By Cindy Wooden, Catholic News Service, and Cynthia Brewer

VATICAN CITY (CNS)—“Ad limina” visits are an occasion for bishops to confirm and solidify their unity with the pope and with Vatican officials to share information and concerns, but they are structured around Mass and other moments of prayer.

Pope Benedict XVI greets Bishop David E. Fellhauer, of the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City.

The archbishop told the Region X bishops in groups, based on the region’s three provinces—Archdiocese of San Antonio, Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston and Archdiocese of Oklahoma City. Bishop David E. Fellhauer, of the Diocese of Victoria, met the pope with the Province of Galveston-Houston.

During his homily at the Mass in St. Peter’s, Archbishop Garcia-Siller drew lessons from the Gospel reading in which Jesus tells the crowd, “Every kingdom divided against itself will be laid waste.”

The archbishop told his fellow bishops, “In the super-charged environment in which we minister today, my brothers, let us not allow others to divide us, to set us against one another.”

“Here in the Eternal City, let us renew our bond of charity with the church of Rome, with the pope, with the pope and Paul, who were martyred in Rome. The visits include meetings with the pope and with Vatican officials to share information and concerns, but they are structured around Mass and other moments of prayer.”

“Ad limina” visits to Mexico, Cuba

Pope Benedict XVI greets Bishop David E. Fellhauer of Victoria, Texas, during a March 15 meeting at the Vatican. Bishops from Texas, Oklahoma and Arkansas were making their “ad limina” visits to the Vatican to report on the status of their dioceses.

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The archbishop said in his homily during the Mass, “We must have recourse to the one who alone can give life in its fullness, because he is the essence of life and its author.”

Echoing his earlier critiques of liberation theology, a Marxist-influenced movement that found prominent supporters among Latin American Catholics during the 1970s and ’80s, Pope Benedict told reporters accompanying him on the plane from Rome that the “church is not a political power, it is not a party ... it is a moral reality, a moral power.”

Yet the pope made it clear that he was not encouraging believers to withdraw into a private kind of party uninvolved with worldly affairs.

Christian hope, the pope told an audience that included Mexican President Felipe Calderon, does not merely console the faithful with the promise of personal immortality.

The theological virtue of hope, he said, inspires Catholics to “transform the present structures and events that are less than satisfactory and seem immovable or insurmountable, while also helping those who do not see meaning or a future in life.”

The practical expression of this inspiration, the pope said, is the Church’s extensive charitable activities, which help “those who suffer from hunger, lack shelter, or are in need in some way in their life.”

That point seemed particularly relevant to the second half of Pope Benedict’s Latin American visit, to Cuba March 26-28, where he was to mark the 400th anniversary of the country’s Virgen of Charity of El Cobre.

Catholic charities in Cuba have become notably active in recent years, sometimes in opposition to the government’s policies.
Bishop Fellhauer’s Schedule

April

5  6:30 p.m., Mass of the Lord’s Supper, Our Lady of Victory Cathedral
6  12:15 p.m., Way of the Cross, Holy Trinity Chapel, Silver City
7  8:00 p.m., Easter Vigil, Our Lady of Victory Cathedral
11  7:00 p.m., Confirmation Mass, St. Mary Church, Nada
12  6:30 p.m., Confirmation Mass, Our Lady of Mount Carmel Church, Wharton
13  Annual Knights of Columbus Council #9088 Bishop’s Invitational Golf Tournament, Colony Creek Country Club
14  5:00 p.m., Confirmation Mass and 100th Anniversary celebration of Corner Stone of St. Joseph Church, Yoakum
15  10:00 a.m., Confirmation Mass, Our Lady of Lourdes Church, Victoria
20  2:00 p.m., Confirmation Mass, Our Lady of Victory Cathedral
21  7:00 p.m., Confirmation Mass, St. Michael Church, Weimar
22  8:30 a.m., Mass, Incarnate Word Convent Chapel, Chapter elections, Victoria
23  7:00 p.m., Confirmation Mass, Our Lady of Guadalupe Church, Bay City
24  6:00 p.m., Confirmation Mass, Holy Family Church, Victoria
27  7:30 a.m., Confirmation Mass, St. Rose of Lima Church, Schulenburg
11:00 a.m., Confirmation Mass, Holy Cross Church, East Bernard
3:00 p.m., Confirmation Mass, Holy Cross Church, Bay City
12  10:00 a.m., Texas Bishops’ meeting, Chancery Office, Austin
24  11:00 a.m., Mass, Texas Catholic Correctional Ministry, Spiritual Renewal Center, Victoria
24  4:00 p.m., Diocesan Building Board meeting, Chancery Office
25  7:00 p.m., Confirmation Mass, Holy Family Church, Wharton, including St. Joseph Church, Boling
26  7:00 p.m., 8th grade religion awards, Our Lady of Victory Cathedral
27  7:00 p.m., Confirmation Mass, St. Robert Bellarmine Church, El Campo
28  5:00 p.m., Confirmation Mass, St. Mary Church, Victoria
29  9:00 a.m., Confirmation Mass, St. Joseph Church, Inez
29  2:00 p.m., Confirmation Mass, St. Anthony of Padua Church, Palacios
29  3:00 p.m., Confirmation Mass, Holy Cross Church, East Bernard
May

2  10:00 a.m., Presbytery Council meeting, Chancery Office
2  7:00 p.m., Confirmation Mass, Parish of the Nativity, Eagle Lake
4  5:00 p.m., Mass, social, and meal for Sister Digna’s farewell, Chancery Staff
5  5:00 p.m., Confirmation Mass, Sts. Cyril and Methodius Church, Shiner
10  10:30 a.m., Confirmation Mass, St. Agnes Church, Edna
6  6:00 p.m., Confirmation Mass, Assumption Church, Ganado
1  10:00-5:00 p.m., Going away reception for Sister Digna, Chancery Office
9  10:00 a.m., Priests and Lay Pension Board meeting, Chancery Office

DSA & Reflection of Faith Capital Campaign Updates

2012 DSA
Diocesan Goal: $ 1,623,907.00
Parish Pledge Totals: $368,966.94
Parish Contribution Totals: $278,507.04

Reflection of Faith Capital Campaign
Diocesan Goal: $ 9,000,000.00
Parish Pledge Totals: $12,922,872.52
Parish Contribution Totals: $10,341,415.46
Number of Parish Families Participating: 6,769

Capital Campaign Is Winding Down
Through January 31, 2012, the funds for the Capital Campaign have been disbursed as follows:

- Spiritual Renewal Center - $4,685,707.97
- Priests - $2,689,430.87
- Catholic School Endowment - $1,361,797.60
- Priest’s Pension Fund - $1,094,933.49
- Religious Education - $301,150.67

Your gifts have made a great impact in the diocese. Please continue to make your pledge payments.
Seminary Burses

Seminary burses are 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 support of seminarians. The burses are in memory of or in honor of an individual priest or lay persons, living or deceased. Publication of the burses will appear periodically when new contributions are received.

As of March 28, 2012

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Total</th>
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- **Diocese Of Victoria General**
  - Previously Reported: $100,839.00
  - In memory of Betty Stevenson by Mem R. H. Bocht: 25.00
  - In memory of Debra Wearden Hampton by Theresa and James Wearden: 100.00
  - In memory of Deacon Dick Wearden by Theresa and James Wearden: 100.00

- Previous Reported: $10,657.89

- **Reverend John C. Peters Burse #5**
  - Previously Reported: $3,279.00
  - In memory of Anita M. Kallus by Sisters of the Diocese of Victoria NW: 25.00
  - In memory of Sr. Beata Henzil by Serra Club of the Diocese of Victoria NW: 25.00
  - In memory of Josephine Janak by Hubert and Betty Novak: 15.00
  - In memory of Anita M. Kallus by Theresa and Victor: 100.00
  - Donations by CDA Court #797 Hallettsville in memory of: 
    - Anita Kallus: 25.00
    - Annie H. Henke: 25.00
    - Caroline Polasek: 25.00
    - Emmeline Dvorak: 25.00
    - Josephine Janak: 25.00
    - Hubert Janak: 15.00
    - In memory of Donald R. Havel by a friend: 100.00
    - In memory of Beata Henzil by Frank and Rita Zabala: 25.00
  - Total: $3,719.00

- **Rev. Celestino Say**
  - Previously Reported: $4,960.00
  - In memory of Matthew Spann by Jeff and Denise Dickinson: 100.00
  - Donation by Catholic Life Insurance: 480.00
  - Total: $5,400.00

- **Reverend Joseph Janak Burse #2**
  - Previously Reported: $2,063.77
  - In memory of Josephine Janak by Victor and Doris Janak: 10.00
  - In memory of Anton Bujnoch by Victor and Doris Janak: 10.00
  - Total: $2,083.77

- **Rev. Edgardo Bartusch**
  - Previously Reported: $5,770.00
  - In memory of Frs. Okrulk and Verderame on the anniversary of his death by Venus Gaertz: 1,000.00
  - Total: $6,770.00

Those wishing to begin a burse or to contribute to an existing seminary burse may do by sending their contributions with the appropriate burse designation to:

**Seminarian Burses**

**Diocese of Victoria**

P.O. BOX 4070

VICTORIA, TX 77903

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**2012 DSA Kick-off**

Every year you are asked to contribute to the Diocesan Services Appeal (DSA). The funds collected are used to cover the cost of operating the diocese. As you are probably aware, your parish is assessed a specific amount to go towards the support of the diocese. The money you contribute through the DSA reduce the amount your parish will pay at the end of the year. Monies collected in excess of the DSA goal are rebated to the parishes that exceeded their goal.

Each month, The Catholic Lighthouse will feature one chancery office that is supported by you through the DSA.

You might be asking yourself, “What does the business office do for me?” It is a good question and Finance Officer Mike Brown will attempt to answer that question.

The business office is one of the departments that might not touch any parishioners directly, it is not part of the pastoral mission of the Church. However, we do touch everyone indirectly. The business office is responsible for administering the diocesan insurance program, both property and casualty and health. Did you know we administer the program that insures over $260,000,000 of property located within our diocese? Additionally, we administer the health insurance program that insures more than 450 employees and family members in the diocese. Under the direction of the bishop, the business office is responsible for administering all of the temporal goods of the diocese. These areas include all financial matters, insurance programs, human resources, building projects, building maintenance, legal matters, contracts, property management, DSA, and accounting.

Thank you for supporting the Diocesan Services Appeal.

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**Celebration of Appreciation and Farewell for Sr. Digna Vela, IWBS**

Tuesday, May 8, 2012

The Most Reverend David E. Fellhauer is having a reception to honor Sister Digna Vela, IWBS, for 22 years of service as diocesan Business Manager in the Office of Catechetical Ministry for the Diocese of Victoria. Everyone is cordially invited to attend this affair on Tuesday, May 8, 2012, at the chancery anytime between 1:00 – 5:00 p.m. Call (361) 573-0828 or e-mail t glVertex@vic.to diocese.org to RSVP.

Sister Digna’s duties and contributions to catechetical ministry are vast. As director, she organized and offered training and support to parish catechetical leaders and catechists alike. She established the Organization of Pastoral Ministry (OPL) as a means to provide for the professional and spiritual needs of those involved in catechetical ministry. The coordinating and arranging of the Annual Conference for Catechesis and Ministry, which attracts hundreds of people each year, is also under her direction. Wanting to reach inactive Catholics and a wider audience, in 1998 Sister Digna began a Sunday morning thirty-minute television broadcast in which The Christophers Closeup Series was used on the local TV station. She has managed the Library & Media Center from its inception, and in 2000 Sister Digna worked to make it accessible through the Internet. It houses approximately 7,000 books and over 1,700 videos.

In 2000, Bishop Fellhauer appointed her to oversee and coordinate DisciPus in Discursio, a diocesan-sponsored program for evangelization. Through the program, over 10,000 people in the diocese participated in small faith-sharing groups during the Lenten season for three consecutive years. To encourage the continuation of Lenten faith-sharing, in 2003 Sister Digna helped to develop Disciples on the Journey (DIJ). After nine years of production, DIJ has been sold to hundreds of parishes throughout the United States. Virtually thousands of Catholics have benefited from this Lenten resource due to her hard work and dedication.

In 2004, Sister brought the concept of whole-community catechesis to the diocese through the Generations of Faith program developed by John Roberto and the Center for Ministry Development. She administered the first Catholic Knowledge Bowl (CKB) in 2007 to offer yet another avenue for learning more about the Catholic faith. The CKB has become an annual diocesan event. She has also provided opportunities for retreats and days of reflection for numerous people throughout the diocese.

Countless theological, catechetical, and methodology courses for adults have been offered through the Pastoral Institute extended and short-term programs under Sister Digna’s direction and leadership.

In 2007, using innovative technology and the Internet, she began offering classes to an even larger audience through “distance learning.” This method has enabled more people to attend classes without leaving their local parishes.

Sister Digna also served in all levels of leadership for the Texas Catholic Confer- ence for Religious Education and was on the board and representative council for the National Conference of Catechetical Leadership. She maintained membership with other professional organizations as well.

As a desire for God’s love to be manifested in the world has precipitated Sr. Digna’s zeal to bring the “good news” of Jesus through her vocation and her tireless dedi- cation to working in the Office of Catechetical Ministry in the Diocese of Victoria for
SISTERLY
THOUGHTS

By Sister Mildred Truchard, IBVS

More Early Triumphs and Trials

(Con’t from last month)

The multi-day trip of those first Sisters by railroad from Port Lavaca may not have been an especially enjoyable time at the time. Many parts of Texas did not even have rail transportation yet; the segment from Port Lavaca to Victoria had been completed in 1861, then destroyed during the U.S. Civil War, and then rebuilt by Union troops during the Reconstruction following Civil War. While they traveled by ship from port to port along the Gulf coast was quite dependable, most overland transportation was powered by oxen, mules, or horses. Roads, where they existed, often were muddy when it rained, or rutted and dusty when it didn’t rain. A newly-arrived nun from Ireland wrote home that the pea bogs were nothing when compared with the Texas mud. A Galveston newspaper classified the roads in Texas as the worst in the state. Travel by individuals, including the early missionaries to Texas, was best done on horseback.

According to some early accounts, the Sisters (and the Brothers who later staffed St. Joseph School in Victoria) on occasion traveling together went to Corpus Christi; while they had a board across the front that protected the driver and any passenger beside him from the horses’ hoofs and any mud that might be kicked up. I don’t know if the usual mode of transportation for the early religious in Texas was by private carriage or part of the public transport (e.g., stagecoaches or small coaches) which accompanied the mail service. I do remember reading about the early Brothers at St. Joseph School returning to their headquarters in San Antonio in 1906 via stage coach. They started out during the U.S. Civil War, and then rebuilt in 1860 via stage coach. They arrived in San Antonio at the end of the next day. They were exhausted and some were sick during the trip and much of the time.

ST. ROSE OF LIMA SCHOOL HELPS THE POOR—Mrs. Rosarane Gallia (left), principal at St. Rose of Lima School, presents a check to Mrs. Rita Brossmann, representing the Schulenburg Area Food Pantry. Through The Souper Bowl of Caring, families of Lima Parish School, along with the area churches of St. Mary, High Hill; St. John, Ammannsville; St. John the Baptist, St. John; Ascension of Our Lord, Moravia; and St. Wenceslaus, Holman, collected $1,300 for the Schulenburg Area Food Pantry.

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By Sr. Elizabeth Riebschlaeger, CCVI

The description by John XXIII of the times of Leo XIII could apply to today’s crisis similarly: “Unregulated competition had succumbed to its own inherent tendencies to the point of practically destroying itself. It had given rise to a great accumulation of goods, and in the midst of plenty concreted a despotic economic power in the hands of a few “who for the most part are not the direct owners, but only the trustees and directors of invested funds, which they administer at their own good pleasure.” (John XXIII in “Mother and Teacher,” May 1961)

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cerns” addressed modern social problems, urging solutions. In “On the Social Teaching of the Popes,” he recalled and updated “Rerum Novarum” on its centennial, and “the prefer-

ential option for the poor” on the eve of Communism’s collapse in Eastern Europe and the Soviet Union. His wisdom focused on the form of government and economic systems that would respect the rights of the poor. Once again, a pope warned of the dangers to human dignity and the common good from both capitalism and communism. Once again, the world of excessive capitalism, unparalleled greed and materialistic consumerism failed to listen.

Desperate workers exploited by the excessive greed of some capitalists are vulnerable to the theories of atheistic socialism, which has accounted for its success in places like Latin America in the 1960’s. Pope John Paul II asked US bishops to send $10 to those who would go to the hope of the Gospel. It also explains why some workers replaced “consumerism” and martyred there by those in power.

Applying principles of the Gospel to the economic system in place proved to be incompatible with the status quo. Arch-bishop Oscar Romero’s martyrdom as he celebrated the Eucharist in his cathedral in San Salvador is but one example of the violence against the Church’s teachings. It may well be that the Lord’s Catholic disciples will be held more accountable for the current economic crisis than will any socialist seeking to relieve peoples’ suffering through the unbridled greed powering capitalism and consumerism.

As we had noted before, in spite of various conflicts, wars, and disagreement, the Church has been a stabilizing force in Victoria during the aftermath of the Civil War. There were simmering hostilities, even among Catholics, between the former Confederates and those whose sympathies and loyalty may have been with the Union. The nearly 300 citizens (1860 census) indicated a population of 1896, including 521 slaves) were adjusting to a new way of life. God’s children after the announcement in Galveston on June 19, 1865, that all slaves were to be freed. If they, as many did, continued to work for their former masters they were to be paid.

Unfortunately, the evil institution of slavery had been accepted as part of life by many of the property owners of the South. Prior to the war, Catholic slaveholders were obliged to make sure that their slaves were to receive religious education, that their marriages would be respected and that their families would not be separated. After the slaves were freed, the U.S. Bishop (yes, the bishops met periodically) declared that the bishops and priests were to see that the Church would take care of the spiritual needs of the recently freed persons. Unfortunately, for many of them to be fully integrated into society would be among pains taking journeys.

Today, as we face the cultural, political, and social upheavals of our times, we may find it encouraging to remember how our early founders brought the presence of God to their era through their faith and generosity. May we all imitate them.

And may we all experience the blessings of the Easter Season.

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The 7th grade winners of the Holy Fam- 
ily Parish Annual Cathecis- 
test are shown with KC #8088; 
Grand Knight Charles Bluntzer (l.). The con-
test was held March 3. From left are win-
ers: 1st place Kyle Alexander; 2nd place 
Andrew Moore; 3rd place tie: Sean Casey 
and Jerret Faires.

Post Catechism Contest Report

The finals of Victoria Holy Family 
Parish Fifth Annual Catechism Contest, 
sponsored by Knights of Columbus Con-
cil #9088, were held in the auditorium 
of the education building on Saturday, 
March 3, 2012. Master of Ceremonies 
of the event was Grand Knight Charles 
Bluntzer. The judges were Betty Migura, 
Elizabeth Klecka and Cheryl Benavidez. 
Emory Migura was in charge of timing the 
contest. Thanks to the generosity of the 
K.C. Council, the following prizes were 
awarded each of the winners in Grades 
1-8: First Place: $100; Second Place: $30; 
Third Place: $20; Fourth Place: $10. 
 Winners were as follows: Grade 1: 1st Joshua Bonorden; 2nd Allison Lerma; 3rd Lynsey Brown, 4th Justin Trenc; 
Grade 2: 1st Cassidy Zimmermann, 2nd 
Wyatt Borden, 3rd Blake Zeplin; 4th Jake 
Plunkett; Grade 3: 1st Emma Prfka, 2nd 
Xavier Moore; 3rd Kirran Grones; 4th 
Syndi Popp; Grade 4: 1st Jayden Kueker, 
2nd Jake Risinger, 3rd Trent Netto; 4th 
Sarah Saenz; Grade 5: 1st Alexander 
Bonorden, 2nd Joseph Andrus; 3rd 
Kagin Migl; 4th Willard Bondovsky; Grade 6: 
1st Myah Mallory; 2nd Fernando DeLeon; 3rd 
Blaine Harrison; 4th Valyn Rosalez; 
Grade 7: 1st Kyle Alexander; 2nd 
Andrew Moore; 3rd Place Tie Sean Casey 
and Jerret Faires; Grade 8: 1st Place Samuel 
Bonorden and Reid Polasek; 2nd Bryan 
Sturm; 3rd Joshuda Calzada.

The following students scored the 
highest in their grades on the written test 
but were unable to participate in the finals: 
Chelsea Carroll, Nicholas Hilschel, Reid 
Goodwille, Kesli Pratka, Caleb Hayden 
and Lauren Contor.

To qualify for the finals, the students 
took a written test in the classroom 
and made one of the four top scores 
in each grade. The students were given a 
“question-answer” type booklet during the 
year and encouraged to study ten minutes 
each night.

The Catechism Contest originated in 
Holy Family’s CCD Program in response 
to Pope John Paul II in “catechize Our 
Time” when he said: “A certain 
memorization of the words of Jesus, 
of important Bible passages, of the Ten 
Commandments, of the essential prayers, 
of key doctrinal ideas, etc. far from being 
opposed to the dignity of young Christians, 
ought to be an authentic way of continuing 
dialogue with the Lord, is a real need, as 
the synod fathers forcefully recalled.”

Incarnate Word Sisters Texas history published

Continued from p. 1

Footprints in the Sands of Time 
will be released by Baxter Publishing 
at the Incarnate Word Convention Gift 
Shop in Victoria. Sister also hopes to sell 
the book at VITA Bookstore in San 
Antonio and possibly at SACCO and 
MARY REGINA in Houston.

On June 11, she will have a book sign-
ing and make a presentation at the Victoria 
County Genealogical Society. She looks 
forward to holding more signings in Victoria, 
possibly in conjunction with Nazareth 
Academy, where she taught for 20 years 
and St. Joseph High School, where she 
was once principal.

“Do everything 
in love.”
1 Corinthians 16:14

Benedictine Monastery of Incarnate Word Sisters
National Heritage SCHOLARSHIP FUND

By Cynthia Brewer

The Rite of Election and Call to Con-
tinuing Conversations was celebrated on 
the first Sunday of Lent, February 26, 2012, 
at Our Lady of Victory Cathedral with 
Bishop David E. Fellhauer presiding. 
Thirty-three Catechumens and 80 
candidates were presented to Bishop Fell-
hauer and affirmed by their sponsors 
and the present Catholic assembly following 
the rite, participants were invited to tour 
the chancery building.

Catechumens are those who wish to 
enter the Church and will receive the 
three rites of initiation: baptism, confirmation, 
and the Eucharist, on Easter Vigil. Can-
didates are those who have been baptized 
into the Christian faith, but are awaiting 
acceptance into the fullness of the faith 
by receiving confirmations and the Eucharist 
on Holy Saturday evening (Easter Vigil).

A special thanks goes to those who 
assembled in the room Ty Baar, master 
of ceremonies and creator of worship aid; 
Gisunthy Coeirg, organist; Daniel Ber-
glund, cantor; Sister Digna Veda, chair-
woman of the chancery reception; and 
Sister Alberta said. Three years 
will sell for $29.95. It may be purchased 
for the present time. When I retired from 
my ministry in Houston to Incarnate Word 
Convent in Victoria, General Superior 
Sister Evelyn Korennek told me she 
still wanted me to be with the people.

“I got the responsibility to write the 
book, because I remember some of the 
process that took place at the time of the 
Union,” Sister Alberta said. “I had just 
entered the convent; I was very young 
when I had just arrived.”

“We also have many original docu-
ments in the Incarnate Word Convent 
Archives,” Sister Alberta said. Three years 
ago, she began writing the history, using 
the documents in the Archives, where she 
continues to do research work.

Sister Alberta found her publisher by 
going through the Houston phone book. 
After calling 25 publishers, some of whom 
had closed, moved or didn’t publish 
books like hers, she found Pat Springile with 
Baxter Publishing in Friendswood, Texas, 
who was very helpful.

Catechumens and Candidates to 
enter the Church this Easter

to the state competition for a gold medal 
performance on a Regional Class I Solo are 
Wyatt Borden and Josh Guerra on alto 
saxophone. The State Instrumental 
Performance Contest will be on May 26 at 
Richland College in Dallas.

Five Choir solists advance to state: 
Students of the STJ Choral program 
were awarded first division medals on 
February 25 at the 2012 District Regional 
TPSMEA Solo & Ensemble Contest. The 
contest was hosted by Providence High School in 
San Antonio. The finals is to advance to the 
state competition by winning a Gold Medal 
in performance on a Class I Solo are Jaclyn 
Bonzella, Thais Bonzella, Johanna Hoong, 
Meghan Mead, and Katie Simmore.

Sacred Heart Student Named National 
Merit Scholarship Finalist

HALLETTSVILLE — The National 
Merit Scholarship Corporation (NMSC) 
has announced that Emily Kossa, a senior 
at Sacred Heart Catholic School in Hal-
lettsville, has advanced to Finalist standing 
in the National Merit Scholarship Program. 
Emily is the daughter of Michael and Linda 
Kossa of LaGrange. She has been accepted 
to Texas A&M University. The selection of 
8,400 Merit Scholarship winners from the 
group of more than 15,000 Finalists is now 
in progress. Announcements will be made 
in April, May and July.
COLUMBUS—On December 17, 1951, thirty-five ladies at St. Anthony Parish in Columbus, came together to form Court Mary Queen of the Snows. State Regent Minnie LeBlanc, with the assistance of the Weimar degree team, instituted the new court. Sixty years later, on January 22, 2012, the members of Court Mary Queen of the Snows gathered to celebrate the determination of the charter members, to recognize their service to the community. Bishop David E. Fellhauer, bishop of the Diocese of Victoria, presided at the 10:30 a.m. Mass, concelebrated by Father John Peters, pastor. Eighteen Sisters of the Incarnate Word and Blessed Sacrament were present to represent the order. Other special guests were the superintendents of Catholic Schools of the Diocese of Victoria, John Quarry, and the donor of the monument, Dorothy Buijnoch, in memory of her father, Victor Grafie, and her husband, George Buijnoch, both staunch supporters of Sacred Heart Catholic School. After the Liturgy, Principal David Smolik expressed his gratitude to the Sisters for their role in his life and that of his family, as well as so many other students from Grades 1-12 at Sacred Heart School. He told of his inspiration to do something to honor them, and how the monument came to be. Sister Emiliuna Grafie, one of the 33 vocations from Sacred Heart Parish/School, presented the history of the school from its roots to the present day. Highlights included the fact that the three Sisters who arrived on Jan. 5, 1882, to establish the school, began to teach the next day, Jan. 6. (Excerpts from the History of Lavaca County Schools, and the History of Lavaca County by Paul Boethel showed that high academic standards were kept up from the beginning. “Besides the primary and intermediate departments, instruction was given in the regular high school subjects, together with music, Latin, Spanish, French, and German.” Local records stated that Bohe- mian was also taught as well as various forms of art and needlework, and even agriculture.) In his closing remarks, Father John Peters thanked Bishop Fellhauer for his presence. He also recognized the Sisters present and expressed his gratitude for the Sisters founding Sacred Heart Catholic School and their continued service in the school. The congregation then proceeded outside to the monument, located between the church and school, near the flagpole, for the blessing. The front of the monument contains information about the founding of the school and the names of the 33 vocations of the order from Sacred Heart Parish. The names of all the Sisters (136) who taught in the school, fill the back of the monument.

Members of CDA Court Mary Queen of the Snows #1588 and clergy gathered on January 22, 2012, to celebrate the 60th anniversary of the local Catholic Daughters Court. Pictured from left are Mary Labay, treasurer; Joani Dungan, financial secretary; Rev. Augustine Asante, court chaplain; Rev. Donald Ruppert, state clergy consultant; Paula Frnka, regent; Carolyn Malik, state regent; Loraine Novoa, vice regent; and Barbara Moeller, recording secretary.

Catholic Daughters Court Celebrates 60 Years

The Catholic Lighthouse
Page 6 — April 2012

DIOCESE

SHS Monument honors Sisters of Incarnate Word & Blessed Sacrament

In addition, eight members (Bea Baron, Linda Blair, Tricia Ho- baugh, Ruth Kanu, Rose Oliveira, Julie Paiko, Mary Stavino and Yvonne Wagner) were presented 25-year pins and three members (Ellise Baumgart, Joani Moeller and Ruby Nelson) were presented 50-year pins.

State Regent Carolyn Malik congratulated the court on its anniversary. She spoke about life in 1951 and how things have changed. Despite the changes, she emphasized that the mission of CDA has remained constant.

Keynote speaker Reverend Donald Ruppert continued with the history of CDA, pointing out that CDA members continue to be God’s light by their many charitable works.

ST. JOSEPH KNOWLEDGE BOWL SCORES HIGHEST OVER ALL OF VICTORIA’S KNOWLEDGE BOWL TEAMS—Two St. Joseph High School student teams recently placed first and second overall, for both teens and adults, in the 18th Annual Victoria Knowledge Bowl held February 17, 2012, at the Victoria College Student Center. A total of 34 teams took part in the competition hosted by the Victoria Rotary clubs and a record 12 student teams participated. The first place team We Are Smarticus team members, pictured above, included: Christian Wenske, Madalyn Kainer, Fira Malik, and Ian Mead. The second place team St. Joseph Starships team members (not pictured) included: Clara Allen, Theodore Boxa- lis, Johanna Hoang, and Katie Streeter. The Victoria Knowledge Bowl is in its 18th year and is used as a fund-raiser for the Victoria Adult Literacy Council. The Victoria Advocate; under the direction of former Advocate editor Jim Bishop, had sponsored the city’s Knowledge Bowl for 12 years. For the past six years the Victoria Rotary Clubs have sponsored the fun-filled competition on behalf of the Victoria Adult Literacy Council.

JCDA HONORS SENIOR CITIZENS ON NATIONAL JCDA DAY—On Thursday, February 16, 2012, the JCDA #1604 girls of Shiner met at the Shiner Catholic School Cafeteria and baked over 80-dozen cookies for delivery to Shiner Nursing and Rehab Center on Shiner Street. As there were over 35 JCDA #1604 girls who assisted with the baking, just a few of the girls were able to be shown with a sample of their cookies; they are, from left to right, Victoria Konsek, Seryna Garza, Mary Adamak, State JCDA President; Carolyn Malik, State CDA Regent; Jessi Pesek, Ashlyn Patek and Mallory Grabarkievitz.

Reprinted with permission from the Hallettsville Tribune HALETTSVILLE — On Sunday, March 11, 2012, Sacred Heart Parish/School dedicated a monument to honor the Sisters of the Incarnate Word and Blessed Sacrament for their 130 years of service to the community. Bishop David E. Fellhauer, bishop of the Diocese of Victoria, presided at the 10:30 a.m. Mass, concelebrated by Father John Peters, pastor. Eighteen Sisters of the Incarnate Word and Blessed Sacrament were present to represent the order. Other special guests were the superintendents of Catholic Schools of the Diocese of Victoria, John Quarry, and the donor of the monument, Dorothy Buijnoch, in memory of her father, Victor Grafie, and her husband, George Buijnoch, both staunch supporters of Sacred Heart Catholic School. After the Liturgy, Principal David Smolik expressed his gratitude to the Sisters for their role in his life and that of his family, as well as so many other students from Grades 1-12 at Sacred Heart School. He told of his inspiration to do something to honor them, and how the monument came to be. Sister Emiliuna Grafie, one of the 33 vocations from Sacred Heart Parish/School, presented the history of the school from its roots to the present day. Highlights included the fact that the three Sisters who arrived on Jan. 5, 1882, to establish the school, began to teach the next day, Jan. 6. (Excerpts from the History of Lavaca County Schools, and the History of Lavaca County by Paul Boethel showed that high academic standards were kept up from the beginning. “Besides the primary and intermediate departments, instruction was given in the regular high school subjects, together with music, Latin, Spanish, French, and German.” Local records stated that Bohemian was also taught as well as various forms of art and needlework, and even agriculture.) In his closing remarks, Father John Peters thanked Bishop Fellhauer for his presence. He also recognized the Sisters present and expressed his gratitude for the Sisters founding Sacred Heart Catholic School and their continued service in the school. The congregation then proceeded outside to the monument, located between the church and school, near the flagpole, for the blessing. The front of the monument contains information about the founding of the school and the names of the 33 vocations of the order from Sacred Heart Parish. The names of all the Sisters (136) who taught in the school, fill the back of the monument.

(above) Thirty-three catechumens from 14 parishes in the Diocese of Victoria are planning to enter the Catholic Church. Here they are pictured at the Rite of Election, held the first Sunday of Lent, February 26, 2012.

(below) From 15 parishes within the Diocese of Victoria, 80 candidates plan to join the Catholic Church. They are pictured at the Rite of Election, held the first Sunday of Lent, February 26, 2012.

See story on page 5.
SAN ANTONIO—First place winners from the Knights of Columbus Diocesan Free Throw Contest held Feb. 19, 2012, in Hallettsville went on to the KC State Free Throw Contest at the Antonian College Prep. School in San Antonio March 3.

Taking first place in state for their age groups were 14-year-old Malori Mitchon of Moulton and 11-year-old Greyson Munsch of Alleyton.

Other state winners from the Diocese of Victoria were, girls: 10-year-old Nicole Hoelscher, Columbus, 3rd place; 11-year-old Amanda Mitchon, Moulton, 3rd place; and 13-year-old Jesse Berger, Yoakum, 3rd place; and from the boys category was 13-year-old Blake Weiss, Goliad, 2nd place.

Diocesan winners of the girls’ KC State Free Throw Contest, (middle photo) left: Nicole Hoelscher, Columbus, 3rd place; Jesse Berger, Yoakum, 3rd place; (bottom photo) Amanda Mitchon, Moulton, 3rd place; and Malori Mitchon, Moulton, 1st place.

Pictured (top) are the diocesan winners of the boys’ KC State Free Throw Contest: Blake Weiss (l.), Goliad, 2nd place; and Greyson Munsch, Alleyton, 1st place.

God’s Embrace Expands

The three-year spiritual program, God’s Embrace, directed by Michael Fonseca, is growing profoundly! In August it will expand to include four new first-year programs within the diocese. “Come and See” evenings will be held in May so those interested can meet Michael, members of the program, and get more information. The “Come and See” evenings will be held from 6:30 – 8:30 p.m.: Sunday, May 6, Blessing-St. Peter Church; Monday, May 7, Victoria-Holy Family Church; St. Peter Parish Hall Building A; Tuesday, May 8, Freilburg-St. Peter and Paul Parish Hall; Thursday, May 10, Schulenburg St. Rose Family Life Center. Each town mentioned will have it’s own First Year Program!

Moulton Writers Win 2012 Texas Right to Life Essay Contests—Three young men from Moulton entered the state-wide, pro-life essay contest and garnered top prizes. Pictured from l. to r. are the contestants and winners: Ted Wenske, 2nd place Senior Division and winner of $150.00; James Wenske, 1st place in Junior Division and winner of $200.00; and Samuel Wenske, 2nd place Junior Division, winner of $150.00. Ted is a junior at St. Paul High School and son of Elizabeth and Ben Wenske; James is in 8th grade at Moulton High School, and is the son of Mary Ann and Patrick Wenske; Samuel is a freshman at St. Paul High School and also is the son of Elizabeth and Ben Wenske. All three essays were submitted to the National Right to Life for the National Contest.

KJT Donates to Diocesan Priests and Religious—The Catholic Union of Texas (KJT) State Spiritual Director Rev. Bob Knippenberg presented two checks to Bishop David E. Fellhauer on February 28, 2012, on behalf of diocesan priests and religious. One check was in the amount of $6,620 for the Priest and Religious Retirement Fund for the Diocese of Victoria; the other check was in the amount of $675 for the Priest Education Fund for the Diocese of Victoria. The KJT adopted the Priest and Religious Retirement Fund and the Priest Education Fund as their statewide charity projects in 2011 as a token of their appreciation for the service that our priests and other religious have given throughout the years. The checks represent donations that were made on behalf of the KJT societies located in our diocese.

Four Girls / Two Boys place in State KC Free Throw ~ Two Place First

ST. ROSE OF LIMA BENEFITS FROM KJT SOCIETY #129—At the request of Catholic Union of Texas (KJT) St. Augustine Society #129 in Schulenburg, the KJT Home Office awarded a $400 Catholic Education Grant to St. Rose Catholic School in Schulenburg towards the renovation of the main school building. Pictured from left are Society # 129 Treasurer James Prihoda, Principal Rosanne E. Gallia and Society #129 President Matthew Prihoda.

ST. AUGUSTINE SOCIETY #129 / KJT DONATES TO RELIGIOUS RETIREMENT FUND / KJT DONATES TO PRIEST EDUCATION FUND

Four Girls / Two Boys place in State KC Free Throw ~ Two Place First

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Congratulations to all who attended the state competition and thank you to the Knights of Columbus members who organized and assisted with the contests.
Love one another as I love you

About a year ago, I ran across this quote by St. John of the Cross, “At the evening of life, we will be judged by our love” (CC 1022). It was one of those quotes I just couldn’t shake off. Sometimes, the words of the saints are like that. If they convict, they stick.

God did not say, “Don’t hate.” If He had, I would probably come out all right. He did not say love yourself, or everyone else, as you see fit.” If He had, I might be okay in that last great evaluation.

He did say that it was okay for me to love only those I understand and those whose love for me is not a burden, only those who never hurt my feelings, only those who make my life a bit easier.

He said to love the unreasonable. The unpredictable. Those who make my life harder and sometimes practically impossible. When I love the unreasonable, unpredictable and impossible ones, I come closest to loving the way Jesus Christ loves me.

I can’t understand to love them. Even on nights when I’m tired. Even in mornings when I’ve spilled coffee on myself. Even when they throw up on the carpet, and the laundry room smells like there’s a gas leak, and the engine light in my car is going off again - and that’s when they decide to try my patience even further. Even then.

Even when old hurts resurface. Even when I did everything right and things still turn out really, really rotten.

One day, I’ll be judged by Love on how much I loved even in these moments.

I can get my theology right. I can learn how to pray the rosary and genuflect. I can go to confession monthly and attend Mass weekly – or even daily. I can read the Daily Office, pray the Angelus, and recite the Chaplet of Divine Mercy.

I can show up for an hour of Adoration and read every book my spiritual advisor recommends.

I can even write a column about how wonderful it is to be Catholic. But if I don’t love, I am nothing. St. Paul describes the loveless Christian as a clanging cymbal. I might garner some attention, but it’s pointless – ridiculous even. If I fail to love as Jesus loves me.

All of these good and holy things that I do are a tragic waste if I refuse to let them change me. I must respond to grace, respond to divine love and let that love flow from me to others. If I don’t get that lesson mastered, everything that I’ve said, written or done, won’t matter.

In the evening of this life, we will be judged by the One who is Love on whether or not we have loved each other as He has loved us. Now that’s a sobering thought.

Even so, it is not a reason to despair. We are fully capable of learning how to love as Christ has loved us. The saints have shown us that our faith can change us. We can learn this final and most important lesson.

These things – the Mass, our prayers, the Sacraments, Lent, sacrifice, pilgrimages, and Sacred Scripture – are the things that change our hearts.

They are venues for grace.

They have turned sinners into saints before. And, by the grace of God, they can change me even now.

Pope offers condolences to Coptic Orthodox on death of patriarch

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Praising the ecumenical commitment of the late Coptic Orthodox Patriarch of Alexandria, Pope Benedict XVI offered his condolences to Orthodox Christians in Egypt on the death of their patriarch, Pope Shenouda III.

Pope Benedict, who was served as patriarch of the Coptic Orthodox Church for 41 years, died March 17 at the age of 88. In a message released at the Vatican the next day, Pope Benedict said he wanted to express his condolences and “brotherly compassion” to the bishops, priests and faithful of the Coptic Orthodox Church, which includes about 10 percent of Egypt’s population of 82 million people.

The vast majority of Christians in Egypt belong to Pope Shenouda’s church and his four decades as patriarch often involved standing up for the rights of the country’s Christian minority and working with the Muslim majority to promote human rights and the common good. “The Catholic Church as a whole supplies the grief that affects the Orthodox Copts,” Pope Benedict said, and Catholics pray that “the God of all mercy may receive Pope Shenouda in his joy, his peace and light.”

Maronite Catholic Patriarch Bechara Rai, who traveled from Lebanon to Egypt March 17 as part of a pastoral visit, praised Egypt’s 4.000 Maronite Catholics, had been scheduled to meet with Pope Shenouda at 4 p.m. that day. “We were told in the morning that the meeting would not be possible because the pope’s health had deteriorated terribly,” Archbishop Paul Sayah, vicar general of the Maronite Patriarchate in Lebanon, told CNS by email March 18. The patriarch had advanced the date of his visit to Egypt, Archbishop Sayah said, “because we knew of the state of (Pope Shenouda’s) health.”

Pope’s Intentions — April 2012

General Intention: Vocations. That many young people may hear the call of Christ and follow him in the priestly and religious life.

Missionary Intention: Christ, Hope for Africans. That the risen Christ may be a sign of certain hope for the men and women of the African continent.

ABCATS Travel North American Train Trip

- San Antonio – Niagara Falls - Montreal – June 11-12, 2013
- Must Book by April 25

The Catholic Church Page 8 — April 2012

FAITH & FAMILY

ABCATS Travel North American Train Trip

- San Antonio – Niagara Falls - Montreal – June 11-12, 2013
- Must Book by April 25

Alaskan Tour/Cruise — Aug 6-18
Fairbanks, Denali Natl Park, Anchorage, Alaska. Inside Passage, Vancouver, B.C.
- Must book by April 3, 2013

Europe Trip, Czech Reps.
Germany, Austria
- Sept 12-24, 2012

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Eastern Catholics

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N D N K Z V C O P T I C P S E
T D A C W I C H A L D E A N
F K I N Q O A F E J L S T P R
N Z N E N A I S S U R W N C X
R A B E L A S R U S A N M X
Q U A D C E Y B N R K A L H P A R U C R T A Z N A R H F S
B C K L I O I H Y O O S T E

ALABANIAN
ARMENIAN
BELARUSIAN
CHALDEAN
COPTIC
ETHIOPIAN
GREEK
MARONITE
MELKITES
ROMANIAN
RUSSIAN
SLOVAK
SYRIAN
UKRAINIAN

March Puzzle Contest Winners Announced

The winner of the March puzzle contest and the book “The Donkey That No One Could Ride” by Anthony DeStefano is Ms. Irene Zissa of Sts. Cyril & Methodius Parish in Shelton. The book is published by Harvest House Publishers and may be purchased online or borrowed from the diocesan library. The winners of the children’s contest are Matthew Heath (12) of Our Lady of Victory Cathedral and Dustin Roberts (9) of St. Philip the Apostle School in El Camp (sent in with class). They each will receive a gift from Incarnate Word Gift Shop. The winner of the April Puzzle Contest will win “Were You There?” Please mail completed puzzle forms to arrive in The Catholic Lighthouse office, P. O. Box 4070, Victoria, 77903 by April 25.

Were You There? — Stations of the Cross to be April Puzzle Prize

Inspirating meditations from a leading Black Catholic writer combined with stunning art from Africa offer a unique spiritual journey for this Lent or any time of the year.

What can we learn from the son of the carpenter, the Son of God, about our lives and the path we should follow? To contemplate this re-enactment of Jesus’ Passion – where Jerusalem is an African village, and all the characters are African – we reflect upon our own lives and burdens: family divisions, community clashes, poverty and racism, sins of commission and omission.

Where does our path lead? Even when things seem hopeless, do you know how Jesus’ message and ministry, his suffering, death and resurrection, have fed and nurtured Christians for 2000 years. We understand the life of faith is ever enriched by the One who knows our sufferings, who has suffered for us and with us. This is our comfort and our strength.

Were You There? is published by Maryknoll’s Orbis Books and written by Diana L. Hayes who teaches at Georgetown University. A popular lecturer she is co-editor (with Cyprian Davis) of Taking Down Our Harps: Black Catholics in the United States. Charles Ndue, a self-taught artist, was commissioned to paint these Stations of the Cross in Saint Joseph Mukasa Church in Mwanza, Tanzania. The paperback book is 112 pages and has 14 full-color illustrations. It sells for $20 and may be purchased online at: http://www.maryknoll.org/store/. or you may send in your completed word search puzzle and contest form to The Catholic Lighthouse at P. O. Box 4070, Victoria, 77903 by April 25.

Reporting Child Abuse Hotline
1-800-252-5400
cooperation with agencies of the state. After half a century of economic and political decay, there is great cause to believe that the文化建设 is on track again.

While the pope said his message was motivated by faith and the desire to share it, he insisted that societies themselves are not better off if people are free to profess their faith and when faith-based schools and social services are allowed to operate.

Preparing to leave Cuba at the end of a three-day pastoral visit, Pope Benedict XVI made his first reference to the U.S. embargo of the island and the embargo’s impact on the country’s poor.

All Cubans need to work together to build a renewed and reconciled society, but progress is difficult given a “lack of material resources, a situation which is worsened when restrictive economic measures, imposed from outside the country, unfairly burden the people.”

The pope said that peaceful coexistence requires individuals and nations to “reject immovable positions and unilateral viewpoints, which tend to make cooperation more difficult and efforts at cooperation ineffective.”

“Patience and sincere dialogue” are necessary, he said.

Before departing from Havana’s Jose Marti International Airport for his return flight to Rome, Pope Benedict told government officials and the Cuban public that he was convinced that, wherever Jesus Christ is present, “discouragement yields to hope, good news disperses uncertainties, and a powerful force opens up the horizon to beneficial and unexpected possibilities.”

Catholics missing from Italian shipwreck still inspire

This month we mark the 100th anniversary of the sinking of the Titanic, and the luxury liner burned two and a half miles below the Atlantic bows to the surface once again.

But I keep circling back to a sign scrawled in black ink. “Peace,” someone wrote, “closure for their family.”

They had waited their whole lives to take a cruise like this one, having paid for years of Catholic school tuition and medical bills for their children. They must have retrieved it for Barb and Jerry, a second family when you’re a second family.

I learned that Jerry taught adult faith formation and had helped set up the church’s first website. Barb, meanwhile, was an active volunteer at the Dorothy Day homeless shelter.

One month later I was back at St. Pius, attending the memorial Mass for Barb and Jerry.

We sang “Be Not Afraid,” and during his homily the priest addressed the scenario playing out in all our minds. He gave us the words we want to believe: “I can imagine them very calmly allowing others to get ahead, not pushing others, probably figuring it was going to be OK.”

Surely, he said, Barb and Jerry were praying for us. And for you and I.

Grant, we pray, O heavenly Father, a clear and united voice to all your sons and daughters gathered in your Church in this decisive hour in the history of our nation, so that, with every trial witnessed and every danger overcome—for the sake of our children, our grandchildren, and all who come after us—this great land will always be “one nation, under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.”

We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

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Editor’s Note: The U.S. bishops are urging Catholics “all people of faith” across the nation to join them in prayer and fasting for religious freedom and conscience protection. Please go to http://prayerforreligiousliberty.org/campaign to be continually updated on events concerning Conscience Protection. Bulk packages of “Prayer for Religious Liberty” prayer cards can be ordered at http://www.usccb.org/for sale for $12 per bulk 100 cards.

Prayer for the Protection of Religious Liberty

O GOD OUR CREATOR, from your provident hand we have received our right to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness. You have called us as your children, and given us the right and the duty to worship you, the only true God, and your Son, Jesus Christ. Through the power and working of your Holy Spirit, you call us to live our faith in the midst of the world, bringing the light and the saving truth of the Gospel to every corner of society.

We ask you to bless us in our vigilance for the gift of religious liberty. Give us the strength of mind and heart to readily defend our freedoms when they are threatened; give us courage in making the right choices for our Church and the freedom of conscience of all people of faith.

Grant, we pray, O heavenly Father, a clear and united voice to all your sons and daughters gathered in your Church in this decisive hour in the history of our nation, so that, with every trial witnessed and every danger overcome—for the sake of our children, our grandchildren, and all who come after us—this great land will always be “one nation, under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.”

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We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.
The report is posted on websites and quoted in the news, state that there is discrimination against homosexuals who wish to marry and that marriage between same-sex partners is “a fundamental human right.” A similar guideline stated, Hillary Clinton Declares ‘Gay Rights Are Human Rights.’ The article began, “The U.S. government has publicly declared it will fight discrimination against gay and lesbian abusers” who wish to marry. The article continued by quoting administration officials who say that the U.S. government will defend foreign aid to poor nations that do not legalize homosexual marriage. Another example is the main web page of the National Center for Lesbian Rights, which states, “The freedom to choose whether and whom to marry is a fundamental human right.” Those fiery words of rhetoric bring up some fundamental questions: Is it truly a human right for men and women to marry? Is discrimination when two people of the same sex are denied a marriage certificate? Finally, are there any similar historical cases that can shed light upon the present dispute?

The first question one is compelled to ask is whether opposition to homosexual marriage is a form of discrimination. There are many historical examples of discrimination to draw from to see what discrimination is: slavery, in the United States, prejudice against Jews, lack of equal rights for women, and genocide against a race or tribe. With slavery we see that there was a prejudice against blacks—a race. With the prejudices against Jews, it was intolerance of their ethnicity—a race. With the prejudices against any of those groups manifested itself as discrimination against them as a people, which should be contrasted with, say, the actions they perform. The actions a person performs do get judged, but we can’t say that someone dislikes or even dislikes a particular action if it is discrimination. A list of actions might be: eating, drinking, driving, folding laundry, and walking down a street. There are thousands of actions to choose from, each of them a deed a person performs. With that in mind, it is important to establish that it is impossible to be prejudiced against a person’s action. For example: Is it prejudiced to condemn someone who commits treason? Is it discrimination to object to someone who jaywalks at intersections? Is it unjust to condemn someone who doesn’t pay taxes?

Because these examples are actions people perform, the principles that apply to them would also apply to marriage. Is it prejudiced to outlaw polygamy? Is it unjust to prohibit marriage between siblings? Is it bigoted to outlaw marriage between a father and son?

Can the people in each of these groups claim that there is a “universal human right” for them to be able to choose whichever one they wish to marry? Recall the statement on the main web page of the National Center for Lesbian Rights: “The freedom to choose whether and whom to marry is a fundamental human right.” It is not a fundamental human right for people of the same sex to marry any more than it would be for two siblings to marry. If we allow marriage between people of the same sex, then open up marriage literally to whomever anyone may choose.

After some reflection, nearly everyone will agree that to marry is an action. (Note that “to marry” is a verb.) Our laws and regulations must hold in check the landslide of moral corruption that results from allowing marriage to happen. Therefore, it is important to conclude that there is no prejudice or discrimination when someone objects to another’s actions. A law against homosexual marriage today is no more an instance of bigotry or prejudice than the laws in the United States that were passed in the 1800s to outlaw polygamy.

The second question is: Is it bigoted to outlaw marriage between siblings? Is it bigoted to outlaw marriage between a father and son? And with genocide, the prejudice against Jews (ethnicity) was intolerance of their ethnicity—a race. With the prejudices against any of those groups, it was intolerance of their ethnicity—a race. With the prejudices against any of those groups that can shed light upon human right for two men or two women some fundamental questions: Is it truly a fundamental human right.”

It is not a fundamental human right for the observers to object to marriage between siblings. The American Civil Liberties Union has documented acts of violence against Christians and Christians who object to the display of Bible verses and other religious symbols. The ACLU has said that in mind, it is important to establish that it is impossible to be prejudiced against a person’s action. For example: Is it prejudiced to condemn someone who commits treason? Is it discrimination to object to someone who jaywalks at intersections? Is it unjust to condemn someone who doesn’t pay taxes?

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Craig Turner
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A law against homosexual marriage today is no more an instance of bigotry or prejudice than the laws in the United States that were passed in the 1800s to outlaw polygamy. COCONUT CREEK, Fla. — Food For The Poor will release nonviolent offenders in the Dominican Republic in Juan, Honduras and Jamaica in time to spend Easter Holy Week with their families. These prisoners were incarcerated due to their inability to pay the required fines, even though the amounts in some cases are minimal. Sometimes by the time they are tried, they have spent years longer in jail than their prison sentence requires.

Since the inception of Food For The Poor Prison Ministry Program in 1998, Food For The Poor has assisted in freeing, training and reintroducing prisoners back into the community as productive citizens.

Most of the 358 inmates who were burned alive in February’s fire at the Coimacuay prison in Honduras had never been charged or convicted, according to reports from The Associated Press.

“The fire was not just an act of violence against the prisoners,” said Cardinal Oscar Andrés Rodriguez Maradiaga, Archbishop of Tegucigalpa, Honduras, and a member of Food For The Poor’s Board of Directors.

On March 2, thanks to the generosity of Food For The Poor donors, eight nonviolent offenders at Panamericana Penitenciaria in San Pedro Sula, Honduras, had their petty fines paid, so they could be reunited with their families.

Most of the nonviolent offenders to be released were imprisoned because they stole food to feed their starving families. Last year, one man released during Easter’s Holy Week had been caught stealing food in the marketplace and had already served a two-month prison sentence because he was unable to pay the $750 fine.

Prison authorities have found Food For The Poor’s Prison Ministry Program to be a program that has helped inmates and created similar program themselves. Some prisons now offer inmates jobs in the prison where they are held so that they can earn money to pay their fines.

Twice a year — the week of Christmas and during Easter’s Holy Week — the Food For The Poor Prison Ministry Program releases inmates who have committed minor offenses. The ministry is based on the scripture, “…I was in prison and you visited me” (Matthew 25:36).

To support Food For The Poor’s Prison Ministry Program, checks payable to Food For The Poor can be mailed to 6401 Lyons Road, Coconut Creek, FL 33073. Please include reference number “SCF 74122” on checks.

For more information, please visit www.foodforthepoor.org.
There will be a country store to the east. The event is sponsored by KJZZ Society #37.

Victoria—St. Mary’s Altar Society will hold its game party Tues., April 24, at the Great Hall (401 S. Liberty St.) from 11:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Admission is $7 (includes lunch, and refreshments). There will be a variety of games and door prizes at $2 each. For reservations, call: Ann Carver at (361) 575-2050 or Martha Hanelt at (361) 573-1932.

Wimberley—St. Michael’s Catholic Church to hold Spring Festival April 29. A barbecue-brisket dinner will be served starting at 11:00 a.m. See ad on page 10 for more information.

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Region X “Ad Limina” Visit

‘Ad limina’ visits are occasion to grow in unity, Texas archbishop says

Continued from p. 1

is Lord and that the truth he lived and proclaimed is in our midst – in the Church.”

Bishop Fellhauer said in addition to meeting with Pope Benedict, he also had meetings with nine Vatican offices and attended several receptions. The bishops of Region X made the meetings with the individual Vatican offices together.

With regards to memorable moments from his visit, Bishop Fellhauer said, “The audience with the pope is always a memorable event and so is celebrating the Mass at the tombs of St. Peter and St. Paul. We also celebrated Mass at Blessed John Paul II’s tomb.”

“I find being in St. Peter’s Basilica somewhat like a mini retreat,” Bishop Fellhauer said. “You can get off by yourself and avoid the larger groups of pilgrims and sightseers. I like to wander through St. Peter’s; it gives me a chance to pray for various intentions.”

Above: Bishops from Texas, Oklahoma and Arkansas recite the Apostles’ Creed in front of the tomb of St. Peter before concelebrating Mass in the crypt of St. Peter’s Basilica at the Vatican March 15. (CNS photo/Paul Haring)

Bottom Center: Bishop David E. Fellhauer, second from right, talks with Bishop Daniel E. Flores of Brownsville, right, before the start of a meeting of bishops from Texas, Oklahoma and Arkansas at the Congregation for Clergy March 16 during their “ad limina” visits to the Vatican. (CNS photo/Paul Haring)

Above: Bishop David E. Fellhauer (center-right) and W. Michael Mulvey of Corpus Christi (right), concelebrate Mass with other bishops from Texas, Oklahoma and Arkansas at the Altar of the Tomb of St. Peter in the crypt of St. Peter’s Basilica at the Vatican March 15. (CNS photo/Paul Haring)

Bishop David E. Fellhauer, left, con-celebrates Mass with bishops from Texas, Oklahoma and Arkansas at the tomb of Blessed John Paul II in St. Peter’s Basilica at the Vatican March 20. (CNS photo/Paul Haring)

Distinguished Alumni!

FIRST ANNUAL DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI AWARD DINNER HELD—The Diocese of Victoria Office of Catholic Schools has inaugurated an annual award to go out to distinguished alumni of the diocesan schools. The first annual event took place at The Olde Victoria at The Oak Room on the evening of February 21, 2012. In opening remarks, Superintendent John E. Quary stated, “It is my hope that this inaugural event will become a coveted annual event to spotlight the contributions and accomplishments of our alumni of Catholic education to, and beyond, the Diocese of Victoria.” Bishop David E. Fellhauer was in attendance and said the prayer before the meal. Alumni awardees are pictured l. to r., top row, beside Bishop Fellhauer and Mr. John Quary: Dr. John D. Wagner, Class of ’47, St. Ludmila Academy, Shiner; Mr. Jerry Lipinski, Class of ’55, Holy Cross, Bay City; Mr. Coby Rod, Class of ’90, St. Philip, El Campo; Mr. Claud B. Jacobs, Class of ’60, St. Joseph, Yoakum; Mr. David Pozzi, Class of ’61, St. Joseph High, Victoria; Mr. Charles W. Papacek, Class of ’53, St. Michael, Cuero; front row: Mrs. Donna Kunz, Class of ’78, St. Rose, Schulenburg; Ms. Gwen Hall, Class of ’62, Our Lady of Victory; Ms. Doris Fennier, Class of ’77, Sacred Heart High, Hallettsville; Mrs. Mary Frances Schaar, Class of ’51, Nazareth Academy; Mrs. Billie Kusey, Class of ’38, St. Michael, Weimar; and Mrs. Mary Kay Heffley, Class of ’61, St. Anthony, Columbus. Each awardee received a Distinguished Alumni Award paperweight and certificate.

Father John Peters, pastor of Hallettsville-area parishes, but graduate of Weimar Catholic School, congratulates his third-grade teacher, Mrs. Billie Kusey.