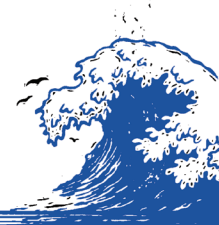


The Catholic Lighthouse

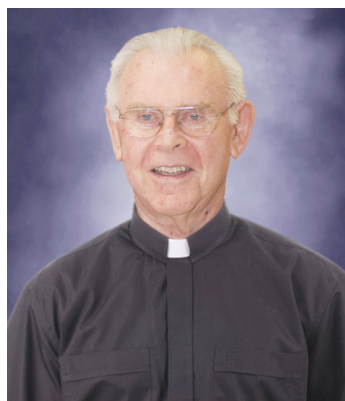
The Cradle of Texas Immigration



VOL. 26, NO. 8

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE DIOCESE OF VICTORIA IN TEXAS

December 2012



Rev. Peter Higgins

Founding Pastor of Holy Family in Victoria dies

Father Peter Higgins died on Tuesday, November 20, 2012, in San Antonio, Texas, at the age of 83 years. He was born April 4, 1929, in Tullymore, Ardara, County Donegal, Ireland, to the late George and Annie Campbell Heekin (also known as Higgins).

He was ordained to the priesthood at Holy Trinity Cathedral, Waterford, Ireland, on June 17, 1956, for the Archdiocese of San Antonio. He worked in the Archdiocese of San Antonio

See *Founding Pastor*, p. 3

Goliad family chooses not to renew pharmacy lease, Defends Unborn Human Life

GOLIAD, Texas – Residents and visitors to Goliad have recently noticed that the Von Dohlen Building no longer has a pharmacy located in it. Tim Von Dohlen, whose family partnership



NATIVITY PAINTING FROM BENEDICTINE CONVENT—Mary, Joseph, and the Child Jesus are depicted in a Nativity painted by Benedictine nuns in Madrid. The Christmas season begins with the Dec. 24 evening vigil commemorating the birth of Christ and ends with the feast of the Baptism of the Lord, Jan. 13. (CNS/ Art Resource/ Album)

owns the Von Dohlen Building, has chosen not to renew the lease for Goliad Pharmacy. The Von Dohlen Building, located on the square in downtown Goliad, has been a Goliad business hub

and home to a pharmacy since the early 1900's. Negotiations for lease renewal were stopped when the majority owners of the pharmacy insisted on stocking

See *Goliad family*, p. 3



The newly named Monsignors are pictured above with Bishop David Fellhauer, they are, Msgrs. Lawrence Matula, Celestino Say, John Peters, Gerard Cernoch; Bishop Fellhauer; Msgrs. Casimir Jarzombek, Joseph Hybner and John Bily.

Monsignors acknowledged in Liturgy of the Hours service

By Cynthia Brewer

The seven newly named Monsignors of the Diocese of Victoria were acknowledged of their new titles of *Monsignor, Prelate of Honor to His Holiness*, by the Most Rev. David E. Fellhauer at Our Lady of Victory Cathedral in Victoria in the evening of November 19, 2012.

Monsignors acknowledged were Rev. Msgr. Lawrence J. Matula, of St. Robert Bellarmine in El Campo; Rev. Msgr. Celestino Say, of Our Lady of Lourdes in Victoria; Rev. Msgr. John C. Peters, of Sacred Heart in Hallettsville, and its mission churches, Ascension in Moravia, St. John the Baptist in St. John, and Immaculate Conception in St. Mary; Rev. Msgr. Gerard G. Cernoch, of Our Lady of Guadalupe in Bay City; Rev. Msgr. Casimir Jarzombek, retired from Holy Cross in Bay City; Rev. Msgr. Joseph M. Hybner, retired from Sacred Heart in Flatonia and Sts. Cyril and Methodius in Cistern; and Rev. Msgr. John C. Bily of St. Michael in Weimar

and its mission church, Sts. Cyril & Methodius in Dubina.

The service included the Evening Prayer of the communal celebration of the Liturgy of the Hours at which 18 priests and nine deacons were present. Bishop Fellhauer conducted the service and delivered the homily and Father Tommy Chen served as the master of ceremonies. Hundreds in attendance included religious sisters from throughout the diocese and faithful from the parishes of the newly named Monsignors.

Bishop Fellhauer thanked the Monsignors for their many years of faithful service to the Church prior to serving each with an officially signed parchment document from the Vatican, designating the priests as Monsignors.

A reception, hosted by CDA #369 and the Knights of Columbus, followed the service in Our Lady of Victory's school gymnasium. This provided an opportunity for parishioners from each of the Monsignors' parishes to congratulate their pastors.



Bishop Fellhauer's Schedule

December

- 7** Noon, Bishop Fellhauer's presentation to Serra Club of Victoria, The Club at Colony Creek, Victoria
- 8** Bishop's Christmas Dinner, Spiritual Renewal Center: Mass at 5:00 p.m., Social at 6:15 p.m., and Dinner at 7:00 p.m.
- 9** 10:30 a.m., Mass, Celebration honoring Msgr. John C. Peters and Msgr. Celestino Say being named Monsignors, Sacred Heart Church, Hallettsville
- 19** 2:30 p.m., Diocesan Finance Board meeting, Chancery Office
4:00 p.m., Diocesan Building Board meeting, Chancery Office
- 24** 4:00 p.m., Mass, Incarnate Word Convent Infirmary, Victoria
Midnight Mass, Our Lady of Victory Cathedral
- 27** 6:00 p.m., Mass, Serra Club Seminarian and Religious in Formation Christmas gathering, Holy Family Church, Victoria

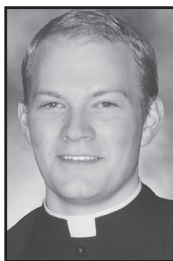
2013

January

- 7-11** Region X Bishops' Retreat, Oblate Renewal Center, San Antonio

Happy Birthday!

Max Landman is in Theology 1 at Pontifical College Josephinum; his birthday is December 30. He is from Uvalde, studying for the Diocese of Victoria. Please show your support for this seminarian by writing to: Max Landman, Pontifical College Josephinum, 7625 North High Street, Columbus, OH 43235.



KJT PRESENTS NEARLY \$3,000 TO SHINER CATHOLIC SCHOOLS—Shiner KJT Society #20 presented a check to Principal Neely Yackel, Shiner Catholic Schools, for \$2,657. The check represents \$2,057 from a raffle the society held in conjunction with the Catholic School Festival, and \$300 matched by State KJT. The schools also recieved \$300 from the State KJT for the Catholic School Grant. Shown are society officers and recipients; in back row: Edwin Machacek, Glen Kloesel, and Elizabeth Wagner; middle row and to right: David Wagner and State Director Margaret Hanslik; front row: Principal Neely Yackel and Father Kirby Hlavaty, pastor of Sts. Cyril & Methodius.



KJT #20 DONATES TO PRIEST & RELIGIOUS FUND—KJT Society #20 officers present a \$500 check to State Director Margaret Hanslik for the Priest & Religious Retirement Fund. Shown making the presentation are society officers and the pastor of Sts. Cyril & Methodius; back row: Elizabeth Wagner and Father Kirby Hlavaty; front row: David Wagner, State Director Margaret Hanslik, Glen Kloesel, and Edwin Machacek.

ENGAGED ENCOUNTER NOTICE!

At this time, the Engaged Encounter community is VERY short on presenting couples for the Engaged Encounter weekends, and it is also hard to find priests to commit to all the weekends; having a priest on the weekend is vital to a successful weekend. So, after much discussion the community needs to reduce their weekends down to two this coming year (2013). The Engaged Encounter weekends will be:

April 19-21 and September 27-29

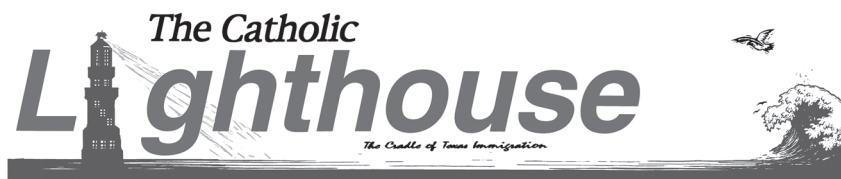
DSA & Reflection of Faith Capital Campaign Updates

2012 DSA

Diocesan Goal:	\$1,623,907.00
Parish Pledge Totals:	\$749,231.09
Parish Contribution Totals:	\$713,640.77
Number of Parish Families Participating:	3,499

Reflection of Faith Capital Campaign

Diocesan Goal:	\$9,000,000.00
Parish Pledge Totals:	\$12,901,454.75
Parish Contribution Totals:	\$10,843,429.40
Number of Parish Families Participating:	6,769



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DEADLINE IS THE FIFTEENTH (15) OF THE PRECEDING MONTH.

Publisher
The Most Rev. David E. Fellhauer

Editor
Cynthia Brewer — e-mail:
cbrewer@victoriadiocese.org

Production/Advertising
Regina Matus-Janak — e-mail:
janakr@victoriadiocese.org



FOOD PANTRY IS FULLER THANKS TO KC #3262—Grand Knight Richard Zahn of Knights of Columbus Council #3262, Wharton, presents a donation of \$600 to SHARE, Wharton's local food pantry. Accepting the donation is SHARE volunteer Sandra Zahn. Donations were collected at each monthly meeting of the council. The presentation was made in October for an early Christmas present. Council #3262 membership is comprised of gentlemen from the parishes of St. John, Hungerford; St. Joseph Mission, Boling; Our Lady of Mount Carmel and Holy Family, both in Wharton.



Founding Pastor of Holy Family in Victoria dies

Continued from p. 1

from September 1956 until April 1982, when he continued to work in the newly formed Diocese of Victoria. He also worked in the Diocese of Austin during his retirement years.

Father Peter served in the following parishes: associate pastor at St. Margaret Mary, (San Antonio), St. Cornelius (Karnes City), St. Joseph (Yoakum), St. Mary Magdalen (San Antonio), Our Lady of Victory 1968-69 (Victoria), pastor at St. Michael 1969-74 (Cuero) and St. An-

drew 1974-81 (Hillje/Louise), founding pastor of Holy Family of Joseph, Mary and Jesus 1981-84 (Victoria), Sabbatical Nov. 1984-Nov. 1985, pastor at St. Peter 1985-1999 (Blessing), retired to Austin Diocese and was at Our Lady of the Lake (Sunrise Beach) and St. Paul the Apostle (Horseshoe Bay).

In Holy Family Parish's 25th Anniversary Program (2006), a tribute to Father Higgins states, "Father Higgins wore many 'different hats' as he had many different roles in the formation of our parish. His most important role was that of spiritual leader. All Father did was for the love of God and the Church. He was also a carpenter, electrician, expert on heavy machinery, secretary, accountant, landscaper and a master fund raiser. Father came into our lives, our homes, and our families. He knew and cherished all of his parishioners. Father Higgins had a weather-beaten face and calloused hands, as he not only led us spiritually but also worked beside us in the building of our church."

He is survived by his sister-in-law, Teresa Heekin, and numerous nieces, nephews and cousins.

Funeral services were held at Holy Family of Joseph, Mary and Jesus Church, in Victoria November 26, 2012, with The Most Reverend David E. Fellhauer officiating.

Another funeral Liturgy was held at the Church of the Holy Family in Ardara, County Donegal, Ireland. Burial followed at the Church of the Holy Family Cemetery in Ardara, County Donegal, Ireland.

Words of comfort may be shared with the family at colonialfuneralhomevictoria.com.

Goliad family chooses not to renew pharmacy lease, Defends Unborn Human Life

Continued from p. 1

and dispensing certain medicines that end innocent human life.

The drugs in question include the Morning After Pill, Ella (similar to RU486) and Depo-Provera. All three drugs are marketed as contraceptives but are in fact abortifacient drugs, meaning they can cause a newly created child to be aborted. In addition, these drugs can have numerous side effects including the risk of blood clots, pulmonary embolisms, stroke and certain forms of cancer. "Nobody knows better than me how important a pharmacy is in a small town like Goliad," said Mr. Von Dohlen. "But if it's selling the wrong drugs that cannot be acceptable."

He went on to add that healthcare in general and pharmacy in particular are changing rapidly. "Most new drugs are wonderful discoveries that help people,"

See Goliad family, p. 13

SHUTTIN' THE GATE

Editorial by Cynthia Brewer, editor



Bringing JFK and Ronald Reagan Together

The U. S. national elections have once again shown how polarized our nation and particularly the faithful within the Catholic Church are. But I wonder if we really are that much at odds with one another. Could it be that we only seem polarized because there is no party from which to choose to fulfill all the Social Justice Themes of Catholicism?

The Democratic Party used to be the social justice party of America, the one that supported the poorest and most downtrodden; however this is no longer the case. The Democratic Party has effectively been hijacked by Planned Parenthood, the National Abortion Rights Action League (NARAL), and other culture of death (gay marriage, euthanasia) promoters, making it no longer an impartial party for the poor and vulnerable.

The Republican Party promotes the Judeo-Christian family values of marriage solely between a man and a woman and *not* promoting abortion and euthanasia; however, it greatly lacks in the social justice teachings of the Catholic Church.

Many love to use the quote that Catholics should not be single-issue voters. But without a party that supports all the issues Catholics hold dear, we're left wringing our hands when we cast our ballots.

So Republicans get our votes for so-called moral issues, and Democrats for so-called social issues. Well that doesn't serve the United States well enough, and it only splits the Catholic vote, as well as other faithful, one against the other. There's got to be a better way. Neither of those parties serves the nation as a whole.

I believe it's time to form a political party based on the seven points of Catholic social teaching; this can be done by taking from each of the current parties their best attributes. Perhaps, then, we'd have a party for which all people with high morals could vote.

For who said that sanctity of life issues aren't social issues? They're as much social issues as they are moral issues. This new party would allow Catholics who tout themselves as being "socially just" to get

on board and stand together with Catholics who are fighting the injustice of over a million unseen abortions taking place each year in the U.S., destroying not only the lives of unborn babies, but also the emotional lives of millions of women.

And let's not let off the hook the other half that doesn't see assisting the poor, uninsured, under-educated, and under-employed as moral issues. Many say they'll help the poor on their own, that it shouldn't be the government's job. OK, but how many of us are actually bending over backwards taking care of the poor, volunteering at schools, assisting those suffering unemployment — even if only those we see in our own community?

Let us create a party that follows these seven themes: 1. Life and Dignity of the Human Person; 2. Call to Family, Community, and Participation; 3. Rights and Responsibilities (the right to life and a right to those things required for human decency); 4. Option for the Poor and Vulnerable; 5. The Dignity of Work and the Rights of Workers; 6. Solidarity (we are our brothers and sisters keepers, wherever they may be globally); and 7. Care for God's Creation.

Let's support a party that is structured around helping those who cannot help themselves: the ill, the invalid, the mentally ill, not one that only believes in the individualistic theory of "pull yourself up by your bootstraps".

One that requires benefit recipients to attend education-based programs to help them land better jobs, increase their self worth, and motivate them to better themselves and their nation, not one that relies on a welfare state, which only diminishes the humanity of a person with handouts without responsibility.

One that requires each to contribute their fair share, thus providing a stable and just society, not one that allows the richest of the rich to get off the hook from paying taxes.

See Bringing JFK and Ronald Reagan Together, p. 5



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 November 27, 2012

	TOTALS
— General Seminary Burse	
Previously reported	\$101,439.00
In memory of Rev. Peter Higgins by Theresa and James Wearden	<u>25.00</u>
Total	\$101,464.00

— Rev. Msgr. John C. Bily	
Previously reported	\$10,139.00
In honor of Rev. Msgr. John C. Bily on his appointment as a Monsignor by: Lawrence and Sylvia Addicks	25.00
KJZT Society #66 – Weimar	300.00
Kermit and Evelyn Thuemler	25.00
M/M Gene Rosenauer	25.00
Bernice Dobecka	10.00
Marjorie Grunewald	25.00
In honor of Rev. Msgr. Gerard Cernoch on his appointment as Monsignor by Bernice Dobecka	10.00
In memory of Julius Hanslik by Frank and Elrose Migl	30.00
In honor of Rev. Msgr. John C. Peters’ appointment as Monsignor by: Bernice Dobecka	20.00
Sherry Hale	<u>15.00</u>
Total	\$11,579.00

— Knights of Columbus Victoria Council #1329 Burse #3	
Previously reported	\$12,032.50
In memory of James H. Hatch by K of C Victoria Council #1329	100.00
In memory of David Bludau by K of C Victoria Council #1329	100.00
In memory of B. J. Berger by K of C Victoria Council #1329	100.00
In memory of John Artero by K of C Victoria Council #1329	<u>100.00</u>
Total	\$12,432.50

— Knights of Columbus 4th Degree St. Michael’s Assembly #1527, Weimar	
Previously reported	\$2,920.00
In memory of Adolph Schacherl by K of C 4th Degree St. Michael’s Assembly #1527, Weimar	<u>200.00</u>
Total	\$3,120.00

— Rev. Msgr. John C. Peters Burse #5	
Previously reported	\$6,524.00
In memory of Ruth Hartensteiner by Ron and Marie Terreo	25.00
In honor of Rev. Msgr. John C. Peters on his appointment as a Monsignor by: Lawrence and Sylvia Addicks	25.00
Catholic Life Branch No. 22	100.00
Robert and Leona Steffek	25.00
William and Helen Lewis & fam.	100.00
S. E. and Mary Golsch	20.00
Judy Renger	50.00
Gene Renger	25.00

M/M Charles H. Leopold	100.00
Frankie and Lucille Klekar	30.00
Margaret Dornak	100.00
Joana Bochat	25.00
Irene Weber	25.00
Annie Schmidt	25.00
M/M Emil Kruppa	25.00
Rev. Joseph Vrana	50.00
Rev. Msgr. Michael Olson	100.00
Billy and Charlotte Parks	100.00
CDA JCDA, Texarkana	100.00
KJZT Society No. 2, Hallettsville	100.00
Joe and Rose Pustka	20.00
Georgia Lee Friedel	20.00
Mary Ann LeBlanc	10.00
Theresa Adair	100.00
Carolyn and Daniel Malik	20.00
Sisters of the Incarnate Word & Blessed Sacrament Convent	50.00
Edward and Anna Rose Kanning	50.00
Johnny B. and Joan Prihoda	20.00
Robert and Sally Janak	50.00
St. Mary Altar Society, Hallettsville	50.00
Victor and Katherine Kahanek	50.00
Leo and Dorothy Henke	30.00
Louis and Patsy Nunez	25.00
Pamela A. Havel	300.00
Frank and Rita Zaruba	100.00
Cathy Eck	50.00
In honor of Robert Pesek’s 90th birthday celebration by S.E. and Mary Golsch	15.00
In honor of Ed and Peggy Scherer’s 50th wedding anniversary by: Martha Sitka	20.00
Gene and Trudy Janak	25.00
Tommy and Elsie Grahmann	20.00
Frank and Rita Zaruba	25.00
Frankie and Lucille Klekar	25.00
M/M Charles H. Leopold	50.00
In memory of Annie Mae Technik by Richard and Wilma Schaefer	15.00
In honor of Rev. Msgr. John C. Peters on his appointment as Monsignor, in honor of Rev. Msgr. John C. Peters’ 64th birthday; Robert Pesek’s 90th birthday; Magdalene Haas Steffek’s 95th birthday; and in memory of Victoria Klimitschek and Billy Joe Sitka by Frank and Elrose Migl	<u>100.00</u>
Total	\$8,969.00

— Rev. Michael Rother	
Previously reported	\$4,510.00
In memory of Agnes Manse by Bernard and Madeline Rother	<u>25.00</u>
Total	\$4,535.00

— Catholic Family Fraternal of Texas – KJZT Burse #6	
Previously reported	\$13,350.98
In memory of Judith Koerth by KJZT Society No. 2, Hallettsville	<u>5.00</u>
Total	\$13,355.98

— Rev. Charles Kolek, OSB, and John and Mary Kolek	
Previously reported	\$4,040.00
In memory of Rev. Charles W. Kolek, OSB, and John and Mary Kolek by descendants of Charles and Mary Kolek Kozel	<u>300.00</u>
Total	\$4,340.00

— Knights of Columbus Ganado Council #3204 Rev. Msgr. Joseph Hybner	
Previously reported	\$2,971.00
In honor of Rev. Msgr. Joseph Hybner on his appointment as Monsignor by Joana Bochat	<u>25.00</u>
Total	\$2,996.00

— Our Lady of Victory Altar Society	
Previously reported	\$450.00
Donation by Grace Rigamonti in memory of: Ruby Tagliabue	25.00
Ruby Kruppa	25.00
Lee Hall	25.00
Lois Smith	25.00
Mildred Baass	25.00
B. J. Berger	25.00
Hilda Vanelli	25.00
Diana Koontz Massey	25.00
Paula Ruth Arnold	25.00
James Hatch	<u>25.00</u>
Total	\$700.00

— Rev. Msgr. Celestino Say	
Previously reported	\$6,315.00
In honor of Rev. Msgr. Celestino Say on his appointment ss Monsignor by: Catholic Life Ins. Branch No. 22	100.00
S.E. and Mary Golsch	15.00
Joana Bochat	50.00
KJZT Society #2, Hallettsville	50.00
Sherry Hale	15.00
In memory of Diana Koontz Massey by Jeff and Denise Dickinson	<u>100.00</u>
Total	\$6,645.00

— Rev. Jerome J. Stryk Burse #2	
Previously reported	\$79.50
In memory of M/M Frank Stryk by Daniel Stryk	<u>100.00</u>
Total	\$179.50

— Rev. Joseph A. Koebel	
Previously reported	\$7,328.00
In memory of Rev. Joseph Koebel by CDA Court Our Lady of the Rosary #1595, Nada	<u>150.00</u>
Total	\$7,478.00

Those wishing to donate to a burse may do so by sending their contributions with the appropriate burse designation to:

Seminary Burses
Diocese Of Victoria
P. O. Box 4070
Victoria, Tx 77903



Pictured, from l. to r., are Kristopher Fuchs, Monsignor Christopher Schreck (rector), Most Rev. Timothy Broglio (Archbishop of the Military Services, USA), and Max Landman.

Diocesan seminarians receive ministries as reader and acolyte

COLUMBUS, Ohio—The Institution of Readers and Acolytes took place at the Pontifical College Josephinum in Columbus, Ohio, on Sunday, November 4, 2012, with the Most Rev. Timothy Broglio, Archbishop of the Military Services, as the principal celebrant.

Seminarians from the Diocese of Victoria who received ministries are Kristopher Fuchs (acolyte) and Max Landman

(reader).

Acolytes, traditionally second-year theologians, are entrusted with the duties of attending to the altar, assisting the deacon and priest at Mass, and distributing Holy Communion as an extraordinary minister.

First-year theology seminarians installed as Readers are commissioned to proclaim the Word of God in the liturgical assembly and to catechize the faithful.



Bringing JFK and Ronald Reagan Together

Continued from p.3

One that is impartial and looks out for the welfare of all, not one that is indebted to Planned Parenthood and NARAL, nor oil, gas, and the NRA, nor any interest group.

One that follows the U.S Constitution, not one that allows the judicial system to overstep its bounds and infringe upon states' rights.

One that supports faith-based organizations and allows them to do what they do best and within their conscience, not one that squashes the good that religious organizations do by demanding its conversion to a "secular religion" ... or else.

One that adequately protects itself without bankrupting its ability to support programs that benefit all, such as education, in both public and private schools; safe roads; promotion of healthcare – without infringing on consciences; national parks; the environment; and many more, not one that puts its soul trust in weapons (with a military budget larger than 13 of the top military spending governments in the world combined).

I believe this way our nation will once again be the greatest nation on earth and truly be that "City upon a Hill" from which both Presidents Kennedy and Reagan quoted.

To learn more about the seven themes of Catholic social teaching, please see <http://www.usccb.org/beliefs-and-teachings/what-we-believe/catholic-social-teaching/seven-themes-of-catholic-social-teaching.cfm>.



FRATERNAL SUPPORTS FEEDING FAMILIES ACROSS TEXAS—Society No. 43 of the Catholic Family Fraternal of Texas (KJZT) presented \$200 to the Matthew 25 ministry of Assumption BVM Church of Ganado. Accepting the donation is Steve Labay, Matthew 25 director, from Cecilia French, Society 43 president. This donation is in conjunction with the CFFT program; state-wide and local funds are matched by the state office. Pictured are Alice Wright, society secretary; Phyllis Cox, Steve Labay, Georgia Kruse, representing M25 ministry; Cecilia French, and Father Michael Lyons, pastor of Assumption BVM Parish.

Local members of EOHSJ celebrate 75th anniversary of Southwest Lieutenancy

Submitted by Lady Joyce B. Morris, LGCHS

The 75th Annual Meeting and Investiture of the Southwest Lieutenancy of the Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre of Jerusalem was held at the Renaissance Hotel and Convention Center in Tulsa, Oklahoma, from October 12-15, 2012. The Southwestern Lieutenancy was established at the Shrine of the True Cross in Dickinson, Texas, in 1937.

The meeting began with a traveler's Mass Friday evening, which was said at the St. Francis Xavier Catholic Church, a diocesan shrine of Our Lady of Guadalupe. The celebrant was the Most Rev. Eusebius Beltran, KC*HS, Archbishop Emeritus of Oklahoma City. The inspirational music was by the Cathedral of the Holy Family of Nazareth Choir, directed by Ernest Neal. Following the Mass some members went to an event at the Gilcrease Museum.

An orientation meeting for investees was held in the Madrid Ballroom Saturday morning. Because the Eastern rite is predominant in the Middle East, Rev. Gary George, CSsR, rector of St. Raymond Maronite Cathedral, an Eastern rite Catholic

Church in St. Louis, was invited to give his unique perspective on the similarities between the Eastern and Roman rites in spirituality and art for members not attending the orientation.

The Memorial and Promotions Mass and Vigil were celebrated on Saturday afternoon at the Cathedral of the Holy Family of Nazareth. The principle celebrant and homilist for the Saturday Mass was His Excellency Edward J. Slattery, KC*HS, bishop of Tulsa. Concelebrants were all archbishops, bishops and priests (members of order), in the presence of His Eminence Daniel Cardinal



*His
Eminence
Daniel
Cardinal
DiNardo,
KC*HS*



*Attending the 75th Annual Meeting and Investiture of the Southwest Lieutenancy of the Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre of Jerusalem from the Diocese of Victoria were seated, Lady JoAnn Jalufka, LC*HS; and Sir Daniel Jalufka, KC*HS; standing, Lady Joyce B. Morris, LGCHS; and Sir Joseph J. Morris Sr., KGCHS.*

DiNardo, KGCHS, Grand Prior and Archbishop of Galveston-Houston. Rev. Mr. Joe Guzman was Deacon of the Word, and Rev. Mr. Jerry Mattox was Deacon of the Eucharist. Rev. Msgr. Patrick Brankin, KHS, was Master of Ceremonies. His Excellency Dennis M. Malloy, KGCHS, Lieutenant Southwestern Lieutenancy, USA, presided with Chancellor Sir Steven Robert Pinion, KC*HS.

In the evening, a black-tie reception and seated dinner were held in the Grand Ballroom of the Renaissance Hotel for members and guests. Following the dinner, exposition, night prayer, reconciliation and all-night adoration was held in the Seville rooms of the hotel. Benediction was held early Sunday morning.

The SW Lieutenancy annual meeting took place Sunday morning and was called to order by His Excellency Dennis M. Malloy, KGCHS. As in the past, it was noted that our lieutenancy will send \$1,000,000 to the Holy Land for the seventh consecutive year. This contribution helps support schools, churches, hospitals, seminaries, and universities and preserves Christianity in the Holy Land. A very small percent of the population is Christian.

The Mass and Rite of Solemn Investiture ceremony was held Sunday afternoon at the Cathedral of the Holy Family of Nazareth. The principal celebrant and homilist was His Eminence Daniel Cardinal DiNardo, KGCHS. Concelebrants were archbishops, bishops, and priests of the order; deacons of the order assisted. Rev. Mr. Kevin Sartorius was Deacon of the Word and the Rev. Mr. John Johnson, KCHS was Deacon of the Eucharist. The Lieutenant and Chancellor were present.

The white-tie reception and seated dinner was held on Sunday evening for members and spouses in the Madrid and Grand Ballroom. Brother David Carrol, FSC, PhD, KCGHS, Catholic Near Welfare Association, spoke at the Saturday morning orientation meeting and at the Sunday night dinner.

The meeting ended Monday morning with a traveler's Mass in the Seville room at the Renaissance Hotel. There were no new members or promotees from the Diocese of Victoria this year. Attending from the diocese were Sir Daniel Jalufka, KC*HS; Lady JoAnn Jalufka, LC*HS; Sir Joseph J. Morris Sr., KGCHS; and Lady Joyce B. Morris, LGCHS.

Next year the Annual Meeting and Investiture will be held in Fort Worth at the Omni Hotel from October 25-28, 2013.

The Chancery will be closed for the Christmas and New Year Holidays, 11a.m., Dec. 21 - Jan. 1 and will reopen Jan. 2 at 8:30 a.m.



Question Corner

By Father Kenneth Doyle
Catholic News Service



On holy days of obligation and sacramental sponsors

Q. While visiting family in Maryland on the weekend before the feast of the Ascension, I attended a local Catholic parish and heard the priest announce that the feast would be observed on the following Sunday.

When I got back to Pittsburgh, I went to work that Thursday unaware that it was a feast day; I was very upset to learn later that in the Pittsburgh diocese, the Ascension is still observed on Thursday, making it a holy day of obligation. My question is this: How could I have sinned in one diocese when I would not have sinned in another? I find this inconsistency quite confusing. (Pittsburgh)

A. First, forget about having “sinned.” You didn’t sin at all; you acted in good faith, on what you believed to be true. And yes, it is confusing. In most of the dioceses of the United States, the feast of the Ascension has been transferred to the following Sunday, which means that you get “two for one,” since every Sunday is a holy day of obligation. The state of Pennsylvania is one of the exceptions, and there the feast continues to be celebrated on Thursday.

Q. My daughter has been agonizing over a problem, and I am hoping that you can help. Twelve years ago, her twin daughters were baptized. They have since made their first Communion and are now preparing for confirmation.

In reading over the confirmation material that was sent home, my daughter started thinking back to the baptism and suddenly realized, to her great dismay, that one of the girls had baptismal sponsors who were both non-Catholics. Now she is afraid that this baptism was never valid, and she has herself sick worrying over it. Was the

baptism valid, and does she have to do anything about it now? (Runnemede, N.J.)

A. Please tell your daughter that she can relax. The baptism “counted”, and the girl is fine. The Code of Canon Law provides in No. 872 that, “insofar as possible, a person to be baptized is to be given a sponsor who ... helps the baptized person to lead a Christian life.”

Canon No. 874 further specifies that the sponsor be a Catholic who has been confirmed and “who leads a life of faith in keeping with the function to be taken on.” But the law does not absolutely require a sponsor, and one can easily envision situations where there would be no time to find one, such as a dying newborn.

So, the absence of a sponsor has no effect on the validity of baptism. In not securing a Catholic sponsor, your daughter made an honest mistake and there is no need now to re-create or to “convalidate” the baptism.

It would be wise, however, for your daughter to give added attention to the choice of a confirmation sponsor. Since the role of a sponsor is to help to assure that a child is raised and educated in the Catholic faith, and since the two non-Catholic baptismal sponsors may not be in a position to do that, all the more reason to see to it that the girl’s sponsor for confirmation be someone who can act as a spiritual companion, listener, and mentor as the young person matures in Catholic faith and practice.

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Catholic Knowledge Bowl Corner

Test your Catholic IQ

- The Life-Chain pro-life witness event takes place on:
 - the first Sunday in November
 - the last Sunday in October
 - the first Sunday in October
 - the last Sunday in November
- While scientific knowledge and advancements “are important for human life, it’s not enough on its own” and “Faith is not the simple intellectual approval by man of truths concerning God; it is an act in which I freely entrust myself to a God who is Father and loves me,” are quotes from a talk by:
 - Pope John Paul II
 - Pope Benedict XVI
 - Archbishop Tobin of the U.S.
 - Archbishop Garcia of Cuba

The answers can be found in the November 2012 issue of the *Catholic Lighthouse*. You can continue to “test” your Catholic IQ during this “Year of Faith” at www.victoriadiocese.org. Click on Catechetical Ministry, then Catholic Knowledge Bowl for an array of questions.

Team (four persons) registration is \$25. More information can be found at the diocesan website or by calling (361) 573-0828.



2013 Pastoral Institute ~ Church Course

During the “Year of Faith” take the opportunity to reflect and learn more about the Catholic faith. In the six-week course on “Church”, participants will examine the nature of the Church based on Pope Pius XII’s document the Mystical Body of Christ and Vatican II’s Dogmatic Constitution on the Church.

Beginning Tuesday, January 15, 2013, Ron Friedel will be teaching a six-week course on “Church” at the Chancery in Victoria. Using distance learning technology, the course is also being received at Holy Cross, East Bernard, and St. Ann, Point Comfort. Classes will be offered twice a day from 9:15-11:30 a.m. and from 7:00 – 9:15 p.m. The fee is \$20 for the six-week course. Call (361) 573-0828 ext. 2223, e-mail mgutierrez@victoriadiocese.org or go online to www.victoriadiocese.org.

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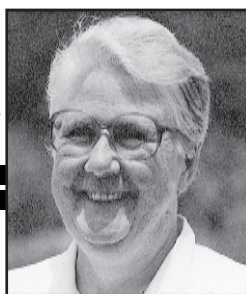
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SISTERLY THOUGHTS

By Sister Mildred Truchard, IWBS



One Hundred and Forty-Five Years Completed

(Historical series, cont. since March 2012)

For a time the current Nazareth Convent, built in 1904, relieved the IWBS Sisters of the worry about classroom space in their educational endeavors. However, as had happened before, by 1927 adequate space again became a challenge. With increasing enrollment and the need to adjust the curriculum to meet current needs, more space was needed. Fortunately, the Catholic Daughters of America and other generous donors provided the financial backing for the expansion of the old music house, which was then covered with stucco. Thus, space was provided for several classrooms and an up-to-date home

War II, which hampered attempts at fundraising and the acquisition of building supplies.

Another unexpected obstacle surfaced; when the sisters requested permission from the bishop of San Antonio to build, they were turned down. One reason for the refusal was that the bishop wanted the sisters to start an inter-parochial school rather than the private school that Nazareth had been from the beginning. However, the people of Victoria preferred the system that had been established. Another reason for the refusal of permission was that the chancellor of the archdiocese considered

seventeenth century.

In the meantime, the sisters were able to get a contractor to use recycled lumber in 1946 to build a three-classroom building across Convent Street, which temporarily relieved their crowded space. The building was named St. Agnes Annex in honor of Sister Agnes Berthier who had succeeded Mother St. Claire Valentine in 1898. Part of this building currently houses the Gabriel Project.

In 1948, the dream of a new modern building flared up again. The land across Bridge Street had been purchased; the sisters and their friends worked and prayed; and slowly the dream became a reality. In September of 1951, the new school, with ample and spacious classrooms, opened with some 750 students!

All that was missing was adequate space for physical education, fine arts, and assemblies; this inadequacy was remedied by the construction of the gym building

in 1958!

This brief account has included some of the visible challenges faced and overcome through the years. More important were the accomplishments of the many teachers and students who exemplified, and continue to exemplify, the spiritual and intellectual development of the persons that each of us are called to be as members of the People of God. May the Incarnate Word continue to be made known and loved in the years ahead.

Go- Jets for Jesus!

For more about the Incarnate Word and Blessed Sacrament Sisters in Victoria – please come by the Gift Shop at Incarnate Word Convent and purchase Sister Alberta Novosad's book: TEXAS FOOTPRINTS in the Sands of Time.

(This article completes a series commemorating the 145th anniversary of the beginning of Nazareth Academy.)

The Gabriel Project ~ Thanks donors

Helping Mothers in Crisis Pregnancy

As the year has come to an end, the Gabriel Project Committee want to take this opportunity to thank YOU, the women and men, who have made monetary donations or have volunteered for the Gabriel Project – helping to give the “gift of life”. We thank GOD FOR YOU!

The Gabriel Project has been so blessed this year!! People from all faiths are calling their hotline to volunteer and make material and monetary donations. With this dedication to defend the dignity of life, from conception to natural death, they have grown and spread from Victoria to another

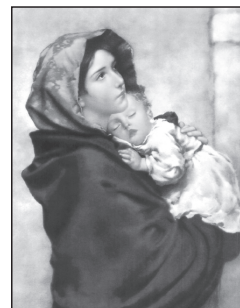
seven counties.

They are taking steps to become a more, well-known ministry in order to do God's work. One of their most recent awareness projects has been putting large billboard signs along the major highways with their toll-free number.

They would love to have any church community who believes in helping these mothers and their unborn child to join them.

They always meet the 2nd Tuesday of each month! Call

Barbara at (361) 649-1612 with any questions!



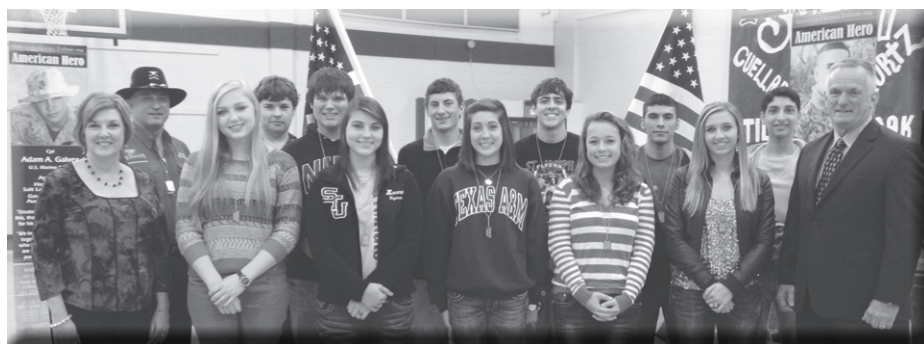
This is the back side of Nazareth Convent facing Bridge Street in 1956. The top floor was the Novitiate (added in 1885); the bottom floor (1880) was the dining room for the sisters. Underneath was the basement which was used as the laundry. To the left on the top floor was the novitiate dormitory and on the bottom floor was the kitchen (1872). This part of Nazareth Convent was condemned and consequently demolished after the sisters moved their headquarters to the newly-built Incarnate Word Convent on Water Street.

economics department. In honor of Mother Saint Claire Valentine, the foundress, the building was renamed St. Claire Annex. However, this was only a temporary fix. Again, the increasing enrollment left the academy with overflowing classrooms, so a building fund for further plant expansion was begun. Alas, such hopeful plans were frustrated by the beginning of World

the congregation as being diocesan (under the bishop) rather than having pontifical status, that is, having received the “official recognition and explicit approval” of the Holy See. The sisters appealed to Rome and received documentation that the congregation was indeed pontifical; the early order in France had received its pontifical status at its founding in the



JCDA GIRLS BRING WARMTH TO THE ELDERLY—Yoakum Junior Catholic Daughters of the Americas #206 donated lots of needed items to the residents of Yoakum Nursing and Rehab at their November 15, 2012, meeting. Items requested were warm socks, fleece blankets and lotions. All items donated will be enjoyed as Christmas goodies for the residents.



Pictured during the STJ Wounded Warriors Assembly held Nov. 12, 2012, from l. to r., are STJ Assistant Principal Debbie Michalski; Col. Mike Petrash, Mary Gower, Mason Krueger, Kace Gandee, Hannah Garza, top flag seller Brice Pope, Katy Brown, Neil Zamora, Hannah Kolle, Jonathan Hernandez, Bailey Knippa, Jon-Anthony Cavazos, and STJ Principal William McArdle.

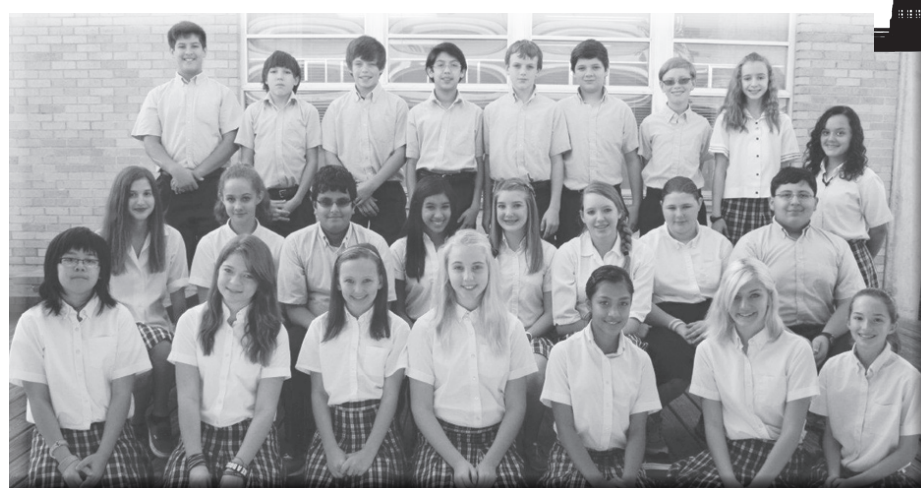
Wounded Warriors Assembly at St. Joseph High School

St. Joseph High School held an assembly for Wounded Warriors at the STJ Gymnasium on November 12, 2012, honoring those who have served in the U.S. military. This year will mark the 7th celebration of Warrior's Weekend and the 5th celebration of the Field of Honor. The assembly was steered towards the selling of flags for Warrior's Weekend in May '13, which in turn helps raise funds for the senior class' Project Graduation; top flag sellers were named. At the assembly, U.S. Veterans were thanked for their service and students watched a video of wounded warriors to the song by Carrie Underwood, "I'll Stand By You". Warrior's Weekend started with 60 soldiers and has grown to host over 500 soldiers, family members, and caregivers at the annual local event each May.

This is the third year Warrior's Weekend has partnered with the Senior Class at STJ. Initially 550 flags were placed in the

Field of Honor, but since partnering with area high school students and faith-based organizations, the result has quadrupled to over 2,100 flags each year. STJ Seniors have led the way in garnering sponsorships, with each senior selling 10 or more flags. STJ Senior Brice Pope was the top producer with a total of 76 flag sponsorships. Warrior's Weekend believes in future generations and has issued a rebate check to the STJ senior class in the amount of \$15,240, which will be used towards Project Graduation.

The Warrior's Weekend Field of Honor will be held from May 11 through June 3, 2013. The STJ Senior Class of 2013 invites you to support Warriors Weekend and STJ Project Graduation 2013 by purchasing a flag to honor a wounded warrior, a currently serving Serviceman/Woman, or a Veteran of your choice. To do so, please call St. Joseph High School at (361) 573-2446.



DUKE UNIVERSITY TALENT SEARCH NAMES 24 FROM OLV—Twenty-four seventh-grade students of Our Lady of Victory School in Victoria have qualified to take the ACT or SAT test under the Duke University Talent Search Identification Program. This program annually identifies academically talented seventh graders based on their standardized test scores and invites these students to take the college entrance exams. Students who have qualified are top row, (l. to r.): Aaron Bradicich, Tomas Young, Clayton Schroller, Michael Morales, Pierce Hammack, Carter Soliz, Carson Young, Kelsey Ellett, and Gina Tames; middle row: Hannah Flynn, Lillian Compton, Shubham Kathpalia, Briana Rodriguez, Gabrielle Wenske, Emery Brown, Jordan Pyatt, and Logan Rivera; front row: Teresa Nguyen, Catherine Ridley, Mattalyne Pall, Presley Henry, Alex Corpuz, Taylor Seerden, and Alisa Novosad.

Pope tells young to welcome Christ's embrace, share his love

VATICAN CITY (CNS)—When young Catholics from around the world gather in Rio de Janeiro in July, they will be under the gaze of the city's famous statue of Christ with outstretched arms, a reminder of his desire to embrace all people, Pope Benedict XVI said. In his message for World Youth Day 2013, the pope asked young people to welcome Christ's embrace and share with others the joy of

being loved by him. In preparation for the international youth gathering July 23-

28, Pope Benedict asked young Catholics to "re-read your personal history,"



looking at how the faith was passed down to them from previous generations. The pope also asked them not to wait to begin the task of sharing their Christian faith with others. "We are links in a great chain of men and women who have transmitted the truth of the faith and who depend on us to pass it on to others," he said in the message released Nov. 16 by the Vatican. The theme of World Youth Day 2013 is: "Go and make disciples of all nations. This mandate should resound powerfully in your hearts," the pope told young people. In fact, he said, the heart has a major role to play in bringing them closer to Christ, motivating them to share his Gospel and determining the words and actions they should use in approaching others. "Many young people today seriously question whether life is something good and have a hard time finding their way," the pope said.

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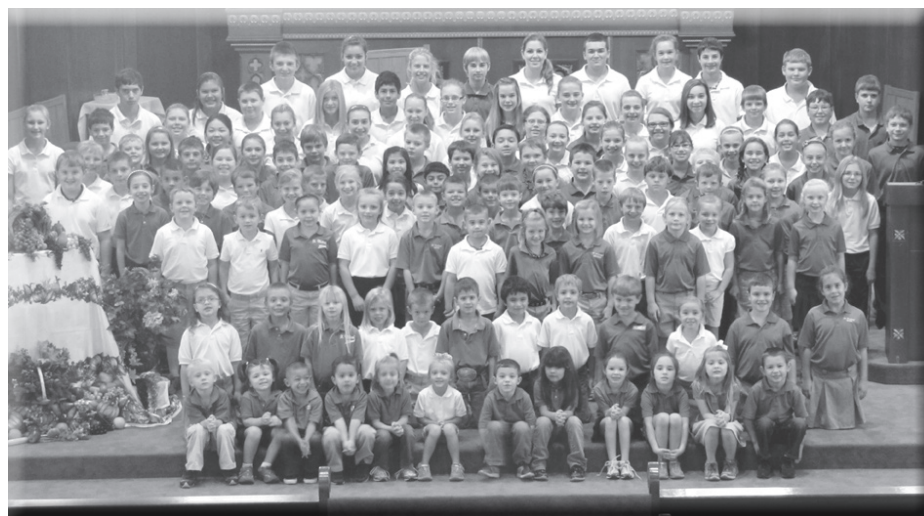


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SMS IN WEIMAR CELEBRATE THANKSGIVING—St. Michael Catholic School of Weimar celebrated Thanksgiving with a special Mass Nov. 21, at 11 a.m., and an annual Share-A-Meal at noon. The students decorated bags as a family and filled them with food items to give to families in need. Share-A-Meal is when all families gather for a fellowship meal in the gym. At prayer, the students get in a circle and share what they are thankful for.



St. Paul senior wins state High School Heisman

Reprinted from a Nov. 15, 2012, story written by Mike Forman of *The Victoria Advocate*

SHINER—Cole Hybner was concerned when he was called to the school office last week.

"I thought I was in trouble a little bit," he admitted.

Hybner was not only relieved, but ecstatic when St. Paul Principal Neely Yackel informed him he had been selected as the male state finalist for the Wendy's High School Heisman.

The 18-year-old senior was chosen from the 2,633 applicants in Texas for the award, which is based on athletics, academics and community leadership.

Hybner became the second member of his family to receive the honor, his older brother, Blue, won the state and national awards in 2010.

"I went on the trip to New York with Blue and it was awesome," Cole said. "I decided I wanted to do it too."

The decision to enter was the easy part for Cole. Completing the application was another matter.

Hybner has dyslexia and has struggled to read and write his entire life.

"Whenever you're doing your homework, it's a little more difficult," Hybner said. "You've got to read a little bit slower and find the answers in the textbook. You've got to work a little harder than everybody else to decipher the answers. It requires a lot more concentration, thinking and time."

Hybner has put in many hours reading since entering school. He has been tutored and has worked tirelessly to keep up with his schoolwork.

"He deals with dyslexia that is real bad," said Cole Franco, who teaches speech and coaches baseball at St. Paul. "I've listened to him read and helped him. He's an unbelievable student because he knows how to overcome adversity and something that's such a negative."

"When you're looking for an award winner, you're looking for not only students who have natural talent, but those who

overcome obstacles."

Hybner has faced and overcome obstacles on the athletic field as well as the classroom, where he has a grade point average of between 3.8 and 3.9 and is a member of the National Honor Society.

Hybner pitched and played the outfield and was the Newcomer of the Year on the Advocate's all-area baseball team as a freshman.

He helped lead the Cardinals to the TAPPS Class 1A/2A state championship as a sophomore.

He dislocated his left knee, the push-off knee for a left-handed pitcher, and missed the first half of last season.

But he came back to compile a 4-0 record with an 0.32 ERA while striking out 36 in 21.2 innings.

He hit .565 with one home run and nine RBIs as St. Paul advanced to the state final for the third consecutive season.

Hybner decided not to play football this season and is preparing for the upcoming baseball season by playing for the San Antonio Sliders select team.

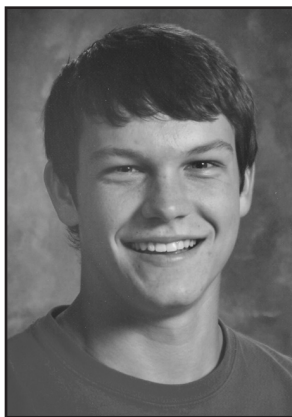
"He's a great young pitcher with tons of talent and tons of room for growth," Franco said. "He's an unbelievable young man. You know what you're going to get every single day. It doesn't matter if it's school, athletic period or baseball. He's going to give you his best every day."

Hybner was disappointed when he found out he didn't win the national award and won't be making another trip to New York.

But Hybner has set his sights on following in the footsteps of brothers Trevor (Iona), Dagen (LaTourneau) and Blue (Hill College) and doing whatever it takes to get the opportunity to play baseball on the college level.

"It's still sometimes a struggle every day," he said. "It's just facing that you're going to have to work at it and try harder than most people."

Mike Forman is a sports writer for the *Victoria Advocate*. Contact him at 361-580-6588 or mforman@vicad.com, or comment on this column at www.VictoriaAdvocate.com.



Youth Calendar of Events

Sunday, Dec. 9 – YLT – Chancery - Victoria

Saturday/Sunday, Jan. 12/13 – YLT Retreat - Cooper Farms

Sunday, Jan. 20 – Confirmation Retreat/YLT - Wharton

Saturday, Jan. 26 – Pro Life Rally - Austin

Sunday, Feb. 10 – YLT Planning Spectacular

Thursday, Feb. 21 – Renewing the Vision – Holy Family - Victoria

Saturday, Feb. 23 – Foundations

Sunday, Feb. 24 – Spectacular – Holy Family - Victoria

Sunday, March 24 – Confirmation Retreat – St. Mary's - Victoria

Saturday, April 13 – Foundations

Sunday, April 21 – YLT – Camp David Planning



Find us now on Facebook! At Diocese of Victoria – Youth Ministry

For more information contact:

Wendy Eggert at the Office of Youth Ministry at (361) 573-0828 ext. 2232,

e-mail at weggert@victoriadiocese.org,

Cassandra Hybner, administrative assistant, ext. 2250

e-mail at chybner@victoriadiocese.org

new youth office e-mail ym@victoriadiocese.org or

visit our website at www.victoriadiocese.org/youthoffice

Local youth plan a pilgrimage to Rome

Submitted by Betty Mitchell

By its very definition, a pilgrimage is a long journey made to some sacred place as an act of religious devotion. The idea of taking a group of teens on a pilgrimage may be a daunting task for some, but for Dora Silva of Victoria, it is truly a mission born out of faith and love of God.

It all began in her confirmation class last spring when they were discussing choosing their confirmation names. The idea that saints were real people that lived normal lives with normal challenges opened the eyes of her students. Mrs. Silva shared with them her own travel experiences in Italy, seeing some of the great holy sites and her audience with the pope. So in the minds of the students the idea was born to travel to the places these holy people lived and worked.

Several of the students expressed interest and met with their parents to explore the possibility of this wonderful opportunity. Sammy Garcia, one of the young men hoping to go expressed it well, "My wonderful CCD teacher, Mrs. Silva, told us about all the things you can experience and how we would get a deeper connection to God." Annalisa Aguilar found that sharing Mrs. Silva's own faith was inspiring, "Back when I was getting confirmed in the Spring, Mrs. Dora shared with the students her experiences she had in Italy. I was very interested and knew how fulfilling it must have been to have

an experience like that, so when the idea of a trip started being discussed, I immediately went to the first meeting to sign up. I hope to gain a deeper understanding of my religion and myself. I also think it will help me solidify some of my beliefs and

strengthen my relationship with the Church." Shelsey Gonzales said, "When my CCD teacher started talking about it, I knew it would be something I would always remember. To see the beautiful churches, the pope, and the beauty of our faith will

remain with me for my entire life."

The 10-day Italy trip, which is planned for June 2013 to Rome, Assisi, Montefalco, Cascia, Roccaporena, San Giovanni Rotondo, Alberobello, St. Michael's Cave, and Pietrelcina, has a few remaining openings for adults or older teens. The trip is arranged through Little Flower Tours and is not sponsored by any church or the Diocese of Victoria, so all funds are the responsibility of those attending.

Some of the things that this group will be doing to raise funds are bake sales, selling sponsor cards, and putting on dinners. They will have a garage sale on December 14 and 15 at the Old Town Plaza Mall from 7 a.m. to 4 p.m. A Spaghetti Supper is also planned for Sunday, January 13, at TNT Restaurant on Rio Grande in Victoria. For more information about the trip or to assist a student to go on this once in a lifetime pilgrimage, please contact Mrs. Dora Silva at (361) 648-4415.



***Life is not a problem to be solved,
but a gift to be enjoyed.***



Our Lady of the Gulf School Advisory Council prepare for the leveling of the old OLG rectory and garage to make room for a new school gym and band hall; pictured from left are Theresa Dent, Anne Marie Odefey, Rev. Ty Bazar, Tim Dent, Nazaro Hernandez, Rev. Peter Dery, Dr. William Crowley, and Rhonda Cummins.



Bishop David E. Fellhauer and the Chancery Office Staff Wish You a Blessed Christmas and New Year!

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year from (seated, l-r) Father Matthew Huehlefeld, Father Gary Janak, Msgr. John Peters, Bishop David Fellhauer; 2nd row, l-r: Ron Friedel, Dora Hernandez Regina Janak, Tanya Starnes, Irene Marler, Minnie Bochat; 3rd row l-r, Martha Pearson, Melissa Gutierrez, Janie Carrales, Brandy Hurta; 4th row l-r, Cindy Brewer, Jeri Joseph, Cassaundra Hybner, Melissa Perales; top row l-r, Ryan Sprinkle, Gary Rangnow, Wendy Eggert, Rene Garcia, John Quarry and Mike Brown. Not pictured: Chris Alvarez.

Clearing the Path for Progress

PORT LAVACA—Big things are happening at the Our Lady of the Gulf Catholic School and Parish. In September, Bishop Fellhauer approved the funding of a new Gym and Band Hall for the OLG School. This facility will be parallel to Benavides Street located where the current garage apartment, playground, and old rectory now stand.

For the past two years, OLG School Advisory Council (SAC) has been working on a Facilities Improvement Plan for the school campus with the pastor, Rev. Ty Bazar, and principal, Mrs. Theresa Dent. In the summer of 2011, the main building was upgraded with the elementary rooms and school office expanded in Phase I. The building of a new gym and band hall is Phase II of the strategic plan to expand the campus to better support school activities and the curriculum.

To make Phase II happen, the old rectory and garage apartment will need to be cleared away and the playground will be moved next to St. Matthew Hall on Nueces St. Mrs. Anne Marie Odefey, current SAC president reflected that, "The school advisory council, with the parish business manager, looked into many different possibilities to sell and/or relocate the old

buildings. However, the amount of damage that would be incurred and the overall costs for such a move, made these options infeasible. After hours of discussion and extensive research, it was determined by the SAC and the bishop's legal representation that demolition was the best path forward for the school and parish."

Hence on October 25, demolition crews arrived to remove the first building—the old rectory facing Benavides St. In an attempt to salvage as much as possible from the old building, SAC member Ms. Rhonda Cummins organized a group of volunteers to remove fixtures, sinks, etc. These items were sold at a garage sale/auction Nov. 4 with all proceeds going to the building of the new gym and band hall.

The next step is to take down and salvage the apartment garage. The school will also relocate the playground and Pre-K4 classroom to St. Matthew over the Christmas Break so that construction on the new facility can start at the beginning of 2013. According to Principal Dent, "None of this could be done without the awesome support of our parents, council, bishop, and school and parish volunteers. It is a real community effort and it's all for the kids."



ST. ROSE STUDENTS VISIT THE MONUMENT TO THE INNOCENTS—In closing the celebration of the Month of the Rosary, Dorothy Vecera brought her seventh and eighth grade students from St. Rose Catholic School to pray the rosary and sing at Raphael's Refuge. The singing was led by Mr. Matthew Bonner and five of his guitar students; pictured are Kristen Osina (l.) and Elizabeth Edwards (r.). "Students from St. Rose come each year and are always a delight to have visit," said Midge Elam, the director at the Refuge, "they not only fill the chapel with praise and worship, but are also lots of fun." The monument is open to visitors all day, every day. It is located off Highway 90, two miles west of Flatonia. A Mass for the Feast Day of the Holy Innocents will be held at the monument Dec. 28 at 10 :30 a.m. For information, contact Ms. Elam at (361) 865-3021 or raphaelsrefuge@att.net. The web site is raphaelsrefuge.org.



EVANGELIZING THROUGH THE LIVES OF THE SAINTS—The second-grade class of St. Michael School in Weimar came to the All Saints Day Mass, celebrated by their pastor, Msgr. John Bily, teaching about the lives of saints. They also visited Parkview Nursing Home that day to evangelize about the lives of the saints and show how we should live as saints who are our role models. Mrs. Carol Anne McAfee is their teacher. Pictured, from l. to r., are the “student saints”, back row: Kamden Lagana, Abigail Hilley, Dillon Stech, Dakota Ford, Hudson Ervin, Paige Pavlu, and Victor Cabrera; front row: Conner Barton, Waylon Schimcek, Harper Price, Clara Schaefer, Kylie Helmcamp, Tanner Konvicka, and Brett Sestak.



Nazareth Academy grades six through eight prepared altars for the “Day of the Dead” to commemorate the Hispanic culture’s way of celebrating All Souls Day, which is celebrated each year on Nov. 2.

Dia de Los Muertos – Day of the Dead

“Day of the Dead” is celebrated on November 2 in most Hispanic countries, especially in Mexico and part of the USA. It is a very important holiday to Hispanic families. At Nazareth Academy, the Spanish class presented “Day of the Dead” projects. The 6th grade decorated candles, the 7th grade made masks, and the 8th grade made coffins.

Eighth grader, Caleb Urbano, said, “Most Hispanic families, like mine, visit family members’ graves and pray for their souls. My family goes to my grandfather’s and my great-grandmother’s graves. We decorate their graves with flowers, foods that they enjoyed, and objects that were close to them. We also eat many foods, such as candy ‘Calaveras’, or candy skeletons, and ‘Pan de Muerte’, or ‘Bread of the

Dead’. The ‘Day of the Dead’ is strange to other non-Hispanic families because they don’t understand why we celebrate the dead on this day. We know that it is to honor the memories of them and to accept that they have passed away.”

Katie Henderson, 8th grade, commented, “The altar the students created had pictures of their honored dead as a way to remember their loved ones.”

According to 8th grader Haley Charbula, “My family usually takes flowers to my grandparent’s graves. We bring flowers to put on the altar on this day and our teacher celebrates by bringing us ‘Bread of the Dead’ on Dia de los Muertos.”

Written by 8th grade students of Nazareth Academy: Caleb Urbano, Katie Henderson, and Haley Charbula.

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Catholic By Grace

By Denise Bossert
www.catholicbygrace.blogspot.com



“A Year of Faith” Fiat

On October 11, 2012, the Church began the Year of Faith. We will celebrate the New Evangelization and the anniversary of Vatican Council II from now until November 24, 2013. Our shepherds are asking us to turn our faces fully toward Our Lord Jesus Christ and to seek him in the sacraments and the life of the Church. Above all, we are being encouraged to come to the Eucharist with expectant hearts and encounter the Source and Summit of our faith.

We are to let the reality of our Catholic identity change us. It should be a time of renewal. A time of rediscovery. A time of mystery, when anything is possible – including a complete overhaul of our lives.

For the Bosserts, it promises to be a year of great change. There is a very real possibility that we will be moving before the Year of Faith is over. The irony of a 2100 mile move smack-dab in the middle of the Year of Faith is not lost on me. Our lives haven't changed this much since our

daughter was born. I've had my share of little moves, those times in life when we were able to pack things into the trunk of a car or the bed of a pick-up truck. This is not that kind of a move.

Not a move across town.

Not a move to a bigger house.

Not even a move to down-size.

It will be a move away from family and friends and school and parish and everything that we know. A move out of state. A move out of the Midwest. Goodbye, St. Louis. Hello, Seattle.

I don't know what I will do. Teach? Write? Speak? Go back to school and get another degree? Will I be a stay-at-home mom who wears sweatpants all day and reads one book after another?

Will I have too much time on my hands or will it be a lot like my life now? More to do than I can possibly get done - except

See A Year of Faith Fiat, p. 13

Santa and Pete ~ A Novel of Christmas Present and Past

“Santa and Pete” will be the December Puzzle Contest Prize.

“This fictional story based on a young African American boy in New York City is grounded in history (co-writer Christopher Moore is the Commissioner of New York City Landmarks) and decorated with the whimsy of imagination and magic. When Terrence was seven years old, he was forced to spend Saturdays riding alongside his grandfather, a Metro bus driver, through the streets of the city. At first Terrence is resentful, but then he begins to listen to his grandfather's stories – the stories of the settling of New York, how the city belongs to all people of all races. Driving down St. Nicholas Avenue, his grandfather begins the story of “Santa & Pete.” He tells how

St. Nicholas was imprisoned as a spy during the Inquisition, but was eventually rescued by Pete, a former slave in Spain under the Moors. The duo found their way to New York and began the long-standing tradition of giving gifts to the needy. When Terrence eventually discovers his connection to Pete, the story suggests that all who celebrate Christmas can be the rescuers and helpers of St. Nicholas.” ~Amazon.com review by Gail Hudson.

Santa and Pete is published by Simon & Schuster, 1998; hardcover; 176 pages, and sells on line for \$16.75 new, to \$0.01 used.

Read more about the real St. Nicholas, whose feast day is Dec. 6, at: www.stnicholascenter.org/pages/patron-saint/.



ADVENT

www.wordgamesforcatholics.com

C	S	S	N	O	H	P	I	T	N	A	C	Y	S	N
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November Puzzle Contest Winners Chosen

The winner of the November puzzle contest and the book “*Elie's Spiritual Treasures, Volume 1: The Old Testament-Genesis*” by local woman, Elie Mejia, is Vernell Macik of Sacred Heart Parish in Hallettsville. Sarah Heath (11) of Our Lady of Victory Cathedral is the winner of the youth puzzle contest and will receive the book titled *Blessed Kateri Tekakwitha ~ The Lily of the Mohawks* from the Incarnate Word Gift Shop. The winner of the December Puzzle Contest will win “*Santa & Pete ~ A Novel of Christmas Present and Past*” by Christopher Moore and Pamela Johnson; please see review. Thank you to all the youth who entered the contest this past month; enter again for another chance to win something from the IWBS Sisters' Gift Shop. Please mail all completed December puzzle forms to arrive in *The Catholic Lighthouse* office, P.O. Box 4070, Victoria, TX 77903, by January 3, 2013, for a chance to win.

Advent Prayer

Lord God, may we, your people, who look forward to the birthday of Christ experience the joy of salvation and celebrate that feast with love and thanksgiving. We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

from Catholic Online ~ www.catholic.org



Alisa Schroeter of Germany (right) and Simona Mackova of Slovakia (left) celebrate Thanksgiving with their host mother, Lyn Claus (center).



Exchange students experience their first American Thanksgiving

SPRING—The SHARE! High School Exchange Program has 185 students who had the chance to spend a traditional Thanksgiving dinner with their American host families, composed of volunteer families throughout the Southwest.

SHARE!'s international students are in America for five to 10 months, and celebrating traditional holidays like Thanksgiving is part of why students sign up to be an exchange student to the United States.

"Sitting down at a table laden with the famous turkey, stuffing, pumpkin pie, and surrounded by family and friends is something that our students can experience first-hand, not only through television shows and movies," says Yvette Coffman of SHARE!.

"The host families and students both really enjoy it, and as a result they learn what cultural sharing is truly about," she

said. "Families often get as much out of it as they give to the students," she added.

If you would like to share your heart and home, have an interest in other cultures, an extra bed (students may share a room), SHARE! would like you to become a host family!

The SHARE! High School Exchange Program is seeking volunteer host families – with or without children (empty nesters and single adults make great host parents too!) – to share their heart and home, customs and culture, with an international teen this coming spring semester. All SHARE! students are carefully screened, speak English, have insurance, spending money and a desire to learn what it is like to live with an American family. For more information, call Yvette Coffman at (800) 941-3738 or visit sharesouthwest.org.

Goliad family chooses not to renew pharmacy lease, Defends Unborn Human Life

Continued from p. 3

added Von Dohlen. "However, some drugs have long term negative impacts on patients. As a pharmacist myself, sharing the truth and reality about certain drugs' effects on the health and safety of women and respecting the dignity of every human life is a professional responsibility. It is also a deeply held belief of mine."

Von Dohlen said "he would like to en-

courage the people of Goliad to join him in standing up for the right to life of unborn children by letting the owners and employees of Goliad Pharmacy know how they feel and ask them not to sell such products."

For more information read Von Dohlen's open letter to the people of Goliad which is printed on p. 21 in the Web issue of The Catholic Lighthouse.

A Year of Faith Fiat

Continued from p. 12

by the grace of God.

Welcome to the Year of Faith. And so it begins...

I think women are good at this "not knowing" - it's kind of like being open to life. One little plus or minus sign means that everything is about to change.

I can do this faith thing. I don't give myself enough credit. It's all wrapped up in one word: Yes. My fiat. *May it be done unto me according to your word.*

Spiritual pregnancy. Women get it intuitively.

I'm ready to throw myself into this Year

Sunday Readings from Dec. 9 to Jan. 13

Dec. 9 — Second Sunday of Advent

Baruch 5:1-9
Psalms 126:1-2, 2-3, 4-5, 6
Philippians 1:4-6, 8-11
Luke 3:1-6



Dec. 16 — Third Sunday of Advent

Zephaniah 3:14-18a
Isaiah 12:2-3, 4, 5-6
Philippians 4:4-7
Luke 3:10-18



Dec. 23 — Fourth Sunday of Advent

Micah 5:1-4a
Psalms 80:2-3, 15-16, 18-19
Hebrews 10:5-10
Luke 1:39-45



Dec. 25 — Midnight Solemnity of the Nativity of the Lord

Isaiah 9:1-6
Psalms 96:1-2, 2-3, 11-12, 13
Titus 2:11-14
Luke 2:1-14

Dec. 25 — During the Day Solemnity of the Nativity of the Lord

Isaiah 52:7-10
Psalms 98:1, 2-3, 3-4, 5-6
Hebrews 1:1-6
John 1:1-18

Dec. 30 — Feast of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph

Sirach 3:2-6, 12-14
Psalms 128:1-2, 3, 4-5
Colossians 3:12-21
Luke 2:41-52

Jan. 1 — Solemnity of the Blessed Virgin Mary, the Mother of God

Numbers 6:22-27
Psalms 67:2-3, 5, 6, 8
Galatians 4:4-7
Luke 2:16-21

Jan. 6 — Solemnity of the Epiphany of the Lord

Isaiah 60:1-6
Psalms 72:1-2, 7-8, 10-11, 12-13
Ephesians 3:2-3a, 5-6
Matthew 2:1-12

Jan. 13 — Feast of the Baptism of the Lord

Isaiah 42:1-4, 6-7
Psalms 29:1-2, 3-4, 3, 9-10
Acts 10:34-38
Luke 3:15-16, 21-22

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

www.usccb.org/bible/readings

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of Faith. All of me. *I'm yours, oh Lord, without reservation.* I spent three months worrying, wondering and wishing I could be in charge of the future. Finally, I'm ready to fall into it all like I'm taking the Nestea plunge. I'm falling backwards into the pool of my baptismal vows.

I'm yours. Do what you will.

Who knows what might happen - everything, anything - from nothing, to a

change of venue, to a change of purpose, to a change of heart.

Faith is exciting. Anything can happen when we decide to abandon everything to Divine Providence and turn fully into the face of Jesus Christ.

Welcome to the Year of Faith.

Grab the hand of the Bridegroom and squeeze tightly. You are about to give birth to Mystery.



THE POPE SPEAKS

*Pope
Benedict XVI*



CNS photo from Reuters

When sharing the faith, keep it simple, joyful, credible, pope says

By Carol Glatz
Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY (CNS)—In a world of hardened hearts and titillating distractions, Christians need to keep the Gospel message simple and live what they teach with love and joy, Pope Benedict XVI said.

The best place to start is with one's own family, he said, learning to spend time together, listening and understanding one another, and "being a sign for each other of God's merciful love."

During his weekly general audience Nov. 28, the pope spoke about the challenge of communicating the saving truth of

Jesus to today's men and women whose hearts are "often closed" and whose minds are "sometimes distracted by the glitz and glam" of the material world.

In his catechesis to some 5,000 pilgrims gathered in the Vatican's Paul VI hall, the pope said "it's necessary to recover simplicity, to return to the essentials."

The first condition to establish is that people can legitimately talk about God because God himself speaks to humanity, the pope said.

"The first condition for talking about God is, therefore, listening to what God himself has said to us," he said.

"God is not a distant hypothesis about the origin of the world" and he isn't an abstract form of "mathematical intelligence," rather he is real and "is concerned about us and loves us," the pope said.

In Jesus, people can see the face of God, who descended from heaven to be with humanity, "to teach us the art of living, the road to happiness, to liberate us from sin and make us children of God," he said.

"Jesus came to save us, showing us the good life of the Gospels."

Another essential condition for communicating the faith is to put Christ on center stage, not oneself, he said.

When St. Paul, for example, shared the faith, he didn't espouse a philosophy he developed or ideas he dreamed up, but rather stuck to the real presence of God in his life.

The apostle "didn't talk about himself; he didn't want to create a fan club or lead some school of thought," but wanted to lead people directly to Christ, the pope said.

This is the style individual Christians and their communities are called to follow: "to show the transformative action of the grace of God, overcoming individualism, narrowness, egoism and indifference, and living God's love in daily interactions," he said.

Christians need to look at how Christ communicated. He spoke about God and his kingdom show-

ing "complete compassion for the distress and difficulties of human existence," the pope said.

Jesus communicated by continually "bending down to mankind in order to lead them to God."

The way Jesus lived and what he preached "are entwined" and this style is "essential for us Christians and our way of living the faith in charity."

It demonstrates credibility and "that what we say is not just words, but reflects reality," the pope said.

For that reason, Christians need to be aware of the "the potential, desires and obstacles in current culture, especially the desire for authenticity, the yearning for the transcendent and concern for safeguarding creation."

That way Christians can "communicate, without fear, the answers that faith in God offers" to people's needs and today's challenges.

One of the best places to start talking about God is in the family — "the first school for communicating the faith to new generations," he said.

Parents need to help their children become aware of God's love, talk about the Christian faith, foster a critical eye toward the many influences children are exposed to and be prepared to answer children's questions about God and religion, the pope said.

But above all, he said, communicating the faith must always be

done with joy — a joy that doesn't ignore or hide from the pain, difficulties and conflicts of the world, but knows how to respond to them with Christian hope.

"It's important to help all family members understand that faith is not a burden, but a source of deep joy," he said.

Celebrating Church's universality, pope creates new cardinals

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Recalling that Christ's mission transcends "all ethnic, national and religious particularities," Pope Benedict XVI created six new cardinals from four different continents, representing the Latin rite of the Catholic Church as well as two Eastern Catholic Churches. The churchmen who joined the College of Cardinals Nov. 24 were U.S. Archbishop James M. Harvey, 63, former prefect of the papal household; Lebanon's Maronite Patriarch Bechara Rai, 72; Indian Archbishop Baselio Cleemis Thottunkal, 53, head of the Syro-Malankara Catholic Church; Nigerian Archbishop John Olorunfemi Onaiyekan, 68, of Abuja; Colombian Archbishop Ruben Salazar Gomez, 70, of Bogota; and Philippine Archbishop Luis Tagle, 55, of Manila. The six new cardinals received symbols of their office: a ring, the "zucchetto" skull cap and the three-cornered hat called a biretta. The headwear was colored scarlet, like the cardinals' robes, to symbolize the blood they risk shedding in service to the Church. The new Eastern Catholic cardinals received modified versions of the biretta, consistent with the distinctive clerical garb of their churches. Cardinal Rai received the turban-like Maronite tabieh, and Cardinal Cleemis a head covering in a shape reminiscent of an onion dome. Pope Benedict also assigned each of the new cardinals a "titular church" in Rome, making them full members of the Rome clergy and closer collaborators of the pope in governing the universal Church.

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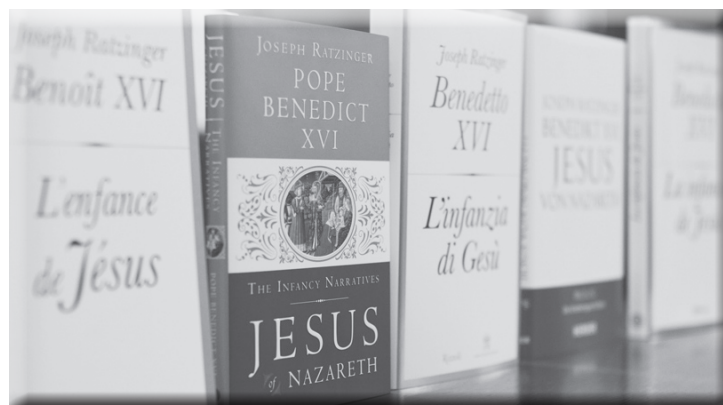
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ENGLISH VERSION OF POPE'S NEW BOOK, 'THE INFANCY OF JESUS'—The English version of Pope Benedict XVI's new book, "The Infancy of Jesus," is seen among copies in other languages during a press conference for the release of the book to journalists at the Vatican Nov. 20. The book is the third and concluding volume of his work, "Jesus of Nazareth." It was released to the public Nov. 21 in 20 languages. (CNS photo/Paul Haring)



Catholics on both side of the Gaza border pray for hostilities to end

By Judith Sudilovsky
Catholic News Service

JERUSALEM (CNS) — As diplomatic efforts were underway to reach a ceasefire agreement between Hamas and Israel Nov. 20, Catholics on both sides of the Gaza border prayed for peace. Eight days of Israeli airstrikes, launched in retaliation for rocket attacks by Palestinian militants, killed more than 150 people and destroyed thousands of dwellings in Gaza before both sides agreed to a cease-fire Nov. 21.

“When we pray for peace, we pray for peace for everyone,” said Father Yoel Salvaterra, who serves the Hebrew-speaking Catholic community in the

southern Israeli city of Beer-sheba, after a morning in which more than 20 rockets landed in the city. “Our prayers have no borders. We know we are suffering here and they are suffering there. It is just suffering.”

The parish celebrated Mass Nov. 18 in the church bomb shelter, Father Salvaterra said, and only 15 people came to pray, about half the normal number. The community has about 150 members.

“People live in fear,” he said. “Everybody is staying home. Sometimes they call me for assurance, sometimes I call them. The situation has not been easy as even before the Israeli operation we suffered from rockets once or

twice a month. The uncertainty was difficult.”

Though several homes in Beersheba took direct hits from the rockets, no one from the community has been injured, he said.

In Gaza, George Antone, 31, project manager for the Pontifical Mission for Palestine and father of a 6-month old daughter, told Catholic News Service Nov. 20 that people are staying home because it is too risky to leave. No one knows where Israel’s bombs may land next, he said.

“It can be anywhere, between houses, in government institutions, schools, universities, a football field,” he said. “The situation here is terrible. Last night it was as if we were living in hell. Every 15 minutes you could hear an explosion.”

One member of Holy Family Parish in Gaza died of a heart attack during a bombing and had just been buried at the church cemetery, he said. Otherwise, people leave their homes only to get essentials. Supplies such as fuel and bread are running low because flour can’t be delivered to the bakeries, he said.

He said he sees the conflict between Hamas and the Israeli government as not only political but also one stemming from religious fanaticism from both Muslims and Jews.

“We Christians are not political, we call for peace and to



An Israeli municipality worker speaks on his phone as he surveys the damage after a rocket fired from the Gaza Strip landed in the southern city of Ashdod Nov. 20. As talks heated up regarding a possible ceasefire between Israel and Hamas, the Islamist group that controls Gaza has been pressing for an end to the blockade as a condition for halting rocket attacks on Israel. (CNS photo/Avi Roccah, Reuters)



Palestinians carry the bodies of two children and their father during their funeral in Beit Lahiya in the northern Gaza Strip Nov. 20. They were killed when an Israeli airstrike in the Gaza town of Beit Lahiya destroyed their home Nov. 19, the Hamas Health Ministry said. (CNS photo/Mohammed Salem, Reuters)



Palestinians Nov. 19 gather around the remains of a house destroyed in an Israeli airstrike in Khan Younis in the southern Gaza Strip. An Israeli missile ripped through a two-story home in a residential area of Gaza City the previous day, killing at least 11 civilians, including four young children, in the single deadliest attack of Israel's offensive against Islamic militants. (CNS photo/Ibraheem Abu Mustafa, Reuters)

save lives,” Antone said. “This conflict will lead to nothing. We pray a real truce will be reached and then afterward they have to start negotiating for peace. That is the only way to solve the problem. They have to sit and speak and find a way where there will be no war for our children and the coming generations.”

One Catholic Gazan, who asked not to be identified, said though some people may disagree with Hamas’ tactics “nobody can say anything against Hamas.”

“They are in control. You have to say yes, whoever says ‘no’ will end up saying ‘yes’ later,” he said. “You have to walk with your back very close to the

wall. You have to be careful.”

In a Nov. 19 report Sami El-Yousef, regional director for the Catholic Near East Welfare Association’s office in Jerusalem, noted widespread destruction in Gaza and said almost all of the Christian institutions have sustained some damage from the shelling in the form of broken glass and doors.

He said children and the elderly are paying the heaviest price and called for prayers that the hostilities would end as soon as possible.

Editor’s note: Read more on page 23 of the Web Issue of *The Catholic Lighthouse*.

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Meeting Highlights

U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops 2012 Fall Assembly

- Approved a document on preaching, encouraging preachers to connect the homily with people's daily lives.
- Rejected a fast-tracked statement intended to offer support and hope to people who are suffering because of the economic downturn.
- Approved an exhortation encouraging Catholics to take advantage of the sacrament of penance.
- Endorsed the sainthood cause of Dorothy Day, co-founder of the Catholic Worker movement.
- Approved an expanded memorial for Blessed Francis Xavier Seelos, a German-born Redemptorist priest who ministered in antebellum-era America
- Agreed to begin a revision of the Liturgy of the Hours
- Approved the hiring of a public affairs director.
- Heard a request that they broaden support for national collections, which have had a decline in diocesan participation.
- Adopted a strategic plan for the next four years to shape conference programs and activities.
- Agreed to hold a national collection for the U.S. Archdiocese for Military Services.
- Approved a 2013 budget of \$220.4 million.
- Took part in a workshop on using online and social media.

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Creating ordinariate for Anglicans makes for a complex first year

BALTIMORE (CNS) — The slideshow on important events of the first months of the U.S. ordinariate for former Episcopalians who have become Catholic was one indication of its unusual characteristics. The photos of ordinations featured the priests' wives and children, for one thing. One photo showed a father-son pair of new Catholic priests. Another picture showed an unidentified bishop, apparently ordaining a priest, with a cartoonlike dialogue bubble asking, "What have I

done?" For a presentation at the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops' annual fall general assembly led by a member of the conference, about activities within a dioceselike entity, it was rather an extraordinary moment. Hesitant chuckles were replaced by warm laughter as the bishops realized this was something a little different, in fact, a lot different. Msgr. Jeffrey Steenson, who heads the ordinariate established by the Vatican this year, took to the podium Nov. 12 to explain to the bishops the ins and outs of setting up what is officially known as the Personal Ordinariate of the Chair of St. Peter. The

former bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of the Rio Grande who became a Catholic in 2007, Msgr. Steenson is both the only nonbishop in the USCCB and its only married member. He is a full voting member of the conference and his authority includes nearly everything a bishop does. But because he is married, he cannot be ordained a bishop and he may not ordain priests. Pope Benedict XVI's 2009 apostolic constitution "Anglicanorum coetibus" provided for the establishment of ordinariates for former Anglicans who join the Catholic Church while retaining some of their Anglican traditions, spirituality and prayer.

Maryknoller dismissed from priesthood for supporting women's ordination

WASHINGTON (CNS) — The Vatican Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith has dismissed Roy Bourgeois from the priesthood because of his participation in the invalid ordination of a woman and "a simulated Mass," the Maryknoll Fathers and Brothers announced Nov. 19. The order said in a statement the canonical dismissal came Oct. 4. Citing Bourgeois' participation in the invalid ordination in Lexington, Ky., Aug. 9, 2008, the Maryknoll statement said, "With patience, the Holy See and the Maryknoll Society have encouraged his reconciliation with the Catholic Church." Bourgeois could not be immediately reached for comment. "Instead, Mr. Bourgeois chose to campaign against the teachings of the Catholic Church in secular and non-Catholic venues," the statement said. "This was done without the permission of the local U.S. Catholic bishops and while ignoring the sensitivities of the faithful across the country. Disobedience and preaching against the teaching of the Catholic Church about women's ordination led to his excommunication, dismissal and laicization." The church holds that it has no authority to ordain women.

World AIDS Day: Pope highlights problem of poverty in fighting HIV

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — In a special appeal against HIV and AIDS, Pope Benedict XVI called for special attention to those unable to afford life-saving drugs, especially pregnant and nursing women affected by the disease. The pope, speaking before World AIDS Day Dec. 1, said his thoughts and prayers were with "the great number of children who contract the virus every year from their own mothers, despite the fact there are therapies for preventing it." AIDS has caused "millions of deaths and tragic human suffering, most markedly in poorer regions of the world, which have great difficulty in getting access to effective drugs," he said Nov. 28. The pope encouraged the many initiatives the Church supports aimed at "eradicating this scourge." The Vatican has estimated Catholic agencies provide about 25 percent of all HIV treatment and care throughout the world. The World Health Organization has estimated that perhaps as much as 70 percent of all health care in Africa is provided by faith-based organizations.

College honors bishop for dedication to Latino evangelization

BALTIMORE (CNS) — Learning to accept one's own background and culture is an important first step in evangelization, said Bishop Ricardo Ramirez of Las Cruces, N.M., Nov. 12, upon receiving an award from the Mexican American Catholic College for his dedication to evangelization in the Latino community. At a reception during the annual fall



Bishop Ricardo Ramirez in May 2012 photo. (CNS photo/L'Osservatore Romano)

Faithful Citizens carry on after casting ballot

By Maria Huemmer,
Communication Director,
Texas Catholic Conference

The elections are over. Republicans will continue to have a majority in the Texas House and Senate — though the 83rd Legislative Session will convene with 44 incoming freshmen in the House.

While I applaud and congratulate all who educated themselves on the tenets of the faith, learned about their candidates, and participated in the elections with the sincere desire for a better future for our nation, I hate to say it, but the work is not over! Catholics do not have the luxury of hanging up our Faithful Citizenship banners and hibernating until next season's election signs start cropping up again.

Texas' 83rd legislative session will convene on January 8, 2013. The TCC commits to keeping Catholics informed and active on policy issues that our Catholic faith calls us to advocate on through news updates and action alerts on our website and our Texas Catholic Network.

Editor's note: See www.vic-toriadiocese.org, right hand side of Lighthouse Web page.

general assembly of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops in Baltimore, Bishop Ramirez received the college's San Juan Diego Leadership Award, for "answering the call of Our Lady of Guadalupe to 'go and put forth all your effort,' to build a temple of multicultural unity through Jesus Christ," as the school's press release put it. A Texas native ordained a Basilian priest in the Archdiocese of Houston in 1966, Bishop Ramirez served as executive vice president of the school, then called the Mexican American Cultural Center, from 1976 to 1981. In that capacity, he first became involved in the first and second "Encuentros," large gatherings of Latinos involved in Spanish-language ministry.



CARDINAL O'BRIEN VISITS CHURCH OF HOLY SEPULCHER IN JERUSALEM—Patriarchate Fouad Twal of Jerusalem, left, and U.S. Cardinal Edwin F. O'Brien, center, walk toward the entrance of the Church of the Holy Sepulcher in the Old City of Jerusalem Nov. 27. Cardinal O'Brien was making his first visit to the Holy Land as grand master of the Knights of the Holy Sepulcher, a chivalric order that supports church institutions and Christians in the Holy Land. The cardinal said he hoped to encourage the region's Christian minority with a message of solidarity from Pope Benedict XVI and other Catholics in the West. He also planned to visit a few of the more than 100 institutions that the knights support in the region, including parishes, schools and Bethlehem University. Editor's Note: A video interview with Cardinal O'Brien about his pilgrimage to the Holy Land is available at <http://www.youtube.com/CatholicNewsService>. (CNS photo/Heidi Levine)



CLERGY PROCESS DURING JUBILEE CELEBRATION IN INDIA—Clergy of the Syro-Malabar Catholic Church process at the start of Mass in a suburb of New Delhi Nov. 18 to mark the 50th anniversary of the church's first missionary venture – the establishment in 1962 of the Chanda Diocese, then a mission diocese under the self-governing Syro-Malabar Church. The church traces its history to St. Thomas the Apostle, who arrived on the shores of southern Kerala state in A.D. 52. (CNS photo/ Anto Akkara)



SYRIAN FAMILY SEEN CROSSING INTO TURKISH BORDER TOWN—A Syrian family is seen after crossing from the northern Syrian town of Ras al-Ain into the border town of Ceylanpinar, Turkey, Nov. 10. International aid officials met in Lebanon in early November to discuss the situation of Syrians fleeing the violence in their country. (CNS photo/Murad Sezer, Reuters)

WOMEN SING ABOARD TRAIN HEADED FOR ANNUAL PILGRIMAGE IN MALI—Women sing and dance aboard a train heading for an annual Catholic pilgrimage in the town of Kita, western Mali, Nov. 17. Nearly 7,000 pilgrims participated in the two-day celebration, led by Archbishop Jean Zerbo of Bamako, Mali. (CNS photo/Malin Palm, Reuters)



OPENING CEREMONY FOR NEW INTERFAITH CENTER—The new Saudi-backed interfaith center in Vienna, titled King Abdullah Bin Abdulaziz International Center, will provide an opportunity for the Church to promote religious freedom for Christians and others around the world, said Cardinal Jean-Louis Tauran. Rabbi Pinchas Goldschmidt walks next to Abdullah Al Turki, president of the Islamic League; U.N. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon; Saudi Arabia's foreign minister, Prince Saud al-Faisal; Austrian Foreign Minister Michael Spindelegger; Spanish Foreign Minister Manuel Garcia-Margallo Marfil; and Cardinal Tauran, during the opening ceremony of the new center Nov. 26. (CNS photo/Leonhard Foeger, Reuters)



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Cutting Edge

By Sister Margie Lavonis, CSC
Sisters of the Holy Cross, Notre Dame



Remember Jesus?

I am not a Scrooge, but all the activity during this time of year depresses me. People are running around frantically buying things they often do not need or cannot afford. Stores ply Christmas carols even before the Halloween decorations are taken down, and lots of people put up their Christmas trees before the turkey is cooked on Thanksgiving. The malls are crowded and some people will actually get up at four in the morning to stand in long lines for Christmas specials. And you probably can give other examples. I want to tell them whose birthday it really is and why we celebrate.

Now, don't get me wrong, I am not against Christmas or gift-giving. Gifts are important expressions of appreciation and love. However, trying to outdo one another or giving gifts only because someone else is giving them to us seems ridiculous.

In most of the Western Hemisphere we have the tendency to think that more is better. Our culture is very materialistic. Our wants have become our needs. Many want the best and the latest of everything. Children often hound their parents and Santa for the most popular toys. I know parents who agonize because they can't afford these items and will go into debt just to give their children what "everybody else"

is getting. Sometimes I wonder who this "everybody" is.

We often can lose sight that "Jesus is the reason for the season." Christians should remember and remind others about why we celebrate. It is Christ's birthday, not ours. Hopefully our gifts are expressions of God's love and Jesus is the greatest.

You might wonder what you could possibly do to turn the tide. Every year I ask myself the same thing. The following are a few suggestions that might help us all.

Examine your gift giving. Think of those who are on your Christmas list and why you give them gifts. Maybe you do it because you feel obliged or have always done so. Hopefully your giving is out of love and that more is not better than less.

Reinforce with your family, especially

your children and grandchildren, that the joy of Christmas does not depend on how many or what gifts we receive or give. Suggest to your children that gifts don't always have to be things. They can give the special gift of service, like giving a card with a promise to shovel the person's driveway and sidewalks this winter or offer a couple with little children some days of free babysitting. Let them use their imaginations. Emphasize that their time can also be a precious gift.

Gifts also can be made. Giving baked Christmas goodies or homemade candy is appreciated by all. It is very special when someone takes the time to make something delicious to give to you.

Send Christmas cards to people who live far away and you won't see during the holidays. Share the gift of your time by letting friends know what has happened in your life. It seems a waste of paper and postage to just sign your name. Also, remember that the Church's Christmas

season goes far beyond December 25 so cards don't have to make it to them by Christmas day.

Changing our materialistic way of celebrating Christmas will not happen overnight, but each of us can do our part to keep into focus whose birthday we celebrate. It also will help us to more appreciate the meaning of Advent and relieve a lot of stress so we can truly enjoy this beautiful season of preparation for the birth of Jesus, not primarily Santa.



FEAST FOR BELIEVERS

Most Americans see Christmas as a religious celebration, marking the feast with faith-based customs.

95%
CELEBRATE CHRISTMAS

82%
VIEW IT AS A RELIGIOUS
HOLIDAY

78%
TAKE TIME TO REFLECT ON
CHRIST'S BIRTH

62%
ATTEND CHURCH SERVICES

Source: 2010 USA Today/Gallup poll

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Christmas Gift Ideas

Religious Music

Jade Music recently released two new albums: *Gregorian Chant: Together on the Way* by the Norbertine Fathers of St. Michael's Abbey in California, and *Christmas in the Cloister* by the Nuns of Mount St. Mary's Abbey in Massachusetts. See many more religious music albums at www.jade-music.com (Milan records).

Advent at Ephesus, a 16-track CD available at Amazon.com, digital download, or in stores was just released by a young, monastic order of sisters from northwest Missouri, the Benedictines of Mary, Queen of Apostles. It has tracked in Amazon's Classical Music top 10 for almost two weeks as pre-orders have poured in.

Food For the Poor

Browse through Food for the Poor's Christmas Gift Catalog at <http://www.foodforthe poor.org/catalog/em-landing.html> and consider being a blessing to a poor family by giving a life-changing Christmas gift in honor of a loved one! Feed a child for a year (\$43.80); Purchase a goat to provide nourishment (\$90); Give a water pump to provide clean water (\$205); Build a home with sanitation for a poor family (\$3,200), etc.

Jan. 27 - Feb. 4
Cruise from
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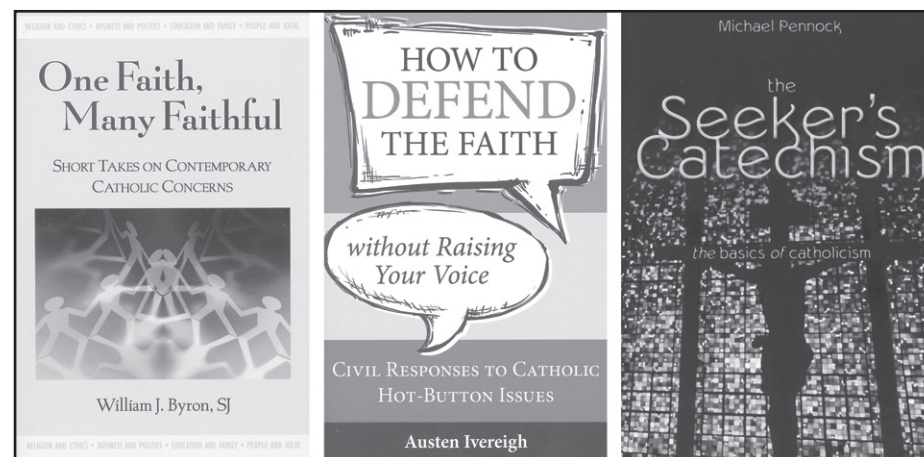
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May 18-25



Alaska - July 9-20

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COVERS OF BOOKS ON FAITH—Not all catechisms, but three books offer insights on Church teachings: "One Faith, Many Faithful: Short Takes on Contemporary Catholic Concerns" by William J. Byron, SJ. Paulist Press (Mahwah, N.J., 2012) 138 pp., \$15.95; "How to Defend the Faith Without Raising Your Voice: Civil Responses to Catholic Hot-Button Issues" by Austen Ivereigh, Our Sunday Visitor (Huntington, Ind., 2012), 160 pp., \$13.95; and "The Seeker's Catechism: The Basics of Catholicism" by Michael Pennock. Ave Maria Press (Notre Dame, Ind., 2012), 150 pp., \$6.95. (CNS)



EVENTS

The Catholic Lighthouse
Page 19 — December 2012

Special Collections Fund for Retired Religious - Dec. 9

Ongoing Events

That Man Is You—This men's group transforms men, families, and society as it presents the vision of man fully alive; see www.thatmanisyou.org. It is held at 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.

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

The Beginning Experience—This is an international ministry that helps divorced, separated, and widowed individuals resolve their grief surrounding the loss of a marriage partner. San Antonio contact is (210) 734-2146 or sanantonio@bep.org; or see: www.beginningexperience.org.

Catholic Family Services—To find listings of e-mail/Web sites of Catholic organizations that focus on the family, please go to the Catholic Association of Catholic Family Life Ministers at www.nacflm.org.

St. Francis and St. Clare Fraternity/Secular Franciscans—For information, please go to www.lostrescompaneros-sfo.org. For Victoria meeting dates, contact Mary Ann LeBlanc at (361) 575-1858.

Natural Family Planning—NFP is the only Church-approved form of family planning. To learn about the Sympto-Thermal Method in the Victoria area and the NFP class schedules, contact David and Annie Coffey victorianfpteachers@yahoo.com.

Gabriel Project—A ministry providing help to women experiencing a crisis pregnancy — an alternative to abortion — holds monthly meetings for all interested. Victoria meetings, 2nd Tuesday, 101 W. Convent, 6:30 p.m., includes light supper; Angel Workshop, meets 101 W. Convent, 3rd Saturday, 9:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.; contact Barbara (361) 649-1612 or Linda (361) 655-3008. Holy Family, Wharton, meets 4th Tuesday at 6:30 p.m.; contact (979) 532-3593, M-F, 9:00 a.m.-4:30 p.m. See: www.victoriadiocese.org/lighthouse/gp.htm

Raphael's Refuge—The mission of Raphael's Refuge is to build and maintain a memorial in honor of babies, born and unborn. It is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization located in Flatonia that also provides peer counseling and spiritual direction for those suffering a loss of a baby due to miscarriage, stillbirth, infant death, or abortion. Learn more at www.raphaelsrefuge.org/

Retrouvaille—Retrouvaille, meaning rediscovery, is a marriage-healing ministry offered in the diocese to couples in difficult marriages. Go to www.retrouvaille.org; contact John and Jennifer Vincent at jbjv@sbeglobal.net or (361) 580-2770; (800) 470-2230; or www.helpourmarriage.org.

Marriage Encounter—This program is no longer offered in the Diocese of Victoria; Retrouvaille (see above) has replaced it. To find a Marriage Encounter weekend outside of the diocese, go to www.wmme.org.

Courage—This is a ministry for those experiencing same-sex attraction and looking for answers. It is a Roman Catholic Apostolate endorsed by the Pontifical Council for the Family. EnCourage ministers to family and friends of persons with same-sex attraction. Learn more at couragec.net/.

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. It and its museum are open daily from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.; closed on major holidays. The Quarters, a two-bedroom guest quarter, is available for overnight stays. For rates and more information, contact (361) 645-3752 or see www.presidiolabahia.org.

Picnics, Activities, etc. Upcoming Events

Bay City—Holy Cross Parish in Bay City will celebrate 10 years of Life Teen this year and Josh Blakesley and his Band will come help them celebrate!! The date is set for Saturday, Jan. 5, 2013, at 7:00 p.m. at the Bay City Convention Center. It will be a night of great music, talks, and adoration!! Mark your calendars now so you don't miss this great night!!

Edna—The CDA, Court St. Theresa of the Little Flower, #1350 from St. Agnes Church will host a "celebration of life" program, an ecumenical event for all of Jackson County and the general public on Wednesday, Jan. 16, 2013, at the Jackson County Services Building, 411 N. Wells St., from 7:00-8:00 p.m. The program will show the importance of life from conception to natural death and the need for respect, dignity, and justice for all of human life. Admission is free; refreshments will be served.

Hallettsville—Sacred Heart School "A Black & White Masquerade" Saturday, Feb. 2, 2013; includes a social, dinner and dance. Call (361) 798-4251 or (361) 798-5888 for more information.

Schulenburg—St. Rose of Lima School Fundraiser featuring The Original Triumphs Feb. 16, 2013, at Swiss Alp Hall. Please contact Laura Fogle at l.fogle@strosecardinals.org for tickets.

Masses • Retreats • Conferences

Victoria—Amor Meus Spirituality Center invites all (men and women):

~ to Advent Vespers, Sundays, Dec. 9, 16, and 23, from 5:00-5:45 p.m., in the chapel.

~ to a day retreat; January 26, from 9:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m. A love offering is accepted for the day. You may purchase a lunch or bring your own. Call to register.

~Incarnate Word Prayer Group invites you to Praise and Worship on Mondays at 7:30-9:00 p.m. in the auditorium.

Events are held at Incarnate Word Convent, 1101 N.E. Water Street. FMI on any event, contact Sr. Louise Marie Jones at (361) 575-7111, or amormeus@yahoo.com.

Flatonia—The annual celebration of the Feast Day of the Holy Innocents will be held at Raphael's Refuge on Friday, Dec. 28, at 10:30 a.m.; the celebrant will be Rev. Victor Perez, parochial vicar at St. Cecilia's Catholic Community in Houston; music by harpist Johanna Thomas; refreshments to follow Mass. Please remember, there is no heat inside the monument and if it is raining, the parking area gets messy. If you have any questions, please contact Midge Elam at (361) 865-3021 or at RaphaelsRefuge@att.net.

Victoria—The Sisters of Incarnate Word and Blessed Sacrament are hosting a Discernment Weekend for single Catholic women between the ages of 18 and 50 years of age on Jan. 26-27, at Incarnate Word Convent. If you are interested in learning more about deepening your prayer life and about religious life or in discovering if God might be calling you to consecrated life, please call (361) 575-7111 or e-mail iwbsvoc@yahoo.com or check www.iwbsvictoria.org for more information about the Sisters.

Indiana—Come & See Weekend, January 4-6. The Sisters of St. Benedict, Ferdinand, Indiana invite single, Catholic woman between 18 to 40 years to get to know the Benedictine Sisters, share in the community life and prayer, and meet other women who are considering religious life - no pressure, no commitment! For information or to register, visit www.thedome.org, call Sister Michelle Sinkhorn at (800) 734-9999, or e-mail vocation@thedome.org.

Victoria—Holy Family Church is sponsoring a women's ACTS retreat at the Spiritual Renewal Center from Jan. 24-27. For an unforgettable experience, please contact Retreat Director Janet Charbula (361) 550-2327, Assistant Director Margie Ramirez (361) 571-0026, Assistant Director Janet Huse (361) 550-4764, or Spiritual Adviser Mary Jeansonne (361) 935-0122.

Victoria—Healing Mass and Prayer at Our Lady of Lourdes Church, 105 N. William St., on the first Saturday of the month at 10:00 a.m. with Father Phi Nguyen, chaplain of IWBS Convent. Mark your calendars now for next month. For more information, please contact Sister Louise Marie Jones at iwbsvoc2@yahoo.com.

Shiner—Latin Masses will be celebrated by Father Bob Knippenberg at Sts. Cyril and Methodius Church every 1st & 3rd Sunday of the month at 11:00 a.m.

Tivoli—First Friday Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament at 6 p.m. at Our Lady of Guadalupe Church, 501B William Street, Mass follows at 7:00 p.m., with Rev. Paulson Panakal. Mark your calendars for Jan. 4, the first Friday of January. Call for more information: (361) 237-3634

ACTS Retreats—For information on ACTS retreats, please go to ACTS Web site at www.actsmissions.org.

Have an event???
Contact us ASAP by
e-mail: janakr@victoriadiocese.org
or FAX to
(361) 573-5725

Reporting Abuse

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 Chancery at (361) 573-0828 and ask to speak with the bishop or the chancellor;
or
- Call Rev. Gary Janak (979) 543-3770 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 a complaint or would like further information, please contact: Rev. Gary Janak at (979) 543-3770.



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Spiritual vacations can be found

By Cynthia Brewer

Who would have thought that a luxury cruise would be the bearer of many spiritual blessings? My husband and I intended to take a vacation away from hard work and the tensions the world throws at us. We booked a last-minute cruise on the Holland America Vandeem, a smaller cruise ship, from Boston, Mass. It went around Nova Scotia, down the St. Lawrence Seaway and River and finish the trip in Montreal, Québec. It sailed Oct. 6 – 13; we then took an extra two days for additional spiritual and personal travel.

What I did not expect was the many graces God prepared for me along the way; the first of which was having a Catholic priest, Father Michael Conway of Enniscrone, Co. Sligo, Ireland, onboard to offer daily Mass to the seafarers. In fact Father Michael offered the Sunday Vigil Mass just as we left the Boston port – a perfect way to begin a vacation, and although we did not attend every Mass offered that week, it was such a blessing to

know of its availability.

The Holland America Cruise Line is a stickler to always have clergy available for the religious observances of its passengers; Father Michael wanted me to be sure readers know that Holland America, with Apostleship of the Sea (AOS) – USA, places a priest on board every cruise with Mass offered daily. Read more about AOS and what other cruise lines offer at <http://www.thecatholictravel-guide.com/Apostle-shipOfTheSea.html>. Some cruise lines provide Masses during Lent, others at Easter and Christmas.

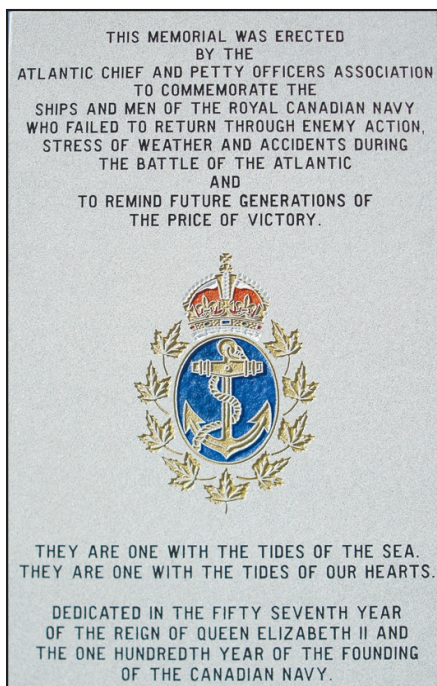
After seeing God's beauty in Bar Harbor, Maine, we spent the following day at Halifax, N.S., where we passed up eating lobster at beautiful Peggy's Cove and bypassed a tour to visit the three cemeteries which hold dear the

bodies of hundreds of Titanic victims, and instead spent the day visiting the neighborhood where my father grew up while his father was at sea with the Royal Canadian Navy. I mourned my grandfather and his family's loss as we cruised out of the same harbor he himself did, from 1939 to 1944, wondering when he'd next see his wife and two small boys. He never did return, as his destroyer, the HMCS Athabaskan, was sunk by torpedoes while preparing for the D-Day invasion in the English Channel.

On Cape Breton Island we toured St. Patrick's Church Museum, the oldest Catholic Church there. It took the place of the original wooden structure built in 1805. Due to the increase in size of the congregation, a new church, Sacred Heart, was built a couple of blocks away.

In Charlottetown, Prince Edward Island (PEI), we ventured out on a photography excursion, which provided a restful time with nature; however, I missed St. Dunstan's Basilica, the Cathedral of the Diocese of Charlottetown in Charlottetown. It is named for the great Anglo Saxon saint from Glastonbury, England.

Our next day was a "day-at-sea"; we ventured into the St. Lawrence Seaway dur-



Monument to Canadian ships lost in WWII, including my grandfather's ship, the HMCS Athabaskan



St. Joseph Oratory, Montreal, Québec, founded by St. André Bessette



Looking down upon cruise ships from Québec City, one of the oldest European settlements in North America. Our ship is the small one behind the building on left.



Finding nature on Prince Edward Island, Canada

ing a storm that produced 83 mph gusts, and the clouds and rain blocked any views of the two shores; however, it did provide a day of rest and a chance to attend Mass.

One of my favorite stops was at Québec City, Québec, the old French town with beautiful architecture and outdoor cafés. We first took an



St. Francis Xavier Parish, burial site of St. Kateri Tekakwitha, on the Kahnawake Indian Reserve southwest of Montreal.

Our cruise ended Saturday, Oct. 13, in Montreal, Québec. We rented a car and drove to the top of Mount Royal to St. Joseph's Oratory, built by the recently canonized Andre Besset.

From there, we drove less than 20 minutes, across the St. Lawrence River, and found St. Francis Xavier Mission on the Kahnawake Indian Reserve. This is where the tomb of St. Kateri Tekakwitha is enshrined. Unfortunately, it was one week before her canonization and many related with the church left for Rome the day before, so we were unable to pray inside the church at her tomb. Instead I knelt outside the church on a freezing cold day and asked for her intercessions. Later I realized that that was God's divine providence, as I was able to share a moment with St. Kateri who is known for praying long hours out in the cold weather.

What a perfect way to end a period of rest and relaxation.

excursion to the Shrine of Sainte-Anne-de-Beaupre, the oldest pilgrimage site in North America, which has welcomed pilgrims for the past 350 years. St. Anne de Beaupre, is the fifth church building built on the same site in honor of St. Anne; fire destroyed the first four buildings. The last two church buildings were named basilicas. Many miracles have been attributed to a visit to the shrine. While there, I received a blessing from Father Jean-Luc Tremblay.

Back at the fortified city, we walked the cobblestone streets and made a short visit to Notre-Dame de Quebec, the first Catholic parish and cathedral in Canada and a minor basilica.



Bishops’ defense of marriage chair calls
for prayer, renewed culture of marriage

WASHINGTON—In response to the November 6 statewide referenda results in Washington State, Minnesota, Maryland, and Maine regarding marriage, Archbishop Salvatore Cordileone of San Francisco, chairman of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops’ Subcommittee for the Promotion and Defense of Marriage, called for renewed efforts to strengthen and protect marriage and family life and expressed gratitude to marriage protection supporters.

“Yesterday, November 6, was a disappointing day for marriage, as the effort to preserve the unique meaning of marriage in the law lost by only a narrow margin in four states, even though vastly outspent by those who promote the redefinition of marriage,” Archbishop Cordileone said.



“The meaning of marriage, though, cannot be redefined because it lies within our very nature. No matter what policy, law or judicial decision is put into place, marriage is the only institution that unites a man and a woman to each other and to any children born of their union. It is either this, or it is nothing at all. In view of the fact that every child has a mother and a father, our society either respects the basic right of every child to be raised by his or her mother and father together and so supports the true and unique meaning of marriage for the good of children, or it does not. In a society marked by increasing poverty and family fragmentation, marriage needs to be strengthened, promoted, and defended, not redefined. I hope and pray that political leaders, judges, and all people will seek to honor this foundational and common sense truth of marriage,” the archbishop said.

Earlier this year, the Washington State and Maryland legislatures voted in favor of bills to redefine marriage and the governors of these states signed the respective bills into law; however, before these laws could take effect, enough voters in each state signed a petition to put these laws before the voters in yesterday’s referenda. In Minnesota, the state legislature in 2011 voted to adopt a marriage protection amendment to the state constitution, which went before the voters yesterday.

In Maine, earlier this year, supporters of marriage redefinition submitted a petition with enough signatures to have a referendum on marriage redefinition in an attempt to counter the 2009 vote of

the people that protected the meaning of marriage. In Maryland and Maine, voters yesterday voted in favor of redefining marriage (votes are still being confirmed in Washington State, though it is projected that voters did the same there as well). In Minnesota, voters rejected the proposed state constitutional amendment, though Minnesota still protects marriage as the union of one man and one woman through state statute.

“I extend heartfelt gratitude to all those who dedicated and sacrificed time, energy and resources to protect marriage,” Archbishop Cordileone said. “I especially call on all people to pray and to build a renewed culture of marriage and the family. This is a fundamental task on which the future good and stability of our society, and particularly that of our children, rest.”

I SAW AN ANGEL

By Derek Becher (December 2011)

I saw an angel on the sill,
The dawn of Christmas Day;
It gazed upon my little crèche
And pressed its hands to pray...

Her whispered words were weaving
Into frost upon the pane;
It printed pretty lyrics
That the seraph would proclaim.

And then she strummed a little harp,
So smoothly, gently, there
And then I heard her softly sing
This lovely little prayer:

“Little baby in the crib
I’ll guard you ever so;
Baby Jesus, I’m with you
Wherever you will go.”

She smiled so serenely, then,
Her face a lovely sight,
And fluttered to the heavens
In the Christmas morning light.

I saw an angel on the sill,
One blessed Christmas morn;
She sang a little Christmas prayer
When Christ our Lord was born.

A personal message to
the people of Goliad County

Dear Friends and Neighbors:

As the agent of the owner of the Von Dohlen Building, located at 236 Commercial St. in Goliad, I would like to share with you the reason that we were unable to renew the lease for Goliad Pharmacy Inc. It is a decision that was not made lightly. I have had a long relationship with Goliad Pharmacy including serving on its board of directors for 21 years.

In addition, my family has deep ties to the Goliad community. I was born in Cuero and reared in Goliad. My Dad, Leonard H. Von Dohlen, was born and reared here. He owned and operated Baker Drug and the Von Dohlen Pharmacy for more than 50 years. I have fond memories of helping out in the pharmacy as a boy and then as a young man working side by side with my Dad as a pharmacist myself. Later, I went on to study law at UT Austin and then to serve Goliad as a member of the Texas House of Representatives.

I’m proud of the fact that some of the most comprehensive drug safety laws on the books today are a result of bills that I authored as a legislator. My interest in healthcare policy continues to this day. I spend much time keeping current on pharmacy and legal issues relating to healthcare. As I’m sure you know healthcare is changing rapidly as medical science and technology develop. Importantly, it has been proven that some medicine which appears to have positive and beneficial effects is found with time to be dangerous and cause side effects with unintended consequences. Contraceptives are one such example. Drugs such as the Morning After Pill, Ella and Depo-Provera are marketed as contraceptives but are in fact abortifacient drugs, meaning they can cause a newly created child to be aborted.

It is my deeply held belief that it is wrong to purposely end an innocent human life. Therefore, when we began to renegotiate the lease with Goliad Pharmacy, it was essential to me that we include a provision to not allow the stocking or sale of drugs that end human life. Unfortunately, Goliad Pharmacy demanded to be able to stock some of the previously mentioned drugs. Consequently, I could not renew the lease. I also resigned as a board member. I know it is not for me to tell others how to live their life. However, it is up to me to take responsibility for my life and be true to my core beliefs and values.

At this time I am not certain what business will go into the Von Dohlen Building, but I am certain it will be a business that will serve the best interests of the people of Goliad County.

Sincerely,
Tim Von Dohlen



ST. MARY PARISH CELEBRATES ALL HALLOWS EVE—Adults dressed up as saints for the children’s All Hallows Eve program at St. Mary Parish in Victoria. Pictured from left are Father Patrick Knippenberg as St. John Bosco, Ana Congdon as St. Elizabeth of Hungary, Andrew (Andy) Maul as St. Nicholas, Lucinda Cavazos as Blessed Mother Teresa, Mark Kelly as St. Maximillian Kolbe, Richard Evans as St. Thomas Aquinas, Father Dan Morales as St. Gabriel of Our Lady of Sorrows, Marie Immenhauser as St. Olga of Kiev, Bill Congdon as a Poor Soul in Purgatory, and Bosco the dog as himself!!



Military Download of the Month Club Registers First 1,000 Subscribers

Lighthouse Catholic Media program provides insightful talks on Catholic Faith to U.S. military personnel and families

WASHINGTON, D.C.— The Archdiocese for the Military Services (AMS) announced today an online program to distribute audio recordings of talks on the Catholic Faith by some of the world's top Catholic speakers to members of the United States armed forces has reached a milestone with subscriptions now surpassing the first 1,000.

The audios, produced and distributed by Lighthouse Catholic Media, a non-profit corporation based in Sycamore, Illinois, are available to U.S. military personnel and their families through the FREE Military Download of the Month Club. Subscribers receive one free mp3 download per month for the first nine months of membership, after which downloads remain available for \$1.50 per month. In the spirit of evangelization, in exchange for each \$1.50 received, Lighthouse Catholic Media provides one download to the subscriber plus one to another military member who may be interested in registration.

The talks, by prominent speakers including Dr. Scott Hahn, Ann Marie Schmidt, Matthew Kelly, and Father Larry Richards, cover a wide range of Catholic topics such as Becoming the Best Version of Yourself; Finding the Fullness of Faith; Turning Away from Sin; How to Answer the Most Common Questions Catholics are

Asked; How to Get Through Difficulties of Life; and How to Overcome Bad Habits You Don't Like to See in Yourself. They include incredible accounts of God working in people's lives.

The AMS introduced the Military Download of the Month Club on its Website at www.milarch.org/mdmc in October, 2011. Subscriptions picked up when the AMS distributed registration kits to its endorsed priests serving as chaplains at military installations around the world, encouraging Catholic servicemen and women and their families to subscribe in time for the Year of Faith, declared by Pope Benedict XVI from October 11, 2012, to November 24, 2013, to observe the 50th anniversary of the opening of the Second Vatican Council and the 20th anniversary of the promulgation of the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*.

To date, the Military Download of the Month Club has attracted 1,365 subscribers with more than 469 of those registering in the last 30 days.

Servicemen or woman can join the Military Download of the Month Club by registering at www.milarch.org/mdmckit.

Completed registration forms can be e-mailed, faxed or hard-mailed to:

Lighthouse Catholic Media
mdmc@lighthousecatholicmedia.org
303 E. State St., Sycamore, IL 60178
Fax: (815) 895-0333
Phone: (866) 767-3155

PRI launches new commercial on Megacities!

By PRI Staff

We at PRI are proud to announce the sixth episode of our highly popular YouTube cartoon series. Called "Urbanization: Who's Afraid of the Big Bad City?" it talks about why people are crowding into cities in increasing numbers.

Over the past hundred years, half the world's population has moved country to city. Megacities with ten million or more people have sprung up as countrysides have emptied out.

But urban overcrowding should not be mistaken for overpopulation. Heavy traffic, homelessness, and long lines are not symptoms of a global glut of people, but of people seeking the good life that cities offer.

"Urbanites often complain about overcrowding," says Steven Mosher, PRI's president. "Yet they enjoy the economic, educational and cultural benefits that come

from living in the city. This video will help them understand that they can't have the perquisites of city life without the people that provide them. If you don't love your neighbors you can always move to North Dakota where you won't have any."

"The fight against the myth of overpopulation does not have to be a bare-knuckled brawl," continues Mosher. "These videos are funny and easy to digest, the very opposite of Al Gore's dark and boring pronouncements on the 'dangers' of too many people. Our viewers end up considering the science that supports our pro-people position, often for the very first time. We say to our skeptics: watch, laugh, and learn."

The latest video, two minutes long, is available by visiting <http://overpopulationisamyth.com>. The series has, to date, garnered over 1,500,000 views in multiple languages.

Five Things to Remember this Month

1. The decision by the Supreme Court Nov. 26 to direct the Fourth Circuit to hear Liberty University's appeal from the dismissal of its lawsuit is the right one. There is a serious impact on religious freedom when the government can coerce a religious organization to provide sterilization and contraception, including abortion-inducing contraceptives, when these directly violate the beliefs of the religious group. The courts must consider how this impacts freedom of religion and whether it violates the Religious Freedom Restoration Act.

2. Christmas time might find some parish seminarians helping in their home parish. There are 5,015 seminarians (<http://www.usccb.org/about/media-relations/statistics/clergy-religious.cfm>) enrolled in the United States, 3,346 enrolled in diocesan seminaries and 1,669 enrolled in religious-order seminaries.

3. The coming of Advent December 2 is a time to note that there is more that unites us than divides us. For example, despite real differences in our understanding

of God, Muslims have always shown great respect for Jesus and his Mother (<http://www.usccb.org/beliefs-and-teachings/dialogue-with-others/interreligious/islam/how-mary-holds-christians-and-muslims-in-conversation.cfm>).

4. Today begins the second year of the *New Roman Missal*. What an amazing educational campaign that reached more than 18,000 parishes across the country in a short period of time. Listen to Monsignor Richard Hilgartner, executive director of the USSCB's office of divine worship, talk about the first year Missal translation at: <http://soundcloud.com/usccbmatf>.

5. God loves you!

Editor's Notes: Bolded words are links on the Web issue of *The Catholic Lighthouse*.

The USSCB has a blogspot regarding the 50th year anniversary of Vatican II: <http://usccbmedia.blogspot.com/2012/11/the-council-at-50-eastern-latin.html>.

USCCB Offers Web Resources for Advent and Christmas, including Audio Retreats

WASHINGTON—Daily suggestions for prayer, reflection and action during the Advent and Christmas seasons will be available online beginning the first Sunday of Advent, December 2. The content is presented in a clickable calendar format, with each click opening "doors" to a page of suggestions and links for that date.

The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) provides these online resources, which will be posted at www.usccb.org/prayer-and-worship/liturgical-resources/advent/ and www.usccb.org/prayer-and-worship/liturgical-resources/christmas/.

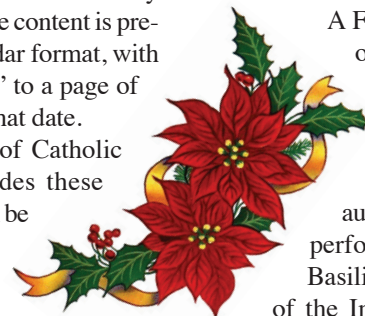
New this year are audio retreats in English and Spanish for the four Sundays of Advent and the three Sundays of the Christmas season, which concludes on January 13, 2103, with the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord.

The retreats, produced by Franciscan Media and made possible by funds from the Catholic Communication Campaign,

feature music and a Scripture reflection from a different bishop each week. The retreats are hosted by Franciscan Media's Elia Castillo.

A Festival of Lesson and Carols, a service of Scripture and song that dates to the late 19th century, is also featured for online listening or download. The audio program features music performed by the choir of the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington.

Other resources on the website include liturgical notes on Advent, a commentary on the proper prayers of the season from the Roman Missal, a list of recommended holiday-themed movies from USCCB, and prayers and blessings from the USCCB publication Catholic Household Blessings and Prayers. The page will soon feature printable calendars in English and Spanish with a daily suggestion for a family activity during Advent and Christmas.





Bishop says Israel, Hamas must make tough decisions to end violence

By Judith Sudilovsky
Catholic News Service

JERUSALEM (CNS) — The Israeli government and leaders of Hamas must make courageous decisions to end the violence that has once again forced residents of Southern Israel into their bomb shelters and residents of the Gaza Strip into their homes, said Auxiliary Bishop William Shomali of Jerusalem.

“We are sad for this escalation. It does not lead to peace but only leads to more violence,” Bishop Shomali told Catholic News Service Nov. 16. “This is a vicious circle of violence and (retaliation) is really not the solution. Courageous decisions need to be taken from the part of Israel and also on the part of Hamas not to remain in the circle of retaliation.”

He said simultaneous international intervention from Egypt and the United States is needed for the violence to stop.

“Left alone, Israel and Hamas will remain in a circle of retaliation,” he said.

“The most important thing is to find a comprehensive solution to the whole Palestinian-Israeli conflict; if not, we will remain with the same retaliations and the same problems,” he said.

Israel’s Ministry of Foreign Affairs said 120 rockets were fired into southern Israeli communities from Nov. 10 to Nov. 14, when Israel launched air strikes that targeted and killed Hamas military leader Ahmed Jabari. More than 150 Palestinians and at least three Israelis had died in the violence as of Nov. 20.

In a Nov. 15 statement, Jerusalem’s Latin Patriarch Fouad Twal expressed his deep concern at the escalation, reiterating that violence will not solve the crisis. Only a global solution can find a resolution to the conflict, said a statement from his office.

Changes coming to our Website in January

Do you like to know what’s happening to our Catholic brothers and sisters who live throughout the world?

Remember, don’t wait for the first of the month to receive the diocesan paper to see a few national and world news stories; go each day to *The Catholic Lighthouse’s* webpage and click on Catholic News Service see all of the stories.

Also, watch for changes to the Diocese of Victoria Website coming January 2013 at <http://www.victoria-diocese.org>.

“In this particular tense context, the patriarch is in solidarity with all victims who are at the center of his thoughts and prayers,” the statement said. “He also prays that all those in position of responsibility in this situation do not give in to hate.”

Throughout the crisis Zion Evrony, Israel’s ambassador to the Holy See, was making phone calls to Vatican officials and journalists to explain his country’s position.

“The Palestinian people are not our enemy; Hamas and the other terrorist organizations are,” he told Catholic News Service Nov. 19. “We deeply regret the loss of life of non-involved civilians.”

The ambassador said the Israeli government made “tens of thousands of phone calls” and dropped leaflets in Gaza advising people to stay away from Hamas organization buildings and rocket launch sites before it began its retaliation bombing.

Israel cannot “sit idly by and not respond” when Hamas now has rockets and missiles capable of striking Tel Aviv and Jerusalem, putting an estimated 3 million people at risk.

The current tension will end, he said, only when Hamas stops firing missiles and rockets into Israeli territory. But in the end, the real solution to the ongoing conflict will have to be “the existence of two states

living side by side in peace.”

Sami El-Yousef, regional director for the Catholic Near East Welfare Association’s Pontifical Mission office in Jerusalem, said he has been in touch with the organization’s partners in the Gaza Strip and it appears that Israel is specifically targeting the Hamas leadership, as opposed to the 2008 incursion that involved large-scale destruction of civilian residential areas.

“So far in this early stage we are not seeing the large-scale destruction (we saw in 2008). It remains to be seen if ... it will escalate to much greater damage,” El-Yousef said Nov. 16. As many as 1,400 Palestinians died in the 2008 incursion.

He noted that Egypt is also under a different regime, and it is likely that the borders to Gaza will be more open and accessible to moving goods and services and allow people to reach hospitals. After the election of the Hamas government in 2007, Israel blockaded the Gaza Strip, and Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak enforced the blockade during the 2008 attacks.

El-Yousef said civilians in Gaza rushed to bakeries to buy bread following the assassination of the Hamas leader, and many food stores have run out of supplies. People are under curfew and are very concerned about any possible ground operation escalating the violence.

“The next couple of days will be critical as to where this is heading,” he said. “Based on that, we need to assess the situation and decide how to respond.”

El-Yousef said he had been in Gaza three weeks earlier and “things were looking up.” CNEWA was hopeful that staffers would be able to look at sustainable issues where people could take over their lives and move out of the humanitarian needs, he said.

The situation will continue like this, he said, “unless both sides are willing to take difficult decisions.”

He said Israel was wrong to think that if it can get rid of a Hamas leader, the whole organization will collapse.

“There will be someone to replace him ... and they will have to deal with someone much worse. With each possible new person, they are dealing with a more and more extreme leadership, and the likelihood of reaching a solution becomes more difficult,” he said. “The cycle gets worse and worse. This is going nowhere and just creating more hatred.”

He said he hopes that new leaders in the Middle East might play a positive role in calming things down so that a lasting solution can be found.

“What we have now is conflict management rather than resolution,” he said.



Leaflets are seen falling over the northern Gaza Strip after being dropped by Israeli army Nov. 20. Israel dropped leaflets over numerous Gaza neighborhoods warning civilians to get out of the way, as its army prepared for a possible invasion of the enclave after seven days of Israeli airstrikes and Palestinian militant rocket fire. (CNS photo/ Ali Hassan, Reuters)