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# The Catholic Lighthouse

The Cradle of Texas Immigration

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE DIOCESE OF VICTORIA IN TEXAS

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February 2022



## *'A beautiful time to be a priest'*

Diocese gains two new fathers with Jan. 8 ordination

**JANET JONES**

*The Catholic Lighthouse*

The Cathedral of Our Lady of Victory was probably as full as it has ever been in the past two years as the two newest priests in the

Diocese of Victoria were ordained on Jan. 8.

Father Richard Barfield, officially assigned to Our Lady of the Gulf in Port Lavaca and its missions, and Father Tran Dinh,

assigned to St. Mary's in Victoria, were surrounded by family, friends, and clergy from around the diocese as they professed their vows and offered their lives to the diocese and the Church. Bishop

Emeritus David Fellhauer and Archbishop Timothy Broglio of the Archdiocese of the Military Services, also were present for the ordination.

The liturgy of the word was

conducted in Vietnamese, Spanish and English, for the various cultures represented at the Mass.

Bishop Brendan Cahill, in his  
*See Diocese gains two  
new fathers, pg. 12*





# Pilgrim journeys build strength, community, virtue

## A Shepherd's Message

By Bishop Brendan Cahill



Dear Brothers and Sisters,  
On Feb. 14, I will be celebrating the Feast of Sts. Cyril and Methodius with a special Mass in the church in Dubina dedicated to these two great saints. As part of the ceremony that day, I will be declaring that this church is a "diocesan place of pilgrimage." The following day, I will be traveling with three brother bishops to the Shrine of Our Lady of Guadalupe in Mexico City on a pilgrimage in honor of Mary our Mother.

The Christian experience of pilgrimage goes back to the early days of the Church. Christians would travel together and pray at different holy sites. The whole process of journey, accompaniment and prayer gave spiritual strength and courage in challenging times. The spirituality of the pilgrim journey continues to be a way in which a person can let go of worldly concerns for a moment and re-focus on God, who always walks by our side.

One of the reasons Sts. Cyril and Methodius in Dubina will be a special place of pilgrimage is that several Catholics of Czech descent requested that a Church in Texas be so designated in honor of the ancestors who came to this territory and kept their faith in Jesus Christ and the Catholic Church. Father Wayne Flagg, as the pastor of the parish,

accepted the responsibility and offers his spiritual support.

On a practical level, this means that if you and your family or a group travel to the Catholic church in Dubina at any time it is open, and offer a prayer together, you will receive special spiritual graces. It's a mysterious part of our faith, and I'm as convinced as ever that the spiritual graces that flow from our practices like fasting, making pilgrim-

ages or praying the rosary together have a greater effect on the world than we realize.

There are other ways in which you or your family could make pilgrimages in the diocese of Victoria. You could visit a church on its feast day, like any of the churches dedicated to Sts. Cyril and Methodius on Feb. 14 or one of the churches dedicated to St. Patrick on March 17 or one of the churches dedicated to St. Joseph on March 19.

You also could make pilgrimages to places outside of the diocese, like the Basilica of Our Lady of San Juan in the Valley. Bishop Flores of Brownsville recently told a group that this is the second most visited Shrine in the United States, and it's only a four-hour drive from Victoria.

The journey to holy places with holy people builds up strength, community and virtue. For me, these pilgrimages also serve to remind me that the goal of the journey is the beautiful pasture that our Shepherd has prepared for his saints in glory.

May you and your families be blessed with the peace of Christ, and may we always remember to pray for eternal peace for our ancestors with great love and respect.

Let's keep each other in prayer.  
+Brendan



Bishop Brendan Cahill is shown giving a homily on Feb. 14, 2020, during the inauguration of the charter members and officers of the Czech Catholic Foundation of Texas at Sts. Cyril and Methodius Catholic Church in Dubina. This year on Feb. 14, the saints' feast day, Bishop Cahill will designate the church as a diocesan place of pilgrimage to give glory to God, to honor the Apostles to the Slavs and the Czech immigrants who brought the faith to Texas given to them by the two brother saints. These saints created an alphabet that gave literary (written) birth to the Slavic language used in their mission to the Moravians in 863 A. D. to evangelize and convert the pagans to Christianity. The designation by the Bishop will include attendant indulgences allowed by Canon Law for pilgrims visiting the church and offering prayers of worship, thanksgiving, reparation or petition. The church in Dubina was selected since it was the first parish founded in Texas under the patronage of Saints Cyril and Methodius. The celebration will continue with lunch after Mass in the church hall. The Czech Catholic Foundation of Texas and the parishioners extend an invitation to all interested Catholics, or non-Catholic, to attend both the Mass and luncheon. To provide an estimate for food preparation please call 832-437-4077 or email Marvin Marek at mmarek1212@gmail.com.  
(Catholic Lighthouse file photo by Janet Jones)

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Bishop Cahill’s Schedule

<b>February</b>	<b>19</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mass with the Carmelites; Meyersville</li> <li>• 5 p.m. Confirmation Mass for Queen of the Holy Rosary and St. Peter and Paul, Hostyn</li> </ul>
<b>4</b>		6 p.m. Our Lady of Victory Gala at the Cathedral Center, Victoria
<b>5</b>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 10 a.m. Healing Mass at Our Lady of Lourdes, Victoria</li> <li>• 5 p.m. Mass for Deacon Formation retreat</li> </ul>
<b>6</b>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 9 a.m. Mass World Day of Prayer for Consecrated Life at The Cathedral of Our Lady of Victory, Victoria</li> <li>• 11:30 a.m. Scout Sunday Mass at The Cathedral of Our Lady of Victory, Victoria</li> </ul>
<b>8</b>		9:30 a.m. Legion of Mary Praesidium meeting; Cathedral Center, Victoria
<b>10</b>		9 a.m. School Mass and visit at Holy Cross; Bay City
<b>11</b>		8:15 a.m. School Mass and visit at St. Philip’s Catholic School, El Campo
<b>12</b>		9 a.m. Adaptive Teacher’s workshop at Holy Family Church, Wharton
<b>14</b>		10:30 a.m. Mass with Czech Foundation of Texas at Sts. Cyril & Methodius Church; Dubina
<b>15</b>		6:30 a.m. Relevant Radio interview (call in)
<b>15-17</b>		Pilgrimage to the Basilica of Our Lady of Guadalupe, Mexico City
<b>17</b>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 3 p.m. Mass for Airport Chaplains; High Hill</li> <li>• 6 p.m. Catholic Extension Gala; Houston</li> </ul>
<b>18</b>		6 p.m. Hispanic Ministry Appreciation Dinner; Cathedral Center, Victoria
	<b>21</b>	Noon meal with Sisters of the Incarnate Word and Blessed Sacrament at IWBS Convent, Victoria
	<b>22-23</b>	Kenedy Memorial Foundation Board Meeting; Corpus Christi
	<b>24</b>	6:30 p.m. Congar Institute Gala; San Antonio
	<b>25</b>	11:30 a.m. Mass in Shiner with St. Mary’s seminarians
	<b>25-27</b>	Retreat Master for Deacon’s Retreat at the Spiritual Renewal Center
	<b>26</b>	5 p.m. Confirmation Mass for Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Ganado
	<b>27</b>	2 p.m. Confirmation Mass for Our Lady of Victory, Victoria
	<b>28</b>	Noon Mass with Missionary Catechists
	<b>March</b>	
	<b>1</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 9:30 a.m. Legion of Mary Praesidium meeting; Cathedral Center, Victoria</li> <li>• Noon ARM Committee Meeting for CRS; virtual</li> </ul>
	<b>2</b>	12:15 p.m. Ash Wednesday Mass with students and staff at UHV
	<b>3</b>	3:30 University of St. Thomas Board meeting; virtual
	<b>5</b>	2022 Men’s Gathering at the Cathedral Center, Victoria

In Memoriam

Sister M. Amata Hollas, IWBS Passes Away

Sister M. Amata Hollas, IWBS, 84, died on Dec. 19, 2021. She was born April 16, 1937, in Lott, Texas, to the late Albert and Ann Gerdes Hollas. She was the eldest from a family of two girls and three boys.



Sister M. Amata Hollas, IWBS

Sister Amata received her grade-school education in Vanderbilt and Edna and graduated from Nazareth Academy in Victoria. She entered Nazareth Convent as a postulant on Dec. 8, 1954, became a novice on Aug. 25, 1955, and was professed on Aug. 27, 1956. She received her BA from Incarnate Word College in San Antonio with a major in English and a minor in Latin and her M.Ed degree from Southwest Texas State University with a major in administration and a minor in psychology.

During her 65 years as a professed Sister, she ministered as a teacher and/or principal at St. Leo School in San Antonio, Our Lady of Victory School in Victoria, Holy Cross School in East Bernard, Sacred Heart School in La Grange, St. Ludmila Academy in Shiner and Nazareth Convent/Academy in Victoria. She also served in the San Antonio Archdiocesan School Office as a school consultant for seven years and as the Congregational Initial Formation Director for 18 years. She served on an diocesan advisory board for *The Catholic Lighthouse* when it was being established in 1987. She was inspirational in naming the paper.

Over the years she assisted in vocation ministry and served on the Victoria Diocesan Council of Religious. She served on the Leadership Team as councilor for 12 years and as secretary/archivist for the past nine years. Working with archives and being on

the board of the Gabriel Project were very dear to her heart.

She was a deeply spiritual woman whose fiat drew her close to the Beloved. Her faith was her stronghold as she daily grasped the hand of the Incarnate Word allowing Him to lead her as a Sister of the Incarnate Word and Blessed Sacrament. Eucharist, adoration, Liturgy of the Hours, and contemplation were essential elements in her daily life. Her joyful heart and spirit touched the hearts of all who met her. Family was extremely important to her. She cherished the various family gatherings, letters, emails, and texts and she enjoyed sharing photos of her family.

Sister Amata was preceded in death by her parents and her brother William “Bill” Hollas.

She is survived by her sister, Martha Sawyers (Norman), and brothers Dave Hollas (Betty), and Dan Hollas (Kathleen), her sister-in-law, Bunny, six nieces and three nephews and three grandnieces and 11 grandnephews.

Her Mass of Christian burial was held Wednesday, Dec. 29, 2021, at Incarnate Word Convent with Bishop Brendan Cahill as the presider and homilist. Burial followed at Catholic Cemetery No. 3 with the Rev. Albert Yankey presiding.

Pallbearers were Michael Hollas, Brad Hollas, Paul Hollas, Gene Sheblak, Chris Gerdes, and Charles Wileman. Honorary Pallbearers were the IWBS Leadership Team and all those for whom she served as Formation Directress. The Sisters and family are grateful to Doctors Frank Parma, Samuel Copeland and Dr. Ty Meyer; and Citizens Medical Center fifth floor staff for the excellent care given Sister Amata.

Memorials may be made to Incarnate Word Convent, Hospice of South Texas, Gabriel Project, or donor’s choice.

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**The Season  
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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 >.**

January 20, 2022

• General Seminary Burse

Lector

In honor of Rev. Richard Gordon Barfield  
on his ordination by Verlene Kuntschik

Acolyte

In memory of Leonard Wostarek by  
Justin & Cora Wostarek Family

• Rev. Michael Lyons Seminary Burse

Acolyte

In honor of Rev. Michael Lyons’ birthday by:

St. Ann’s Altar Society, Frelsburg

M/M DeWayne Dvorak

In memory of Edwin Seidel by

M/M DeWayne Dvorak

• Rev. Scott Hill Seminary Burse

Lector

In memory of William Nevendorff by

M/M DeWayne Dvorak

Acolyte

In memory of Mr. Henry Zapalac, Sr. by

K of C Council #2902, Schulenburg

In memory of Baby Quinn (Nunmaker)

Sandel by M/M DeWayne Dvorak

In memory of Milton Shimek by

K of C Council #2902, Schulenburg

• Rev. Joseph “Joe” Koebel Seminary Burse

Acolyte

Donation by K of C Barnabas Heldt Council  
#3371, Nada

• Donald McDonald Seminary Burse Priest

Donation in memory of my husband,  
Donald McDonald by Marie McDonald

• Rev. Joseph “Joe” Vrana Seminary Burse

Acolyte

Donation by K of C Barnabas Heldt Council  
#3371, Nada

• Rev. Michael Rother Seminary Burse

Priest

Donation in honor of Rev. Michael Rother

• Rev. Msgr. John C. Peters Seminary Burse

Lector

In memory of Robert Polasek by R.J. and  
Roxanne Deem

Donation by Deacon Joey & Mary Targac

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

Lector

In honor of Father Philip Brune’s birthday  
by:

M/M DeWayne Dvorak

Mark & Sharon Kubicek

In Memory of Edwin Frank Seidel by

Lambert & Carol Brune

Acolyte

In honor of Father Philip Brune’s birthday  
by:

Sts. Peter & Paul Church St. Ann’s Altar

Society, Frelsburg

In honor of Father Wayne Flagg’s birthday

by Sts. Peter & Paul Church St. Ann’s

Altar Society, Frelsburg

• Rev. Msgr. Victor Schmidtzinsky Seminary Burse

Acolyte

Donation by K of C Barnabas Heldt Council  
#3371, Nada

• Rev. Robert Knippenberg Seminary Burse

Acolyte

In honor of Father Robert Knippenberg’s  
birthday by Sts. Peter & Paul Church St.  
Ann’s Altar Society, Frelsburg

• Rev. Chase Goodman Seminary Burse

Acolyte

In honor of Rev. Chase Goodman by  
Mark and Julie Goodman

• Rev. Jerome J. Stryk Seminary Burse

Lector

In memory of Julie Marie Passmore by:

Dan Stryk

Edwin & Julie Stryk

• Catholic Daughters Court Our Lady Queen of Peace #1374 Seminary Burse

Acolyte

Annual donation by CDA Court Our Lady  
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Seminary Endowment Fund  
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Education of Seminarian Fund

The Education of Seminarian Fund is a fund in which **all of the monies** donated to this fund, as well as the earnings, are available to cover the cost of educating seminarians. The proceeds of the special collection on Holy Thursday are deposited into the Education of Seminarian Fund. Publication of this fund will appear when new contributions are received.

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Lector

Paz & Andrea Morales

*in Memory of Father Dan Morales*

CDA Court Our Lady of Queen of the  
Clergy Court #1990

*in Memory of Paul Francoeur*

JoAnn & Otto Bleier

*in Memory of Lorraine Dick*

*in Memory of Emil Jiral*

Dorothy Viktorin

*in Memory of Johnnie Viktorin*

Marjorie Tasin

*in Memory of Bob Knippenberg, Sr.*

Acolyte

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Candidate

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Transitional Deacon

St. Anne’s KJZT #30, East Bernard

Priest

Eamon McCourt

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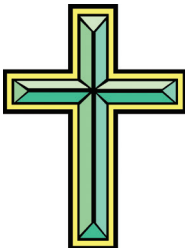
Please remember in prayer the priests of the Diocese of Victoria,

Heavenly Father, bless Your Church with an abundance of holy and zealous priests, deacons, brothers, and sisters. Give those you have called to the married state and those you have chosen to live as single persons in the world, the special graces that their lives require. Form us all in the likeness of your Son so that in Him, with Him, and through Him we may love You more deeply and serve You more faithfully, always and everywhere. With Mary we ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

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

Rev. Daniel O’Brien	02/07/2008
Rev. Msgr. Casimir Jarzombek	02/15/2019
Rev. Eugene Janson	02/17/2005
Rev. Brian Crookes	02/23/2003
Rev. Msgr. Vaclav J. Bily	02/23/1990
Rev. Msgr. Victor Schmidtzinsky	02/25/2005
Rev. Jerome Caponi	02/27/2009

“Eternal rest granted unto them, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them. May they rest in peace.”





# Salt and light must be used to be effective

*EDITOR'S NOTE: The following homily was written for the fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time, Cycle A. Father Kram titled it "Who Are We?"*

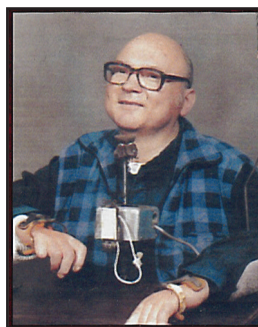
It is most appropriate that Jesus should compare his followers to salt and light. Salt has always been necessary for life and health, and light has always been necessary for sight.

Any old timer can tell you about how farmers used to butcher hogs in the winter and preserve the meat by soaking it in barrels of brine. The saltier it was, the safer it was.

Also, you know how a low-salt or no-salt diet affects your appetite. Your first reaction is, "How can I eat that?" and then you start looking for substitutes.

Salt is used for preserving and flavoring, and in addition, because it is glistening white, it is regarded as a symbol of purity.

I remember when I was a young man, I was visiting my uncle and aunt, and some of my cousins were also there. One of the girls tried to tell one of the boys a dirty joke, but



1929-2000

## Father Charles Kram Corner

he wouldn't let her. She was embarrassed and said, "It can be told," but he answered, "Anything can be told," and refused to listen. She was not the kind of girl who would help preserve or keep safe her own virtue or that of others. Besides, she was in bad taste, and was not noted for being a shining example of purity.

Jesus said, "But what if salt goes flat? How

can you restore its flavor? Then it is good for nothing but to be thrown out and trampled underfoot."

These words of Christ may have some reference to the fact that, in Palestine, outdoor stone ovens were built on a bed of salt to keep the heat in better. After a while, the salt lost its insulating ability and was scattered on the ground. So, too, Christ will have to cast off those followers who stop functioning.

To understand Christ's reference to LIGHT, consider that in Palestine, in Jesus' day, the houses had only one little round window about a foot and a half in diameter, so they were very dark inside. An oil lamp that looked like a gravy boat with a wick was kept on a lampstand when in use. Since the Jews had no matches or cigarette lighters, they did not extinguish the lamp when they did not need it; they took it down and covered it with a bushel-size earthenware container.

I remember once in the barbershop a man waiting for a haircut was sitting there bragging and cursing and fussing, not noticing that the customer ahead of him getting a haircut was

the parish priest. When the barber removed the cloth, the man was very embarrassed and said, "Gosh, Father, if I had known it was you, I would never have talked that way." The priest replied, "If you don't care if God hears you, why worry about me?" The man's Christianity was certainly well concealed.

A Christian who wishes to be a light of the world finds happiness in following Christ and finds ways to dispel depression and gloom and to spread joy. Someone has suggested that the Christian should celebrate frequently. It does seem likely that one who is always looking for something to rejoice over will find many such opportunities. If you tell him, "Good morning," he will never say, "What's good about it?" I once told an elderly patient that nothing exciting had happened that day. He pointed out the birds and the trees and the flowers.

Christian light also guides and attracts. Often, when individuals must take a stand, there are usually a good number of persons of good will who will follow if someone will just lead. A good Christian who says, "I'm sorry, but the thing we're being asked to do is wrong and I'm having no part of it," will often find himself surrounded by supporters who were waiting for someone to bring it up.

So let us call today "Salt and Light Day" – a fine day to rededicate ourselves to preserving and flavoring and lighting up with world.

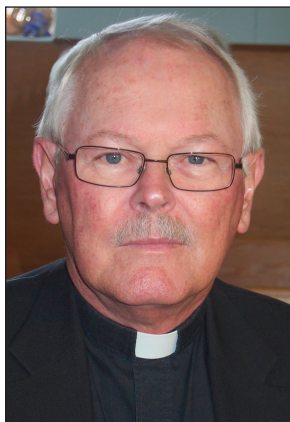
*Lord Jesus, thank you for making your teachings so clear. Help us to stir up ever finer efforts to make Christianity an ever more effective force for the happiness of mankind. Grant that by your grace, our efforts may bring much praise to our Heavenly Father. Amen.*

## Father Ronald Rolheiser leading Spirit Wind Ministry spring retreat

Spirit Wind Ministry presents a weekend retreat led by the Rev. Ronald Rolheiser, lecturer, columnist and author March 25-27 at the Spiritual Renewal Center in Victoria.

Theme for the retreat is "The Passion and the Cross – Revealing Secrets Hidden Since the Beginning of Time."

Father Rolheiser, is a Roman Catholic priest and member of the Missionary Oblates of Mary Immaculate. He is a community-builder, lecturer and writer. His books are popular throughout the English-speaking world and have now been translated into many languages. He also writes a weekly column, "In Exile," that is carried by more than 80 newspapers worldwide. He is the immediate past president of the Oblate School of Theology in San Antonio. He



Rev. Ronald Rolheiser,

taught theology and philosophy at Newman Theological College in Edmonton, Alberta, for 16 years, served as Provincial Superior of his Oblate Province for six years, and served on the General Council for the Oblates in Rome for six years. For additional information on Father Rolheiser, visit his website at [www.ronrolheiser.com](http://www.ronrolheiser.com).

The retreat cost is \$240 per person, which includes all meals and lodging. The retreat begins Friday evening and ends with lunch on Sunday. Space is limited and will be reserved in the order deposits of \$50 are received. The balance is due March 1.

Retreat fees are non-refundable/and non-transferable. Partial grants to attend are available. This retreat is open to men, women and couples of all faiths. Current COVID restrictions at the SRC include 6-foot social distancing and the wearing of masks while indoors.

Make checks payable to Spirit Wind Ministry and mail to: Susan Oakley, 103 Woodmere, Victoria, TX 77904. Please include your name, address, telephone number and email address with your deposit. For additional information contact Susan Oakley at 361-649-6391, or email: [smoak53@msn.com](mailto:smoak53@msn.com).

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## Hundreds walk to support life

VICTORIA — As the crowd gathered in DeLeon Plaza before the Annual Candlelight March for Life on Jan. 27, many listened to praise and worship music while others discussed the possibility of ending Roe v. Wade and the progress being made to restrict abortions.

During the walk the participants recited the rosary and carried signs and candles to show their love for the lives of the unborn.

Film producer and human rights activist Jason Jones was the guest speaker and addressed the crowd who gathered at Our Lady of Sorrows at the end of the walk.

Jones told the group how abortion had affected him personally. At 17, his girlfriend discovered she was pregnant. He said he wanted more than anything to be a father and raise a child in a loving home, so he quit school and joined the military, while his girl-

friend planned to hide the pregnancy until he returned from basic training. Not long before he was due to graduate from boot camp, she called, crying so long and hard that he said the only way he could describe it was, “Her soul was crying.” Her father had discovered the pregnancy and took her to have an abortion.

He said he did not know that abortion was legal and wanted someone to call the police because her father had killed his baby. From that point on, he made it a personal mission to let people know how he felt and to make abortion illegal.

He also talked about his conversion from atheist to believer to Catholic that occurred in the midst of his work to help the vulnerable.

“Our creator wills for us the culture of life,” he told those gathered. And he thanked each of them for leading the way to the preservation of life.

## Gabriel Project plans fundraiser as annual event

VICTORIA — The Gabriel Project of the Crossroads is hosting its first “Let’s Taco ‘Bout Babies” bingo fundraiser and hopes to make the event its largest annual fundraiser.

Proceeds will help cover expenses for mother and baby services and the Bethlehem Maternity Home. The event begins at 6 p.m. on Feb. 17 at Club Westerner. Tickets are \$50 each, which includes the taco bar supper, drinks and one set of bingo cards, or tables can be purchased for \$1,500 by going to [www.victoriagabrielproject.org](http://www.victoriagabrielproject.org).

Donations for the bingo purse and hunting gear prizes are needed. Anyone interested in donating to the event or becoming a sponsor should contact Michele Rohde at [michele.Rohde@ampf.com](mailto:michele.Rohde@ampf.com) or 361-575-2600.

The local Gabriel Project serves Victoria, Fayette, Colorado, Lavaca, DeWitt, Goliad, Calhoun, Jackson, Wharton and Matagorda Counties.

In 2021, the organization touched the lives of 100 mothers who were in crisis

pregnancies. Its mission is to offer support for women in crisis pregnancies and make the birth of their child a joyful event. Volun-

teers work with the mothers to help them access services and supplies to diminish the distress caused by an unplanned pregnancy. They also supply emotional and spiritual support in their time of need through friendship, encouragement and prayer.

The Gabriel Project also will be having a virtual volunteer training on Feb. 24 from 6:30 to 8 p.m. Call the hotline at 361-576-1156 to sign up.



### Office of Youth & Young Adult Ministry

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

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

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# Consecrated life beautifully explained in simplest terms

When thinking about what to write about in this month's article, I immediately thought about writing about consecrated life since World Day of Prayer for Consecrated Life is Feb. 2. The first thing I thought was I would try to explain the difference between "consecrated life" and "holy orders" with my 6-year-old nephew in mind, because Albert Einstein supposedly said that if we can't explain something to a 6-year-old child, we really don't understand it ourselves.

So I asked some Sisters how they would describe the difference between the two and these huge words and theological teachings were being thrown at me that my nephew would not understand and I don't have 12 pages in this newspaper to try to explain it in a way where he could understand.

So then I decided, maybe I would just write about what consecrated life meant to people.

I went to some friends and asked them to define consecrated life, but to do it as if they were talking to a 6-year-old. My friend Melissa Perales said that it was people who dedicated their lives to follow Jesus. I texted Aldo Camacho, who replied, "Con-

secrated life are those men and women that feel a strong desire for closeness and friendship with Jesus, so they leave everything including the possibility of marriage, to follow Jesus for life." That's quite beautiful, I have smart friends.

Ricardo Salinas compared life to the Super Mario Bros. game. How we are all like little Mario and it's OK to be Little Mario. Consecrated life is finding the mushroom and becoming "Big Mario" to devote our lives to Jesus and be closer to Him. I think he understood the assignment because what child doesn't know the Super Mario Bros.?

I Facebook messaged Joseph Friar who, after joking said that it meant I was married to Jesus, said it's "someone who loves God so much they spend every day as His special helper." I think this will be the answer that I

## Finding Beauty in Mystery

By Sister Rosario Resendez, IWBS



would use in the future whenever I have to explain consecrated life to a 6-year-old.

Different people with different answers, yet they were kind of the same. They saw that people who live the consecrated life chose to devote their lives to Jesus. Then I thought to myself, why am I not asking this same question to the treasure of ladies that I have living with me? So I approached a few of my Sisters and asked them a slightly different question. I

**CONSECRATED LIFE  
MEANS BEING SET  
APART, CALLED TO,  
OR ANOINTED FOR,  
SOMETHING SPECIAL.  
SISTER STEPHANIE MARTINEZ**

asked them, what consecrated life meant to them?

Sister Stephanie Marbach, who serves as the Vicar for Religious in the Diocese of Victoria said, "Consecrated life is my life's boat! My God is with me in my boat of life steering me as my captain through life's waters to the eternal

shore as I joyfully and completely consecrate myself freely in vowed life offering my gifts of evangelical poverty (living simply), consecrated chastity (God is my all-consuming Love), and religious obedience (following God's will). I am privileged to live in a community with other Sisters who have chosen this life and who share the same desires and dreams. Together we joyfully love and serve God and all God's people — our brothers and sisters in Jesus, our Incarnate Word."

Sister Stephanie Martinez, who currently lives and serves in San Antonio, said, "To me, consecrated life means being set apart, called to, or anointed for, something special. As a Sister of the Incarnate Word and Blessed Sacrament, I have been set apart and called to make flesh the Word in my own life by

living our charism to the best of my ability with the gifts and talents God has given me. This leads me to share this calling with all of God's creation."

Charism, according to Sister Clare Underbrink, is a gift from God given to the community to share with the world. Like Sister Stephanie Marie, I had another sister tell me that, similar to how a chalice is consecrated and then set aside to be only used at Mass, our life as a consecrated person is set aside to be used for the mission of God.

I then asked myself the same question since, later this year, I hope to make my final profession and live the consecrated life until I go to my eternal home. So what does this

life mean to me?

To me, it means giving Him my everything, loving the One that loved me first with all my being. To be in a relationship with my God who looks past my weaknesses and my flaws and sees me. I wish to be consecrated so that, hopefully, one day my life will show the love I have for my Lord, and that when people see that love shining through me, they will actually see that it is His love reflecting through me to them.

I pray to be consecrated as a Sister of the Incarnate Word and Blessed Sacrament so that every day for the rest of my life I may walk hand in hand with the love of my life and my best friend, Jesus Christ.

*Our 198th Anniversary*  
**ST. MARY'S CATHOLIC CHURCH**  
Victoria, Texas

# PARISH FESTIVAL

**SUNDAY**  
**FEBRUARY 13, 2022**  
10:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.  
Victoria Community Center

**Barbecue Brisket and Sausage, German Potatoes, Green Beans, Dessert, Tea, Water or Coffee**  
Catered by Mike Pozzi Catering, Victoria  
**Serving 11:00 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.**  
**\$12.00 a Plate - Dine In or Plates To Go**

**LIVE & ONLINE AUCTIONS**  
Online Auction Opens Feb. 11th.  
More Information at [stmvictoria.org](http://stmvictoria.org)

**Beer Garden - Cake Wheel - Plants**  
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**Jewelry - Concessions**

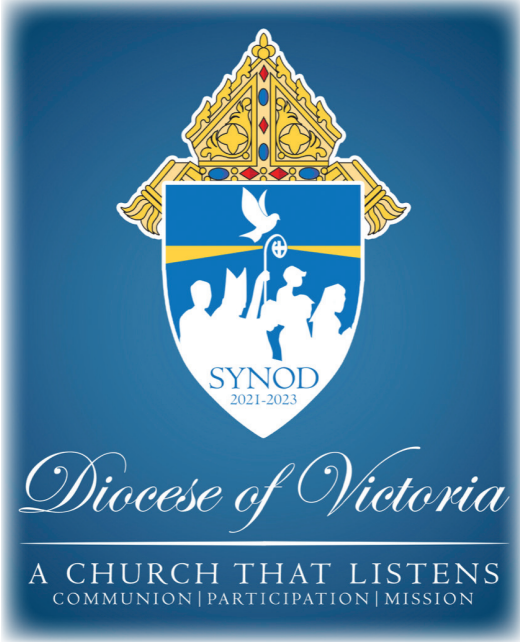
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### Building celebrated

**SWEET HOME** – The Rev. Dominic Antwi-Boasiako, above, prepares to cut the ribbon during the blessing of the Queen of Peace Catholic Church’s new Family Life Building. Bishop Brendan Cahill, right, is shown blessing the building with holy water. Church members filled up the dining hall of the new building following Mass on Jan. 22 to celebrate. Leroy Hermes, the architect of the building, said it is the first building on the site since 1928. Besides the gathering area, it includes classrooms, offices and a kitchen and can be used for many parish functions. Contractor Larry Tomanek was thanked for his dedication to the job. Building Board members are Elaine Berkovsky, Lynette Havel, J.O. Hermes, Charles Hermes, Harvey Matusek, Kirk Harrell, Bruce McConnell and Allan Monk. (Photos: Janet Jones/The Catholic Lighthouse)



### Churches preparing to hear from you

Bishop Brendan Cahill has asked parish priests in the Diocese of Victoria to coordinate “listening sessions” in each church.

Invitations will be sent out to certain individuals or groups asking them to participate in the discussions.

To see a recorded message from Bishop Cahill about the synod, visit the DOV website page [www.victoriadiocese.org/synod-2021-2023-1](http://www.victoriadiocese.org/synod-2021-2023-1).

At left is the DOV synod logo created by committee member Aldo Camacho. Instead of using the words “synod” or “synodality,” it simply states the basic goal of the synod – to listen.

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### Job Opportunity!

#### Nazareth Academy Seeks DYNAMIC Leader!



Established in 1867, in Victoria, Texas, Nazareth Academy Catholic School, owned by the Sisters of the Incarnate Word and Blessed Sacrament, with a current enrollment of 330 students, in grades PK-8, is actively seeking a dynamic leader to serve as principal for the 2022-2023 school term. Nazareth Academy is fully accredited by the TCCB-ED (Texas Catholic Conference of Bishops-Education Department). Here are the initial qualifications:

- You must be a practicing Catholic, who will honor the unique culture, tradition, and charism of Nazareth Academy.
- You will provide the necessary leadership to take our school to the next level of achievement.
- You hold a Master’s degree in Educational Administration or related field.
- You have experience as a teacher and/or administrator in the Catholic school system

If you are interested in being a part of the Nazareth Academy Catholic School legacy, you will begin the application process by sending a cover letter and resume to:  
Office of Catholic Schools, Attn: Dr. John Quarry, Superintendent of Schools, Diocese of Victoria, 1505 E. Mesquite Lane, Victoria, TX 77901. Or, you may visit our diocesan website for more details: [www.victoriadiocese.org/employment-opportunities](http://www.victoriadiocese.org/employment-opportunities)



# Celebrating Catholic Schools

~ We Are the Body of Christ ~





# CATHOLIC SCHOOLS



Dear Friends of Catholic Education,  
May God Bless You!

Over the past nearly two years, our school communities have been challenged like never before. Thanks to our devoted educators and administrators, we were able to return to in-person learning in August of 2020 and have remained open through the unpredictability of the COVID-19 pandemic. In our most uncertain of times, the faith and resiliency of our school communities has shown through. We stay committed to instilling the faith in our children while providing them a high-quality education, rich in rigorous academics and premiere programs.

Providing a Catholic education takes sacrifice, and we are grateful for our parents, grandparents, and guardians who make it a reality for over 2,700 children in our region each year. We are also thankful for the generosity of benefactors and donors who support and believe in the mission of our schools.

We look forward to continued success over the coming years and know that—with God’s help—we will be able to continue our work of bringing the Gospel message of our Lord to children throughout this diocese.

May God bless you. Let us keep each other in prayer,

+ *Brendan Cahill*

+The Most Reverend Brendan J. Cahill, S.T.D.



The Catholic Diocese of  
*Victoria in Texas*



## Diocese of Victoria Catholic Schools

There are 15 Catholic schools in the Diocese of Victoria serving children in Pre-K through 12th grade. All schools are accredited by the **Texas Catholic Conference of Bishops – Education Department** and use the **National Standards and Benchmarks for Effective Catholic Elementary and Secondary Schools** to further incorporate our mission of faith, service, and love.







# CATHOLIC SCHOOLS

The Catholic Lighthouse Special  
Page 3-A — February 2022

**Nazareth Academy Catholic School in Victoria**  
Established 1867  
[www.nazarethacademy.org](http://www.nazarethacademy.org)



**St. Joseph High School in Victoria**  
Established 1868  
[www.stjvictoria.com](http://www.stjvictoria.com)



**St. Michael Catholic School in Cuero**  
Established 1877  
[www.stmschoolcuero.org](http://www.stmschoolcuero.org)



**Sacred Heart Catholic School in Hallettsville**  
Established 1882  
[www.shschool.org](http://www.shschool.org)



**St. Rose of Lima Catholic School in Schulenburg**  
Established 1889  
[www.strosecardinals.org](http://www.strosecardinals.org)



**St. Michael Catholic School in Weimar**  
Established 1890  
[www.stmichaelswords.org](http://www.stmichaelswords.org)



**St. Joseph Catholic School in Yoakum**  
Established 1891  
[www.stjccatholicsschool.com](http://www.stjccatholicsschool.com)



**St. Ludmila Academy in Shiner**  
Established 1897  
[www.shinercatholicsschool.org](http://www.shinercatholicsschool.org)



**Holy Cross Catholic School in Bay City**  
Established 1940  
[www.bcholycrosssschool.org](http://www.bcholycrosssschool.org)



**St. Philip Catholic School in El Campo**  
Established 1949  
[www.stphilipschool.org](http://www.stphilipschool.org)



**St. Anthony Catholic School in Columbus**  
Established 1955  
[www.stanthonycolumbus.net](http://www.stanthonycolumbus.net)



**Our Lady of Victory Catholic School in Victoria**  
Established 1957  
[www.ourladyvictory.org](http://www.ourladyvictory.org)



**St. Paul High School in Shiner**  
Established 1963  
[www.shinercatholicsschool.org](http://www.shinercatholicsschool.org)



**Our Lady of the Gulf Catholic School  
in Port Lavaca**  
Established 1996  
[www.olgmariners.org](http://www.olgmariners.org)



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- Spanish and other foreign language programs
- Social/emotional curriculum
- Choir and band
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- Technology, website development
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- College planning, extensive testing and career guidance
- Practical skills such as cooking, carpentry, knitting, personal finance, gardening

## Spiritual Development Opportunities Include:

- Daily religious instruction rooted in the Gospel of Jesus Christ
- Regular Mass attendance, either weekly or daily
- Regular reception of sacraments such as reconciliation and Holy Eucharist
- Grade-level and faculty retreats
- Sacrament preparation
- Service projects

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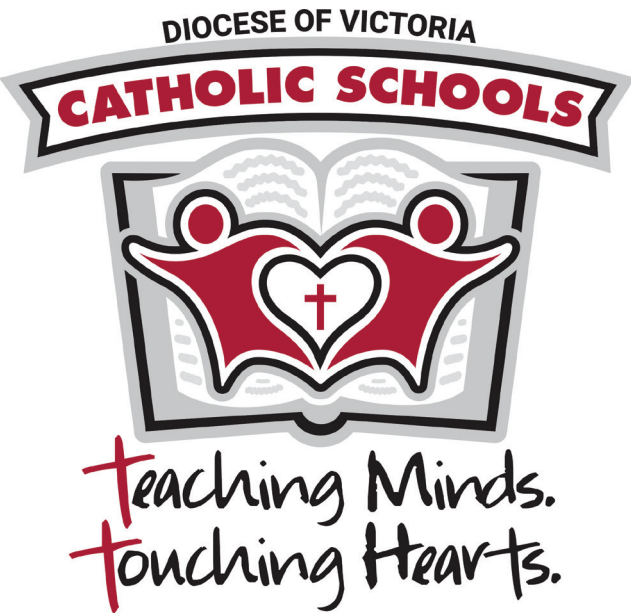
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**Spaces are  
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# CATHOLIC SCHOOLS



## Diocese of Victoria Catholic Schools by the Numbers

- 2,900 - number of children, on average, given the opportunity of receive a Catholic education each year
- 17:1 - average student-to-teacher ratio
- 12,000+ - number of completed service hours last school year
- 109 - students with a diagnosed disability from a local education agency
- 100% - percentage of high school graduates that enter into a post-high school education or military program
- 10 - number of counties in Texas served by our schools

12 pre-k programs • 13 elementary schools • 3 high schools

For a full impact report on our schools, visit [www.victoriadiocese.org/catholic-schools](http://www.victoriadiocese.org/catholic-schools)







## New Column

# The deacon's ministry in the Church often misunderstood

*Then they said to him [John the Baptist], "Who are you, so that we may give an answer to those who sent us? What do you say about yourself?" John 1:22*

As I was removing my stole and dalmatic after attending the recent ordination of Father Richard Barfield and Father Tran Dinh, from across the street a man greeted me with the words, "Good morning Father." I smiled and returned the greeting adding, "But I am not a priest. I'm a deacon." The man paused before replying, "Oh well, maybe you'll make it next year."

Even 50-plus years after the renewal, the permanent diaconate still confuses some people, including deacons ourselves:

**"We need more deacons because there is a shortage of priests."** Deacons are not ordained to the priesthood and do not serve as substitute priests. We need more deacons, because we need more deacons.

**"It must be challenging to decide when you should be a deacon and when you should be a husband, or a father, or employee."** An ordained deacon is never NOT a deacon, just as I do not become "unmarried" when I am proclaiming the Gospel at Mass.

**I'm not a priest, I'm only a deacon.** The diaconate ministry is not simply about taking on a mission, but of accepting God's invitation to enter into the *Mystery* of Christ the Servant. "Only" is not a fitting word for the evangelical authority of our ministry we receive by becoming configured to Christ and allowing Him to live out His suffering service through us.

Some of the confusion stems from the unfortunate tendency to describe the deacon in terms of the functions we exercise; that is, in what we can do (bless marriages, minister solemn baptisms, proclaim the gospel, as examples) and what we cannot do (celebrate

## At Your Service

By Deacon Michael Tankersley



Mass, hear confessions, anoint the sick, as examples).

It is true that there are faculties a deacon receives upon ordination, but when function is the only color used to paint the portrait of a deacon, the result is a bland and one-dimensional outline of what is truly rich, brilliant and full. This functional approach results in two specific distortions of the deacon and the diaconate. Firstly, while most often our service is outside the sanctuary, hidden from the public at-large, we are most often seen in the context of sacramental/liturgical activities -- at Holy Eucharist, at baptisms, at benediction, and the like. Given that the Holy Eucharist is no more valid when the deacon is involved and no less valid when he isn't, and since the sacramental and/or liturgical activities which the deacon can administer can also be done by others, it leads to questioning the necessity of the diaconate. When seen only in the context of "helping out" at Mass, it is understandable that deacons would often be referred to as "assistant priests" or, to use the expression of theologian Richard Gaillardetz, "priests, junior grade."

Secondly, this utilitarian and functional approach obscures the reality of why and to what the deacon is ordained. "The sacrament of Holy Orders marks them [deacons] with an imprint ("character"), which cannot be removed and which configures them to

Christ, who made himself the "deacon," or servant, of all." (CCC 1570)

Simply put, we were not ordained "to do" but "to be." Our formation was not a certification of proficiency to perform certain tasks but rather a transformation into a new person with a new character.

Through ordination, the deacon is configured to Christ who "came not to be served, but to serve" and by which the Church's service is sacramentalized. When the deacon serves the People of God in the ministries of the liturgy, the word and charity, he does so as "... a sacrament of the Lord Jesus himself ..." (Pope Paul VI, *Ad Pascendum*) and as "living signs of the servanthood of Christ's church." (John Paul II, 1987 address to the U.S. diaconate).

I do not offer the preceding in order to garner applause for deacons personally or collectively nor as a call for the elevation of the status of the diaconate. To do so would be to move from the role of servant to being served. I offer these thoughts because it is necessary to recognize both the salvific priesthood and the servanthood degrees of the Church if one is to appreciate the fullness of Christ's Church. In the 2nd century, St. Ignatius of Antioch in his Epistle to the Trallians:

"Let everyone revere the deacons as Jesus Christ, the bishop as the image of the Father, and the presbyters [priests] as the senate of God and the assembly of the apostles.

"For without them [emphasis mine] one cannot speak of the Church." (CCC 1554)

Pax tibi (Peace be with you).

This article is the first installment in what will be a monthly column, "At Your Service," which will come from the perspective of the permanent deacon. It will flow from a reference made in the *Didascalia Apostolorum* (*Teaching of the Apostles*), a third century account of the practices of the Church: "Yet let the deacon be the hearing of the bishop, and his mouth and his heart and his soul; for when you are both of one mind, through your agreement, there will be peace also in the Church." What is the deacon hearing and seeing in his role as the "eyes and ears" of the Bishop? What does he say to those who have not heard the Good News? What are the silent cries of those muted by grief and anguish and despair whom he is called to listen to? What do the faces of those on the peripheries look like? This column is intended to describe the lived experiences of the deacon in and from the sanctuary. While I will serve as host of the column, it will not be spoken by a singular voice. You will read bios, reflections, news and experiences from the choir of deacons who serve in our diocese. Experiences from those who serve, about those whom they serve.

Until next month, please keep in men and wives who will be attending their diaconate formation retreat Feb. 4-6. Additionally, pray for the permanent deacons of our diocese and their wives who will be attending their annual Permanent Deacon's Retreat Feb. 25-27.

— Deacon Michael Tankersley

## Holy Cross welcomes new principal

BAY CITY – Holy Cross Catholic School welcomed Linda Bradford as its new principal recently. The job position had been open since the end of the 2020-21 school year.

Bradford comes with 22 years of public school experience as teacher, counselor, assistant principal and principal. After retiring from public schools, she spent seven and a half years at Holy Rosary



Linda Bradford

Catholic School in Rosenberg.

She was attracted to the position in Bay City after moving from Sealy to Wharton, she said.

She chose to stay in the Catholic school setting for many reasons. "When I was in public school, I had 862 kids and 25 and 30 discipline referrals a day. That just wears you out," she said. "I love the way that Christ is the center of our focus here. We can be in our Catholic environment."

To be able to teach values is important to her and the smaller community has its benefits, too. "I just like the relationships that I can form here, not only with the students and parents and staff, but the community and stakeholders," Bradford said.



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# Embrace the sacrifice for love's sake

**BY MICHELE ROHDE**

*Special to the Lighthouse*

I love February. You have Valentine's Day, Super Bowl commercials, Ice Cream for Breakfast Day (Feb. 6), Don't Cry Over Spilled Milk Day (Feb. 11) and my birthday!

February is also the month in which those with New Year's Resolutions realize that their goals have blown away with the last cold front, so they either give up or dig in.

It's do or die time, people.

At a conference I recently attended, the speaker, Dr. Scott Hahn, reminded us that true and real love cannot exist without sacrifice. Then he went on to say that true and real sacrifice cannot exist without suffering.

I get it. I mean, I'm a parent, wife, daughter (of a King), and employer. Tons of love, suffering and sacrifice tangled up into those roles.

"Suffering without love is unendurable. But love without suffering is impossible."  
-- Scott Hahn.

That was the point when I wrote down in my notes, "Darn the luck." I was being facetious, yes, but don't we all naturally wish we could receive the gain with no pain? As humans, we're both gluttons for punishment and for instant gratification. So most of us fall for that trap over and over again in a million delicious ways.

Think of your most rewarding experiences, relationships and endeavors. If you look at each one, I'm sure you'll find you

didn't always get to fast forward to the good part right away. There may have been some hard work, sweat equity or even sacrifice involved. Starting a business, training for a 10K, restoring a car, remodeling your home, working on your marriage, overcoming or dealing with a loved one's addiction, a loss of a loved one or career. The stronger you feel about it, the greater the suffering might have been. Somehow, that makes it all the sweeter. Why? Because we can now appreciate that goodness more as a result of the efforts it took to obtain.

Some never reach that finish line. They will constantly sacrifice and suffer. Constantly learn and grow. That kind of love doesn't allow you to be disconnected from the present — instead, it demands you to be wide awake, feet planted firmly on the ground, well-aware of your situation, surroundings and of others. That kind of presence, in and of itself, is a sacrifice. It could also potentially feel like suffering for some who are seriously addicted to their distractions. When we are either forced or choose to think about others, we are giving up our own selfish tendencies to focus on someone or something else. When you do that, expecting nothing in return but love, that's also a sacrifice that sometimes leads to more suffering. Maybe you've experienced this in a few ways in your life ... on the receiving end, the giving end or both? Children are excellent instruments for yanking us into

the present moment often needing their caregivers to sacrifice their own wants and needs in order to provide right on the spot for those little people. So are life's emergencies. Whether we choose it or not, love is worth suffering for.

With that thought in mind, if you'll use it to reframe your goals in a new light, I think it'll help us to tilt the scales on the sad statistic that by February over 90 percent of those with resolutions give up. You may have financial, relationship, fitness, career or other personal goals on your mind right now. If you can look at those goals as something worth sacrificing -- maybe even suffering -- for, the road to obtaining that goal this year might be the single best thing you travel on in 2022.

To say it another way, not all good things will require a fight, but good things are worth fighting for. So, envision what it will feel like to live your best life, step into and settle into those feelings right now and bring that feeling to your current circumstances and relationships. Day by day it WILL change your reality.

I challenge you to use this still new year as a worthy excuse to re-launch your rocket, over and over again, every single morning. Bad days will happen. Let them. Don't give

up on goodness just because it didn't come one morning. Chase it. Claim it. Embody it. Invite Jesus to walk with you in it. Set your vision(s) and appreciate the ride getting there.

The bright side is, when we have had to endure long and hard, we can truly appreciate good instant gratification for what it is when we do receive it. For instance, allowing others to lift us up on the bad days or simply relishing a slice of heaven from the Cheesecake Factory. We can more fully appreciate the bounty, without as much guilt or emptiness at the end, if we can more clearly recognize the sacrifice made by others for our benefit. Those happy little moments will happen along the way. If we can, first, notice them, then we can feel gratitude for the grace, because that's what it is. Something too good to be true, that we don't necessarily deserve. I'll take two please!

*Michele Rohde is a mom to two sweet girls, Lexi and Kelsey, and married to her high school sweetheart, Rocky. Her passion as a financial advisor and lifestyle coach is to help people learn how to "Design a Life You LOVE!"™ by improving lives in the areas of faith, finance, fitness, fun and freedom.*

## Sunday Readings from Feb. 6 - March 6

February 6 ~ Fifth Sunday  
in Ordinary Time  
Isaiah 6:1-2a, 3-8  
Psalms 138:1-2, 2-3, 4-5, 7-8  
1 Corinthians 15:1-11  
Luke 5:1-11

February 13 ~ Sixth Sunday  
in Ordinary Time  
Jeremiah 17:5-8  
Psalms 1:1-2, 3, 4 and 6  
1 Corinthians 15:12, 16-20  
Luke 6:17, 20-26

February 20 ~ Seventh Sunday  
in Ordinary Time  
1 Samuel 26:2, 7-9, 12-13, 22-23  
Psalms 103:1-2, 3-4, 8, 10, 12-13  
1 Corinthians 15:45-49  
Luke 6:27-38

February 27 ~ Eighth Sunday  
in Ordinary Time  
Sirach 27:4-7  
Psalms 92:2-3, 13-14, 15-16  
1 Corinthians 15:54-58  
Luke 6:39-45

March 6 ~ First Sunday of Lent  
Deuteronomy 26:4-10  
Psalms 91:1-2, 10-11, 12-13, 14-15  
Romans 10:8-13  
Luke 4:1-13

### Special Days in the Catholic Church

March 2 ~ Ash Wednesday  
Joel 2:12-18  
Psalms 51:3-4, 5-6ab, 12-13, 14 and 17  
2 Corinthians 5:20—6:2  
Matthew 6:1-6, 16-18



## KJT gives to St. Rose

SCHULENBURG — The Hostyn KJT Society No. 3 presented a donation of \$200 to St. Rose of Lima Catholic School in Schulenburg from the Religious Education Grant they received from the KJT Home Office. The funds will be used toward the purchase of additional religion class materials, including student Bibles. Hostyn Society members Dillon, Luke and Brielle Goedrich attend St. Rose and were included in the presentation. Their parents are Neal and Laurie Goedrich. Pictured from left are, back, KJT Reporter Dianna Kallus, St. Rose Principal Rosanne Gallia, and KJT Vice President Benedict Kallus, and, front, seventh-grader Dillon Goedrich, second-grader Brielle Goedrich, and third-grader Luke Goedrich. (Contributed Photo)





# Los viajes peregrinos construyen fuerza, comunidad, virtud

Queridos hermanos y hermanas,

El 14 de febrero celebraré la Fiesta de los Santos. Cirilo y Metodio con una misa especial en la iglesia de Dubina dedicada a estos dos grandes santos. Como parte de la ceremonia de ese día, estaré declarando que esta iglesia es un “lugar diocesano de peregrinación”. Al día siguiente viajaré con tres hermanos obispos al Santuario de Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe en la Ciudad de México en una peregrinación en honor a María nuestra Madre.

La experiencia cristiana de la peregrinación se remonta a los primeros días de la Iglesia. Los cristianos viajarían juntos y orarían en diferentes lugares sagrados. Todo el proceso de camino, acompañamiento y oración dio fuerza espiritual y coraje en tiempos difíciles. La espiritualidad del peregrinaje sigue siendo un camino en el que una persona puede dejar por un momento las preocupaciones mundanas y volver a centrarse en Dios,

## Mensaje del Pastor

By Obispo Brendan Cahill



que siempre camina a nuestro lado.

Una de las razones por las que Sts. Cirilo y Metodio en Dubina serán un lugar especial de peregrinación es que varios católicos de ascendencia checa solicitaron que se designe una Iglesia en Texas en honor a los antepasados que llegaron a este territorio y mantuvieron su fe en Jesucristo y la Iglesia Católica. El padre Wayne Flagg, como párroco de la parroquia, aceptó la responsabilidad y ofrece su apoyo espiritual.

En un nivel práctico, esto significa que si usted y su familia o un grupo viajan a la iglesia

católica en Dubina en cualquier momento que esté abierta y ofrecen una oración juntos, recibirán gracias espirituales especiales. Es una parte misteriosa de nuestra fe, y estoy tan convencido como siempre de que las gracias espirituales que fluyen de nuestras prácticas como el ayuno, las peregrinaciones o el rezo del rosario juntos tienen un mayor efecto en el mundo de lo que creemos.

Hay otras formas en las que usted o su familia pueden peregrinar en la diócesis de Victoria. Podría visitar una iglesia en su día de fiesta, como cualquiera de las iglesias dedicadas a los Santos. Cirilo y Metodio el 14 de

febrero o una de las iglesias dedicadas a San Patricio el 17 de marzo o una de las iglesias dedicadas a San José el 19 de marzo.

También se pueden realizar peregrinaciones a lugares fuera de la diócesis, como la Basílica de Nuestra Señora de San Juan en el Valle. El obispo Flores de Brownsville le dijo recientemente a un grupo que este es el segundo Santuario más visitado en los Estados Unidos, y que está a solo cuatro horas en auto de Victoria.

El viaje a los lugares santos con personas santas construye fuerza, comunidad y virtud. Para mí, estas peregrinaciones sirven también para recordarme que la meta del camino es el hermoso pasto que nuestro Pastor ha preparado para sus santos en la Gloria

Que ustedes y sus familias sean bendecidos con la paz de Cristo, y que siempre recordemos orar por la paz eterna para nuestros antepasados con gran amor y respeto.

Mantengámonos unos a otros en oración.  
+Brendan

## Aplicación Hallow Español ofrece oraciones católicas, meditaciones en español

CHICAGO (CNS) — Hallow, la aplicación católica de oración y meditación número 1 en el mundo, ha lanzado su versión en español, Hallow Español, con una amplia gama de contenido exclusivamente para católicos hispanos.

La aplicación -- disponible en todos los países de habla hispana y en Estados Unidos -- “tiene como objetivo ayudar a católicos hispanos a profundizar su fe”, dijo un comu-

nicado de prensa.

“A medida que aumenta el porcentaje de católicos en Estados Unidos que son hispanos -- con un tercio (33 por ciento) de todos los adultos católicos de EE. UU. identificándose como hispanos -- la Iglesia Católica se ha enfocado más en brindar recursos y programas que atraigan a sus feligreses de habla hispana”, señalaba el comunicado.

“La tecnología ha desempeñado un

papel importante para llegar a los católicos hispanos”, agregó el comunicado. “Pero no ha habido una aplicación católica que los atienda, hasta ahora”.

“Con más de 1.7 millones de descargas, Hallow se ha convertido en un recurso esencial para la oración y la meditación en el mundo de habla inglesa”, expresó en un comunicado Jaime Gil, líder del equipo de contenido en español de Hallow. “A medida que avanzamos con nuestra visión de tener millones de personas orando todos los días, estamos emocionados de hacer que el mismo contenido de calidad esté disponible en español”.

Se puede descargar una versión de prueba de 14 días de Hallow Español; información para registrarse en la versión de prueba se puede encontrar en [www.hallow.com](http://www.hallow.com).

Aquellas personas que ya tienen la edición en inglés de la app pueden cambiar el idioma a español y así aparecerán todas las oraciones y meditaciones en español.

“El español no solo se habla en 21 países de las Américas, España, y otras partes del mundo”, indicó Gil, “sino que también es el segundo idioma más hablado en Estados Unidos. Con Hallow Español, creemos que Dios continuará santificando la vida de muchas personas más en todo el mundo”.

El contenido original de Hallow Español está diseñado específicamente para una audiencia hispana y se actualizará continuamente durante el año litúrgico.

Para su lanzamiento oficial en diciembre, ese contenido incluyó la Novena de Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe, un Desafío Comunitario de Las Posadas, y meditaciones especiales para el Día de los Reyes Magos (la fiesta de la Epifanía).

Hallow, que ha acumulado más de 40,000 reseñas de cinco estrellas, está disponible en Apple App Store, Google Play Store, y Amazon App Store.

Durante el año pasado, Hallow agregó muchos líderes religiosos a la aplicación, incluyendo el obispo auxiliar de Los Ángeles, Robert E. Barron, fundador del ministerio de medios Word on Fire; el padre Mike Schmitz, sacerdote de la Diócesis de Duluth, Minnesota, y co creador del podcast diario “La Biblia en un año”; Scott Hahn, fundador y presidente del Centro St. Paul de Teología Bíblica en Steubenville, Ohio; Leah Darrow, esposa y madre católica, autora y presentadora de podcasts; y la Hermana Miriam James Heidland, miembro de la Sociedad de Nuestra Señora de la Santísima Trinidad, quien es una oradora solicitada en conferencias de jóvenes.

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# Dare to be different in a time of 'apostolic mission'

I'm in the middle of a book entitled *"From Christendom to Apostolic Mission,"* and it's a fantastic read. I highly recommend it. It's about understanding the current culture in which the Church finds herself, and how to respond in order to continue spreading the Gospel. The book forces readers to come to grips with the reality that, for the most part, we are not living in a time of Christendom. In a time of Christendom, the values and norms of society are moving us closer to Jesus. I think we can agree that the overall values in society nowadays are not doing that.

So what do we do? How do we respond? The book suggests that there are actually advantages to living in a time of "Apostolic Mission" when the church's values are counter-cultural to those of the world.

One thing we need to embrace is being different from the world. Our witness of our Christian faith and how we live it day-to-day should be so shocking to people that they want

## On the Table

By Justin Reyes



to know more. As Pope Francis has emphasized, we should be joyful witnesses to the Gospel. He himself has even been quoted as saying, "Christendom no longer exists." His suggested response is not to be bitter about this, but to be a hopeful, joyful disciple on fire with God's love. In other words, in times of apostolic mission, like today, you want to be more Catholic, not less. You don't want to water down the faith, but present it fully, primarily in the way you live.

Another thing we must do is stay close to Jesus, frequenting prayer and the sacraments.

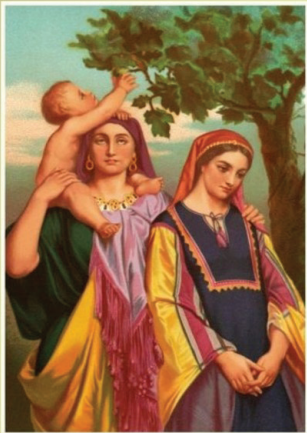
Through them, Christ gives us the graces to live differently and the wisdom for how to navigate today's culture. If we think we can live Godly without Jesus by our side, we are mistaken. He is our anchor for stability, and our guiding light for how to move forward.

A third thing that's essential is to find fellowship with other believers. We can do this through a men's group, women's group, or becoming more active in our parishes. We need to be around others pursuing holiness. It's been said that "saints come in clusters" and many of these even during a time of Christendom. For even in those times when it's been easier to live the Christian life, we have still needed brightly shining examples such as St. Francis of Assisi, and they often had friends with them for the journey, such as St. Clare or the band of brothers that joined his newly established order.

Two upcoming events that will help you to live differently and boldly this day-in-age and find fellowship are the annual men's and women's conferences. The men's is on March 5, and will focus on the role of a Catholic man. The women's is April 23 and will focus on the Blessed Virgin Mary. More information is available at [www.victoriadiocese.org/men](http://www.victoriadiocese.org/men) and [www.victoriadiocese.org/women](http://www.victoriadiocese.org/women).

I pray that this year we will all live more boldly for Jesus. We are in the midst of a world that really needs Him. He is the answer to every problem, struggle, or burden. And He promises us that "in the world you will have trouble, but, take courage, I have conquered the world." (John 16:33 NABRE).

• Justin Reyes is the Director of Family Evangelization for the Diocese of Victoria in Texas. He can be reached at 361-573-0828 x 2265 or [jreyes@victoriadiocese.org](mailto:jreyes@victoriadiocese.org).





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AND JACKIE  
MINTON




Register at [www.victoriadiocese.org/women-retreats](http://www.victoriadiocese.org/women-retreats)




## Scholarship Fund donation

HOSTYN — Hostyn KJT Society No. 3 contributed \$1,000 toward the Hostyn/Plum Scholarship Fund. The presentation was made at the December Scholarship Breakfast fundraiser to members of the committee by the KJT officers and members. Those available for the picture, from left, are Larry Adamcik, Lorenda Polasek (KJT member), Joyce Muras (KJT secretary), Shirley and Nick Macik (KJT members), Doug Janda, Brenda Fietsam (KJT treasurer), Barbara Wick, Dianna Kallus (KJT reporter), Benedict Kallus (KJT vice president), and Johnnie Polasek (KJT member). (Contributed Photo)




### 2022 DIOCESE OF VICTORIA MEN'S CONFERENCE


## What's Your Role as a CATHOLIC Man?



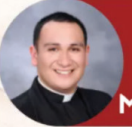
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CAHILL



FATHER  
JACOB  
MENDOZA

MAR 5, 2022

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## Safe Environment

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

#### Contact:

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

and

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

or

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

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



### Angels remembered

EL CAMPO — St. Robert Bellarmine Catholic Daughters of the Americas sponsored their third annual Angel Christmas Tree to support the Matagorda/Wharton Crisis Center for children of families affected by domestic abuse. The response from the parishioners and the community was overwhelming, according to Terri Beltran, CDA member. "We sponsored 17 families ranging from a newborn to 15 years of age. We would like to say, 'Thank you,' to all the sponsors and the anonymous donors for choosing an 'angel' from the Angel Tree," she said. The gifts were blessed by the Rev. Philip Brune, pastor of St. Robert, and presented to Beverly Escobar, Crisis Center Outreach Manager, Samantha Counts, Outreach Advocate, Ashley Danna, Forensic/Interviewer and Community Education Specialist at the "Posadas," a tradition of reenacting the nine-day pilgrimage of Mary and Joseph's journey to Bethlehem and their search for a place of shelter. *(Photo contributed by Terri Beltran)*



### Home grown

WEIMAR — Fourth-grader Gage Kainer, a student at St. Michael Catholic School, tends to his class's winter garden. The fourth-grade garden already has produced lettuce and tomatoes that were served in the school cafeteria. *(Contributed Photo)*



### Special collection

SCHULENBURG — Each year, St. Rose of Lima Catholic School students and staff work together to brainstorm ways to give back to the community. Students in grades kindergarten through fourth were eager to express their love and generosity, as they worked together on a service project to which each child was able to relate. They collected new toys to donate to the Fayette County Deputy Santa Program, and exceeded their goal, collecting more than 50 toys. *(Contributed Photo)*



### Do you have a vocation to the priesthood or religious life?

#### Contact:

Father Tommy Chen  
Director of Vocations  
361-552-6140  
[tchen@victoriadiocese.org](mailto:tchen@victoriadiocese.org)

Father Kristopher Fuchs  
Associate Director of Vocations  
361-573-4328  
[kfuchs@victoriadiocese.org](mailto:kfuchs@victoriadiocese.org)





Bishop Brendan Cahill, board president of the national Catholic Rural Life organization, blesses seed and soil samples for farmers in the Diocese of Victoria on Jan. 15 in Ganado. Priests celebrating with him were the Rev. Stephen Vacek, director of the diocese's CRL chapter, the Rev. Greg Korenek, pastor of Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary in Ganado, and the Rev. Michael Rother, pastor of St. Philip the Apostle in El Campo. (Janet Jones/The Catholic Lighthouse)

## Gifts of God blessed for farmers to feed the world

JANET JONES

The Catholic Lighthouse

GANADO, Texas — On a windy, cold Jan. 15 morning, Bishop Brendan Cahill blessed the samples of seed and soil for the rural Diocese of Victoria.

The blessing took place during a special Mass on the residential property of Bart and Karen Hajovsky, owners of BH Genetics, a truly home-grown seed corn and grain sorghum business that now distributes from coast to coast.

"Oh, it's a privilege to have him (Bishop Cahill) come and do this for the rural area, because everybody seems to forget about the rural area," Mrs. Hajovsky said. "It's very special."

During his homily, the bishop, referred to the first reading at the Mass from the First Book of Samuel, which recounts the anointing of Saul who was simply on a mission to track down his father's lost donkeys.

"Y'all know what it's like to track down a lost animal," he said. "And then, what we hear in the story, is that God was working through all that. That he (Saul) was chosen and anointed to be the king of Israel. One on level, it reminds us that God works in mysterious ways."

What is shown, Bishop Cahill said, is that "God will sustain us each day and guide our lives. What a beautiful thought as we bless seed, because it is a hopeful sign. The seed is planted and the soil prepared. Ultimately, we know that God is in control and provides

the bounty."

Bishop Cahill, president of the Catholic Rural Life (CLR) board of directors, also said that, because nature teaches us about God in many ways, it is "fitting and appropriate" to celebrate the rural life Masses. The Diocese of Victoria, which includes a chapter of the national CRL organization, also celebrates a Harvest Mass in the fall and the feast of St. Isidore, patron of farmers.

The Rev. Stephen Vacek, director of the local CRL chapter, the Rev. Greg Korenek, pastor of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary parish in Ganado, and the Rev. Michael Rother, pastor of St. Philip the Apostle parish in El Campo, concelebrated the Mass and blessing. Deacons Kevin Petrash and Anthony Hensley of the ABVM parish in Ganado also served at the Mass.

Sherry Kainer, a member of CRL from the Diocese of Victoria, helps coordinate the Masses and celebrations and always gives those who attend a rundown of all the agricultural vocations that exist in the diocese. According to Kainer, within our borders are row crops, hay fields, pecans, olives, producers of wine and cheese, cattle ranchers, shrimpers, fish farms and more.

"How blessed we can be to take care and provide for the world in which we live. And from us, and from our farms, there are people being fed literally everywhere," Bishop Cahill said.



## KJZT Family Life appoints new president

The KJZT Family Life Board of Directors recently appointed Catherine Sylvester as President/CEO.

She began her career with KJZT Family Life as a college intern in 2006. After graduating from Texas State University in 2008, she was offered a full-time position as an insurance and annuity specialist. During her 15-year career with KJZT Family Life, she has gained knowledge in the insurance, annuity and IRA industry by attending a variety of training workshops. She has worked closely with past presidents and was appointed VP of Insurance Services in January 2020. In 2021 she collaborated with the KJZT underwriter and worked dili-



Catherine Sylvester

gently to find ways to make the underwriting process more efficient for our sales agents and assisted agents with any application and requirement questions.

Catherine is a lifetime member and was an active junior member who was crowned KJZT State Queen in 2003. As a junior, she took part in numerous activities including the Texas Fraternal Congress Youth Spectacular. She has continuously dedicated her time assisting with Camp Guardian Angel over the years, along with other statewide events hosted by KJZT Family Life.

She is a devoted fifth-generation and lifetime member of KJZT Family Life. Catherine, her husband, Trey and their children, Matthew, 8, and Lily, 7, are 100 percent family members of Society No. 4, Praha.

Catherine is the daughter of Elroy and Anne Wick from Weimar. Her mother, Anne, has dedicated more than 45 years to the Fraternal as an employee, state director and, currently, state coordinator of junior activities.



EDNA — The Rev. Michael Petering, center, is shown with altar servers from the St. Agnes parish. The group gathered for the St. Agnes KJZT Chapter 111 luncheon to show appreciation to the altar servers. They were treated to a fried chicken meal, door prizes and gift cards. (Contributed Photo)



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Matthew 4:18-22

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## Meals • Picnics and More

## February

**Victoria** – St. Mary Festival Feb. 13 at the Victoria Community Center, 10:30 a.m.-3 p.m. A barbecue brisket and sausage dinner will be served from 11 a.m.-1:30 p.m. at \$12 per plate with dine-in or plates-to-go available. Live and online auction. See ad on pg. 7 to see everything happening that day.

**Moulton** – St. Joseph Parish Altar Society's Annual Chicken Noodle Soup Dinner and Raffle is Sunday, Feb. 27. Serving begins at 10 a.m., and includes chicken noodle soup, chicken salad sandwiches, desserts and tea and coffee. Soup to go also is available. Please bring your own container. The raffle with 56 prizes (first prize is a hand-stitched quilt) will be given away shortly after noon.



## Games party

**VICTORIA** — Holy Family Altar Society will be hosting a games party at the Holy Family Activity Center, 704 Mallette Dr., from 6 to 9 p.m. on Feb. 17. Admission is \$8 per person. Activities include raffle drawing, door prizes, games and silent auction, and refreshments will be served. For reservations, call 361-575-4997 or 361-550-0064. Preparing for the games party, from left, are, front, Jackie Slusher, Deacon Eddie Huse, and Mary Ann Ohrt; and, back, Becky Blanton, Kathy Motley, JoAnn Bleier and Delores Vyoral. (Contributed Photo)

## March

**Hillje** – St. Procopius Spring Festival March 6, at the parish hall. A fried chicken with white rice and corn dinner will be served starting at 11 a.m. with drive-thru plates to go only at \$12 each. There will also be a bake sale and raffle.

## Mission Trip Planned

The next mission trip to Las Obras in Antigua, Guatemala, will take place July 10-17. The late Father Dan Morales led many mission trips to the orphanage and an endowment in his name was created to help support Las Obras. More information will be coming soon about how to register for the trip. For more information about the mission, visit <https://frdanendowment.org>.



Father Dan  
Morales

## Ministries • Ongoing Activities

**ACTS Retreats** – Anyone needing any information regarding ACTS retreats in the diocese should e-mail [dovactschapter@victoriadiocese.org](mailto:dovactschapter@victoriadiocese.org).

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

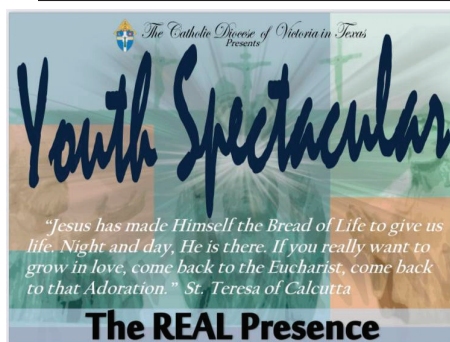
**Courage** – Ministers to persons with same-sex attractions and their loved ones. The ministry also has an outreach, EnCourage, which ministers to relatives, spouses, and friends of persons with same-sex attractions. It is a Roman Catholic Apostolate endorsed by the Pontifical Council for the Family.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

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

**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** – 2022 Dates: Apr. 22-24; June 3-5; Sept. 16-18; Nov. 11-13. 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** – Our mission is to protect the unborn by providing spiritual and emotional support as well as supplies for the pregnant mother and her baby. We provide housing through the Bethlehem Maternity Home.



**Victoria** – The Youth Spectacular event, sponsored by the Office of Youth and Young Adult Ministry, takes place 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Feb. 20 at The Cathedral Center, 3102 N. Laurent St. All high school students are welcome to attend. Registration deadline is Feb. 11. Theme is "The Real Presence." For information, visit [www.victoriadiocese.org/youth-spectacular](http://www.victoriadiocese.org/youth-spectacular), or email Wendy Eggert or Shannon Thomas at [weggert@victoriadiocese.org](mailto:weggert@victoriadiocese.org) or [stthomas@victoriadiocese.org](mailto:stthomas@victoriadiocese.org).

**Victoria** – Holy Family Church Altar Society will host a Lenten mini-retreat on Saturday, Feb. 26. It will begin with a Mass at 8 a.m. in the church. The retreat will be in the Activity Center following the end of the Mass, with the Rev. Dalton Erwin leading the retreat. All are welcome. There is no fee for the retreat. A light breakfast and lunch will be served. In order to prepare enough food, we need you to please call and sign up with Betty Fredricks 361-550-0064 or Millie Chapa 361-652-5630.

and have an outreach ministry that visits pregnant women in our community. Our services cover Victoria, Calhoun, Colorado, DeWitt, Fayette, Goliad, Jackson, Lavaca, Matagorda and Wharton. For more information, please contact our helpline at 361-576-1156.

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

**i.d.9:16 Ministry** – For adults in their 20s and 30s, single or married. Held at Holy Family in Victoria every first Thursday of the month. Starts with 6 p.m. Mass followed by dinner and a talk live streamed from the headquarters in Michigan and fellowship. It is open to all young adults of the diocese. For information, or to RSVP for events, e-mail [jd916victoria@gmail.com](mailto: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](mailto:amormeus@yahoo.com).

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

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

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

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

**Strength for the Journey** – A grief ministry for parents who have lost their child meets monthly at Assumption Church parish hall, 108 6th St., in Ganado from 6:30 to 8 p.m. The upcoming meetings will be Nov. 9 and Dec. 14. For more information, please call Patricia Hoelscher 979-257-9984 or email [phoelscher@victoriadiocese.org](mailto:phoelscher@victoriadiocese.org).

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

Other  
Events





*Father Richard Barfield gives a blessing to Bishop Cahill after his ordination on Jan. 8.*



*Father Richard Barfield shown with Bishop Brendan Chill and family members after the ordination Mass. He is assigned to Our Lady of the Gulf Catholic Church in Port Lavaca.*

*Father Tran Dinh gives a blessing to Bishop Cahill following his priestly ordination on Jan. 8.*



*Father Tran Dinh is shown with family and friends following his priestly ordination. He is now assigned at St. Mary's Catholic Church in Victoria.*

Photos by Janet Jones/The Catholic Lighthouse

## Diocese gains two new fathers with Jan. 8 ordination

*Continued from pg. 1*

homily, said, “Whenever we come into a church like this, we cannot help but say, ‘God is good.’ God has blessed us as a people, no matter what we think of the world.”

He continued by saying that the men would learn as priests, as he continues to learn as a bishop, that it might often seem like the worst of times. (The last two years have been difficult because of the COVID-19 pandemic and extremely polarizing political issues.) However, he added, “Every age that we live in is a gift God has given us. God has given you this time to proclaim the good news and to give your life as a sacrifice.”

The current Eucharistic Revival is “a beautiful time to be a priest,” Bishop Cahill

said, as the new priests will join their brother priests in proclaiming the consecrated bread and wine as the true body and blood of Jesus.

Both of the men ordained came to the priesthood on paths different from most seminarians. First of all, both have been devout family men, both married, and both with grown children and grandchildren. Father Richard is the only married priest in the diocese, and one of only about 120 out of 46,000 in the U.S. since the Church allowed clergy from some protestant denominations who already were married, to become Catholic priests. He had previously served as a chaplain in the military as an ordained minister for the Church of the Nazarene.

Father Dinh, a widower, discerned the priesthood as a young man, but devoted himself to family. After raising his children, he again felt called and was encouraged to seek the priesthood by friends as well as his children.

Addressing the men before the ordination, Bishop Cahill said, “Deacon Richard and Deacon Tran, you are open to the Word of God in your life. You strive for personal holiness and sanctification. When God spoke, you were able to listen. ... What may have seemed impossible at the beginning became possible, because God opened the doors.”

Echoing the words of the young bishop who would become St. John Paul II, Bishop Cahill said the most important thing to say

about the priesthood is that, “The priest needs to be, No. 1, a preacher of divine mercy; that we live in a world where people need to know God’s healing and merciful compassion.”

In another part of the homily where he spoke to the men to be ordained, he said, “Today, for the first time, you are going to pronounce the words that were pronounced in the gospels. Words that every priest will acknowledge we are not worthy to proclaim. Yet God has given us an eternal spirit and has chosen to work through us. And in transforming bread and wine into the body and blood, you offer it up as the sacrifice of Jesus Christ and you join yourself to that sacrifice. You become Christ for the world.”