the civil contract is not the Church’s concern, but the covenant of marriage is. The state of mind, level of maturity, and many other factors at the time of a marriage make the difference of a valid or invalid marriage as far as the Church is concerned.

“It kind of brings you back to the very beginning. How do we do marriage preparation well? Formation for married couples is essential,” Father Brune said.

For more information, visit the website, or contact Reyes at jreyes@victoriadiocese.org or 361-573-0828, Ext. 2265.



St. JOHN the BAPTIST CHURCH
Koerth, Texas **PARISH PICNIC**
SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 26, 2021

Held in the Air-Conditioned
Sweet Home Community Center
Sweet Home TX

Picnic Stew, Sausage & Trimmings
\$10 per plate
Dine-in serving at 11 AM - 1 PM
Drive-Thru serving at 10:30 AM - 1 PM
Stew available for sale
Ice-Cold Refreshments
Hamburgers for Sale in the Afternoon
Nachos sponsored by Junior KJZT

Silent Auction
Live AUCTION - 1 pm
Country Store • Kids Games
Cakewalk

RAFFLE!
Totaling \$5,400 value

50 50
RAFFLE

190th Anniversary of the first Mass celebrated in Hostyn!

Queen of the Holy Rosary Parish, Hostyn Festival

Sunday, October 3, 2021

Auction, Drawing, and Activities!

Hostyn Style Dinner Starting at 11 AM
Fried Chicken, Sausage and all the trimmings!
\$12.00 per plate

An in-person event is being planned. For updates on the in-person status of the festival, please go to the parish website - www.HostynPlumCatholic.org, Facebook page - Queen of the Holy Rosary-Hostyn / Sts. Peter & Paul-Plum Catholic Churches or contact the parish office at hostynch@cvctx.com or 979-247-4441.

The Cathedral of Our Lady of Victory Fall Festival

Sunday, October 10

Due to the ongoing and recent increase of COVID cases in Victoria the Festival will be virtual.

Raffle and an On-line Auction
More details will follow so please watch social media for "Virtual OLV Festival"



Meals • Picnics and More

September

Goliad – Presidio LaBahia presents “Fire on the Border” and “Obligations of the Soldado: 1835-1846” on Saturday, Sept. 11, from 10 a.m.-5 p.m. To learn more about these two events go to the Presidio’s website at www.presidiolabahia.org/upcoming-events-1. Admission is \$5 for adults, \$4.50 for seniors, \$2 for children 6-11, and under 6 are free. For more information, call (361) 645-3752.

Inez – St. Joseph Church Annual Picnic at the Inez Community Center on Sept. 12. Featuring fried chicken, sausage and brisket meal for \$12 per plate beginning with plates-to-go at 10:30 a.m. and dine-in at 11 a.m. There will be an auction (1 p.m.), cakewalk, games and more.

Yorktown – Holy Cross Festival will be held Sept. 12 at the Yorktown Community Hall. A bbq beef shoulder clod and sausage dinner will be served for \$12 per plate starting at 10:30 a.m. Entertainment, live auction (1 p.m.) games and more activities.

Holman – St. Wenceslaus Annual Church Feast takes place Sept. 19 at 9937 FM 155, between Weimar and La Grange. Featuring fried chicken, sausage dinner starting at 10:30 a.m. at \$12 per plate, **drive-thru ONLY**. The online auction website is www.charityauction.bid/HolmanPicnic.

Moulton – St. Joseph Picnic, Sept. 19 at the St. Joseph’s Social Center located on the parish grounds. A fried chicken and stew dinner beginning at 10:30 a.m. at \$12 per plate (dine-in, drive-thru plates-to-go, and meat-to-go available). Music by Ken Brothers and Mark Halata & Texavia, there will also be a cakewalk, bingo (12:30-4:30 p.m. and at 5:30 p.m.) and an auction (1 p.m.). Refreshments and hamburgers will be available all afternoon.

Bay City – Holy Cross Fall Festival Turkey Dinner Sept. 26 at the KC Hall (63 CR 216/Nichols Rd.). For dine-in or plates-to-go at \$12 each plate serving 11 a.m.- 2 p.m. See pg. 8 for more information.

Bloomington – St. Patrick’s Turkey and Dressing Plates on Sept. 26 starting at 9 a.m. at the parish hall with **plates-to-go ONLY** at \$12 each plate. Raffle tickets will be available. For more information see at on pg. 12.

El Campo – St. Philip Picnic at the Columbus Club on Sept. 26. A bbq beef and sausage dinner at \$12 with **plates-to-go ONLY**. For more information see ad on pg. 13.

Koerth – St. John the Baptist Parish Picnic Sept. 26 at the Sweet Home Community Center. A stew, sausage dinner served from 10:30 a.m.-1 p.m. at \$10 per plate for dine-in or drive-thru. See pg. 9 for more information.

Meyersville – Sts. Peter and Paul Festival Sept. 26 at 11220 FM 237. A bbq meal at \$10 per plate, for **plates-to-go ONLY** 11 a.m.-1 p.m. Raffle tickets available.

Victoria – Victoria County Czech Heritage Festival Sept. 26 has been cancelled.

October

Victoria – Jesus Approaches a three-day (Oct. 1-3) retreat for women at the Spiritual Renewal Center. See pg. 10 for more details.

Hostyn – Queen of the Holy Rosary Festival Oct. 3 on the parish grounds. A fried chicken, sausage dinner serving starting at 11 a.m. for \$12 each plate. See ad on pg. 18 for more information.

Hungerford – St. John Bazaar Oct. 3 at the Hungerford Hall. A bbq beef, chicken and sausage dinner starting at 10:30 a.m. with dine-in or drive thru available. See ad on pg. 12 for more details and activities.

Mentz – St. Roch Parish Picnic Oct. 3 on the parish grounds. A bbq beef, pork and sausage dinner starting at 11 a.m. at \$14 per plate. See ad on pg. 15 for all the activities happening that day.

Victoria – Nazareth Academy Fall Festival Oct. 3 at the

community center. A turkey and dressing dinner will be served at \$11 each plate. See pg. 4 for more information.

Columbus – St. Anthony Parish Fall Picnic Oct. 10 at the Columbus Hall. A bbq beef and sausage meal will be served at \$10 per plate with dine-in or drive-thru available from 11 a.m.-1 p.m. For more details see ad on pg. 14.

Victoria – The Our Lady of Victory Fall Festival Oct. 10 will be virtual. Visit their Facebook page at Our Lady of Victory School or The Cathedral of Our Lady of Victory Parish). For more information see ad on pg. 18.

Blessing – Sts. Peter and Paul Annual Dinner Oct. 31 at the parish center. A bbq turkey and dressing dinner will be served at \$15 per plate with dine-in or drive-thru available.

Ministries • Ongoing Activities

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 is also available if requested. To make an appointment, call 361-212-0830.

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.

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. It is open to all young adults of the diocese. For information, or to RSVP for events, e-mail jd916victoria@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.

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/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. Also in the Cuero area contact, Ashley Rodriguez at 361-293-0700 or e-mail 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 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 Sept. 14, Nov. 9 and Dec. 14. For more information, please call Patricia Hoelscher 979-257-9984 or email phoelscher@victoriadiocese.org.



Boy scouts get skills for life and leave lasting impact on community

Continued from pg. 1

on Scouting, which is the link between the Church and the Boy Scouts of America and works to ensure that the troops' activities also serve as a youth ministry and all adult leaders are thoroughly vetted.

Troop 364 is sponsored by the Cathedral of Our Lady of Victory, the only parish in the diocese that sponsors a troop and has done so for more than six decades.

Huante said it is a large number achieving Eagle Scout ranking this year, but they have had as many as 11 in other years. His two sons, both doctors now, also are Eagle Scouts, so he has had many years of experience working with the scouts.

Mikey Muniz, another Eagle Scout candidate at the young age of 14, is working on his Eagle Scout project. He has planned to construct a gazebo and outdoor patio with a fire pit for Promise Pointe, a ministry that uses tiny homes to shelter the homeless.

"We're excited about it," said Sister Rebecca Janacek, IWBS, the executive director of Promise Pointe. She said the residents at Promise Pointe will enjoy – and need – a place to gather and visit.

Muniz has drawn up plans and must raise the money to purchase the materials. Then he will lead a team of volunteers, including other scouts, in the construction of it. He and his father, Michael Muniz, discuss the project on a Sept. 15 podcast created by the Diocese of Victoria's Office of Family Evangelization

-- the DOV Family Podcast, which can be accessed on the Diocese of Victoria Family Evangelization Facebook or YouTube Channel.

A scout is friendly, a scout is courteous, a scout is kind ...

Lawrence, in a letter written after his project at the retreat center was completed, stated, "This Eagle Scout project is the culmination of six years of Boy Scout time and five years of time with the Cub Scouts. I'm very proud of my time as a Scout, and even prouder that I was able to assist the SRC with my project. I look forward to the opportunity of going back to the SRC for years and seeing the benches being utilized. Thank you so much to the Spiritual Renewal Center's faith and confidence in me to complete this project. Special thanks also to Mr. (Matthew) Boyle (director of the retreat center) for his guidance on the project."

Trey's father, Roger, also an Eagle Scout, is the troop's scoutmaster. "It's been nice to walk with him and mentor him through his journey," he said.

Roger said Troop 364 is the largest in the LaSalle District that includes Victoria, Jackson, Goliad, Calhoun and Refugio counties with 52 members.

Each year the older scouts help with recruiting and the younger boys really look up to the older ones as role models and mentors Roger said.



Trey Lawrence, who officially earned his Eagle Scout ranking on Aug. 29, sits on one of the three convertible benches he made for the Spiritual Renewal Center with Bishop Brendan Cahill, who blessed the project. It was his Eagle Scout project, which must be completed before he makes Eagle Scout. He and many other scouts are making a difference in the community through their leadership on these types of projects. (Contributed Photo)

A scout is obedient, a scout is cheerful, a scout is thrifty ...

Trey admits that it has not always been easy. "It's been fun, but there have been times I didn't want to continue," he said. In particular he disliked selling popcorn, a well-known annual fundraiser for Boy Scouts. But what kept him going was that the funds raised would mean adventure camps and other activities with his troop.

As he looks toward graduation and the hope of obtaining a mechanical engineering degree at Texas A&M University, Trey said he can look back and be glad he experienced the scout journey with so many who have been like a family for years.

His advice to younger scouts? "Keep pushing. There will be some challenges, but you can work through it," he said.

The younger ones already have learned a lot from the older ones because they participate in the Eagle Scout projects. In Trey's abovementioned letter, he states, "Scouts who never used a drill before were learning how to drill, and the older Scouts helped the younger Scouts in the building process. I led the project, so I worked with each group to make sure they understood their role. I even

saw one of the Scouts teaching another Scout how to use a tape measure and how to read the fractions on the tape."

A scout is brave, a scout is clean, a scout is reverent ...

One of the special things about Troop 364 is its association with a Catholic parish. Trey said their activities always begin with a prayer. During their adventure camps, they attend Mass together. Roger said the scouts are respectful of their time in prayer together and act as a family, although not all are Catholic and some are from non-Christian backgrounds.

Besides being a scout, Trey is an altar server and helps in the church when called, as do many of the young men. Roger also is involved in the parish beyond his duties as scoutmaster. They both credit their formation through scouting with influencing their desire to participate and lead in the community and parish.

Huante agreed that the boys and young men are better prepared for life and more likely to succeed as leaders.

And Roger said the need for good male role models is greater than ever. "There's a huge need for men to step up and be leaders."



Justin Reyes, director of the Office of Family Evangelization, left, interviews Eagle Scout candidate Mikey Muniz and his father, Michael, about his Eagle Scout project planned for Promise Pointe in Victoria. The DOV Family Podcast episode airs Sept. 15.