Pope clears the way for the canonizations of John Paul II, John XXIII

By Cindy Wooden
Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY (CNS)—Pope Francis signed a decree clearing the way for the canonization of Blessed John Paul II and has decided also to ask the world’s cardinals to vote on the canonization of Blessed John XXIII, even in the absence of a miracle.

After Pope Francis met July 5 with Cardinal Angelo Amato, prefect of the Congregation for Saints’ Causes, the Vatican published a list of decrees the pope approved related to Blessed John Paul’s canonization and 11 other sainthood causes.

Publishing the decrees, the Vatican also said, “The supreme pontiff approved the favorable votes of the ordinary session of the cardinal- and bishop-fathers regarding the canonization of Blessed John XXIII (Angelo Giuseppe Roncalli) and has decided to convoking a consistory that will also involve the canonization of Blessed John Paul II.”

The cardinals and archbishops who are members of the saints’ congregation met at the Vatican July 2 and voted in favor of the pope recognizing as a miracle the healing of Floribeth Mora Diaz, a Costa Rican who was suffering from a brain aneurysm and recovered after prayers through the intercession of Blessed John Paul.

The congregation members, according to news reports, also looked at the cause of Blessed John XXIII.

Incarnate Word and Blessed Sacrament jubilarians celebrate anniversaries. Seated, left to right: Sr. Callista Mares, 75th; Sr. Annunciata Shumbera, 75th; and Sr. Marcella Srubar, 70th. Standing, left to right: Sr. M. Emilie Eilers, 60th; Sr. M. Clare Underbrink, 25th; Sr. Alberta Novosad, 70th; and Sr. Raphael Rose Stewart, 60th. Not pictured is Sr. Jeanne de Matel Hayden, 75th.

Faith still guides the way we educate

by John Quary
Superintendent of Schools

High temps, drought conditions, overactive a/c units, and prayers for showers to bring relief … it is just another hot summer in South Texas. Nevertheless, it also means as summer draws to a close, we turn our thoughts to falling leaves, milder days, football games, and the return of our children to normalcy … school begins.

As we begin to feel the anticipation building, the teachers, administrators, and entire faculties of the Catholic schools in the Diocese of Victoria are busily preparing for exciting first days, back-to-school nights, class schedules, school lunches, opening prayers, journal entries about
The Catholic Lighthouse
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Bishop Fellhauer’s Schedule

August
7 10:00 a.m. Priest and Lay Pension Board meeting, Chancery Office
8 9:00 a.m. Mass, Our Lady of Victory Cathedral; Teachers Induction Program of Support (new teachers), Chancery Office
6:00 p.m. Mass and Serra Club gathering for seminarians, St. Mary’s Church, St. Mary (outside Hallettsville)
9 8:30 a.m. Catholic Schools seminar, Our Lady of Victory Cathedral
10 4:00 p.m. Mass, 100th anniversary and rededication of St. Michael Church and 125th anniversary of the parish, Weimar
12 5:00 p.m. Diocesan Liturgy Commission meeting, Chancery Office
15 10:00 a.m. Mass, Solemnity of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary, St. Mary Church, Praha
21 4:00 p.m. Diocesan Building Board meeting, Chancery Office
28 10:00 a.m. Pastor/Principal workshop, Chancery Office
31 9:30 a.m. Sacred Heart School Indian Open Golf Classic, Hallettsville Municipal Golf Course

September
4 10:00 a.m. Diocesan Presbyteral Council meeting, Chancery Office

Presbyteral Council Appointments
Effective August 9, 2013

Consultors’ terms are for 5 years. Deans, Deanery Representatives and Bishop’s Appointee terms are for 3 years.

• Rev. John C. Peters, Vicar General, Ex Officio – Consultant
• Rev. Gary W. Janak, Chancellor, Ex Officio – Consultant
• Rev. Dominic Antwi-Boasiako, VF – Consultant, Dean
• Rev. Gregory Korenek, VF – Consultant, Dean
• Rev. Timothy Kosler, VF – Consultant, Dean
• Rev. Rogers Hawes, VF – Consultant, Dean
• Rev. Matthew Huehlefeld, VF – Consultant, Dean
• Rev. Charles Dwomoh, VF – Consultant, Dean
• Rev. David Berger – Cuero Deanery Representative
• Rev. Peter Yeboah-Korang – Edna Deanery Representative
• Rev. Robert Knippenberg – El Campo Deanery Representative
• Rev. Robert Guerra – Schulenburg Deanery Representative
• Rev. Charles Sonnier – Cuero Deanery Representative
• Rev. Dan Morales – Victoria Deanery Representative
• Rev. George Henninger – Bishop’s Appointee
• Rev. Tommy Chen – Bishop’s Appointee

Official Appointments by Most Rev. David E. Fellhauer

Effective August 1, 2013, Rev. Tommy Chen is released from his assignment at Sacred Heart Church, Hallettsville and appointed pastor of Our Lady of the Gulf Church, Port Lavaca and its mission churches in Point Comfort, Port O’Connor, and Seadrift.

Effective August 5, 2013, the following assignments are effective:

Rev. David Berger is relieved of his assignment at Sts. Peter & Paul Church, Meyersville, and St. Aloysius Church, Westhoff. Rev. Charles Otsiwah is appointed parochial administrator of these churches.

Rev. David Berger is relieved of his assignment as parochial vicar at St. Michael Church, Cuero, Our Lady of Guadalupe Church, Cuero, Sts. Peter & Paul Church, Meyersville, and St. Aloysius Church, Westhoff. He is appointed parochial vicar at Sacred Heart Church, Hallettsville and its mission churches of St. Mary, St. John, and The Ascension of Our Lord.

Rev. Gabriel Justus Mensah is relieved of his assignment as parochial vicar at Our Lady of Sorrows Church, Victoria and is appointed parochial vicar at St. Mary’s Church, Victoria.

DSA & Reflection of Faith Capital Campaign Updates

2013 DSA
Diocesan Goal: $1,721,343.00
Parish Pledge Totals: $678,147.91
Parish Contribution Totals: $587,627.22
Number of Parish Families Participating: 3,183

Reflection of Faith Capital Campaign
Diocesan Goal: $9,000,000.00
Parish Pledge Totals: $12,880,975.50
Parish Contribution Totals: $10,987,685.07
Number of Parish Families Participating: 6,769

Have you moved?
Address changed?
Call (361) 573-0828 with the change in your address.
Saves Money!
Sister Gregoria Berger, IWBS

Sister M. Gregoria Berger, 70, of Victoria, died Sunday, July 14, 2013. She was born April 7, 1943, in Garwood, Texas to the late Alfred Paul Berger and Helen Frances Popp Berger. She was a Catholic and a member of the Sisters of the Incarnate Word and Blessed Sacrament.

She received her grade school education at St. Mary School in Nada and then attended Nazareth Academy where she received her high school diploma.

She entered Nazareth Convent, Victoria as a candidate and then became a postulant on Sept. 8, 1959. She received the habit on Aug. 6, 1960 and made her first profession of vows on Aug. 6, 1961.

She received a BA degree with a major in math and a minor in biology from Incarnate Word College in San Antonio and took courses to become a certified librarian.

During her 52 years of religious profession, she ministered at St. Michael School, Weimar; St. Leo School, San Antonio; Nazareth Academy and Our Lady of Victory, Victoria; and St. Michael School, Cuero. In 1985, she was appointed treasurer at Nazareth Academy, a position she held until 2004. After taking a semester sabbatical, she took on the management of the IWC Gift Shop until illness prevented her from continuing this ministry. In recent months she embraced the Apostolate of Prayer and Suffering.

Some of her favorite pastime activities were sewing and arts and crafts.

She is buried at Catholic Cemetery No. 3.

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

Sister Antoinette Peltier, IWBS

Sr. Antoinette Peltier, 84, of Victoria, died July 17, 2013. She was born Sept. 14, 1928, in Danbury, TX to the late Royal Joseph (Roy) and Sylvester (Sis) Ethel (Collins) Peltier. She was a Catholic and a member of the Sisters of the Incarnate Word and Blessed Sacrament.

She received her elementary education and three years of high school at Danbury Public School and completed the twelfth grade with graduation at Nazareth Academy.

She entered Nazareth Convent, Victoria in 1945 and received the habit of the Sisters of the Incarnate Word and Blessed Sacrament on September 1, 1946. She made her first profession of vows on September 2, 1947. She received a BA degree with a major in English and a minor in Spanish from Incarnate Word College, San Antonio.

She earned many post graduate credits in administration, education, and music.

During her 66 years of her religious profession, Sr. Antoinette taught on the elementary, junior high, and high school levels. She founded the day care and served as teacher and a principal at Nazareth Academy. Other places of ministry included Incarnate Word Special School, Victoria; Sacred Heart School, Floresville; Sacred Heart School, Hallettsville; Blessed Sacrament Academy and St. Leo School, San Antonio and St. Paul High School, Shiner. She served as founder and administrator of Our Lady Queen of Peace Catholic School, Richwood and as director of religious education in various parishes. She also served as vocation director for the congregation and was active in the Focolare.

Her musical talents were shared with hundreds of students in choral and private music lessons. She played a special part in the 1966 pageant celebrating the congregation’s 100th anniversary of its arrival in 1866. With her retirement in 1995, she came to Incarnate Word Convent where she helped in the infirmary and household duties, spent time in some of her favorite activities of making and repairing rosaries, repairing and painting statues, and she ministered weekly with a Cenacle prayer group. She also entered into the Apostolate of Prayer and Suffering.

Memorials may be made to Incarnate Word Convent, Our Lady Queen of Peace School, Nazareth Academy, Hospice of South Texas, or donor’s choice.

Msgr. Stanley Petru

Msgr. Stanislaus Joseph Petru was born Nov. 22, 1922 in Shiner to Frank and Johanna Velek Petru and to a family which eventually consisted of 10 children, including 3 priests, Rev. Augustine Petru, OMI of Mexico, the late Rev. Msgr. Julius Petru, and Msgr. Stanley J. Petru.

He entered into St. John’s Seminary, San Antonio in 1937. He was ordained May 27, 1948, by the late Archbishop Robert E. Lucey. He celebrated his First Solemn High Mass in Raymonville at Our Lady of Guadalupe Catholic Church on Sunday, May 30, 1948 and was assisted by his two brothers, Rev. Julius A. Petru, who was then pastor of St. John’s Church near Schulenburg, and Brother Gus Petru, O.M.I., who was then a student in De Monzod Scholasticate, San Antonio.


In 1979 he was elevated to Domestic Prelate by his Holiness Pope John Paul II with the title Rt. Rev. Monsignor. He was an honorary life member of the 4th Degree Knights of Columbus #1095, co-chaplain of Knights of Columbus Council #2574, and chaplain for the KJT and KJZT. He also served as chaplain for the Holy Rosary ACTS Core.

He was a huge supporter of youth and all activities involving young people. After each Sunday Mass he celebrated at Hostyn and Plum, he enjoyed giving children bulletins to his babinhos. He was also known for his love of roses, birds, and Christmas lights. Upon retirement, Msgr. Petru moved to the Oblate Madonna Residence in San Antonio, where he passed away July 25, 2013.

During the homily at Msgr. Petru’s retirement Mass, Bishop Fellahuer spoke of Msgr. Petru, “He has been in active, full-time ministry for 63 years longer than most people get to do one thing. He is an outstanding example of priestly ministry; I can’t think of anybody who has more admiration of the priests of the diocese than Msgr. Stanley Petru ... Msgr. has certainly been a servant of Christ.”

In a past interview, perhaps, Sr. Liliane Janda, IWBS said it best, “[He] is a priest for all people; I am blessed to know him. He shares his talents with all those he meets and relates to all ages. God has gifted him; therefore, blessing all Msgr. comes in contact with, I am motivated by him to do God’s work. He will truly be missed!”

Interment at Holy Rosary Church cemetery in Hostyn.

Memorial contributions may be made to Diocese of Victoria Rev. Msgr. Stanley J. Petru Seminary Burse, Queen of the Holy Rosary Parish, Hostyn Memorial/Building Fund or Sts. Peter & Paul Parish, Plum Memorial/Building Fund.

May the souls of the faithful departed rest in peace!
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 July 29, 2013

— General Seminary Burse  
  Previously reported $103,189.00  
  In loving memory of Deacon A. R. "Dick" Wearden by Terri Wearden  
  Total $103,289.00

— Rev. Michael Rother  
  Previously reported $5,530.00  
  Donation to the burse by Donna Wesley  
  Donation to the burse by Our Lady of Victory Altar Society  
  Total $6,080.00

— Rev. Msgr. Celestino Say  
  Previously reported $9,704.00  
  In loving memory of Charles Bryan  
  Chandler by M/M Bob Bochat  
  Total $9,729.00

— Rev. Msgr. John C. Bily  
  Previously reported $14,334.00  
  In honor of Rev. Msgr. John C. Bily’s 55th Ordination Anniversary to the Priesthood by John and Helen Emmel  
  In honor of Rev. Msgr. John C. Bily’s 55th Ordination Anniversary to the Priesthood, his 80th birthday, and his 25th year as pastor of St. Michael Church, Weimar by Patricia Hollas  
  In honor of Rev. Msgr. John C. Bily by Richard Coever  
  Total $14,954.00

— Rev. Jerome Caponi  
  Previously reported $13,250.00  
  In loving memory of my brother, Robert J. Marek, on his 5th death anniversary by John J. Marek  
  Total $13,500.00

— Knights of Columbus Victoria Council #1329 Burse #3  
  Previously reported $13,057.50  
  In loving memory of Bernard Freytag by Richard and Wilma Schaefer  
  In loving memory of Rudolph and Henrietta Pesek from the Pesek Family Reunion  
  Total $13,157.50

— Rev. Msgr. John C. Peters Burse #6  
  Previously reported $8,779.00  
  In loving memory of Bernice Freytag by Richard and Wilma Schaefer  
  In loving memory of Rudolph and Henrietta Pesek from the Pesek Family Reunion  
  Total $9,095.00

Additional Burse for donations:  
• Rev. Jerome J. Stryk  
• Rev. Msgr. Julius Petru  
• Rev. Joe Levy  
• Rev. Marcus Valenta  
• Rev. Godfrey F. Kuratko  
• Rev. Msgr. John Hanacek  
• Rev. Sean Donohue  
• Rev. Msgr. Robert Schmidt  
• Rev. Msgr. Vaclav Bily  
Those wishing to begin a burse or to contribute to an existing seminary burse may do so by sending their contributions with the appropriate burse designation to:

Our Lady of Guadalupe
Cuero - Jamaica

Sunday, September 1 - Parish Hall Grounds  
207 Graham (77954)  

Tamale Sale  
1 p.m. inside a/c hall  

Auction  
Noon-11:30 p.m.  
Free Music & Street Dance  
Teen Dance 8-11 p.m. in Parish Hall $3 p/p  

Game Dinner $8  
Games, Cakewalk, Face Painting, Bingo (4-7 p.m.)  
Volleyball Tournament 9 a.m.  
Washer Tournament 1 p.m.  
Horseshoe Tournament 4 p.m.

Golf Tournament 8 a.m. - Call (361) 799-9717 or (361) 237-5616

The president of the KSG, Hon. Gaylan Duncan, right, presents a $10,000 donation for various charities to Bishop David E. Fellhauer.

**Donation made to Bishop’s charities**

The annual Bishop’s Charities Banquet was held July 11 at the Victoria Country Club and sponsored by the Knights of St. Gregory the Great. A delicious meal was served which included carved ribeye, chicken Barcelona, and baked tilapia. Fr. Bob Knippenberg, pastor of Holy Family Church, Wharton, led the invocation. Newly ordained deacons and several seminarians were also present. Father Don Ruppert, pastor of Holy Cross in East Bernard, was the master of ceremonies. The Benediction was given by Rev. Dan Morales, pastor of Holy Family, Victoria.

Fr. Tommy Chen, Our Lady of the Gulf Parish, Port Lavaca, displays his support for seminarians. The ‘Pray for Priestly Vocations’ car magnets will be given to seminarians and to those attending the vocations camp this summer, and are available for purchase for $5 each at Holy Family Church, Victoria. For more information, call (361) 573-5304.

**Happy Birthday!**

Deacon Jasper Liggio will be starting Theology IV at Holy Apostles Seminary in Cromwell, Ct. this month. His birthday is August 24. He is from the Shrine of the True Cross, Dickinson, TX. Please show your support for this seminarian by writing to: Jasper Liggio, Holy Apostles Seminary, 33 Prospect Hill Road, Cromwell, CT 06416-2027.
The Knights of Columbus Council #2490, El Campo, recently installed the 2013-2014 officers. Seated, left to right: Wayne Bard, warden; Joseph Janda, financial secretary; F. Michael Rother, chaplain; James Kocurek, grand knight; Timothy Drapela, deputy grand knight; AJ Priesmeyer, chancellor; Daniel E. Marek, recorder; and Raymond Viktorian, Jr., treasurer. Back row, left to right: Gregory L. Witcher, trustee; AJ Hlavaty, trustee; Zachary Edwards, inside guard; Michael Orsak, Jr., outside guard; Derek Junek, advocate; and John Tumlinson, trustee. Not pictured is Fr. Albert Yankey, assistant chaplain.

The Knights of Columbus Council #9088, Victoria, recently installed officers for the 2013-2014 term. Front row, left to right: Norm Huehlefeld, recorder; Bill Spellacy, Charles Bluntzer, Robert Rodriguez, trustees; Tim Michalski, treasurer. Back row, left to right: Mike Bednorz, inside guard; Clarence Parkan, warden; Eddie Huse, chancellor; Bob Purdy, deputy grand knight; Clyde Svetlik, grand knight; Holy Family pastor Fr. Dan Morales, chaplain; and Marlin Frederick, advocate. Not pictured are Jason Richter, outside guard; Albert Janak, financial secretary; and Robert Seale, lecturer.

The Catholic Daughters of the Americas Court #797, Hallettsville, recently celebrated their 90th anniversary. Mass, remarks, and a special blessing were given by Rev. Msgr. John Peters, court chaplain and vicar general of the Diocese of Victoria. A roast beef lunch was served at the Family Center. Also present were members of the state court, Eva Trevino, 1st vice regent and Rosie Stockwell, 2nd vice regent. Ms. Trevino presented the court with a 90-year commemorative plaque. Georgia Haas offered a short history of the court being established in 1923 by 35 women and how the women served parishes, schools, and various organizations including the Red Cross during World War II. Pictured left to right: Kay Steinbohr, vice regent; Joyce Machicek, regent; Eva Trevino, 1st state vice regent; Msgr. John Peters, chaplain; Rosie Stockwell, 2nd state vice regent; Irene Knebel, recording secretary; Anita Steffek, financial secretary; and Matilda Melnar, treasurer.

CDA Court #797. Hallettsville, members receive membership pins. Left to right: Virginia Pustka, Alice Janak, Georgia Haas, 50-year pin recipients; Msgr. John Peters, chaplain; Elsie Grahmann, Mary Ann Pavliska, 50-year pin recipients; Joyce Machicek, regent. Not pictured are Gertrude Shimek, Vickie Orsak, Dorothy Jansky, Jo Ann Kristek, and Helen Motal.

OCL

Witnessing to Jesus in Ministry Retreat for Catechetical Leaders

For all clergy, parish catechetical leaders, assistants and catechists.
Saturday, Aug.17 • 9:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.
St. John, St. John (near Schulenburg)
For more information/register, call (361) 573-0828 x2224 or e-mail tstarnes@victoriadiocese.org.

The Catholic Daughters of the Americas Court St. Ann #369, Victoria, will hold a ‘Games Party’ from 6:00-9:00 p.m. on August 19 at the Knights of Columbus Hall, 3610 N. Ben Wilson. $7 admission. Includes door prizes, raffle, refreshments, and silent auction. Chairing the event and pictured left to right are Donna Maxey, kitchen chairman; Lavern Klesel, raffle chairman; Joyce Morris and Jo Ann Jalufka, general chairman; Kathy Ormsby, regent; and Libby Ramirez, silent auction chairman. For reservations, call Joan Schramek at (361) 485-2387 or Delores Schroller at (361) 575-6111.

57-year honorees included Sr. Jeanne de Matel Hayden, Sr. Annunciata Shumbera, and Sr. Callista Mares. 70-year honorees were Sr. Alberta Novosad and Sr. Marcella Srubar. Together these Sisters have contributed a total of 365 years of service to the Church in ministries of education, administration, health care, and pastoral services.

**Sister Jeanne de Matel Hayden**

Sr. Jeanne de Matel Hayden, daughter of the late Robert Joseph and Emma (Nocker) Hayden, was born in San Antonio. She attended St. Leo School and graduated from Blessed Sacrament Academy. She entered the Postulancy at Blessed Sacrament Convent on August 17, 1936 and received the habit on June 10, 1937. On June 11, 1938, she made her first profession of vows. She received her B.A. degree from Incarnate Word College in San Antonio with a major in history and a minor in philosophy.

During the 75 years of her religious profession, she taught the elementary, junior high and high school levels at St. Leo School, St. Agnes School and Blessed Sacrament Academy, San Antonio; Sacred Heart School, Hallettsville, Nazareth Academy, Victoria; and St. Michael School, Cuero. She also served as principal and librarian in some of the schools for many years.

During 75 years as a professed member of the Congregation, she taught at Sacred Heart School, Hallettsville; St. Leo School and Blessed Sacrament Academy, San Antonio; St. Mary School, Praha; Holy Cross School, Bay City; Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Ganado; St. Michael School, Weimar; Sacred Heart School, Crosby; and Holy Cross School, East Bernard. She also served 15 years as principal in four of the schools.

When she retired from full-time classroom duty, she served the Congregation as an assistant to the treasurer general. She also used her ‘green thumb’ by tending the many plants and flowers at Incarnate Word Convent. She also made rosaries for the missions. She currently resides in the Congregation’s Healthcare where she ministers in the apostolate of prayer and suffering and spends time with her beloved sister, Sr. John.

**Sister M. Annunciata Shumbera**

Sr. M. Annunciata Shumbera, daughter of the late John and Frances (Macha) Shumbera, was born in Weimar. She completed her grammar grades at Bois D’Arc School and St. Michael School and high school at Blessed Sacrament Academy, San Antonio. She entered the Postulancy at Blessed Sacrament Convent on August 30, 1936 and received the habit on June 10, 1937. On June 11, 1938, she made her first profession of vows. She received her B.A. degree from Incarnate Word College in San Antonio with a major in history and a minor in philosophy.

During the 75 years of her religious profession, she taught the primary, elementary and junior high levels at Sacred Heart School, Hallettsville; Nazareth Academy, Victoria; Blessed Sacrament Academy, San Antonio; Ammannsville Public School, Ammannsville; Sealy Public School, Sealy; Falls City Public School, Falls City; and St. Ludmila Academy, Shiner.

After retiring from teaching, she continued in various ministries at Incarnate Word Convent. She was sacristan, visited nursing homes, and pursued her hobbies of crocheting and needlepoint. She currently ministers in the Apostolate of Prayer and Suffering.

**Sister M. Callista Mares**

Sr. M. Callista Mares, daughter of the late Cyril and Augusta (Othahal) Mares was born in Cistern. She completed elementary school at St. Wenceslaus School and graduated from Nazareth Academy, Victoria. She entered the Blessed Sacrament Convent, San Antonio, as a postulant on May 10, 1937 and received the habit on December 18, 1937. She made her first profession of vows on December 19, 1938. She received her B.A. degree from Incarnate Word College including Sacred Heart School, Floresville and Nazareth Academy, Victoria where she taught first grade boys for eleven years. She taught English at Annunciation College. She also taught at Sacred Heart School, La Grange; and St. Joseph High School, Victoria as principal—the first woman principal of the all-boys’ high school at the time. She served as principal at Mary Immaculate School, Dallas; Blessed Sacrament Academy, San Antonio; Our Lady of Mt. Carmel and Queen of Peace School, Houston. In the early days to supplement the low teaching salaries of the Sisters, she taught piano lessons before and after school hours at many of the schools.

After retiring from teaching, she continued to serve at Our Lady of Mt. Carmel parish in Houston until 2008. She retired to Incarnate Word Convent, Victoria, where she devoted her time to research and has written Texas Footprints in the Sands of Time, a history of the Sisters of the Incarnate Word and Blessed Sacrament coming to Texas and their contribution to the Church, not only in Texas, but in Illinois and Pennsylvania as well. She continues to enjoy her hobbies of making rosaries, embroidery, and crocheting.

**Sister M. Alberta Novosad**

Sr. M. Alberta Novosad (Bernadette), daughter of the late Paul and Mary Novosad, is originally from Fayetteville. Her early education began at St. John School. The family moved in the early 1930’s and she continued her education at St. Jerome School in Plum, TX. She completed her high school education at Nazareth Academy, Victoria and officially began her novitiate training in December 1941 with the Sisters of the Incarnate Word and Blessed Sacrament. After Profession in 1943, she studied at Victoria College in preparation for her teaching ministry and continued at Incarnate Word College in San Antonio, obtaining a degree in English. Later, she studied at St. Mary’s University, also in San Antonio, obtaining a master’s degree in counseling. To further her education for administrative duties, she obtained a master’s in administration from the University of Houston—Victoria.

She was assigned to teach at various schools staffed by the Sisters of the Incarnate Word and Blessed Sacrament including Sacred Heart School, Floresville and Nazareth Academy, Victoria where she taught for four years. She taught English at Annunciation College. She also taught at Sacred Heart School, La Grange; and St. Joseph High School, Victoria as principal—the first woman principal of the all-boys’ high school at the time. She served as principal at Mary Immaculate School, Dallas; Blessed Sacrament Academy, San Antonio; Our Lady of Mt. Carmel and Queen of Peace School, Houston. In the early days to supplement the low teaching salaries of the Sisters, she taught piano lessons before and after school hours at many of the schools.

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Blessed Sacrament honored at two celebrations

in English and history from Incarnate Word College in San Antonio.

Her years of ministry included being an educator in the following schools: Holy Cross School, Bay City; St. Wenceslaus School, Cistern; Nazareth Academy, Victoria; Falls City Public School, Falls City; Mary Immaculate School, Dallas; St. Leo School, San Antonio; St. Ludmila Academy, Shiner; and St. Joseph School, Yoakum. After school hours she taught piano lessons.

After leaving active ministry in the schools, she served the Congregation as local superior at Incarnate Word Convent for nine years. She continues to capture memorable events with her camera and enjoy her hobbies of making Christmas ornaments. She currently resides in the Congregation’s Healthcare where she ministers in the Apostolate of Prayer and Suffering.

On Sunday, July 14, 2013, the Most Rev. David Fellhauer officiated at the 2:00 p.m. Mass honoring three Sisters who celebrated the anniversaries of their religious professions as Incarnate Word and Blessed Sacrament Sisters. Also in attendance and concelebrating at the Mass were Bishop Charles Grahmann, Rev. Gary Janak, Msgr. Celestino Say, Rev. John Kollannur, Rev. Bob Knippenberg, and Rev. Brian Eilers. Rev. Phi Nguyen, chaplain, served as master of ceremonies.

60-year honorees included Sr. M. Emilie Eilers and Sr. Raphael Rose Stewart. 25-year honoree was Sr. M. Clare Underbrink. Together these Sisters have contributed a total of 145 years of service to the Church in ministries of education, administration, health care, and pastoral services.

Sister M. Emilie Eilers
Sr. M. Emilie Eilers is the daughter of the late Joseph and Elizabeth Grafe Eilers of Hallettsville. She completed grade school and one year of high school at Sacred Heart School, Hallettsville. She entered the Postulancy at Nazareth Convent on December 2, 1951. She received the habit on June 2, 1952 and pronounced first vows on June 3, 1953. She received a BA degree with a major in biology and a minor in chemistry from Incarnate Word College in San Antonio.

During her 60 years as a professed member of the Congregation, she taught at Holy Cross School, Bay City; Assumption School, Ganado; Our Lady of Victory, Victoria; St. Leo School, San Antonio; and St. Michael School, Cuero. She served as principal at St. Michael School, Cuero, Our Lady of Victory School, and St. Joseph High School. She was on the Congregational Leadership Team for 18 years.

Afer a year’s sabbatical at Berakah in New Hampshire, she received certification in spiritual direction and is currently serving as ongoing formation director for the Sisters. She served in the IWC Healthcare as director of spiritual and recreational activities and presently serves as dietary director. She also serves as president on the Amor Meus spirituality board, which she helped organize over the last 6 years.

Sister Raphael Rose Stewart
Sr. Raphael Rose Stewart, daughter of the late Alexander and Winona Sweeney Stewart, was born in Rockport. She received her education at Sacred Heart School, Rockport; Incarnate Word Academy, Corpus Christi; Rockport High School and joined the first graduating class from Sacred Heart High School, Hallettsville in 1948. She entered the Postulancy at Nazareth Convent on December 2, 1951 and received the habit of the Sisters of the Incarnate Word and Blessed Sacrament on June 2, 1952. She pronounced her first vows on June 3, 1953 and her final vows on August 5, 1956. She attended Incarnate Word College, and received a BA degree with a major in math and a minor in chemistry. She received a master of science in administration from the University of Notre Dame and a master of theological studies from the Oblate School of Theology.

She also pursued studies in clinical pastoral education at M.D. Anderson and became a certified chaplain advanced. During her 60 years of profession, she taught at Sacred Heart School, La Grange; St. Michael School, Weimar; St. Leo School, San Antonio; Nazareth Academy, Victoria; and Blessed Sacrament Academy, San Antonio. She served as principal at St. Paul High School, Shiner and Sacred Heart School, Hallettsville. After serving as administrator of Huth Memorial Hospital and studying to become a certified chaplain, she ministered as director of the spiritual care department at Christus St. Mary Hospital in Port Arthur and Corpus Christi.

In her retirement she took a Sarah Sabbatical to advance her spirituality and spent time at the Manna House of Prayer in Concordia, Kansas. She presently serves as chaplain in the Healthcare. During the past few years she has ministered in the Apostolate of Prayer and Suffering.

Sister Mary Clare Underbrink
Sr. Mary Clare Underbrink, the daughter of George and Rosemary Underbrink of Dallas was born in Garland. She attended St. Thomas Aquinas Elementary School and graduated from Bishop Lynch High School in Dallas. She earned a BA in math and special education from William Woods College in Fulton, MO and MAT in math from the University of Texas-Dallas. For the next four years she taught and coached at Skyline High School, Dallas. She entered the Postulancy at Incarnate Word Convent on September 8, 1986 and received the habit of the Sisters of the Incarnate Word and Blessed Sacrament on August 6, 1987. She made her first profession of vows on August 6, 1988.

She taught at Nazareth Academy and at St. Joseph High School, Victoria. She began pursuing advanced studies in theology at Oblate School of Theology, San Antonio. She continued teaching at Sacred Heart School, Hallettsville and spent 7½ years in France as she delved into studies in incarnational spirituality and 17th century history. She received two PhDs in her studies. Her residence in Lyon, France has deeply enriched her in the heritage of the Sisters of the Incarnate Word and Blessed Sacrament.

She currently resides at Incarnate Word Convent. She serves on the general council of the Congregation and teaches theology at St. Joseph High School, Victoria.

IWBS Ministry
The basic mission of IWBS Ministry in the Church is to give glory to the Father through total dedication to and union with the Incarnate Word, as they lovingly labor to become more like Jesus Christ, the Way, the Truth, and the Life. In accordance with the charism of Jeanne Chezard de Matel, their Foundress, they also endeavor to draw others to share in the graces of the Incarnate Word.

“I come and See” Discernment Weekend
September 21-22, 2013 • Incarnate Word Convent, Victoria, TX
The weekend is for single Catholic women 18 to 50 years of age who would like to “Come and See” what IWBS Ministry is all about.
(361) 575-7111 • iwbsvoc@yahoo.com • www.iwbsvictoria.org
Lord, I am not worthy ...

In the last few articles, we have been thinking about the changes in religious practice and what we have experienced during the last 50 years. It has brought to mind that it was 50 years since we Sisters moved from our downtown Nazareth Convent into Incarnate Word Convent on Water Street-and it was 50 years since the opening session of Vatican II.

Just as we are constantly upgrading ideas and things, efforts are continuously being made to refine the prayers and practices of the liturgy so as to more fully reflect their underlying essence. One such example is our response before receiving Communion: “Lord, I am not worthy that you should enter under my roof, but only say the word and my soul shall be healed.” Some of our readers may remember this wording before it was changed years ago (I will not quote the interim change out of fear of confusing the issue), but let us reflect on its meaning.

It reminds us of the scriptural passage in which the Roman centurion asked Jesus 

Jesus would have been in with the Jewish as a healer and that he felt that he was to heal his sick servant. The centurion must in which the centurion asked Jesus on its meaning.

Thoughts

It reminds us of the scriptural passage in which the Roman centurion asked Jesus to help his sick servant. The centurion must have great respect for our Lord and realize our unworthiness to have Him enter under our “roof” into our bodies. I think the respect or sense of awe we have for the Lord is a manifestation of the gift of the Holy Spirit, “fear of the Lord.”

As the servant was healed when Jesus said, “… as you have believed, let it be done for you” we know our soul is being healed through our faith in Jesus.

So, every time we, unworthy as we are, prepare to receive Jesus in the Eucharist, let us be mindful of our awesome God who heals our souls and allows us to partake in such an intimate union with our creator and healer. Let us receive Him often!

Members needed to form a diocesan ACTS chapter

ACTS Missions in San Antonio needs interested individuals to assist in the formation of a required ACTS chapter for the Diocese of Victoria. The committee will assist in the supervision and implementation of the ACTS movement within the diocese.

For more information, or to volunteer contact Jay Vela at jvela@ost.edu or Brenda-Lea Elbel at belbel@ost.edu.

Understanding the sacraments

“The seven sacraments touch all the stages and all the important moments of Christian life: they give birth and increase, healing and mission to the Christian’s life of faith. There is thus a certain resemblance between the stages of natural life and the stages of the spiritual life.” (Catechism of the Catholic Church, 1113)

The Pastoral Institute will be offering two six-week courses on the sacraments beginning Tuesday, August 27, 2013. The first six-week classes will cover the sacraments of initiation: baptism, confirmation and the Eucharist. The second six-week classes will cover the sacraments of healing and vocations. Classes will be taught by Mr. Ron Friedel and will be held Tuesday mornings 9:15 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and in the evenings 7:00 p.m. to 9:15 p.m. Classes will be held at the chancery in Victoria and broadcast via distance learning to Holy Cross in East Bernard and to St. Ann in Point Comfort.

To register, call (361) 573-0828 x2224, e-mail pisecretary@victoriadiocese.org, or visit www.victoriadiocese.org. Click on the ministries tab, scroll to pastoral institute, click extended program, and proceed to extended online registration.

Faith still guides the way we educate

Continued from p. 1

summer vacations, rules and regs, and, of course the opportunity to receive a “Faith, Integrity, Respect, Scholarship. Tradition.: F.I.R.S.T.-Class Education … for life!”

This year, however, will be slightly different, as we are culminating the Year of Faith that was heralded by our Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI. Our new Pope Francis of Argentina has already begun to make an indelible impression with his simple acts of mercy and humility.

Recently, I had the distinct privilege of offering the keynote address at the annual Knights of Columbus Education Appreciation Dinner at Holy Family Catholic Church. Since the topic of that address dealt with the Year of Faith, I would like to share excerpts from it...

As teachers and educators, we are constantly reminding our students that we have faith in their abilities to do what is right and necessary and pleasing to God. Sometimes, though, that faithfulness that we are attempting to cultivate in our students can be elusive and undeveloped. It is then that Mark 4:26 gently prompts us to recall that, “Faith is like a seed; plant it in your heart. God gives the harvest at the appointed time.”

As I often think of our students, I think of those who need someone to believe in them, to have faith in them, to remind them that they are made in God’s image, and God never makes mistakes. I believe our Catholic school teachers and staff members are called to make that difference in the lives of each child whose parents have chosen to place their most precious gift with us every day.

Faith still guides the way we teach and educate in our Catholic schools throughout the world, and nowhere is it any more visible than in the Catholic schools of the Diocese of Victoria. Therefore, let us take the time to thank those who make it possible for these ‘tiny miracles’ to happen for centuries: our parents, our teachers, our students, our benefactors, our supporters, our religious, our nation, and, above all, our God. For with Him, all things are possible.

Natural family planning sessions

Dates for upcoming sessions include August 17 at 11:00 a.m. and November 10 at 2:00 p.m. Sessions will be held at Holy Family Catholic Church in Wharton, TX. Introductory sessions to the Creighton Model Fertility Care System (CrMS) alone, 20-40% have been able to achieve a pregnancy. While couples using the system and being provided with medical treatment by a CrMS trained physician, up to 80% have achieved a pregnancy. For more information, contact Susanne Koch at (505) 710-0903 or susannekoch614@gmail.com.
All Bishop Forest High School alumni, friends, and concerned individuals are reminded of the ongoing activity for completion of the Bishop Forest Museum in Schulenburg. Memorabilia from all phases of the school’s history, from 1954-1989, is being sought. These items will be protected and displayed with the professional guidance of museumist Charles Fleming of Southwest Museum Services. Architect, Brad Cutright of Cutright & Allen, has created the design. A completion date of late 2014 is anticipated.

Donations are also actively solicited and can be made in memory of a loved one. Because the Bishop Forest Alumni Association is an official state-recognized 501c(3) organization, contributions are tax-deductible and will be acknowledged by return mail. The donations received will help preserve the activities and dedication of so many individuals during the school’s 35-year history.

For more information, contact Carol Strobel-Kana at (979) 263-5654, ckana@cvctx.com, or visit www.bfaatx.org.

Walk in faith on campus and beyond... Your College Faith: Own It! serves as a field guide to faith for the student transitioning to, or seeking to make a fresh start in, the realm of college or university life. The college student has an extraordinary number of opportunities before him or her; one of them is to continue to be enriched by the Catholic faith. This book encourages and enables the student to make the most of that opportunity.

Topics covered include:
• Taking ownership of your faith life; from finding and participating in the Mass to leading a moral life on campus
• Finding and connecting with a Catholic campus community
• Giving back to the community through fulfilling service work
• Discerning your vocation: What does this mean and how do you begin?
• Taking advantage of social media and avoiding pitfalls

Music program establishes memorial fund

A memorial fund has been established to support the music program at the Shiner Catholic School, St. Ludmila Elementary and St. Paul High School. The purpose of the fund is to encourage students’ participation in the music program and to provide assistance as needed. Donations may be made in memory of or in honor of a friend or relative. Donations may be made at Sts. Cyril & Methodius church office. For more in formation, contact Rita Janak at (361) 798-0484, Janet Moeller at (361) 401-0812, or Dolores Janak at (361) 649-8859 or (361) 594-3230.
The Catholic Lighthouse
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YEAR OF FAITH 2012-2013

Diocese of Victoria
XXVI Annual Conference
for Catechesis and Ministry

Saturday, September 28, 2013
Holy Family of Joseph, Mary, and Jesus Church
704 Mallette Drive

Dr. Thomas H. Groome

An important aspect is “to be able to share my suggestions with a gathering of very strategic people, pastoral leaders and the entire community of the Diocese of Victoria.”

María Apac Smith

It is “a wonderful blessing to be able to impart some knowledge and experience to folks who may or may not readily have access to information in the area of theology or faith issues.”

Most Rev. David E. Fellhauer

“I invite you to attend the many workshops and presentations offered as well as the Liturgy at 4:15 p.m.”

Rev. Bob Knippenberg

“Trying to be clear and precise” is crucial during a presentation as well as “interaction with others.”

Rev. Dan Morales

“I have the challenge to get as much information to the listener as possible in a short time period- that is both the challenge and the goal.”

Rev. Gary Janak

“Being well prepared and delivering a message which will be helpful to those in attendance is important.”

The Diocese of Victoria XXVI Annual Conference for Catechesis and Ministry will feature two keynote speakers, Dr. Thomas H. Groome from Boston College and Mrs. María Apac Smith from St. Mary’s University, San Antonio. Dr. Groome will cover Will There Be Faith? The Challenge of Catechesis in Our Time. María Smith will speak about El Reto de la Nueva Evangelización para hoy.

Among 30 guest speakers to be featured at the conference are priests: Fr. Gary Janak, diocesan chancellor and pastor at Our Lady of Victory, Fr. Bob Knippenberg, Holy Family in Wharton and Fr. Dan Morales, pastor at Holy Family in Victoria.

The Catholic Lighthouse recently spoke with these upcoming conference speakers about being a presenter in a public and religious forum.

The most important or most interesting aspect about being a presenter, according to Dr. Groome is “to be able to share my suggestions with a gathering of very strategic people, pastoral leaders and the entire community of the Diocese of Victoria.” He is “keenly aware the task brings great responsibility” and he will “ultimately depend on the help of God’s grace.”

Mrs. Smith considers it “a wonderful blessing to be able to impart some knowledge and experience to folks who may or may not readily have access to information in the area of theology or faith issues.” For me, the most interesting aspect of public speaking is the ability to engage with the listeners through dialogue while at the same time presenting whatever insights I may be able to provide on a given topic.”

Fr. Dan responds, “The people that attend the session are interested in a particular topic. Many great presentations will be going on at the same time and the audience is there because the topic holds meaning for them. As a presenter, I have the challenge to get as much information to the listener as possible in a short time period- that is both the challenge and the goal.”

Fr. Gary believes, “being well prepared and delivering a message which will be helpful to those in attendance is important.”

Fr. Bob agrees, “trying to be clear and precise” is crucial during a presentation as well as “interaction with others.”

Speaking in public can impact one’s life in various ways. Dr. Groome states, “I honestly try to live what I preach and teach- discipleship to Jesus. Every time I say it to a gathering of people, it reminds me to renew my own commitment to living as a disciple.”

Mrs. Smith contends, “It has reassured me that I have something valuable to share with others and have so much to learn from those who attend my presentations.”

Fr. Dan says, “Public speaking has certainly been a part of my life as a priest for the past 23 years. My 8 years in the seminary help me to prepare for public speaking. It is integral to the life of a priest.”

Fr. Gary resonates a similar point of view, “As a priest, I speak publicly every day- I do my best to assist in proclaiming the truth revealed to us by Christ.”

To describe what it means to be a presenter or guest speaker, Dr. Groome answers, “It is best summarized in my urging people to teach as Jesus taught.”

Mrs. Smith reveals, “I offer a different perspective on the topic of the new evangelization given my experience in working for and ministering to youth and young adults for the past 25 yrs. Having become aware of where they are in their faith and the challenges they face daily in today’s complex society, I believe I can shed some light on the realities that we must take into account when attempting to fulfill our baptismal call to evangelize all nations.”

Fr. Bob likens being a presenter to be “more like St. Paul in that I simply try to faithfully hand on what I have received.”

Fr. Dan sums it up, “No speech or text could ever top the power of the Gospel. I am happy just to stand in the shadow of that power.”

Conference includes:
• Fabulous presentations
• Workshops
• Catholic vendors
• Liturgical celebration with Bishop David Fellhauer

For more information about the upcoming conference, contact conference coordinator, Christella Alvarez at (361) 827-7172, calvarez@victoriadiocese.org, or visit www.victoriadiocese.org.

Open the Door of Faith
Eleven 2013 high school graduates of Shiner will begin their college careers with a generous amount of scholarship assistance from the Catholic Daughters of the Americas. The CDA scholarships they received from the Texas State Court of CDA totaled $8,550 while an additional $1,500 in scholarships was awarded by CDA Court St. Paul #1604, Shiner. Scholarship recipients include, bottom row, left to right: Mary Adamek, Alexa Schaefer, and Bethany Pokluda. Middle row: Ashton Kutac, Katelynn Leist, and Abby Hull. Top row: Mason Matias, Dylan Barton, Brady Cejka, Dakota Kresta, and Cole Hybner.

Students receive CDA scholarships

Eleven 2013 high school graduates of Shiner will begin their college careers with a generous amount of scholarship assistance from the Catholic Daughters of the Americas. The CDA scholarships they received from the Texas State Court of CDA totaled $8,550 while an additional $1,500 in scholarships was awarded by CDA Court St. Paul #1604, Shiner.

Young athlete inspires others

After watching the opening ceremonies at the TAAF Summer Games in 2008, Conner Williams decided that he wanted to be ‘that boy lighting the torch’ one day. Only 7 years old at the time, he had the determination of a college athlete. Coupled with his great attitude and very humble spirit, Conner started working out in the pool and has never looked back. Recently, Conner’s dream came true in Corpus Christi as he entered the 2013 TAAF Summer Games of Texas Opening Ceremonies carrying the torch. He spoke to the 6,000 athletes and inspired the crowd to work hard, dream big, set goals, and have fun. In his short swimming career, he has won over 65 medals, 51 of which are gold, and has set 16 new records. He has been named 2009, 2010, 2011, 2012 and 2013 MVP swimmer, 2012 Best Sportsmanship for Red Wave, 2010 and 2012 TAAF Local Athlete of the Year, 2012 TAAF Region 1 Athlete of the Year, and 2013 TAAF State Male Athlete of the Year. His personality and laugh are addicting, even gravitating a crowd of older swimmers to him at each meet with his fun-loving attitude. Conner is the 11 year-old son of Jason and Laura Williams. He will be a sixth grader at St. Philip’s School, El Campo.

Grant received; windows project in progress

Windows are currently being replaced at St. Ludmila Elementary and St. Paul High School, Shiner. The work is being financed by a recent grant received from the Dickson-Allen Foundation. No parish funds are being used for this project. The new double-paned and insulated windows will make the buildings more energy efficient as well as enhance the appearance of the facilities. Work on this project is anticipated to be completed before school begins August 12.

Family Link Legacy Ranch is a non-profit, licensed, Christian foster care, and adoption agency located in Gonzales that finds homes for abused, neglected, or abandoned children. Family Link was founded because foster and adoptive parents recognized the need for safe, loving, Christian homes for children. Over 2,000 children have been placed with loving families. However, thousands more still wait. Families willing to open their hearts and homes are needed. For more information or to volunteer, call (830) 875-6062 or visit www.legacyranchkids.com.

Catholic Life Insurance

*Interest rates are subject to change. Minimum guaranteed rate is 1.50%.
St. Roch, a special saint for dogs and dog lovers

by Theresa Doyle-Nelson

Often when people think of animals, they think of St. Francis, a saint who indeed has a variety of stories indicating a unique connection with animals. There is another saint, a special patron of dogs in particular, a French saint from the 13th-14th centuries named Roch.

This medieval saint was born in France near 1295 purportedly with a red birthmark in the shape of a cross on his chest. Written accounts of St. Roch assert that he was strongly drawn to the Lord, even as a child. His parents were blessed with wealth, and sadly died when Roch was a young man. Intriguingly, the fortune they left behind had no appeal to Roch; so he rid himself of his inherited riches, put on simple clothing, and acted upon an inspiration to make a pilgrimage to Rome.

Many reports insist that miraculous cures were brought about through his prayers. After spending time tending to others with the plague, Roch contracted the disease. He decided to retreat to a makeshift shelter in a forest and prepared to endure what he thought would be his final days. By this time St. Roch was in Italy and was consequently often referred to as Rocco.

While enduring the effects of the agonizing plague alone in the forest, a dog inexplicably appeared at Roch’s shelter, presenting a loaf of bread from its mouth to the holy man. It is claimed that the nurturing of this dog saved the life of Rocco, allowing him to continue his life of goodness.

Proclaimed a saint after his death, near 1327, St. Roch/Rocco has a special veneration in Italy, most likely due to the generosity he showed there during the plague. Many also recall his beautiful dog story … how the dog's companionship, compassion, and sharing of bread enabled this gentle saint to recover and continue his life of piety. He is entombed in the church of St. Rocco in Venice.

St. Roch’s memorial is celebrated on August 16 and as the Feast of St. Roch approaches, you might make a small effort to show an extra bit of attention to dogs in honor of St. Roch and the dog that saved his life:

1) Consider adopting a rescue dog or becoming a temporary foster family for one of the many abandoned dogs in the Victoria area.

2) If owning a dog is not an option for you, consider purchasing a gift certificate from a rescue shelter for someone you know who would like to have a dog.

3) Consider volunteering at a shelter. There is great need for help to do things like walk or groom dogs, assist at events, or volunteer at camp programs.

4) Sew, knit, crochet dog blankets, cushions, or vests for a shelter to use or sell.

5) Make a donation to a nearby dog shelter: money, a dog book for the shelter library, or see if a nearby shelter has a wish list.

6) Offer to bring a rescue dog to a nursing home, hospital, or orphanage for a “therapy” visit.

7) If you already own a dog, but are struggling with training, sign up for a dog obedience class.

If you find yourself near the Mentz or Alleyton area, visit St. Roch’s Church, 1600 Frelsburg Rd., (Mentz) Alleyton, TX 78935 or call (979) 732-3460.

Numerous pet shelters exist and all are working hard to save the lives of countless homeless dogs. A few local shelters include:

Dorothy O’Connor Pet Adoption Center, 135 Progress Drive, Victoria, Texas 77905; (361) 575-8573; www.docpac.net


Stained glass window of dog tending to St. Roch inside St. Roch Church in Alleyton, TX. Photo courtesy of St. Roch Church in Alleyton, TX. Feast Day of St. Roch is August 16. Stained glass window of dog tending to St. Roch inside St. Roch Church in (Mentz) Alleyton, TX.
Forever – friends for life

Onna Reisetter was my first best friend. We scraped off scabs and mingled our blood as many children did before it became an imprudent way to attain sisterhood. We pinky-pledged our fidelity.

My friend had long red hair and her bedroom was filled with Japanese dolls and Spanish fans. Her mother dashed off to other countries for weeks, capturing trinkets to sell in her import store. Even the name Onna was exotic. Her globetrotting mother had named my friend Onna so that nobody would mispronounce it. It was not ANN-uh. It was wonderful sounding, AH-nuh. Onna and her brothers had a live-in nanny like children on television.

In contrast, I had two married parents. My mother was a stay-at-home mom. We went to church, ate home-cooked meals, and lived in the parsonage (pastor’s house).

I suppose that seemed quirky to Onna whose family did not practice any faith. Onna explored my preacher’s kid world with the gift of true spiritual friendship. My Catholic friend and I have experienced what many saints called spiritual companionship—a friendship so rooted in Christ it is tilted towards heaven and fertile ground for God’s good work.

Jonathan and David, Elijah and Elisha, Jonathan and Onna was David. Jonathan and David, how Jonathan functioning as one.

Our favorite pastime was riding a bicycle—two bikes, just one. I sat in front, fingertips clinging to the banana seat between my legs, peddling my feet with all my might. Onna clung to the handlebars, steering from behind, her arms wrapped around me.

We fought hard to control the bike as I pedaled. Turning corners at break-neck speed was exhilarating and insanely entertaining. We moved in unison. Our bodies functioned as one.

Then it was over. Onna’s mother packed their stuff and they moved to acreage in the country. It was the 1970s, and her eccentric mother wanted to get back to nature (in between jet-setting to India and Central America).

The next school year was lonely. Nobody in my class had red hair and wanted to share a banana seat. Then, we moved. If my friend ever returned to Cedar Falls, she would not know where to find me. I knew I would never forget her.

About ten years ago I searched and found her phone number. I called Onna and asked if she had lived in Cedar Falls and had a friend who lived on the corner of 2nd and Walnut streets.

She said, “I think so. I remember having a friend with short, dark hair.”

We talked for a few minutes, but I quickly realized that, to Onna, I had been one friend in a long list of friends. (So much for pinky promises and blood pacts.)

I hung up the phone and sighed.

When I entered the Catholic Church a few months later, God blessed me with the gift of true spiritual friendship. My Catholic friend and I have experienced what many saints called spiritual companionship—a friendship so rooted in Christ it is tilted towards heaven and fertile ground for God’s good work.

Jonathan and David, Elijah and Elisha, Mary and Elizabeth and all those holy ones who were friends fascinate me. God seems to give them a collective charism and calling—something they could not do alone. We see it in St. Teresa of Avila and St. John of the Cross, St. Margaret Mary Alacoque and St. Claude de la Colombière. St. Francis of Sales and St. Jane de Chantal. St. Francis of Assisi and St. Clare.

A thousand years ago, Aelred of Rievaulx wrote a treatise on the subject called Spiritual Friendship. He described what it is—what and what it is not. True spiritual friends are loyal, giving, loving, holy. They are never gossips, suspicious, superficial, two-faced, greedy, selfish, or arrogant. They love God and have great reverence for one another’s vocation. Their greatest hope is eternal life for themselves and for one another. The Catechism says friendship is a gift from God, a grace. Everyone who finds it finds the elixir of life (Sirach 6).

If you have not been with your spiritual friend in a while, pick up the phone, send an e-mail... and let grace abound.
Pope Francis, right, embraces retired Pope Benedict XVI during a ceremony in the Vatican gardens early July. During the service, Pope Francis blessed a new statue of St. Michael the Archangel and recited separate prayers to consecrate Vatican City to St. Joseph and to St. Michael. (CNS photo/L'Osservatore Romano via Reuters)

**Excerpts from Pope Francis’ encyclical *Lumen Fidei***

by Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY (CNS)—*Lumen Fidei:* The Light of Faith excerpts include:

**We Have Believed in Love**

— Faith, tied as it is to conversion, is the opposite of idolatry; it breaks with idols to turn to the living God in a personal encounter. Believing means entrusting oneself to a merciful love which always accepts and pardons, which sustains and directs our lives, and which shows its power by its ability to make straight the crooked lines of our history. Faith consists in the willingness to let ourselves be constantly transformed and renewed by God’s call.

— Our culture has lost its sense of God’s tangible presence and activity in our world. We think that God is to be found in the beyond, on another level of reality, far removed from our everyday relationships. But if this were the case, if God could not act in the world, his love would not be truly powerful, truly real, and thus not even true, a love capable of delivering the bliss that it promises.

**Our Called to Love**

— Faith is necessarily ecclesial; it is a concrete communion of believers. It is against this ecclesial backdrop that faith opens the individual Christian toward all others. Faith is not a private matter, a completely individualistic notion or a personal opinion: it comes from hearing, and it is meant to find expression in words and to stand the overall unity of the divine plan.

— Love and truth are inseparable. Without love, truth becomes cold, impersonal and oppressive for people’s day-to-day lives. The truth we seek, the truth that gives meaning to our journey through life, enlightens us whenever we are touched by love.

— This discovery of love as a source of knowledge, which is part of the primordial experience of every man and woman, finds authoritative expression in the biblical understanding of faith. In savoring the love by which God chose them and made them a people, Israel came to understand the overall unity of the divine plan. Faith-knowledge, because it is born of God’s covenantal love, is knowledge which lights up a path in history.

— By his taking flesh and coming among us, Jesus has touched us, and through the sacraments he continues to touch us even today; transforming our hearts, he unceasingly enables us to acknowledge and acclaim him as the Son of God.

— Christian faith, inasmuch as it proclaims the truth of God’s total love and opens us to the power of that love, penetrates to the core of our human experience. Each of us comes to the light because of love, and each of us is called to love in order to remain in the light.

**The Light of Faith**

**POPE FRANCIS**

ENCYClical LETTER

**THE LIGHT OF FAITH**

**LUMEN FIDEI**

**Sunday, September 1, 2013**

Flag Raising Ceremony at 9:30 a.m. • Polka Mass at 10:00 a.m. • Cakewalk 11:00 a.m.
Toy Walk • Country Store • Duck Pond • Ring Toss • Horseshoe Tournament at 1:00 p.m.
Ball Throw • Train Ride • Nachos • Hamburger Stand • High Hill Homemade Sausage
Souvenir Booth • Bingo (Lic.#3-00-0620320-9) 2:00 - 6:00 p.m.
Sweepstakes (Over 50 Prizes) Drawing at 9:00 p.m.

Music During the Day by

Texas Sound Czech and Mark Halata/Texavia

Free Dance at Night by Texas Dream

**Chicken & Stew Dinner**

11:00 a.m. to ?
(German Potatoes, Sauerkraut, Green Beans, Peaches & Tea)
Adults - $8 /Children $4 (Dine-in) • (Drive-thru plates-to-go $8)

**Auction** 1:00 p.m.

See Excerpts from Pope, p. 15
the subjective authenticity of the individual, valid only for the life of the individual. A common truth intimidates us, for we identify it with the intransigent demands of totalitarian systems. But if truth is a truth of love, if it is a truth disclosed in personal encounter with the other and with others, then it can be set free from its enclosure in individuals and become part of the common good.

I Delivered to You What I Also Received
— Those who have opened their hearts to God’s love, heard his voice and received his light cannot keep this gift to themselves. Since faith is hearing and seeing, it is also handed on as word and light. … Faith is passed on, we might say, by contact, from one person to another, just as one candle is lighted from another.
— Precisely because all the articles of faith are interconnected, to deny one of them, even of those that seem least important, is tantamount to distorting the whole. Each period of history can find this or that point of faith easier or harder to accept: hence the need for vigilance in ensuring that the deposit of faith is passed on in its entirety (cf. 1 Tm 6:20) and that all aspects of the profession of faith are duly emphasized.

God Prepares a City for Them
— Faith is truly a good for everyone; it is a common good. Its light does not simply brighten the interior of the church, nor does it serve solely to build an eternal city in the hereafter; it helps us build our societies in such a way that they can journey toward a future of hope.
— The first setting in which faith enlightens the human city is the family. I think first and foremost of the stable union of man and woman in marriage. This union is born of their love, as a sign and presence of God’s own love, and of the acknowledgment and acceptance of the goodness of sexual differentiation, whereby spouses can become one flesh (cf. Gn 2:24) and are enabled to give birth to a new life, a manifestation of the Creator’s goodness, wisdom and loving plan.
— Faith is not a light which scatters all our darkness, but a lamp which guides our steps in the night and suffices for the journey. To those who suffer, God does not provide arguments which explain everything; rather, his response is that of an accompanying presence, a history of goodness which touches every story of suffering and opens up a ray of light.

John and voted to ask Pope Francis to canonize him without requiring a miracle. According to church rules, established by the pope and subject to changes by him, a miracle is needed after beatification to make a candidate eligible for canonization.

Jesuit Father Paolo Molinari, the longtime head of the College of Postulatores, or promoters of sainthood causes, has explained that in the sainthood process, miracles are “the confirmation by God of a judgment made by human beings” that the candidate really is in heaven.

Father Molinari also has said that for decades theologians have explored the possibility that such a confirmation could come by means other than someone experiencing a physical healing. For instance, Blessed John Paul beatified Victoire Rasoamanarivo in Madagascar in 1989 after accepting as a miracle the case of a wind-swept brush fire stopping at the edge of a village whose inhabitants invoked her intercession.

Announcing the decision about Blessed John’s cause, Jesuit Father Federico Lombardi, Vatican spokesman, said the discussions about the need for miracles and what can be defined as an acceptable miracle continue. However, he said, the movement in the late pope’s cause does not indicate a general change in church policy.

The members of the Congregation for Saints’ Causes “have expressed their hope, and the Holy Father has accepted it,” Father Lombardi said. If Pope Francis “had any doubts, we wouldn’t be here” announcing the consistory to approve Blessed John’s canonization.

“As we all know very well, John XXIII is a person beloved in the church. We are in the 50th anniversary year of the opening of the Second Vatican Council, which he convoked. And I think none of us has any doubts about John XXIII’s virtues,” the spokesman said. “So, the Holy Father is looking toward his canonization.”

Father Lombardi also noted that no date for a canonization ceremony was announced, but it is likely that the two popes will be canonized together, possibly “by the end of the year.”
GETTYSBURG, Pa. (CNS)—Celebrating Mass a few miles from the hallowed grounds of its Civil War battlefields, New York Cardinal Timothy M. Dolan called Gettysburg “a shrine and a sanctuary” to which pilgrims journey with “a deep sense of honor, awe, reverence, patriotism and gratitude.”

Cardinal Dolan, who is president of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, celebrated the outdoor Mass recently on the grounds of Xavier Center, home to the parish center and parochial school of St. Francis Xavier Parish in the Diocese of Harrisburg.

The affable cardinal expressed genuine respect for the sacredness of Gettysburg, saying: “It is not an exaggeration to call Gettysburg a shrine and a sanctuary.”

St. Paul’s Letter to the Galatians, in chapter 6, verses 14-18, points to Christ’s cross and his holy wounds, “concepts too readily clear as we close our eyes and reverently and somberly recall the tens of thousands of men killed and wounded on these very acres, ever cardinal red in our national memory,” the cardinal said.

During the battle, which took place July 1-3, 1863, St. Francis Xavier Church served as a hospital for both Union and Confederate soldiers.

He pointed to the missal stand used for the commemorative Mass, noting that it was “carved from the wood of our old pews that served as cots for the soldiers who were being nursed at the historic church.”

Cardinal Dolan remembered the soldiers, “whose Blue or Gray were insignificant to a God who cries at every war as he watches his children, destined to love, only hurt and harm one another. Both read the same Bible. Both prayed to the same God. And each invoked His name against the other.”

He spoke of the memory of the Catholic sisters, “binding up the nation’s wounds on both sides, unconcerned whether they came from North or South,” and of Father William Corby, the chaplain of the Irish Brigade, “absolving his men of their sins as they ran toward near-certain fall.”

And the cardinal spoke of the memory of “a president aptly named Abraham,” who christened the acres of battlefields “with references such as ‘a new nation conceived in liberty,’ ‘all men are created equal,’ and ‘this one nation under God.’”

“Every person, every people, needs both memories and dreams,” Cardinal Dolan said. “This battlefield stirs up both as we assemble in obedience to the command Jesus himself gave us on the very eve before he endured his own Gettysburg, his Gethsemane, his Golgotha: Do this in memory of me.”

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New York Cardinal Timothy M. Dolan receives the offertory gifts from Civil War re-enactors during Mass on the grounds of Xavier Center in Gettysburg, Pa. The outdoor service marked the 150th anniversary of the Battle of Gettysburg, during which the local St. Francis Xavier Church served as a hospital for wounded soldiers. (CNS photo/Emily M. Albert, The Catholic Witness)
**Society of the Sacred Heart unifies provinces in U.S. and Canada**

by Catholic News Service

ST. LOUIS (CNS)—The Society of the Sacred Heart, an international congregation of women religious, recently unified its provinces in the U.S. and Canada to form the Province of the U.S.-Canada.

SSH headquarters will be based in St. Louis. After three years of evaluation and planning, members of the two provinces decided that coming together was the best decision for the future of the congregation and will allow for more efficient use of resources for the sisters’ mission. A transition period will last until 2015.

Currently there are 330 members, 308 in the U.S. and 22 in Canada, in the newly formed province.

“A province does not ‘become’ a province only on the day it officially begins,” Sr. Kathleen Conan, superior general, said in a statement. “We look forward to how we grow into that reality, live the vision, adapt it where needed and continue to let it be created by the Spirit and by the hearts and hopes of those on the journey.”

Sr. Conan said, “My hope for our new province would be to become ‘one branch on the vine,’ born from the risk that St. Rose Philippine Duchesne took when she sailed for North America. I look forward to living creative new ways of revealing the love of the heart of Christ in our two countries.”

**Prayers for peace**

WASHINGTON (CNS)—In a world overcome by violence and hate, prayer can be an effective way to pursue peace and hope. Franciscan Father Jim Goode launched a prayer pilgrimage on feast of Our Lady of Mount Carmel, July 16 and concluded on the feast of the Assumption, Aug 15. He was inspired to launch the pilgrimage in light of recent ‘violence, anger, and pain’ in this country. He hopes it will be an annual event.

“The inspiration came to me on the feast of Our Lady of Mount Carmel. Why not call all the people to a prayer pilgrimage where we would pray throughout the nation for an end to violence and hatred... Then I looked at the calendar and counted 31 days and the 31 day fell on the solemnity of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary and I said, ‘That’s it! We will call on the Mother of God to intercede for us for peace and hope.’”

He said the pilgrimage was a follow-up to the annual month-long pro-life observance sponsored by the National Black Catholic Apostolate for Life.

Fr. Goode said he has heard from hundreds of people who have visited the website, www.solidgroundministry.com, and expressed enthusiasm for the pilgrimage.

“A change is coming and I firmly believe it is by prayer, not by violence against violence or hate against hate (but by) joining hands and hearts together,” he said. “All races, all people.”

**For those wanting to help the affected families in Prescott, AZ visit www.prescottfirecharities.org.**

Their website provides information that will lead you to where 100% of the proceeds from all donations will go Prescott Firefighter’s Charities to support the families of the fallen firefighters.

Our prayers are with all of the families in Prescott and Yarnell.
Archbishop Broglio calls it ‘an honor’ to serve members of armed forces

by David Cooley
Catholic News Service
COVINGTON, Ky. (CNS)—As Americans gather to celebrate Independence Day, many will remember in prayer the soldiers who have fought and the families who have sacrificed for the nation’s freedom.

Those same soldiers and families will no doubt remember the military chaplains who have served them in the field and on military bases all over the world.

Religion and faith are important aspects of U.S. history, including its military history.

“You know it is interesting that when George Washington was given the commission to command the Revolutionary militia, he wanted chaplains,” said Archbishop Timothy M. Broglio of the U.S. Archdiocese for the Military Services.

Archbishop Broglio was installed to head the military archdiocese Jan. 25, 2008. The archdiocese also has four active auxiliary bishops. Day-to-day operations are handled at its Washington-based headquarters.

The archdiocese provides the full range of the Catholic Church’s pastoral ministries and spiritual services to the men and women, and their families, who serve in the nation’s five military branches, as well as patients at Veterans Affairs medical centers and Foreign Service personnel working outside the United States.

“The archdiocese primarily come from men in parishes or religious orders willing to release a priest for a period of time to be a military chaplain. They are dedicated. They are firm in their faith, to practice their religion freely according to their conscience,” Archbishop Broglio said.

Vocations to serve with the military archdiocese primarily come from men in the military who hear the Lord’s call to the priesthood or those who have been raised in military families, Archbishop Broglio said. However, there also are others who see it as a vocation within a vocation and ask to be considered as a chaplain candidate.

Chaplains generally come from dioceses or religious orders willing to release a priest for a period of time to be a military chaplain. He must have completed at least three years of pastoral ministry as a priest in his home diocese.

The Archdiocese for the Military Services also has what it calls the Co-Sponsored Seminarian Program, a partnership between the archdiocese and local dioceses and religious communities around the country to support young men called to pursue priestly vocations, both in their home dioceses or religious communities, and in the military. Currently, there are 34 co-sponsored seminarians, 40 are expected in the fall.

“Every year one of my auxiliary bishops or I visit every installation and we celebrate Mass, we celebrate confirmation, perform traditional dance for visitors from the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops and Catholic Relief Services. We try to spend time with the Catholic community,” Archbishop Broglio said.

The archbishop shared a story that highlighted the kind of impact the Catholic Church can have on service men and women.

Over Memorial Day weekend, the archbishop and other archdiocesan officials led a group to Lourdes, France, as part of an international military pilgrimage to the famed shrine.

“This year we took with us a fair number of wounded warriors and I was talking to one of them after the opening Mass,” Archbishop Broglio recalled. “He was telling me how he had been wounded in Iraq and that this was actually his second trip to Lourdes. He was in a wheelchair and he said that on his first visit his face was paralyzed almost like a stroke victim, but probably more from shock than anything else.

“After he went to the grotto and bathed in the waters that paralysis disappeared. It was moving to see his face and it was moving that he would even recount how he had been touched and how this visit to Lourdes had really affected him.”

About his own ministry Archbishop Broglio said, “What I enjoy most are the people that I am privileged to serve. They really are wonderful men and women. They are dedicated. They are firm in their faith and it is really an honor to minister to them.”


Members of the Kechwa community of Lamas, in the Peruvian Amazon, perform traditional dance for visitors from the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops and Catholic Relief Services. (CNS photo/Barbara Fraser)
**EVENTS**

**Special Collections:**
Retired and needy priests of the Diocese

**September 8**

**Ongoing Activities and Ministries**

**Catholic Family Services**—To find listings of e-mail/ websites of Catholic organizations that focus on family, visit the Catholic Association of Catholic Family Life Ministers at www.nacflm.org.

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

**Engaged Encounter**—Sept. 27-29 at the Spiritual Renewal Center. Registrations are on a first come, first serve basis. Fee must accompany registration form. For a registration form, contact your pastor. For more information, call (361) 573-0828 or visit www.victoriadiocese.org click on the Ministries tab followed by Family Ministry.

**Gabriel Project**—Helps women experiencing a crisis pregnancy—an alternative to abortion. Meetings are held the 2nd and 3rd Tuesday of each month at 6:30 p.m. at 101 W. Convent. Light supper included. For angel workshop/raining dates, contact Barbara at (361) 649-1612 or barbarexamnain58@yahoo.com. Holy Family, Wharton, meetings are held the 4th Tuesday of each month at 6:30 p.m. For more information, call (795) 533-3593, M-F, 9:00 a.m.–4:30 p.m. or visit www.gabrielproject.com.

**Grief Group**—Meetings are held the 1st and 3rd Thursday of each month at 7:00 p.m. in conference/brides’ room at Holy Family Church, Victoria. Before attending, please call Sharon at (361) 578-7572.

**Marriage Encounter**—This program is no longer offered in the Diocese of Victoria. Replacing it is Retreatvau (see below). To find a Marriage Encounter weekend outside of the diocese, visit www.wwwme.org.

**Natural Family Planning**—Upcoming introductory sessions to the Creighton Model Fertility Care System (CrMS) featuring NaPro technology include Aug. 17 at 11:00 a.m. and Nov. 10 at 2:00 p.m. Sessions will be held at Holy Family Church in Wharton. For more information, contact Susanne Koch at (505) 710-0903 or susannekoch614@gmail.com.

**Natural Family Planning—NFP** is the only Church-approved form of family planning. Fall Session: Oct. 20, Nov. 17 and Dec. 15. To learn about the sympto-thermal method in the Victoria area and NFP class schedules, contact David and Annie Coffey at victorianpateachers@yahoo.com.

**Presidio La Bahia Museum and Visitor Center**—The Presidio, located in Goliad, is the only Spanish fort in the possession of the Catholic Church in North America and is a National Historic Landmark. The museum is open 9:00 a.m.—5:00 p.m. and is closed on major holidays. The Quarters is available for overnight stays. For rates and more information, contact (361) 645-3752 or visit www.presidiolabahia.org.

**Pregnant? Need Help?**

**Gabriel Project**
1-866-MARY AID
6 2 7 9 4 3

Raphael’s Refuge—RR’s mission is to build and maintain a memorial in honor of babies, born and unborn. This ministry is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization located in Flanagan. Peer counseling and spiritual direction are also available for those suffering a loss of a baby due to miscarriage, stillbirth, infant death, or abortion. Learn more at www.raphaelsrrefuge.org.

**Retrouvaille**—Meaning rediscovery, this marriage-healing ministry offers assistance to couples in difficult marriages. For confidential information about or to register for the September program beginning Sept. 6-8 weekend, contact John and Jennifer Vincent at (361) 580-2770 or jbjvov@sbcglobal.net. For more information, call (800) 470-2230 or visit www.retrouvaille.org or www.helpourmarriage.org.

**That Man Is You**—This men’s group transforms men, families, and society as it presents the vision of man fully alive. Holy Cross, Bay City, Fri. 5:45-7:15 a.m.; Holy Family, Victoria, Wed. 5:45-7:00 a.m.; St. Peter Parish Hall; and Assumption, Ganado, Wed. 5:30-7:15 a.m. JPII Family Center. Visit www.thatmanisyou.org.

**St. Francis and St. Clare Fraternity/Secular Franciscans**—For more information about or to register for the September program beginning Sept.6-8 weekend, contact John and Jennifer Vincent at (361) 580-2770 or jbjvov@sbcglobal.net. For more information, call (800) 470-2230 or visit www.retrouvaille.org or www.helpourmarriage.org.

**Sts. Cyril & Methodius Picnic Sept. 1**

**Sunday Afternoon Picnic**

**August**

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<td>Aug. 11</td>
<td>11:00 a.m. prime beef BBQ, sausage, and trimmings. $8 p/p. Bulk sales and plates-to-go available. Self-serve in the parish hall. 12:30 p.m. auction. There will be a bake sale, cake walk, country store, games, music, and raffle.</td>
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<td>Aug. 13</td>
<td>1:00 p.m. auction (in a/c lunch area). 10:30 a.m. BBQ homemade sausage and shoulder clog with trimmings. Dine-in or plates-to-go. $10 p/p. $5 children and under. There will be a cakewalk, childrens’ inflatables, country store, and silent auction.</td>
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**September**

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<td>Sept. 9</td>
<td>1:00 p.m. auction (in a/c lunch area). 10:30 a.m. BBQ homemade sausage and shoulder clog with trimmings. Dine-in or plates-to-go. $10 p/p. $5 children and under. There will be a cakewalk, childrens’ inflatables, country store, and silent auction.</td>
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<td>Sept. 10</td>
<td>1:00 p.m. auction (in a/c lunch area). 10:30 a.m. BBQ homemade sausage and shoulder clog with trimmings. Dine-in or plates-to-go. $10 p/p. $5 children and under. There will be a cakewalk, childrens’ inflatables, country store, and silent auction.</td>
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**Picnics and Events**

**Nada—St. Mary Parish Picnic Sept. 1. See ad on pg. 13.**

**Port Lavaca—Our Lady of the Gulf Parish Festival Sept. 15. at the Bauer Community Center. 11:00 a.m.-1:30 p.m. Seafood platter includes fried shrimp, fish, coleslaw, German potatoes, hush puppies, and tea. Dine-in or plates-to-go. $8 p/p. 12:30 p.m. auction. There will be arts and crafts, bingo, cake walk, children’s games, country store, games, and raffle.**

**Shiner—Sts. Cyril & Methodius Picnic Sept. 1. See ad on pg. 16.**

**Vanderbilt—St. John Bosco Parish Picnic Sept. 1. See ad on pg. 18.**

**Yorktown—Holy Cross Fall Festival Sept. 8. 9:30 a.m. Polish Mass. 1:00 p.m. auction (in a/c lunch area). 10:30 a.m. BBQ homemade sausage and shoulder clog with trimmings. Dine-in or plates-to-go. $10 p/p. $5 children and under. There will be a cakewalk, childrens’ inflatables, country store, and silent auction.**

**Masses • Retreats • Conferences**

**ACTS Retreats**—For information visit www.actsmissions.org.

**Eagle Lake—Fr. Robert Guerra and God’s Embrace Renewal Centers invite you to join ‘Our Healing Mass’ Aug. 9 at 7:00 p.m. at the Parish of the Nativity. Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament 6:00-6:45 p.m. For more information, call (979) 234-2842.**

**San Antonio—Ladies, your ‘spa for the soul’ is almost here! The Catholic Women’s Conference will be held Sept. 20-21 at the Henry B. Gonzalez Convention Center. It will focus on the search for the truth of God’s plan in the lives of all women and feature inspirational speakers, Mass, music, and more. Early bird discounts are available. For a schedule, list of speakers, or to register contact Mary Machacek at (361) 594-3234 or Jennifer Peters at (361) 594-3881 or visit www.CWCSanAntonio.com.**

**Shiner—Sts. Cyril & Methodius Church celebrates Latin Masses every 1st and 3rd Sunday of each month at 11:00 a.m. with Fr. Bob Knippenberg.**

**Tivoli—Our Lady of Guadalupe Church celebrates the Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament the first Friday of each month at 6:00 p.m. Mass begins at 7:00 p.m. at 501B William Street with Rev. Paulson Panakal. Mark your calendars now for next month. For more information, call (361) 237-3634.**

**Victoria—Incarnate Word Prayer Group invites you to Praise and Worship on Mondays 7:30-9:00 p.m. in the auditorium at Incarnate Word Convent, 1101 N.E. Water Street. For more information, contact St. Louise Marie Jones at (361) 575-7111 or ammoreus@yahoo.com.**

**Victoria—Our Lady of Lourdes holds Healing Mass and Prayer the first Saturday of each month at 10:00 a.m. at 105 N. William St. with Fr. Phi Nguyen, chaplain of IWBS Convent. Mark your calendars now for next month. For more information, contact Sister Louise Marie Jones at iwbsovc2@yahoo.com.**

**Victoria—St. Mary’s Altar Society half-day retreat Sept. 10 at the St. Mary’s Activity Center. Men and women are welcome. Rev. Patrick Knippenberg retreat master, 8:30 a.m. registration. Lunch will be served after 12:05 p.m. Mass. No fees charged. For reservations, call Janell Kruppa at (361) 575-8166 or Lorraine Hebert at (361) 578-6589.**

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Jennie Janak, owner
M-F: 9:30 a.m. - 5:30 p.m. • Sat.: 9:30 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.
The Diocese of Victoria is home to thirteen Catholic schools that are a positive alternative to public schools. Catholic schools provide a quality education in a Christian environment.

The purpose of Catholic education is to draw or lead people of all ages into communion with God and others through a deeper understanding, experience and practice of one’s faith. This is accomplished by providing students with an academic curriculum that is unique, contemporary, and apostolic.

For more information on individual schools, visit Parishes & Schools at www.victoriadiocese.org or contact:
John Quarry or Janie Carrales
Office of Catholic Schools • (361) 573-0828
Diocese of Victoria • 1505 E. Mesquite Lane • Victoria, TX 77901

Knights of the Papal Order of St. Gregory the Great

A Brief History of the Order

The Papal Order of St. Gregory the Great, also known by its Latin name Ordo Gregorianus, is the most recognizable of the papal awards. Instituted on September 1, 1831, it was founded by Pope Gregory XVI, who named it after his holy predecessor Pope St. Gregory the Great, whom the pontiff intended to honor. In the naming of it after him, Gregory XVI placed the new order under his spiritual patronage. Established during a period of great turbulence for the temporal realm of the church over the Papal states, the Order of St. Gregory the Great was founded in two divisions, one military and one civil, as a reward for those outstanding citizens of the Papal states and for persons who defended the temporal territory of the church. Now, the Order is bestowed upon those individuals who serve the Catholic church or who have distinguished themselves by their accomplishments benefitting society, regardless of religion or gender.

Young men attend vocation camp

Last month, the Quo Vadis? Boys Vocation Camp was held at Cooper Farm Education and Nature Center in Ledbetter, TX. The retreat was co-sponsored by the vocation and youth offices of the Diocese of Victoria. Also, making the retreat possible was the generosity of the bishop’s annual golf tournament put on by the Knights of Columbus #9088, Holy Family. 33 young men attended the retreat; 21 of them were from Sacred Heart Parish, Hallettsville. 13 seminarians led the retreat and 4 priests offered the sacraments during the retreat. Otto Bleier provide the meal for all the families before the retreat began. Debbie Vanelli and the seminarians provided the meals for the week. The retreat focused on God’s call to the baptized to follow Him in holiness and the openness that is demanded in following that call.

New principal named at St. Michael Catholic school

St. Michael Catholic School, Weimar has announced Carolanne McAfee as the new principal for the school. Mrs. McAfee taught second grade at the school from 2011-2013. She previously worked in the Lamar Consolidated School District for 10 years, where she served as a teacher, diagnostic teacher, and special education counselor. She has a Master’s of Education degree from the University of Houston-Victoria and a Bachelor of Science degree from Texas State University. She also worked in records management for the Hermann Hospital system in Houston before entering the teaching field.