

The Catholic Lighthouse

The Cradle of Texas Immigration



VOL. 27, NO. 8

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE DIOCESE OF VICTORIA IN TEXAS

December 2013

In This Issue...

- Pg. 3 Seminary Burses
- Pg. 5 *TCL* Advertising Notice
- Pg. 6 All Saints/ All Souls
- Pg. 7 USCCB Fall Meeting
- Pg. 8 Sunday Readings including Christmas
- Pg. 10 Puzzle Contest
- Pg. 11 Events



READ ALL ABOUT IT!



Our Lady of the Gulf, Port Lavaca

Centennial commemoration at church

Our Lady of the Gulf (OLG) parish, Port Lavaca, serves OLG and the mission churches of St. Ann, St. Joseph, and St. Patrick.

The 100th anniversary as a parish on Nov. 24th included a 5:30 p.m. service followed by a procession

See Centennial, p. 4

The Advent season is upon us

According to the Merriam-Webster definition advent means "the arrival of a notable person, thing, or event." From *advenire*, in Latin, advent means "to come to." Advent is a time of preparation, directing hearts and minds to Christ's second coming. The Advent season encompasses four Sundays, as well as weekdays, to prepare for the arrival of Christmas. Focus is made on the preparation for the anniversary and celebration of the Nativity of our Lord.

Devotions during this time include the Advent wreath, the Advent calendar, and prayers.

They serve as reminders to actively participate in activities that maintain focus on renewing one's spiritual life and allow one to fully enter into the Advent season.

"Advent, this powerful liturgical season that we are beginning, invites us to pause in silence to understand a presence. It is an invitation to understand that the individual events of the day are hints that God is giving us, signs of the attention he has for each one of us."

~Pope Benedict XVI, Homily at First Vespers of Advent, November 28, 2009



Our Lady of Sorrows, Victoria

Church celebrates 100th anniversary

Our Lady of Sorrows (OLS) commemorated 100 years on November 17th. The Most Rev. David E. Fellhauer and Very Rev. J. Edward Owens celebrated Mass with concelebrants Fr. Alfonso Serna, OLS parochial administrator and Fr. Daniel Houde, OLS parochial vicar.

A procession took place from Trinity Hall to the church. After the blessing and Mass, a festival commemorating the historical event was held. Mariachis, ballet folklórico, live music and entertainment by Relampagos del Recuerdo, DJ Iceman from Magic 95, karaoke, games, information booths, food, and more were featured.

OLS parish began in the small chapel of Mission Dolores to serve the needs of a colony of Mexican-Americans in the Victoria area and its name

acknowledged the memory of Dolores Power Welder. Her son and daughter donated land and money to build the chapel. In 1913, it was dedicated by Bishop John W. Shaw.

Initially, it was a mission church of St. Mary's and Fr. Peter Baque was its leading priest. OLS was legitimately recognized as a parish and given the Our Lady of Sorrows title in 1919.

On February 22, 1930 it was partly damaged by fire. Later that same year on Nov. 15 it was reconstructed, expanded, and re-dedicated during the residency of Msgr. Salvador Marco. Fr. Julius Petru remained as the last of the archdiocesan priests to provide services to the parish.

Archbishop Robert E. Lucey requested the Trinitarian Fathers to lead the parish and its

See Church celebrates, p. 4



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Estimated Catholic population: 107,000.

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Bishop Fellhauer's Schedule

December

- 5** 6:00 p.m. Knights of St. Gregory, Christmas gathering for priests, The Club at Colony Creek, Victoria
- 6** Noon Presentation, Serra Club of Victoria, The Club at Colony Creek, Victoria
- 7** 2:00 p.m. Presidio La Bahia Awards, Goliad

5:00 p.m. Mass, Spiritual Renewal Center
6:15 p.m. Social
7:00 p.m. Bishop's Christmas Dinner
- 8** 6:00 p.m. Fourth Degree Knights of Columbus, Christmas gathering, Holy Family Church, Victoria
- 9** 10:27 a.m. Mass, St. Joseph High School, Victoria

2:00 p.m. Altar Society Christmas meeting, St. Mary Church, Victoria
- 12** 5:30 a.m. Mañanitas, Our Lady of Sorrows Church, Victoria
6:00 a.m. Mass, Our Lady of Guadalupe Feast Day, Our Lady of Sorrows Church, Victoria
- 13** 6:30 p.m. Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre of Jerusalem, Christmas gathering, Victoria Country Club, Victoria
- 18** 2:30 p.m. Diocesan Finance Board Meeting, Chancery Office

4:00 p.m. Diocesan Building Board Meeting, Chancery Office
- 23** 11:30 a.m. Chancery closes for the holidays
- 24** 4:00 p.m. Mass, Incarnate Word Convent Infirmary, Victoria

Midnight Mass, Our Lady of Victory Cathedral, Victoria
- 29** 8:30 a.m. Mass, Incarnate Word Convent, Victoria
10:00 a.m. Mass, Incarnate Word Convent, Victoria

DSA & Reflection of Faith Capital Campaign Updates

2013 DSA

Diocesan Goal:	\$1,721,343.00
Parish Pledge Totals:	\$777,102.37
Parish Contribution Totals:	\$737,866.59
Number of Parish Families Participating:	3,427

Reflection of Faith Capital Campaign

Diocesan Goal:	\$9,000,000.00
Parish Pledge Totals:	\$12,880,201.83
Parish Contribution Totals:	\$10,996,191.12
Number of Parish Families Participating:	6,770



The Chancery offices will be closed for the Christmas and New Year holidays

beginning
Dec. 23 at 11:30 a.m.
to
Jan. 1, 2014.
Offices will re-open
Jan. 2 at 8:30 a.m.

Thank you notes

Dear Bishop Fellhauer:

I extend my deepest appreciation to you and the people of the Diocese of Victoria for your generous contribution of \$114,450.87 to Catholic Relief Services (CRS). Your gift will have a profound impact on CRS' ability to raise awareness about preventative measures to fight disease and increase emergency preparedness among communities before disasters occur. CRS is able to embrace those in greatest need and multiply the effect of what we do in 91 countries because of gifts like yours. On behalf of CRS staff and those who will be touched by your gift(s), I thank you for leading the faithful in the Diocese of Victoria to live their faith in solidarity with the poor and marginalized people overseas. May God Bless you for your prayers and continued generosity.

Dr. Carolyn Y. Woo
CRS President and CEO

I would like to thank all from the diocese who participated in the *40 Days for Life* in Houston: the 8th grade class from Our Lady of the Gulf School and about 30 other parishioners from OLG and its missions; the senior class of St. Paul Catholic School, Shiner and parishioners of Sts. Cyril and Methodius Church; the senior class of Sacred Heart Catholic School, Hallettsville and some parishioners of Sacred Heart Church; the 6th grade class of Holy Cross Catholic School, Bay City and Fr. Greg Korenek and parishioners from Holy Cross Church; and Fr. Bryan Heyer and his parishioners from St. Anthony Church, Palacios. It was a sight to see! The Diocese of Victoria was well represented and we completely lined the front sidewalk of Planned Parenthood with prayer warriors armed with the prayers of the Holy Rosary. We pray through our efforts, through the intercession of our Blessed Mother who gave birth to the Author of Life, and through the mercy of God, that the facility be shut down, so it may no longer spread errors of the culture of death in our world.

Sincerely,
Fr. Tommy Chen, director
Diocesan Pro-life Concerns



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 19, 2013

	TOTALS
— General Seminary Burse	
Previously reported	\$ 103,689.00
In loving memory of Deacon A. R. "Dick" Wearden by the Wearden Family	100.00
In loving memory of Greg Bubela and Jack Cochran by Bernadette Merta	30.00
Total	\$103,819.00

— Sr. Denise Bowers, I.W.B.S. Burse #2	
Previously reported	\$200.00
In loving memory of Sr. Denise Bowers, IWBS by	
Walter and Dianne Bowers	100.00
Ralph and Alix Bowers	50.00
Clem and Shirley Chilek	40.00
M/M Daniel Chilek	30.00
Deacon Mike and Bonnie Vieira	25.00
M/M C. A. Kutchka	10.00
Total	\$455.00

— Catholic Daughters of America Court St. Ann #369 Burse #2	
Previously reported	\$10,033.99
In loving memory of Jerry "Squirrel" Krogsgaard by CDA #369	25.00
Total	\$10,058.99

— Catholic Daughters of America Our Lady Queen of Peace Court #1374	
Previously reported	\$6,727.12
In loving memory of Theresa Kubena by CDA #1374	55.00
In loving memory of Irene Sablatura by CDA #1374	55.00
Total	\$6,837.12

— Rev. Msgr. John Hanacek Burse #2	
Previously reported	\$3,126.00
In memory of my parents, Frank and Mary Jalufka and my wife, Mable Jalufka by Joe Jalufka	30.00
Total	\$3,156.00

— Rev. Charles Kolek, OSB and John and Mary Kolek	
Previously reported	\$4,540.00
In memory of Rev. Charles W. Kolek, OSB and John and Mary Kolek by descendants of Charles and Mary Kolek Kozel	300.00
Total	\$4,840.00

— Rev. Msgr. John C. Peters Burse #6	
Previously reported	\$10,445.00
In honor of Rev. Msgr. John C. Peters 65th birthday celebration by	
Alton J. Grahmann	50.00
Chris and Patty Parma	50.00
In honor of Jerry and Mary Jo Janak's 50th wedding anniversary by	
Henry and Carolyn Janak	30.00
Phillip and Evelyn Bujnoch	25.00
Larry and Doris Grubert	20.00

In memory of Mary Golsch by Pat Mladenka	20.00
In memory of Helen Mizera by Phillip and Evelyn Bujnoch	15.00
Total	\$10,655.00

— Rev. Henry C. Rachunek Burse #4	
Previously reported	\$650.00
In loving memory of Rev. Henry C. Rachunek and in honor of Rev. Charles Dwomoh by Dr. John Kieler	500.00
Total	\$1,150.00

— Rev. Msgr. Celestino Say	
Previously reported	\$10,079.00
In honor of Rev. Msgr. Celestino Say's 55th ordination to the priesthood by Alton J. Grahmann	50.00
Total	\$10,129.00

— Rev. Msgr. Benton Thurmond	
Previously reported	\$2,625.00
In loving memory of Rev. Msgr. Benton Thurmond by the Legion of Mary	25.00
Total	\$2,650.00

— Elorine Bluntzer Tumlinson	
Previously reported	\$2,090.00
In honor of Olivia McDonald's 80th birthday celebration by Charles and Kay Bluntzer	100.00
Total	\$2,190.00

— Rev. Vincent Verderame	
Previously reported	\$250.00
In loving memory of Rev. Vincent Verderame by his sister, Felicia Perrone	100.00
Total	\$350.00

Additional Burses for donations:

- Rev. Jerome J. Stryk
- Rev. Msgr. Julius Petru Burse #2
- Rev. Joe Levya
- Rev. Marcus Valenta
- Rev. Godfrey F. Kuratko
- Catholic Family Fraternal of Texas KJZT Burse #5
- Sophie Schmidt
- Rev. Sean Donohue Burse #2

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

DIOCESE OF VICTORIA
SEMINARY BURSSES
P. O. BOX 4070
VICTORIA, TX 77903

Blessings for Sacred Heart



Left to right: Fr. Daniel Danso, Bishop Fellhauer, and Msgr. John Peters.



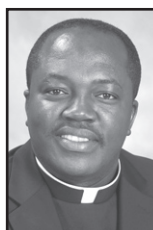
Left to right: Vic Roeber, Charles Haas, Bishop Fellhauer, and Msgr. John Peters.

The Most Rev. David E. Fellhauer recently blessed the new mausoleum at Sacred Heart Catholic Cemetery. He was assisted by Msgr. John Peters, pastor of Sacred Heart Catholic Church, Hallettsville, and Fr. Daniel Danso, associate pastor. After blessing the mausoleum, Bishop Fellhauer blessed the lighting on the bell tower at the church. Charles Haas installed the lights. Vic Roeber donated the project in honor of Msgr. John Peters' 65th birthday, his upcoming 40th anniversary of ordination, and his upcoming 20th anniversary as pastor.



The KJT St. Wenceslaus Society #40, East Bernard, recently hosted a pastry raffle for local seminarian, Stephen Vacek. The KJT State Home Office matched \$250 of the funds raised. The presentation was made at the Holy Cross Church Bazaar at Riverside Hall. Left to right: Dennis Viktorin, treasurer; Edwin Marik, president; Stephen Vacek, seminarian; Rev. Don Ruppert, chaplain; and Mark Dujka, secretary.

Happy Birthday!



Peter Oscar Amo is in his pastoral year at his home parish, Holy Family Church, Victoria. His birthday is Dec. 6. Please show your support for this seminarian by writing to: Peter Oscar Amo, Holy Family Church, 704 Mallette Dr., Victoria, TX 77904.



Max Landman is in Theology II at Pontifical College Josephinum. His birthday is Dec. 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 N. High St., Columbus, OH 43235.



Centennial commemoration at church

Continued from p. 1

outside the church. A banquet was held at St. Jude Hall.

Brief church history

Primarily, Catholicism was brought to Port Lavaca via Spanish and French explorers. They were accompanied by Franciscan and Jesuit missionaries. In the mid 1800s, priests from Victoria served the increasing congregation of Irish, French, Italian, and German settlers.

R.D. Blossman's home served as a place of worship until the first church was built in 1865. In 1886, the church was destroyed by



December 8—Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception: December 8 is a Sunday this year. Therefore, the Solemnity will be transferred to Monday, December 9, but not the obligation. Hence, it is not a Holy Day of Obligation this year.

a storm and rebuilt in 1894. Fr. W. G. Henderson blessed it on May 20, 1894. On Sept. 2, 1913 OLG was formally recognized. In 1942, a hurricane almost destroyed the church. For 8 months a chapel at Oblate Villa was used for Sunday Masses while the church underwent repairs. Mission churches expanded in the region, as did the influx of parishioners. Fr. C. Conaty helped organize a new church to be constructed in Port O'Connor. Fr. Patrick Ryan, in Jan. 1948, built St. Patrick's in Seadrift. The first Mass was said at a former army building in Point Comfort on Nov. 13, 1952. After WWII and Alcoa's arrival, a much larger church structure was needed. A blessing and laying of the cornerstone of third church took place on May 17, 1953. In 1961, another hurricane destroyed the church and hall. People raised monies to rebuild. The present church and hall were dedicated in 1963. On June 4, 1995, Bishop David E. Fellhauer appointed Fr. Dan Morales as pastor of Our Lady of the Gulf, Port Lavaca, and its missions of St. Joseph in Port O'Connor, St. Ann in Point Comfort, and St. Patrick in Seadrift. Fr. Morales helped to establish a parochial school. Bishop Fellhauer formally dedicated and blessed the school on August 14, 1996. Fr. Morales obtained services of the School Sisters of St. Francis from Panhandle, TX and in 2003, the Vietnamese Dominican Sisters of Houston to assist in staffing the school. A parish hall and day care center opened at St. Jude Hall, the former U. S. Post Office, as it was added to church property.

Current administration and clergy include:

Fr. Tommy Chen, pastor
Fr. Antonio Perez and Fr. James Kwaku Adjei-Buor, parochial vicars
Deacon Alonzo Calzado

Church celebrates 100th anniversary

Continued from p. 1

missions. Under Fathers Daniel Giorgi and Richard Toal, a time of development began. A parish hall was erected and a new rectory replaced the older one. In the following year, a new mission chapel was built in Bloomington and continued under the Trinitarians until 1958 when the new St. Patrick's Church was initiated at another location with its own resident pastor.

The start of the edifice of a new parish church to accommodate 480 persons took place on September 15, 1952. In 1960 a new two-story rectory was finished. 5 years later a new catechetical center was completed to include a growing religious education program. This CCD center had 6 classrooms and a large air-conditioned auditorium. A basement was supplemented in 1968. In March 1971, the original parish hall was modified and renamed Trinity Hall to be used for both educational and social purposes.

For the first 53 years of the parish's 61-year history, the Sisters of the Incarnate Word and Blessed Sacrament managed Our Lady of Guadalupe parish school until it was closed in 1966.

Under the pastorate of Fr. Victor Scocco, the 100-year flood of 1998 brought many changes to Victoria and OLS. The rectory and church were inundated with repairs including major termite damage in the roof.

It was determined a new church needed to be constructed. After many months of preparation and building, the new church was finished and dedicated by Bishop Fellhauer on April 9, 2003.

Fr. Juan Vasquez Rubio became pastor in 2006. Currently, OLS administrator is Fr. Alfonso Serna, OSST.

Mission statement of the parish



We, the parishioners of Our Lady of Sorrows parish, while in the process of growing in unity as the Body of Christ, will continue to be supportive of each other and respect

each person's dignity, nurturing each other by accepting everyone's ideas as gifts to the community and evaluating them on their merit. We will continue to listen to what each one has to say and respectfully consider their point of view. We will continue to strive for unity, to work for the spiritual welfare of all our parishioners, thus continuing to support all organizations and ministries. As we do this, we will continue to build bonds of mutual caring, help fulfill each other's goals and continue to grow as a Christian community.

Church history at-a-glance

- The church's early beginnings started in 1913.
- The first church/mission was the Dolores Chapel in 1919.
- Rededication of first church took place November 15, 1930.
- The second church was built in 1952.
- Dedication of present church occurred April 9, 2003.
- It is a mission church of Holy Trinity, Victoria and its feast day is September 15th.

50's Cruise

with Odessa Band
Feb. 2-9, 2014

Belize, Honduras, Cozumel

Romantic Danube River Cruise

July 25-August 2, 2014
Budapest to Nuremberg

Europe Trip - August 9-21, 2014
France, Germany, Czech Rep.
Tour Paris, Moravia, Prague,
WWII Normandy Beach Landing



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

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

If you are unsure about bringing forth a complaint or need more information, please contact: Rev. Gary Janak at (361) 575-4741.



The **San Roberto Bellarmine CDA Court #2275**, El Campo, celebrated a Memorial Mass recently with Fr. Johannes, visiting from India. The Mass was held to honor the lives of deceased CDA members Mary Helen Rivera, Yolanda Salazar, Aunt Mary Delgado, Olga Baisa, Aurora Ratcliff, Margarita Bustamante, Olga Ochoa, Henrietta Rivera, Angelita Cardenas, Guadalupe Trevino, Gloria Vela, Manuela Salinas, Irene Benavidez, Lydia Schoellmann, and Isabel Rivera. Front row, left to right: Helen Escobar, Linda Arrambide, Carmen Dominguez, Pauline Saucedo, Vicky Limas, Dorothy DeLaO, Eva Molina, Elma Escobar, Terri Beltran, Becky Estrada, Sylvia Falcon. Back Row, left to right: Josie Soliz, Maria Delgado, Mary Ellen Benavidez, Ofelia Torres, Rosie Fuentes, Mercy Arismendez, and Fr. Johannes.



St. Philip Catholic School, El Campo, held their annual Veteran's Day Program on Nov. 11. Students sang and the band performed patriotic songs (below). Area veterans were recognized for their service to our country. Conner Williams and Jeb Zalman perform utilizing hand-bells. Jake Tsika plays bass (left).



TCL advertising notice for 2014

We are updating our ads for consistency, clarity, and more up-to-date look. If you have advertised with us in the past, please know ads may be updated and refreshed. *TCL* is implementing new review and approval procedures. We thank you for your patience and assistance during this process.

Advertising requirements for *TCL* include:

- Appealing, eye-catching design
- Consistent punctuation throughout: a.m., p.m. drive-thru, to-go-plates, dine-in, etc.
- Crisp, clear, artwork (preferably not clip art)
- Updated/refreshed fonts
- Created and/or recreated in InDesign format
- If an event, required information: date, time, cost, location

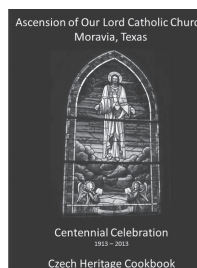
DEADLINE: Advertisements and articles must be submitted by the 15th of the month. Print date: First Wednesday of the month (subject to change).

Ad space is available! Position your organization as a key business in the Catholic publishing community and throughout the Diocese of Victoria. Advertising with *TCL* is an effective way to promote your local event, charity or business. *Advertise with us!*

For more information or to send advertising requests in InDesign format, camera-ready ads, photos in jpeg format, contact Regina Janak at (361) 573-0828 or janakr@victoriadiocese.org.



At **Our Lady of Victory School**, Victoria, 23 seventh grade students recently qualified to take the ACT or SAT test under the Duke Talent Search Identification (TIP) Program. The program identifies talented seventh graders based on standardized test scores and invites them to take the college entrance exams. Front row, kneeling, left to right: Seth Theriot, Pranav Jain, Michael Choi, Mason Tran, Cameron Hohlt, Haden Reyna, Cole Rather, and C.J. Wagner. Middle row, left to right: Alexandra Schroller, Angelina Vincent, Karishma Parikh, Vivanna Nguyen, Bailey Cisneros, Julianna Espinoza, Tatum Aigner, Monica Brown, and Avery Sparkman. Back row, left to right: Mikah Sloan, Eleanor Porr, Kaitlyn Herman, and Arielle Roberts. Not pictured are Henry Horadam and Emily Rodriguez.



Cookbooks for sale

Not sure what to give someone for Christmas? The Moravia church cookbook contains 300 recipes from parishioners for \$10 each. Books are available at Hallettsville General Store, 405 N. Texana, Hallettsville, TX, or customers can call (512) 461-3236 to place an order. Additional postage fee of \$2 per book.

LIBRARY & MEDIA CENTER



Books

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DVDs



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Allan F. Wright
Franciscan Media



Prayer: Our Deepest Longing
Ronald Rolheiser
Franciscan Media



Bambinelli Sunday: A Christmas Blessing
Amy Welborn
Franciscan Media



The Apostles: The Complete Ten-Part Series
260 min., Kultur



A Living in the Image and Likeness of God
170 min., 3-part DVD,
Oblate Media and Communication



What's Your Catholic IQ?
26 min., Oblate Media and Communication

Other new titles:

Seeds of Faith for Children
Rosemarie Gortler and Donna Piscitelli
Our Sunday Visitor

Joseph the Man Who Raised Jesus
Fr. Gary Caster, *Servant*

The Advent of Christ: Scripture Reflections to Prepare for Christmas
Edward Sri, *Servant*

First Communion
20 min., 2-segment DVD,
Oblate Media and Communication

Close Encounters with the Beatitudes
14 min., *Oblate Media and Communication*

Close Encounters with Sacraments
14 min., *Oblate Media and Communication*

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CALL (361) 573-0828 OR VISIT WWW.VICTORIADIOCESE.ORG.

Prayer

Mass

Church History

Catholic Social Teaching



Students at **Sacred Heart Catholic School**, Hallettsville, honored saints before school Mass on All Saints Day. Forty-two 2nd through 5th graders processed into church representing about 25 different holy men and women. The Litany of Saints was prayed as each saint was named. The following students participated: Mary, Mother of God: Maryn Machac, Lilly Machicek, and Lani Pilat; Mary our Mother: Arabella Arellano; Our Lady Queen of Saints: Madelyn Hynes; St. Joseph, Foster Father of Jesus: Austin Kutac; St. Anne: Bailey Haas, Arianna Henke, and Jyllian Brown; St. Padre Pio: Morgan Machac; St. Rose of Lima: Grace Henneke and Melea Henke; St. John the Apostle: Tyler Hawkins; St. Lucy: Jules Janak; St. John of the Cross: Garrett Ridgeway; St. Catherine of Alexandria: Katherine Pavliska; St. Thomas Aquinas: Joshua Griffin; St. Alexandra: Alexandra Kraatz; St. Francis of Assisi: Brady Haas, Quade Henneke, and Cole Kubicek; St. Therese of the Child Jesus: Amanda Janak, Kayla Immekus, Haley Noska, Anneliese Noska, Elena Grahmann, Braxtyn Sitka, Kenadie Feril, Allie Bludau, and Kara Immekus; St. Christopher: Peyton Cull; St. Elizabeth of Hungary: Allyshia Grahmann; St. Elizabeth Ann Seton: Bailey Schindler; St. George: John Luke Wysocki; St. Brigid: Ava Matias; St. Anthony of Padua: Dallas Layton; St. Clare of Assisi: Elizabeth Grahmann; St. Jude: William Harper; St. Agatha: Ann Estelle Brown; St. Audrey: Audrey Weber; St. Agnes: Emilie Griffin; and Venerable Jeanne de Matel: Abigail Clark.



At St. Michael's School, Weimar, Mrs. Muras' 2nd grade class presented *Saints Who Showed Remarkable Courage and Faith*, during the All Saints Mass. Children dressed in authentic costumes and carried props to represent saints. After Mass, the class visited Parkview to share the presentation and some songs with the residents. The class will continue their study of the saints and the laws of God in preparation for the sacraments of first reconciliation and first communion to take place at the end of the school year. Front row: Anastasia Klesel: St. Teresa of Avila; Ethan Stech: St. James the Lesser; Colton Lykke: St. Michael the Archangel; Kaiden Lange: St. Patrick; Rayleigh Huette: St. Clare; and Brooke Wanjura: St. Victoria. Back row: Jose Corriveau: St. Joseph; Cole Duty: St. Nicholas; Dylan Rerich: St. Padre Pio; Wyatt Lacina: St. Neol Chabanel; Brendan Brandt: St. Brendan; and Kelly McAfee: St. Joan of Arc.

An American flag sits on a gravestone topped by an angel figure at Allouez Catholic Cemetery in Allouez, Wisconsin. All Souls' Day was a day to remember all of the faithful departed. (CNS photo/Sam Lucero, *The Compass*)





Pope: Get out in the real world to find Jesus

by Carol Glatz
Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY (CNS) - People will not find Jesus by hanging out in first-class lounges or in the library, but by being out and about in the real world and in prayer, Pope Francis said.

"You can't know Jesus without getting involved with him, without betting your life on him," he said.

"You can't know Jesus in first class. You get to know Jesus out and about in your everyday, daily life."

"You can't know Jesus where it's peace and quiet, or in the library," he added.

Pope Francis emphasized it is important to read what the church has to say about Jesus.

"It's [also] necessary to know Jesus in dialogue with him, talking with him, in prayer, on your knees."



"If you don't pray, if you don't talk with Jesus, you don't know him," he said.

Studying the church's teachings helps getting to know Jesus with one's mind, and prayer helps with getting to know him with one's heart, but people also need to get to know him through action, "going with him, walking with him," the pope said.

In order to truly know Jesus, he said, people need to learn these "three languages— of the mind, heart and action."



St. Francis Xavier, St. Ignatius of Loyola, and Blessed Peter Faber are shown in an icon. Pope Francis is expected to issue a decree declaring one of his favorite Jesuits, Blessed Peter Faber, a saint. (CNS photo/courtesy of Jesuit General Curia)



Archbishop Joseph E. Kurtz of Louisville, Ky., is elected the new president of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops. He is currently the vice president and succeeds New York Cardinal Timothy M. Dolan, right. (CNS photos/Nancy Phelan Wiehchec)



Cardinal Daniel N. DiNardo of Galveston-Houston smiles after being elected the next vice president of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops.

Highlights from the USCCB fall meeting

The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) met in Baltimore, MD last month for their annual fall assembly. Agenda items discussed included electing new leaders conference president Archbishop Joseph E. Kurtz and vice president, Cardinal Daniel N. DiNardo, taking a second collection in dioceses for typhoon relief in the Philippines, reviewing efforts

to defend traditional marriage and religious liberty, and approving the development of a statement on the dangers of pornography. Bishops voted on a Spanish-language missal to be used at Mass, liturgical changes regarding the celebration of sacraments of marriage and confirmation, as well as electing additional board members to Catholic Relief Services.



A nun jumps off a tomb while another sister cleans it on the eve of All Saints' Day at the cemetery of San Salvador in Oviedo, Spain. On All Saints' Day and All Souls' Day, Nov. 1 and 2 respectively, cemeteries across the world were crowded with people paying their respects to departed loved ones by offering flowers, candles, and prayers. (CNS photo/Eloy Alonso, Reuters)

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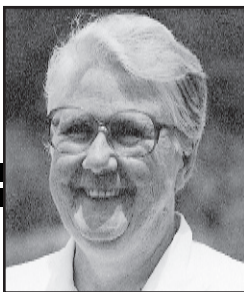
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SISTERLY THOUGHTS

by Sister Mildred Truchard, IWBS



Voices crying out in the desert

Every year during Advent I am reminded of St. John the Baptist ‘as a voice crying out in the desert’ announcing the words of the prophet Isaiah, “Prepare the

way of the Lord, make straight his paths. Every valley shall be filled and every mountain and hill shall be made low. The winding roads shall be made straight, and the rough ways made smooth...” (Isaiah 40:3-5) Let us take these words to heart as we prepare for Christmas by making straight his path through

focusing on the spiritual significance of the Incarnation of the Second Person of the Trinity without getting side-tracked by all the novelties and glitter that beckon our attention. Let us avoid the extravagance

which clouds the concept that simple gift-giving is a response to the knowledge we have been given the greatest gift possible, God’s Son. Let us choose yard and house



decorations that remind passers-by of the true meaning of the season; let our Advent practices help us experience the hope and joy that accompanies our anticipation of the celebration of the Incarnation. Watching children excitedly count down the days until Jesus’ birthday can boost our own

enthusiasm in the days ahead.

The words, “Every valley shall be filled and every mountain and hill shall be made low” is a metaphor based on the early dirt roads of Isaiah’s time that became full of ruts and ridges. Over time, the roads had to be leveled out whenever the king or some important person was expected. As we await the arrival of the king, Jesus, let us examine our own life for ruts or ridges. Are there things that we are neglecting or omitting? Or are there areas in which we are over-indulging? As we look around, what can we do for others who are lacking the necessities of life? Can we level the road by graciously sharing the abundance with which we may have been blessed?

Advent is a special time in which we can straighten the winding roads and smooth the rough ways. Through participation in prayer and enjoyment of religious songs and bright lights- all are ways of focusing on the significance of the event in which Jesus became one of us.

Let us continue to be voices in the desert calling one another to prepare for the coming of the Lord during this Advent season. Happy preparation and Christmas blessings!

Sunday Readings from Dec. 8 to Jan. 19

December 8 — Second Sunday of Advent

Isaiah 11:1-10
Psalms 72:1-2, 7-8, 12-13, 17
Romans 15:4-9
Matthew 3:1-12

December 9 — Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary

Genesis 3:9-15, 20
Psalms 98:1, 2-3AB, 3CD-4
Ephesians 1:3-6, 11-12
Luke 1:26-38

December 12 — Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe

Zechariah 2:14-17
Judith 13:18BCDE, 19
Luke 1:26-38

December 15 — Third Sunday of Advent

Isaiah 35:1-6A, 10
Psalms 146:6-7, 8-9, 9-10
James 5:7-10
Matthew 11:2-11

December 22 — Fourth Sunday of Advent

Isaiah 7:10-14
Psalms 24:1-2, 3-4, 5-6
Romans 1:1-7
Matthew 1:18-24

December 25 — Solemnity of the Nativity of the Lord (Christmas) at Midnight

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

December 29 — 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
Matthew 2:13-15, 19-23

January 1 — The Octave Day of the Nativity of the Lord Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God

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

January 5 — 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

January 12 — 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
Matthew 3:13-17

January 19 — Second Sunday in Ordinary Time

Isaiah 49:3, 5-6
Psalms 40:2, 4, 7-8, 8-9, 10
1 Corinthians 1:1-3
John 1:29-34

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

www.usccb.org/bible/readings

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Holy door in Québec

The Cathedral-Basilica Notre Dame de Québec, the first Catholic parish in French-speaking North America will soon have a holy door. The door is a symbol of communion with the universal Church and will be the first located outside of Europe. It will open Dec. 8 and remain open until Dec. 28, 2014 for the jubilee year marking the par-



ish's 350th anniversary. Three parts will commemorate the anniversary: a jubilee, a pilgrimage, and a holy door symbolizing a path towards inner peace. Notre Dame de Québec was founded September 15, 1664 by Bishop François de Laval and the first parish priest was Fr. Henri de Bernière.

Catholic by Grace

by Denise Bossert
www.catholicbygrace.blogspot.com



Advent, a time of waiting and preparation

My due date was the 26th of December, but by Christmas Eve 1985, I was ready to be done with it.

I stretched out on the bed and reluctantly prepared for another night of leg cramps and propped pillows. The Christmas presents were wrapped and ready. The Christmas cookies decorated. The overnight hospital bag was packed and waiting in the corner. My sister had arrived and was ready to look after my daughter.

Still, nothing happened.

The first pain hit at 9:30 p.m. I knew immediately that I had skipped early labor and entered active labor. At the hospital, the nurse called it precipitate delivery. There would be no time for pain medicine. I was disappointed, but at least something was happening. I would not be pregnant forever.

I looked at the clock and wondered if our baby's birthday would be Christmas Eve or Christmas Day.

Then the nurse checked the heartbeat and the questions about pain medicine and possible arrival time turned into terrible silence.

Something was wrong.

The nurse was not smiling. She just kept moving the obstetrical stethoscope from one spot to another.

"I am having trouble finding the heartbeat." After a few more attempts, she muttered something about getting the doctor, and I was left alone in the small examination room.

The wait was excruciating. I knew what labor was like. I had been through it two years earlier. I could not imagine giving birth while overcome by grief.

Sometimes, waiting is like a game. It's fun. Exciting.

Sometimes, waiting is a chore. It's demanding. Requires effort. Sometimes, waiting is agonizing. Terrifying. Earth-shattering. This pregnancy had been all of these.

Before I became Catholic, every day between Halloween and December 25th

was Christmas, not Advent. I focused on making sure the food was ready, the cards were sent, and the presents were wrapped. I prepared the house for Christmas, but I did not stop to think about how to prepare *myself* for Christmas.

Bottom line, I did not know how to wait.

As Catholics, we know that Advent is about waiting. Preparing. Journeying with Israel through salvation history. A man grows into a family. Twelve sons become twelve tribes. The tribes become a nation. Prophets, judges, and kings lead them. Everything presses on to one great event.

A young woman steps into the center of all things and says yes to the most incredible proposition of all time. God has chosen you, Mary. All creation waits for an answer.

As that final week of Advent arrives, we see clearly. This is more than a journey through time. This is a journey to a person. To the God-man. Messiah. Mary's child. God's own Son.

At times, the wait was exciting. Seas parted. Angels visited. Walls tum-

bled. A donkey talked. At times, the wait was difficult. Brothers argued. Kings failed. Generations were exiled. At times, the wait was terrifying. People died. Nations fought. God was silent.

Then, He spoke.

With one word, the waiting was over. "Unto us a child is born. Unto us a son is given. And upon his shoulders, dominion rests" (Isaiah 9:6).

Advent quietly passes. A baby cries. The wait is over.

On Christmas Eve 1985, a doctor stepped into the examination room and heard a heartbeat. My son was born at 11:53 p.m. The wait was over.

Every year, we pass through Advent and enter Christmas. The changing liturgical seasons are always fresh and new, like it is all happening right now— the waiting, the expectation, the fulfillment— and so it is.

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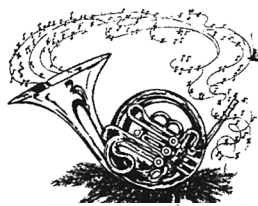
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Youth Calendar of Events

- Jan. 11-12** – Youth Leadership Training (YLT) Retreat
Jan. 26 – Confirmation Retreat, St. Mary's Church, Nada
Feb. 13 – Foundations – Justice and Service
Feb. 16 – Youth Spectacular, Holy Family Church, Victoria
Mar. 2 – Confirmation Retreat, St. Joseph's Church, Yoakum
Mar. 6 – Foundations – Ethics and Crisis Management – Policy and Procedures
Apr. 6 – Camp David Planning, Spiritual Renewal Center, Victoria
Apr. 10 – Foundations – Retreat Formation



For more information contact:
The Office of Youth Ministry
Wendy Eggert, director
Ryan Leos, associate director
ym@victoriadiocese.org
(361) 573-0828
www.victoriadiocese.org

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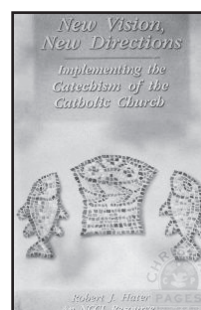
Snowflakes fall around a statue of Jesus at St. Jude Church in Mastic Beach, N.Y. last month. An arctic cold front from Canada produced snow, wind, and cold temperatures in many parts of the central and eastern U.S. (CNS photo/Gregory A. Shemitz)

Puzzle contest winners

The winner of the November puzzle contest and the book win *The Advent of Christ* by Edward Sri is Charles Youngblood of Sts. Cyril and Methodius Parish, Cistern. The winners of the children's contest are Alivia Hernandez 13-year-old, St. Agnes Parish, of Edna and Sammi Hubert, 7-year-old, of St. Philip the Apostle School in El Campo (class submission). They will receive an Advent book.

The winner of the December contest will win *New Vision, New Directions* by Robert J. Hater. The book gives a historical review of religious education in the church from the middle of the 20th century to today. It considers the Catechism of the Catholic Church in reference to the content of Jesus' story, conversion, effective methodology, and more.

If you have not won the puzzle contest within the past six months, please mail a completed December puzzle form by December 23, 2013 to *The Catholic Lighthouse*, P.O. Box 4070, Victoria, TX 77903 for a chance to win!



The **Junior Catholic Daughters of Americas #206**, Yoakum, donated \$150 to the local community's Yoakum Food Pantry last month. Delbert and Barbara Maggard, pantry representatives, received the donation to purchase essential items. The pantry currently serves 500 families in Yoakum.



The **Junior Catholic Daughters of Americas #206**, Yoakum, participated in the annual Crop Hunger Walk Nov. 16 at the City Park Pavilion. Hungry people in developing countries typically walk as many as 6 miles per day to get food, water, and fuel. JCDA#206 walked in hopes to end hunger, one step at a time. Nearly \$200 was raised and 25% of the funds will benefit the local community's food bank.



Behold the rainbow! Then bless its Maker, for majestic indeed is its splendor; It spans the heavens with its glory, the hand of God has stretched it out in power.

~ Sirach 43:11-12

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EVENTS

The Catholic Lighthouse
Page 11 — December 2013

Special Collections

Fund for Retired Religious - Dec. 7-8
Church in Latin America - Jan. 25-26

Ministries • Ongoing Activities

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

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

Engaged Encounter—2014 dates: Jan. 17-19 (5 openings left), April 11-13, June 27-29 and Sept. 26-28 at the Spiritual Renewal Center. Registrations are on a first come, first serve basis. Fee must accompany registration form. For a registration form, contact your pastor. For more information, call (361) 573-0828 x2230 or visit www.victoriadiocese.org and click on the Ministries tab followed by Family Ministry.

Gabriel Project—Helps women experiencing a crisis pregnancy—an alternative to abortion. Meetings are held the 2nd Tuesday of each month at 6:30 p.m. at 101 W. Convent. Light supper included. For angel workshop/training dates, contact Barbara at (361) 649-1612 or barbaramccain85@yahoo.com. Holy Family, Wharton, meetings are held the 4th Tuesday of each month at 6:30 p.m. For more information, call (979) 532-3593, M-F, 9:00 a.m.-4:30 p.m. or visit www.gabrielproject.com.

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

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

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

Natural Family Planning—For more information on the introductory session to the Creighton Model Fertility Care System (CrMS) featuring NaPro technology, contact Susanne Koch at (505) 710-0903 or susannekoch614@gmail.com.

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

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

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

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

St. Francis and St. Clare Fraternity/Secular Franciscans—For

meeting dates in Victoria, contact Mary Ann LeBlanc at (361) 575-1858 or visit www.lostrescompaneros-sfo.org.

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

Events • Picnics

December

Cuero—Santa's Christmas Bazaar Dec. 7 at St. Michael's Parish Hall 9:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m. Arts, crafts, gifts, and concessions available. 11:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m. lunch. Professional photographer for Santa photos begins at 9:00 a.m. For more information, call (361) 277-3854 or visit www.stmichaels-cuero.org.

Hallettsville—Sacred Heart Catholic School Blood Drive Dec. 9 from 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. at the Family Center.

January

Edna—St. Agnes Parish is sponsoring a *Celebration of Life* program Jan. 15 at 7:00 p.m. at the Jackson County Services Building. All denominations, youth and adults, from Jackson and surrounding counties are welcome. The program will focus on the importance, sanctity and needed respect for all life. Admission is free and refreshments will be served.

February

Hallettsville—Sacred Heart Catholic School holds an *Evening in the Orient* Extravaganza Feb. 1 at the KC Hall. 6:00 p.m. social. 7:30 p.m. dinner. Music by Cactus Country. Only 250 tickets will be sold. \$125 admits two people. For tickets, call SHCS at (361) 798-4251 or the Rectory at (361) 798-5888.

Conferences • Masses • Retreats

ACTS Retreats—For information, visit www.actsmissions.org.
Beaumont—The 52nd Annual Southwest Liturgical Conference (SWLC) Study Week Jan. 22-25 at the Ford Park Event Center and MCM Elegante Hotel. For more information, call (409) 924-4300 or visit www.dioceseofbmt.org or www.swlc.org.

Corpus Christi—Diocese of Corpus Christi Ministry Conference Jan. 11 at the American Bank Center. \$30 p/p before Dec. 16; \$40 p/p at the door. Dr. Peter Murphy, executive director, USCCB, secretariat for evangelization and catechesis will be the keynote speaker. For more information, contact Nellie Serna at (361) 882-6191, nserna@diocesecc.org, or visit www.diocesecc.org/ministryconference.

Flatonia—The annual Mass of the Holy Innocents Dec. 28 at 10:30 a.m. Raphael's Refuge. Fr. Tommy Chen will be the celebrant with Msgr. Joseph Hybner concelebrating. Refreshments will be served following Mass. The Refuge is located at 2715 West Highway 90, two miles outside of Flatonia. For more information, contact Midge Elam at (361) 365-3021 or midge-el@att.net.

Houston—The Diocese of Beaumont Youth Convention June 25-28 at Hyatt Regency. For more information, visit www.dioceseofbmt.org.

San Antonio—Begin Lent with the Catholic Men's Conference March 7-8, 2014 at St. Matthew Catholic Church. Get empowered, inspired, and challenged by speakers Archbishop Gustavo Garcia-Siller, MSPS; Fr. Nathan Cromly, CSJ; Tim Staples of Catholic Answers and more.

Tivoli—Our Lady of Guadalupe Church celebrates the Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament the 1st Friday of each month at 6:00 p.m. Mass begins at 7:00 p.m. at 501B William St. with Rev.

Paulson Panakal. Mark your calendars now for next month. For more information, call (361) 237-3634.

Victoria—Amor Meus *Celebrating the Incarnation in Ordinary Time* Guided Retreat Jan. 11 from 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Father Martin Iott, OP. For more information, call (361) 575-7111.

Victoria—Come and See Discernment Weekend for single Catholic women 18 to 50 years of age Jan. 11-12 at Incarnate Word Convent. For more information, call (361) 575-7111, e-mail iwbsvoc@yahoo.com, or visit www.iwbsvictoria.org.

Victoria—Holy Family Catholic Church Women's ACTS Retreat Jan. 23-26 at the Spiritual Renewal Center. For more information contact, Terre Davidson at (361) 649-3893, Denise McMahan at (361) 275-4758, or Donna Vanek (361) 648-6266.

Victoria—Our Lady of Lourdes holds Healing Mass and Prayer the 1st Saturday of each month at 10:00 a.m. at 105 N. William St. with Fr. Phi Nguyen, chaplain of IWBS Convent. Mark your calendars now for next month. For more information, contact Sister Louise Marie Jones at iwbsvoc2@yahoo.com.

Victoria—Prayer Circles: December 3, 10, 17 (Advent) in Amor Meus Prayer Room at Incarnate Word Convent. Tuesdays: 10:00 a.m.-11:30 a.m. Prayer Circles are small groups (10 or less) coming together for prayer. These may include Scripture reading, faith sharing, Lectio Divina, rosary and others. Attendance every week is not required. For more information call, (361) 575-7111.

Waco—The Diocese of Austin holds Diocesan Catholic Youth Conference (DCYC) *Ablaze* Jan. 17-19 at Waco Convention Center. For more information, call (512) 949-2464 or visit www.austindiocese.org.



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Bay City, TX 77414
(979) 245-0694

Luan_tran@sbcglobal.net





Girls' session attendees. Front row, left to right: Melani Guzman and Allison Rosa. Back row, left to right: Sydney Peters, Kennslee Coulter, Karlee Marthiljohni, and Sr. Mildred Trouchard, Sr. Louise Marie Jones, and Sr. Amata Hollas, IWBS vocation directors.

The Catholic Daughters of the Americas, St. Theresa the Little Flower #1350, Edna, recently sponsored a vocations seminar for the junior high and high school Confraternity of Christian Doctrine (CCD) students of St. Agnes Church. Joan Dees, vocations chairperson, organized the presentation representatives of the Incarnate Word and Blessed Sacrament Order, Victoria, spoke with the girls and Victoria Diocesan priests met with the boys regarding vocational roles. Over 100 students were in attendance with CCD teachers and aides present.

Prayer for the Perservance of Vocations

O God, you have constituted Your only begotten Son supreme and eternal Priest for the glory of Your majesty and the salvation of mankind.

Grant that those whom He has chosen ministers and dispensers of His mysteries may be found faithful in fulfilling the ministry they have received.



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CELEBRATION

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- ✓ Letters to Santa & ornament decorating
- ✓ CHRISTUS Health Plan personnel onsite providing Medicaid and CHIP program information
- ✓ Great giveaways, balloon animals, face painting and more
- ✓ Holiday health tips from community partners
- ✓ Hugs and fun with Cuddles, our teddy bear mascot

Dec. 14th • 12pm - 4pm • Victoria Mall



CHP-HolidayNews-100113

For questions, call 1-877-428-3057. www.christushealthplan.org

Boys' session attendees. Front row, left to right: Logan Carroll, Cameron Hollas, Angel Rubio, Fernando Rubio, Ethan Johnson, and Zachary Johnson. Back row, left to right: Rev. Dan Morales, pastor of Holy Family Church and vocations director of the Diocese of Victoria; Rev. Michael Petering, pastor of St. Agnes Church; and Peter Oscar Amo, seminarian at Holy Family Church; A.J. Garcia, Landon Myers, and Dalton Martin.



Sacred Heart Catholic School celebrates birthday of alumnus

Lena (Grahmann) Grafe is the oldest alumnus of Sacred Heart Catholic School, Hallettsville, and recently celebrated her 104th birthday. She started school at Sacred Heart in 1916 and made her first communion on April 3, 1918. She lived with her grandparents, Joseph and Pauline Leopold in order to attend the school. She followed the footsteps of her mother Mary Louise Leopold and father Theodore Grahmann, both of whom attended the school between 1890 and 1902. Her husband, Victor Grafe, also attended and together they made the sacrifices necessary for all of their five children to graduate from Sacred Heart.

Mrs. Grafe has many memories of Sacred Heart. She remembers some of her schoolmates, all of whom have preceded her in death. She recalls a special memory of a building, which housed laundry and a kitchen where Sister Martha and another sister worked. When students were nearby, she says the sisters would give them freshly-baked cookies.

Lena Grafe lived alone after her husband's death in 1977, until she was 98½. Then, after a short stay in the hospital, she went to Hallettsville Rehab and Nursing Center for therapy. Knowing that being wheelchair bound and unable to take care of herself, she decided to stay. She has been happy there for the past 5½ years. She has 5 children, 12 grandchildren, 18 great-grandchildren and 1 great-great grandchild. She surprises many when she calls someone by name that she has not seen for many years.

At her birthday party, Msgr. John Peters

asked, "How are you feeling today?" She quickly responded, "with my fingers." She says, "They call me the lady who doesn't need a doctor." After Mass the next day, on her birthday, many came to greet her.



Left to right: David Smolik, Sacred Heart Catholic School principal, Lena Grafe, and Sister Emiliana.

To each she said, "If you had been at my party yesterday you would have gotten a big piece of cake. We had a big beautiful cake."

Mrs. Grafe has surpassed Josie Smolik, David Smolik's mother's record and alumnus of Sacred Heart, who died shortly after her 104th birthday.

Continuing the tradition, Mrs. Grafe's daughter, Sister Emiliana, is a teacher at Sacred Heart.

Sadly, Lena Grahmann Grafe passed away Dec. 1st. She was the oldest parishioner of Sacred Heart Church and possibly the oldest resident of Hallettsville.