Balloons are seen as Pope Francis greets the crowd as he arrives for his general audience in St. Peter’s Square at the Vatican. (CNS photo/Paul Haring)

Bishops express thanks on first anniversary of Pope Francis

WASHINGTON - Gathered together in Washington, D.C. for their annual meeting last month, the members of the Administrative Committee of the USCCB noted with thanksgiving the first anniversary of the election of His Holiness Pope Francis as the 266th successor of the Apostle Peter.

In his first year in office, Pope Francis has consistently called upon Catholics to look again at the fundamental values of the Gospel. He has encouraged us to be a Church of the poor and for the poor, reaching out to the marginalized and being present to those on the periphery of society. He has set an example by choosing a personal simplicity of life, by washing the feet of prisoners, and by taking into his hands and kissing the badly disfigured. His Holiness has also set in motion a process that will lead to the reshaping of the Roman Curia in a way that will enhance the effectiveness of his ministry and better serve the needs of the Church in our present day.

In this way the Holy Father has brought to light new dimensions of the Petrine Ministry and added new life to the office he holds. His constant outreach to the alienated, his emphasis on mercy and his sheer humanity have served as an inspiration not only to Catholics but also to other Christians and people of good will around the globe. On this first anniversary of his election, the Administrative Committee invites the prayers of all the faithful that Christ our Lord will bless Pope Francis and grant him many years of fruitful ministry as Bishop of Rome, as the Servant of the Servants of God.

The paschal triduum

The summit of the liturgical year is the Easter triduum, from the evening of Holy Thursday to the evening of Easter Sunday. Though chronologically three days, they are liturgically one day unfolding for us the unity of Christ’s Paschal Mystery.

The single celebration of the triduum marks the end of the Lenten season and leads to the Mass of the Resurrection of the Lord at the Easter Vigil.

Liturgical services during the Triduum include: Mass of the Lord’s Supper, Good Friday of the Lord’s Passion, and Mass of the Resurrection of the Lord.

For free daily Lenten resources, visit www.victoriadiocese.org or www.usccb.org.

Couple knows the goodness of Marriage Encounter

by Michele Chan Santos
Catholic Spirit

Raul and Dora Gonzalez, both 73 years old, have been married for more than 50 years. Their love for one another is clear in their affectionate laughter, frequent embraces and tender glances. Together, they have built a successful and full life. Raul served as an Associate Justice on the Texas Supreme Court 1984-1998. He was the first Hispanic to hold the position. He is also the first Hispanic to be elected to a statewide office and is currently in private practice in Austin. Raul and Dora have 4 children, 6 granddaughters and a grandson on the way. Their son, Brother Ignacio, is a Benedictine monk and lives at St. Anselm Abbey in Washington, D.C. They credit Worldwide Marriage Encounter (WWME), a marriage enrichment program, with keeping their love and communication energized and vital. WWME promotes a weekend experience for couples who want to improve their marriages. “Relationships are hard,” Raul said. “Relationships are difficult. Sometimes it is easier than other times.”

Raul and Dora Gonzalez

Marriage is a journey, not a destination.” Dora agreed. “We are called to love each other warts and all, to love each other even when we do not think the other person is lovable, to love when we don’t feel like it, even when one of us is angry. We are still discovering things about one another. We are very blessed,” she said. Their first WWME weekend took place in June 1973, 10 years into their mar-
Bishop Fellhauer’s Schedule

April
5  4:00 p.m. Confirmation Mass, St. John Nepomucene Church, New Talton
6  10:00 a.m. Confirmation Mass, Our Lady of Lourdes Church, Victoria
    2:00 p.m. Confirmation Mass, Sts. Cyril and Methodius Church, Shiner
11  Annual Knights of Columbus Council #9088 Bishop’s Invitational Golf Tournament, The Club at Colony Creek, Victoria
13  9:00 a.m. Mass of the Passion of the Lord (Palm Sunday), Our Lady of Victory Cathedral
    2:00 p.m. Incarnate Word Convent blessing of the outdoor Stations of the Cross and the Rosary Path, Victoria
15  10:00 a.m. Chrism Mass, Our Lady of Victory Cathedral
17  6:30 p.m. Mass of the Lord’s Supper, Our Lady of Victory Cathedral
18  12:15 p.m. Way of the Cross, Capilla de la Santisima Trinidad, Victoria
19  8:00 p.m. Easter Vigil, Our Lady of Victory Cathedral
21  3:00 p.m. Reconciliation/Confirmation, Prison, Stevenson Unit, Cuero
23  6:00 p.m. Confirmation Mass, Our Lady of Mount Carmel Church, Wharton
24  7:00 p.m. 8th grade Bishop’s Religion Awards, Our Lady of Victory Cathedral
25  7:00 p.m. Confirmation Mass, St. Robert Bellarmine Church, El Campo
26  6:00 p.m. Confirmation Mass, Holy Family Church, Victoria
27  9:00 a.m. Confirmation Mass, St. Joseph Church, Inez
29  6:00 p.m. Confirmation Mass, St. Andrew Church, Hillje
30  10:00 a.m. Priests’ Study Day, Holy Family Church, Victoria
    7:00 p.m. Confirmation Mass, St. Michael Church, Weimar

May
2  7:00 p.m. Confirmation Mass, St. Anthony Church, Palacios
3  5:00 p.m. Confirmation Mass, St. Joseph Church, Yoakum
4  10:30 a.m. Confirmation Mass, St. Agnes Church, Edna
    6:00 p.m. Confirmation Mass, Holy Cross Church, Bay City
7  10:00 a.m. Presbyteral Council meeting, Chancery Office
    7:00 p.m. Confirmation Mass, Parish of the Nativity, Eagle Lake

DSA & Reflection of Faith Capital Campaign Updates

2014 DSA
Diocesan Goal: $ 1,824,625.00
Parish Pledge Totals: $ 271,540.00
Parish Contribution Totals: $ 192,597.83
Number of Parish Families Participating: 1,163

Reflection of Faith Capital Campaign
Diocesan Goal: $ 9,000,000.00
Parish Pledge Totals: $ 12,890,354.90
Parish Contribution Totals: $ 11,013,878.34
Number of Parish Families Participating: 6,777
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 education 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 27, 2014

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Additional Burses for donations:
- Rev. Msgr. Vaclav Pily
- Rev. Msgr. Julius Petru
- William L. Schmidt
- Jim Vacek
- Rev. Marcus Valenta
- Robert and Beatrice Welfi
- Alphonse Beshtzy
- M/M Bob Choth
- KJZT Society #2
- Vernon and Marilyn Matuszek
- M/M Richard Rouse
- Annie Schmidt
- Michael and Kathy Harris
- Emil and Janell Krupka
- Joe and Mary Ellen Lara

St. Mary’s Czech Choir, Hallettsville 50.00
Robert and Beatrice Welfi 50.00
Alphonse Beshtzy 40.00
M/M Bob Choth 40.00
KJZT Society #2 40.00
Vernon and Marilyn Matuszek 40.00
M/M Richard Rouse 40.00
Annie Schmidt 40.00
Michael and Kathy Harris 25.00
Emil and Janell Krupka 25.00
Joe and Mary Ellen Lara 25.00

In loving memory of Viola Grahmann
In memory of Lucille Werner by CDA Court Sacred Heart #797, Hallettsville 25.00
In memory of John G. Konvicka, Jr. by Eugene and Henrietta Veselka 25.00
In loving memory of Lucille Werner by CDA Court Sacred Heart #797, Hallettsville 25.00
In loving memory of Elaine Rogers by Deacon Sonny Rogers and Gilbert and Mary Urbish 20.00
In memory of Franklin Konvicka by Willie Barborka 10.00

— Rev. Msgr. Edward C. Bartsch

“Liturgy is the summit towards which the activity of the Church is directed; it is also the font from which all her power flows.” (Catechism of the Catholic Church #1073) Bishop David E. Fellhauer recently taught one of the extended Pastoral Institute’s morning and evening classes.

Rite of Election held

Catechumens preparing to enter the church through the initiation sacraments of baptism, confirmation, and the Eucharist recently participated in The Rite of Election. It is the second major ritual of the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults, the first being the Rite of Acceptance and Welcome. Local parishes celebrated a Rite of Sending and prayed for candidates as they traveled to the cathedral. The rite also recognized candidates seeking to enter into full communion with the church by their profession of faith. Names were inscribed in the Book of the Elect and presented to the bishop. The bishop admitted them for full reception into the church at Easter. Pastors, parish catechumenate leaders, godparents, sponsors, and family members witnessed this step in the final stage of preparation. After the ceremony, a reception took place at the Chancery. Nearly 100 people toured and learned more about the diocesan offices.

The Most Rev. David E. Fellhauer was the presider and homilist at the Rite of Election and Call to Continuing Conversion last month at Our Lady of Victory Cathedral. There were approximately 125 catechumens and candidates plus sponsors in attendance from the following parishes: Holy Cross, Yorktown; Immaculate Conception, Goliad; St. Aloysuis, Westhoff; Holy Cross, Bay City; St. Agnes, Edna; Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Ganado; St. Anthony of Padua, Palacios; Our Lady of the Gulf, Port Lavaca; Holy Family, Wharton; St. Joseph, Boling; Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Nada; St. Philip the Apostle, El Campo; St. Joseph, Yoakum; Queen of the Holy Rosary, Hostyn; Holy Family, Victoria; Our Lady of Lourdes, Victoria; Our Lady of Sorrows, Victoria; Our Lady of Victory, Victoria and St. Mary’s, Victoria.

East Coast Scenic Train Trip
June 18-27
District of Columbia • NYC • Montréal • Quebec City • Niagara Falls

West Caribbean Cruise
June 29-July 6
Europe Trip
August 9-21
Paris
Visit WWII Normandy Beach
Germany
Prague, Czech Republic

Pray for Vocations!
For more information, visit www.victoriavocations.org or www.iwbsvictoria.org.
The Catholic Daughters of the Americas Court of Our Lady of Loreto #2386, Goliad, recently celebrated their 20th anniversary. A Mass and luncheon were held at Immaculate Conception Church with Fr. Ralph Baidoo. Several charter members as well as 5 new members were in attendance. District 12 Dorothy Zaeransky, deputy; Rebecca Brown, state treasurer and Peggy Rosales, state regent, were also present. Pictured left to right: Gloria Morales, Mable Hernandez, Linda Rodriguez, Carmen Flores, Hermelinda Villegas, Elia Garcia-Regent, Paloma Torres, Jo Ann Torres, Delores Garcia, Ashton Grange, Maria Silva, Sarita Martinez, and Hatti Jo Machicek.

St. Augustine KJT # 129, recently presented a $500 Catholic Education Grant to St. Michael Catholic School, Weimar. Carolanne McAfee, St. Michael Catholic School principal; Koi Prihoda, society member; Patrick Prihoda, society vice president; Matthew Prihoda, society president, and Msgr. John Bily, pastor of St. Michael Church in Weimar. The grant was awarded by the Catholic Union of Texas, the KJT, located in La Grange. It was earned by the society for fulfilling annual goals and projects in 2013. The membership approved the grant to fund a request submitted by the school for new religious education books.

The Organization of Catechetical Leadership (OCL) of the Diocese of Victoria met at St. Agnes Church in Edna last month and featured guest speaker, Dr. Michael Carotta. He presented The Confirmation Prep Project. Parish catechetical leaders, catechists, and youth ministers that work with teens preparing for confirmation were in attendance.

Priest says goodbye
A farewell meal was recently held for Fr. James Kwaku Adjei-Buor, C.S.Sp. at St. Ann’s Church, Point Comfort. Brantley Janak (left) told Fr. James goodbye and that he did not want him to leave. Brantley is the son of Jason and Tracy Janak and great grandson of Agnes Hartl.

Several students at St. Rose of Lima Catholic School, Schulenburg, participated in the District PSIA Meet this recent February in Seguin. Bottom row, left to right: Katy Shank, Annie Stoner, Laura Beth James, Claire Oeding, Madison Kunschick, Emma Schmidt, Mary Beth Krischke, Meredith Magliolo, Annie Galipp, Natalie Osina, Matthew Vecera, and Ethan Steinhauser. Row 2, left to right: Dustin Anderson, Claire Antosh, Grant Kubala, Aiden Perez, Kalandra Johnson, Evan Oeding, Kenny Schramek, Hunter Schulz, Gavin Kubala, and Julie Guentert. Row 3, left to right: Lupita Toro, Becca Wagner, Morgan Marburger, Hayden Schulz, Camden Bosl, Dalton Demel, Jordan Sommer, Mindy Girard, Julia Oeding, Ashely Pesl, and Collin Bosl. Row 4, left to right: Gavin Drozd, Sarah Vecera, Kristin Osina, Bryn Stryk, Ally Galipp, Brynlee Hollas, Taylor Demel, Alaina Adcox, Hannah Schulz, Elizabeth Seyl, Seth Patten, Allison Mican, Dylan Goldberg, and Haley Olsovsky. Row 5, left to right: Miles Marburger, Kate James, Lauren Mazoch, Blair Guentert, Sydney Thompson, and Jack Seyl. The elementary division, grades 1-5, placed 2nd overall. The junior high division, grades 6-8, placed 1st.

St. Rose of Lima Catholic School, Schulenburg, recently sponsored the Souper Bowl of Caring. All proceeds, totaling $938.26, were donated to the Schulenburg Area Food Bank (SAFB). In 1990, a Super Bowl Sunday prayer inspired a group of young people to do something more than celebrate a football game and the Souper Bowl of Caring was created. Youth have mobilized across the country to raise more than $98 million for people in need. Left to right: April Brossmann, Braxton Brown, Rita Brossmann, SAFB; Rosanne Gallia, school principal; Jonathan Jordan, and Haley Olsovsky.

If you or someone you know has been sexually abused by a member of the clergy or other church personnel, you can register a complaint.

- Call the bishop or the chancellor at the Chancery at (361) 573-0828; or
- Call Rev. Gary Janak (361) 575-4741 or Sr. Emilie Eilers (361) 575-7111, Coordinators of Pastoral Care and Outreach; or
- Write to: Most Rev. David E. Fellhauer Diocese of Victoria, P.O. Box 4070, Victoria, TX 77903 Mark your letter “Personal and Confidential”

We will also help you bring your concerns to Church officials outside the diocese if the abuse occurred elsewhere and you now reside in the Diocese of Victoria.

If you are unsure about bringing forth a complaint or need more information, please contact: Rev. Gary Janak at (361) 575-4741.
The Catholic Schools Office of the Diocese of Victoria recently honored several individuals for their service and commitment to Catholic education. The Most Rev. David E. Fellhauer shared words of appreciation with the honorees.

Top row, left to right: John Quary, superintendent of Catholic Schools; Fr. Kirby Hlavaty, St. Philip, El Campo; Joey Sliva, Holy Cross, Bay City; Bishop Fellhauer; Roger Welder, St. Joseph High School, Victoria; Monroe Rieger, St. Michael, Cuero and Dr. Tyson Meyer, Nazareth Academy, Victoria. Seated, left to right: Patricia Berger, St. Michael, Weimar; Christine Moore, St. Anthony, Columbus; Kathleen Holm, Our Lady of Victory, Victoria; Mary Sue Ferrell, St. Joseph Catholic School, Yoakum; Ralph Schmidt, St. Rose of Lima, Schulenburg and Msgr. Joseph Hybner, St. Paul/St. Ludmila Academy, Shiner. Not pictured is Frances Kallus, Sacred Heart, Hallettsville.

The XXVII Annual Conference for Catechesis and Ministry will be held at Holy Family Church in Wharton, TX on Saturday, October 4, 2014. The day-long conference will include keynote presentations and a variety of workshops in both English and Spanish.

Office of Catechetical Ministry conference date set

For more information, contact:
The Office of Catechetical Ministry
Ron Friedel, director
Chris Alvarez, associate director
(361) 573-0828
www.victoriadiocese.org

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43 members of the Junior Catholic Daughters of the Americas #206, Yoakum, along with their escorts, enjoyed the 4th Annual JCDA Daddy-Daughter Dance, held this recent Feb. The event showed the importance of dads in their daughters’ lives. Grandpas, uncles, godfathers, and special family friends filled in for those dads who were unable to attend. Members danced the night away with music and sound equipment donated by Mark Hercheck. A traditional grand march was held. At the end of the dance, members presented their escorts messages of love in a bottle. Memories were captured with the help of Jackie Boswell. Snacks were provided by JCDA mothers. Jahn Refrigeration was transformed into a tropical beach paradise by the decorations donated by the Yoakum Heritage Museum. Door prizes given throughout the night were donated by H&H, Dragon House, La Cabana, La Terraza, Mi Tierra, Subway, Dairy Queen, Sweet Home Store and Kitchen, Rusty Rooster, and Dairy Treat.

Nazareth Academy students recently attended a 7AA district meet at OLV. The finalists will attend the state PSIA meet in Fort Worth in late April.

Students at St. Joseph High School, Victoria, were recently recognized for perfect scores on the SAT and PSAT Exams. Pictured left to right: Hannah Boozalis, 11th grade, scored the perfect score of 80 on the Writing portion of the PSAT; David Du, 12th grade, scored a perfect 800 on the Math portion of the SAT and the SAT Math Subject Test; Ian Mead, 12th grade, scored a perfect 800 on the Math portion of the SAT; Zane Herrera, 12th grade, scored a perfect 800 on the Critical Reading portion of the SAT and Madison Hoang, 11th grade, scored a perfect 80 in Critical Reading and Writing on the PSAT and a perfect 800 on the Math and Writing portions of the SAT.

Puzzle contest winners

The winner of the March puzzle contest and the book On a Mission ~ Lessons from St. Francis de Sales by Patrick Madrid is Elaine Janak of Sacred Heart Parish, Hallettsville. The winner of the children’s contest is 10-year-old, Trey Lawrence, Our Lady of Victory School, Victoria. He will receive a gift from the Incarnate Word Gift Shop. The winner of the April contest will win Stories of Jesus, 40 Days of Prayer and Reflection by Joseph F. Girzone. The book includes passages, stories of Scripture, and prayers. A special ‘retreat with Jesus,’ the imaginative retelling does not mislead the reader. The author, a retired priest dedicated to writing about Jesus, makes stories of ancient farmers and fishermen easier to understand.

If you have not won the puzzle contest within the past six months, please mail a completed April puzzle form by April 25, 2014 to The Catholic Lighthouse, P.O. Box 4070, Victoria, TX 77903 for a chance to win!
Walking the Camino, the daily life of a pilgrim

by Scott Hill

The Camino is 11 centuries old and due to its antiquity, an infrastructure has been formed along its route. This greatly helps the pilgrims. Our day began usually around 5:30 a.m. It would take 30 minutes getting our things together, i.e. packing our sleeping bag, gathering all of our clothes, and securing our gear. Sometime after 6:00 a.m., we would depart our hostel and begin the day’s journey.

One of the things I missed most about America was when a restaurant was open- they meant it. In Spain, because a place was open did not mean they were selling everything. Food before 8:00 a.m. was typically muffins, fruit, and coffee. 8:00 a.m. was the earliest time to get a hot meal- and after already walking for about 2 hours we were ready for it! We would stop a couple of times in the morning for breakfast or a snack and coffee. Our goal would be to arrive at our hostel by 1:00 p.m. Our average day would include 6-7 hours of walking, encompassing about 15 miles, to the next hostel. A hostel’s cost was anywhere from $7 to $15 and a few would accept donations instead of a fee. The hostel would consist of some bunk beds, a place to do laundry (by hand), and a shower. For food, we ate at local restaurants that often featured a ‘Pilgrim Menu’. This type of meal would consist of an appetizer, main course, and dessert, along with bread and wine and cost about $12. Once we reached our hostel, the routine would be to shower, wash clothes, nap, and relax. If Mass was available in the evening, we would attend and then afterwards have supper. The earliest we could eat was around 7:00 p.m. Restaurants would simply serve finger foods before then. Ideally, we were in bed by 10:00 p.m. and begin the routine again the next day.

A few days, we walked over 20 miles and they were rough. Some days were shorter, maybe 12 miles, and those were the glorious days! Throughout our walks, we would follow yellow arrows painted on the sides of rocks, trees, houses, etc.- basically, anything to guide our way. We also used a book by John Brierley. He is a savant when it comes to the Camino. In his book, he is extremely detailed about what towns are ahead and has recommendations on where to eat and sleep. His book helped us decide how far we would walk each day. In short, these were what typical days incorporated and how we survived on the Camino de Santiago. Thank you all for your prayers and support for all of the seminarians. May God bless you abundantly.
The budding tree, a symbol of life

It was about this time of the year when I led a group of high school senior girls on an overnight, lock-in, retreat many years ago. Post-graduation plans dominated the seniors’ thoughts. However, I am sure they did not realize all of their teachers, including me, were also tired of school and counting down the remaining days of the semester.

Before dark on the day of the retreat, and after many warnings about the possibility of snakes and skunks lurking in the grass and brush surrounding the rural retreat center, students were asked to go out and find symbols of themselves to present at the Mass which was part of the retreat.

I wandered around wondering what the students would choose. Moreover, I did not have any idea of what I would find. Finally, I meandered toward the riverbed and came upon a grove of craggy old pecan trees. Noticing the trees were beginning to bud, I thought, “Aha! Just what I want.”

As I broke off a small branch, little did I realize, the budding tree would become a metaphor of my spiritual life for many years to follow.

Why? Trees weather many seasons, some of which include storms and droughts, which strengthen and toughen them. Repeatedly, they have experienced renewed growth, born fruit, and peaceful dormancy in preparation for the next season. I also have been blessed to receive spiritual nourishment through the sacraments, Scriptures, and numerous means to grow spiritually, to share what I have, and to rest in God’s grace. While trees continually reach upward to receive God’s gift of sunlight for photosynthesis to produce foliage and fruit, I continually strive to avail myself of God’s ever-abundant grace, so I can serve God and others. Trees are firmly anchored by roots which are deeply embedded in the soil. I, too, am rooted in Scripture, in the traditions of the church and in the rules and heritage of our religious congregation.

Recently, this imagery was confirmed for me when someone gave me a bookmark containing a tree. They asked if I needed an explanation and I was able to reply, “Thanks, it is already my symbol.”

May the remainder of Lent be a time of special grace and spiritual growth for each of us. May we all rejoice in the celebration of the resurrection of Jesus!

Sunday Readings from April 13 to May 11

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All daily and Sunday readings, as well as a daily reflection video, are available at:

www.usccb.org/bible/readings

Brought to you by the Catholic Communications Campaign. Please be generous.

Prayer Opportunities

Blessing of Outdoor Stations of the Cross and Rosary ~ Apr. 13 ~ 2:00 p.m.
Ceremony will begin in the Auditorium with prayer service and acknowledgements. Blessing of new structures by Bishop David E. Fellhauer on East lawn of the convent grounds. Reception to follow in Convent’s Dining Room.

Directed Overnight Retreats ~ May 16-18 & Aug. 8-10
Include liturgy or prayer service and daily meeting with a retreat director focusing on the participant’s experience of God and discerning the interior movements of the Holy Spirit.

Guided Retreats ~ Apr. 12 & May 3 ~ 9:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m.
Include at least 2 presentations, liturgy or prayer service and time for personal prayer, walking, and reflecting. Lenten Theme directed by Fr. R.B. Williams, OP.

Lenten Vespers ~ Apr. 6 & 13 ~ 5:00 p.m.-5:45 p.m. ~ Incarnate Word Convent
Prayer Circles ~ Apr. 8 & 15 ~ 10:00 a.m.-11:30 a.m. ~ Amor Meus Prayer Room
Taizé Prayer ~ Aug. 26 ~ 7:00 p.m.-8:00 p.m.
Originated in Taizé, France near the birthplace of the foundress, Jeanne Chezard de Matel, prayer is held in the atmosphere of quiet and candlelight. Includes chants, songs, scripture, and meditations.

For more information, contact Sr. Emilie Eilers at (361) 575-7111, amormeus@yahoo.com, or visit www.amormeusspiritualitycenter.org.
Annual Spring Festival
St. Patrick’s Church
Bloomington (13316 State Hwy 185)

Sunday, April 27

Serving Time: 11:00 a.m.

BBQ Brisket with potato salad, beans, bread and dessert
$8 p/p

Plates-to-go available at 9:00 a.m.
Curb service available.

Live Auction: 11:30 a.m.

Country Store + Cakewalk
Kids’ Games + Silent auction

For orders on Festival Day, call (361) 897-1398.
Walking in hope
by Father William J. Byron, SJ
Catholic News Service

About 400 years ago, the Welsh-born English poet George Herbert expressed the encouraging idea that anyone who walks in hope “dances without music.” Most of us have to make it through life without the benefit of background music. Whether you walk or dance, you make your way each day by evanescing measures without the tempo-enhancing encouragement of violins and trumpets.

For many years, the movies have been offering lessons about life that are cleverly (and often deceptively) wrapped in background music. Characters in the films have music to intensify their emotional highs, warn them (and the audience) of impending danger or accelerate their slide into deeper despair. In those rare moments of emotional intensity when the music stops, the viewer is left in a suspended state of watching and waiting, trying (often uncomfortably) to figure out what will happen next. Real life is different. You can make your own movies, so to speak, by imagining what, and why, and how you will do what you are going to do today and in all your tomorrows, but you have to choose the attitude—the inner silent state of mind—that will accompany you (and serve as your “accompaniment”) along the way.

If you want to walk in hope, you have to choose to do so. Hope is not to be confused with optimism, which focuses always on the “best.” Optimizing opportunities and achieving optimal outcomes might be optimistically regarded as part of ‘the best’ in the ‘best of all worlds.’ That is not the way it is with hope. Hope is a great deal closer to the human heart—resistant or stout, weak or strong—and to the ground on which the have-a-heart person walks (or dances).
Bay City—Holy Cross Spring Bazaar Apr. 27 at the KC Hall. 11:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. lunch. Noon live auction with silent auction running concurrently. $8 all-day arm bands for children’s games. $5 raffle tickets. For more information, visit www.bcholycrossschool.org.

Blessing—CDA Court #2546 Chicken Spaghetti Meal Apr. 6 at St. Peter’s Church Hall. Serving begins at 10:30 a.m. Meal includes salad, garlic bread, and dessert. Carry out only. $8 p/p. Canned drinks $1 each. Proceeds benefit CDA scholarships and charities.

Bloomington—St. Patrick’s Annual Spring Festival April 27. For more information, see ad on page 9.

Corpus Christi—Our Lady of Corpus Christi Golf Tournament Apr. 25 from noon to 6:00 p.m. at the Oso Beach Municipal Golf Course. For more information, visit www.olc-golf.eventbrite.com.

Hallettsville—Sacred Heart parish mission Apr. 5-9. For more information, call (361) 798-5888.

Victoria—A Closer Look at STJ Apr. 10 from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. Take a campus tour. Learn about advanced placement/dual credit courses, tuition assistance, athletics, and STJ summer camp registration. Enjoy ice cream sundaes with the Flyer Family. For more information, contact Jen Korinek at (361) 573-2446 x217, or visit stjvictoria.com, or visit vocationactivities@victoriavocations.org.

Victoria—Bishop David Fellhauer Invitational Golf Tournament Apr. 11 at The Club at Colony Creek. Sponsored by KC Council #9088. Benefits youth and vocation activities of the Diocese of Victoria. For more information, contact Monroe Rieger at (361) 571-6535 or Ron Sitka at (361) 550-1314.

Weimar—St. Michael Spring Festival Apr. 27 at Veterans Memorial Park. Fried chicken and sausage dinner. $8.50 p/p. For more information, see ad on page 5.

Yoakum—Bluebonnet Youth Ranch Spring Fling Apr. 6 at Yoakum Community Center. 10:30 a.m.-1:00 p.m. BBQ chicken plates will be served. $7.50 p/p. Shiner Hobo Band performing 10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. There will be a classic car show, live auction, face painting and more.

Yoakum—St. Ann Mission Church Kettle-Fried Steak Dinner Apr. 13. 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at St. Joseph Family Center. Plates to go only. $8 p/p. Also, a country store outside. Proceeds to replace church fence.

Columbia—Michael Festival May 18 at the Parish Hall. Roast beef dinner 11:00 a.m. $8 p/p. 12:45 p.m. live auction. Games, silent auction and other activities during the day.

Hallettsville—Sacred Heart Parish Spring Festival May 25.

Shiner—Spring Picnic May 25. For more information, visit www.sscmshiner.org.

Victoria—Holy Family Parish May 4 at the Victoria Community Center.

Victoria—KJZT Society #101 hosts KJZT District 9 gath-
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