Disciples on the Journey resonates during Lenten season

For a couple of years, the Sisters of the Incarnate Word and Blessed Sacrament have written, edited, and printed the book, Disciples on the Journey. Sr. Digna Vela, Sr. Marian Sturm, Sr. Clare Underbrink, and Sr. Mildred Truchard wrote the commentaries, prayers, and faith-sharing questions. It also provides saints of the week, excerpts from the Pope, and sections for individual comprehension and reflection. Each year, over 15,000 books in English and Spanish are sold to parishes in the diocese and throughout the U.S.

For each week during Lent, the book contains:
- Opening and closing prayers with rituals
- Commentary on the Sunday readings (Cycle for the current year and Cycle A Scrutiny readings in Cycles B and C)
- Memory verses and inspirational excerpts
- Questions for faith-sharing and discussions
- Suggestions for prayer, service, and actions to foster an awareness for living as disciples of Jesus...and more!

Meet Sr. Digna Vela

I am responsible for the overall running of the program which includes editing, advertising, taking orders, and the business aspect of this ministry. Sr. Mildred Truchard, Sr. Donna Bonorden, Sr. Clare Underbrink, Chris Alavez, and myself make up the core team who plan, vision, and strategize on ways to make this ministry the best it can be for the people of God.

I believe in the value of coming together in small groups to share faith, especially using the Sunday readings. The Sisters of the Incarnate Word and Blessed Sacrament have graciously accepted from Bishop Fellhauer, Disciples on the Journey, an evangelizing ministry which was begun in the Ecclesiastical Office of the Diocese of Victoria as a follow-up to Disciples in Mission, a Paulist evangelization and parish renewal program.

For 14 years, I have participated in a faith-sharing group outside the conven. I have been touched and changed by reflecting on and discussing the Lenten Scriptures as well as by the inspiring testimonies and personal sharing of the members. See Disciples on the Journey, p. 9.

Catholic schools’ employees years of service

10 Years
- Marta Gonzalez (HC)
- Jerry Lipinski (HC)
- Lena Uresti (NA)
- Roseanna Villafranca (OLV)
- Elizabeth Terry (OLV)
- Sharon Hajovsky (SAS)
- Lena Barrera (SCS)
- Pam Bohuslav (SH)
- William Harrison (SH)
- Forrest Sevcik (SH)
- Mary Louise Garcia (SJHS)
- Lisa Pettrisky (SJHS)
- Mike Pettrisky (SJHS)
- Samantha Denton (SMSC)
- JoBeth Stiles-Caskey (SMSC)
- Claudia Murtaugh (SMSW)
- Connie Hlavaty (SPS)
- Lena Tupa (SPS)
- Linda Besetzny (SRS)

15 Years
- Denise Cooper (OLV)
- Ilia Gomez (OLV)
- Diana Kubenka (OLV)
- Georgiana Stockton (OLV)
- Kristin Clark (SJHS)
- Connie Boedeker (SMSC)
- Lynette Strndael (SPS)

20 Years
- Judith Korenek (NA)
- Sr. Donna Bonorden (OLV)
- Maxine Hawes (OLV)
- Karen Rau (OLV)
- Lucy Rodriguez (OLV)

25 Years
- Mita Bossley (HC)

35 Years
- Wanda Boyd (SJHS)
Bishop Fellhauer’s Schedule

February
8  5:30 p.m. Mass, Cub Scouts and Boy Scouts Religious Awards, Our Lady of Victory Cathedral
9  4:00 p.m. Ladies Valentine Mass, 4th Degree Knights of Columbus, Assembly #1131, St. Andrew Church, Hillje followed by dinner at Mikeska’s, El Campo
10  5:00 p.m. Diocesan Liturgy Commission meeting, Chancery Office
16  5:00 p.m. Mass, Youth Spectacular, Holy Family Church, Victoria
19  11:30 a.m. Mass, Catholic Schools’ Principals’ Retreat, Spiritual Renewal Center
      4:00 p.m. Diocesan Building Board meeting, Chancery Office
26  10:00 a.m. Presbyteral Council meeting, Chancery Office
28  8:05 a.m. School Mass and visit classrooms, St. Michael Church, Cuero
      1:00 p.m. Golf Tournament, Cuero
March
2  10:00 a.m. Confirmation Mass, St. Mary’s Church, Nada
4  6:30 p.m. Distinguished Alumni Award Dinner, Hilton Garden Inn, Victoria
5  10:20 a.m. Mass, St. Joseph High School, Victoria
8  5:30 p.m. Mass, Girl Scouts Religious Recognition Awards, Our Lady of Victory Cathedral
9  3:00 p.m. Diocesanwide Rite of Election, Call to Continued Conversion, Our Lady of Victory Cathedral

DSA & Reflection of Faith Capital Campaign Updates

2013 DSA
Diocesan Goal:                         $1,721,343.00
Parish Pledge Totals:               $916,784.44
Parish Contribution Totals:       $894,341.90
Number of Parish Families Participating:  3,649

The 2014 Diocesan Services Appeal will begin March 1.

Reflection of Faith Capital Campaign
Diocesan Goal:                         $9,000,000.00
Parish Pledge Totals:               $12,889,944.90
Parish Contribution Totals:       $11,011,024.62
Number of Parish Families Participating:  6,777

The National Association of Catholic Chaplains cultivates the chaplaincy ministry and advocates for the profession of spiritual care. It also educates, certifies, and supports chaplains, clinical pastoral educators, and all members involved in the healing ministry of Jesus in the name of the Church. For prayer resources and more information, visit www.nacc.org.

Official Appointments by Most Rev. David E. Fellhauer

Effective January 14, 2014, the Rev. P. Guillermo Palacio Barrera, OSS.T., has received the Priestly Faculties of the Diocese of Victoria for ministry at Our Lady of Sorrows Church and Santisima Trinidad Chapel, Victoria.

Thank you notes

Dear Bishop Fellhauer:
As the personal representative of the Holy Father in the U.S., I write with gratitude for the check in the amount of $15,018.49, which you sent as the Peter’s Pence contribution from the Diocese of Victoria.
May God, who is infinitely generous, reward you and continue to bless you and the faithful under your pastoral care.
With prayerful regards,
Carlo Maria Viganò
Apostolic Nuncio of the U.S.

Dear Bishop Fellhauer:
On behalf of the Subcommittee for the Church in Latin America, I would like to express my gratitude for the generous contribution of $27,127.04 to the 2013 Collection for the Church in Latin America. Without you, our solidarity could not take shape into concrete programs that support and spread the faith among the people of Latin America. On behalf of the subcommittee and those who benefit from the collection, I offer you my humble thanks.

Yours in Christ,
Most Rev. Eusebio L. Elizondo
 Auxiliary Bishop of Seattle
Chairman, USCCB Subcommittee on the Church in Latin America

New Pastoral Institute Classes

The 6-week Liturgy course will be taught by Deacon Chuck Glynn. Dates: Feb. 18, 25, Mar. 4, 18, 25 and Apr. 1 (skipping Mar. 11) Times: 9:15 a.m.-11:30 a.m. or 7:00 p.m.-9:15 p.m.
Classes will be available at Holy Cross, East Bernard; via distance learning at the Chancery, Victoria and St. Ann’s, Point Comfort. To register, contact Sherry Kainer at (361) 573-0828 x2223 or pisecretary@victoriadiocese.org.
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 January 24, 2014

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<th>Previously reported</th>
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<td>Rev. Theophil Okrulhik and Rev. Vincent Verderame</td>
<td>Previously reported</td>
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<td>A donation by Grace E. Rigamonti in loving memory of Eddie Rigamonti, Rosemary Hebner, Gertrude Eichholz, Delphine A. Easley, Marjorie Watts, Billy Wayne</td>
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TOTALS

As of January 24, 2014

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There are many other existing seminary burses to contribute to that are not listed above.

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 BURSES
P. O. BOX 4070
VICTORIA, TX 77903

GetCatholicTV.com

Did you know?

The Diocese of Victoria provides many services from the:
- Business Office
- Catholic Cemeteries Office
- Catholic Schools Office
- Safe Environment Office
- Spiritual Renewal Center
- Office of Vocations...

and more!

For more information, contact:

The Diocese of Victoria
1505 E. Mesquite Lane • Victoria, TX 77901
(361) 573-0828 • www.victoriadiocese.org

Holy Family Church Altar Society, Victoria, will hold a Games Party Feb. 27 and feature a raffle, door prizes, silent auction, and refreshments. Left to right: Melicent Bryarlwy, reservation chairman; JoAnn Jalufka, general chairman; Jackie Slusher, president; Fr. Dan Morales, pastor at Holy Family; Dorothy Rehak, silent auction chair; Neicy Hasek, co-chairman and Rosie Olsovsky, silent auction co-chair. For more information view, Events on pg. 11.

From the Catholic Schools Office

The Diocese of Victoria Catholic Schools system joined millions of other students of Catholic school communities around the nation in special Masses, community service projects, fun-filled games and events, and other singular merriments marking the week-long occasion. We invited everyone to join our celebrations, visit our schools, acquaint themselves with our schools’ long-standing past, participate in our schools’ impactful present, and invest energies in our schools' anticipated, incredible, far-reaching future! Please view pages 6 and 7 for more CSW!

~John Quary
Superintendent of Catholic Schools
Diocese of Victoria

Europe Trip
August 9-21
France, Germany, Czech Rep., Paris, Moravia, Prague, Bohemia, WWII Normandy Beach & Plzen Museums, Rivercruise, Freinstat, Koliba’s Dinner Party
Tour Guide Speaks English
Small Group – 11 Seats Left

Caribbean Cruise
June 30
Cozumel • Belize • Honduras

ABCATS TRAVEL • (361) 578-0828
www.abcatstravel.com
Ceremony honors veterans at St. John’s Cemetery

Volunteers placed green pine wreaths with red ribbons on 62 veterans’ graves at St. John Catholic Church Cemetery in Hungerford, TX. The wreath-laying ceremony was part of Wreaths Across America, a 20-year-old, national event. It began when the Worcester Wreath Company started a tradition of placing wreaths on the headstones of the nation’s fallen heroes at Arlington National Cemetery. Thousands of volunteers organize local ceremonies, raise funds to sponsor wreaths, and participate in ceremonies. The program’s mission is to remember, honor, and teach about the service and sacrifices of veterans, active military, and their families.

This ceremony was organized locally by Sarah Hudgins of Hungerford and Dorothy Viktorin of Wharton. Representatives of American Legion Post #87, Wharton, and the ROTC of Wharton High School participated in the ceremony. Similar ceremonies were held at Holy Cross Cemetery, East Bernard, and the Wharton County Veterans Memorial on the Courthouse Square in Wharton.

For more information, visit www.wreathsacrossamerica.org.

‘Celebration of Life’ program well attended

St. Agnes Catholic Church, Edna, sponsored a ‘Celebration of Life’ Program last month. Fr. David Murff, pastor of The First Assembly of God Church, offered the Invocation. Lane Johnson, Gulf Bend Center/Victoria; Peter Oscar Amo, seminarian/Diocese of Victoria; and Stacy Milberger, Adult Literacy Council/Victoria addressed the audience. Tommy Schlein, Christian music recording artist, provided music. Inspirational prayers were offered by Janice Ohrt, Diocesan Council of Catholic Women. A testimonial poem written by Cathryn Rutledge was read by Karole Johnson, Gulf Bend Center/Victoria; Peter Oscar Amo, seminarian/Diocese of Victoria; and Stacy Milberger, Adult Literacy Council/Victoria addressed the audience. Tommy Schlein, Christian music recording artist, provided music.

Rev. Charles Dwomoh, pastor of St. John’s Catholic Church, Hungerford, blesses the wreaths.

Sister M. Genevieve Zavrel, 96, of Victoria, died Jan. 14, 2014. She was born Sept. 19, 1917, in Cameron, TX to the late Vladimir and Mary Ann (Skle- nar) Zavrel. She was a Catholic and a member of the Sisters of the Incarnate Word and Blessed Sacrament (IWBS). She received her elementary education at St. Mary’s School, Marak, TX and graduated from St. Ludmila Academy, Shiner, TX. She entered the convent in Shiner on Sept. 3, 1933 and received the habit of the Sisters of the IWBS on Sept. 5, 1934. She made first profession of vows on September 7, 1935 and pronounced final vows on Oct. 1, 1938. Sr. Genevieve received a BA degree with a major in English and a minor in Spanish from Incarnate Word College, San Antonio, TX. She also held a permanent elementary teacher certificate and a professional all-level librarian certificate. During her years of active ministry, she taught at St. Ludmila Academy, Shiner; St. John School, San Marcos; Holy Trinity School, Duquesne, Pa., St. Agnes School, San Antonio; St. Michael School, Weimar; Holy Trinity School, Falls City; St. Mary School, Nada; Holy Cross School, East Bernard; Falls City Public School, Nazareth Academy, Victoria; Sacred Heart School, La Grange and St. Joseph School, Yoakum. She also served as librarian at St. Ludmila Academy, Shiner, for 4 years. When she retired from her ministry in education, she was assigned to Incarnate Word Convent where she assisted in caring for the aging and infirmed sisters of the congregation. She enjoyed sewing and crafts and began her Apostolate of Prayer and Suffering. She is buried at Catholic Cemetery No. 3. Memorials may be made to Incarnate Word Convent, Hospice of South Texas, or donor’s choice.

‘Celebration of Life’ program well attended

St. Agnes Catholic Church, Edna, sponsored a ‘Celebration of Life’ Program last month. Fr. David Murff, pastor of The First Assembly of God Church, offered the Invocation. Lane Johnson, Gulf Bend Center/Victoria; Peter Oscar Amo, seminarian/Diocese of Victoria; and Stacy Milberger, Adult Literacy Council/Victoria addressed the audience. Tommy Schlein, Christian music recording artist, provided music. Inspirational prayers were offered by Janice Ohrt, Diocesan Council of Catholic Women. A testimonial poem written by Cathryn Rutledge was read by Karole Hinojosa, a religious education student from St. Agnes. Fr. Michael Petering, pastor of St. Agnes Catholic Church, delivered the Benediction. Awareness bracelets, Precious Baby Feet pins, and refreshments were provided to nearly 160 attendees.

Lent begins
March 5.

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) 575-0828;
- Call Rev. Gary Janak (361) 575-4741 or Sr. Emilie Eilers (361) 575-7111, Coordinators of Pastoral Care and Outreach;
- 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.
Black History Month began in 1926 and each year beginning Feb. 1, month-long events are planned nationwide honoring the history and contributions of African Americans. This year’s theme is Civil Rights in America. It is important to remember “many well-known people came before us,” said Donna Toliver Grimes, assistant director of African American affairs for the USCCB’s Secretariat of Cultural Diversity in the Church.

Notable people and groups include: The Colored Female Roman Catholic Beneficial Society was established in 1828. Mother Elizabeth Lange founded the Oblate Sisters of Providence in 1829. Her sainthood cause was opened in 1888 and was approved unanimously by U.S. bishops in 1997. She was declared venerable in 2010. Pope Gregory XVI condemned the slave trade in the document, In Supremo Apostolatus, in 1839. Fr. Augustine Tolton, a former slave, was the first U.S.-born African-American priest. He was ordained in 1866. He founded the first black Catholic church in Chicago. His sainthood cause was opened in 2010. Fr. James A. Healy, of mixed African and Irish ancestry, was named bishop of Portland, Maine in 1874 and served until 1900. In 1909, several Josephite fathers founded the Knights and Ladies Auxiliary of St. Peter Claver. The first seminary for African Americans was founded at Greenville, Mississippi by the Society of the Divine Word in 1920. St. Katherine Drexel founded Xavier University in Louisiana in 1925. Eleonora Figaro was the first African American woman to receive the Church’s Pro Ecclesia et Pontifice in 1949. The National Office for Black Catholics was organized in 1970. Sr. Thea Bowman, a Franciscan Sister of Perpetual Adoration, created the first edition of Lead Me, Guide Me, an African American Catholic hymnal, and co-founded the Institute for Black Catholic Studies at Xavier University in 1980. Dolores B. Grier was the first laywoman to hold the position of president of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, will be featured.

Part of MAC’s mission involves forming Catholic leaders for faith-filled service. For more information, visit www.midatlanticcongress.org.

Mid-Atlantic Congress to meet

The Mid-Atlantic Congress (MAC) will be held Feb. 27-Mar. 1 at the Baltimore Hilton Hotel in Maryland. Themes include: Journey with Christ in Faith, Journey with Christ in Worship, and Journey with Christ in Witness. Various sessions and speakers, resources, networking, and leadership, diversity, and technology tracks will be presented to provide skills development and enrichment. Several keynote speakers, including The Most Rev. Joseph E. Kurtz, recently named president of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, will be featured.

33 days of prayer

On Feb. 20, the Diocese of Austin will start 33 days of preparation prayer for Total Consecration to Jesus through Mary. Each day of prayer represents one year in the life of Christ and is done privately in homes using a consecration preparation book. All are invited renew their consecration to Jesus through Mary at a Mass on March 25.

For more information, visit www.TexasToJesusThroughMary.org.

Celebrate Feb. 9

The mission of Worldwide Marriage Encounter is to proclaim the value of marriage and holy orders in the church and in the world.
The theme for the national Catholic Schools Week (CSW) 2014 was Catholic Schools: Communities of Faith, Knowledge and Service focusing on the principles of a Catholic education. Also, the new brand marked the 40th anniversary of the annual event which began in 1974. Schools celebrated with Masses, open houses, and other activities for students, families, parishioners, and their communities Jan. 26-Feb.1.

“Our schools have educated millions of young people over the years by providing them a superior academic background, always pointing the way to eternal life,” said Archbishop George Lucas of Omaha, Nebraska, chairman of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) Committee on Education. “The success of Catholic schools in handing on the faith, generation after generation, is a bright light in the history of the Church in the U.S.”

About 2.1 million students are currently educated in more than 6,600 Catholic schools in cities, suburbs, small towns and rural communities around the country. Students receive an excellent, faith-filled education preparing them for the challenges of higher education and a competitive world. An estimated 99 percent of student graduate from high school and 85 percent of Catholic school graduates attend college.

For more information, visit www.nceea.org or www.usccb.org.

Nazareth Academy (NA), Victoria, began CSW by celebrating Mass at Our Lady of Victory Cathedral with St. Joseph High School and Our Lady of Victory School. NA students served the community by donating items to and working at Victoria Christian Assistance Ministry, and the food bank, visiting a senior citizens center, and presenting the Victoria Fire Department with gift baskets and thank you notes.

NA is owned and operated by the Sisters of the Incarnate Word and Blessed Sacrament. We are blessed to have their support and prayers as we begin early planning for a capital campaign. The campaign will allow us to put in new windows and obtain a heating ventilation and air conditioning system. Our goal is to have this project finished by our 150th anniversary, Jan. 2017.

For more information, call (361) 573-6651 or visit www.nazarethacademy.org.

At Our Lady of the Gulf Catholic School (OLG), Port Lavaca, the collaboration between parents, families, and volunteers are one of the most precious resources our school possesses to maintain our buildings, market our schools, and raise funds to help with our tight budgets. Last year, OLG focused on getting a truer measure of the hours and types of services contributed to the school. A goal of 1,400 volunteer hours was set and by the end of the year, over 4,116 hours of service was recorded.

The tracking process continues to be refined and modest volunteers’ actions can be an inspiration for others. This year, the school has tracked nearly 1,700 hours- not including all the amazing contributions made during CSW! For more information, call (361) 552-6140 or visit www.olgmariners.org.

Sacred Heart Catholic School (OLV), Victoria, has become the first school in the Diocese of Victoria to adopt the Superkids Reading Program for Pre-K (or kindergarten) through 2nd grades. It is a research-based reading curriculum dedicated to improving reading in the primary grades.

Also, this is the 2nd consecutive year Sacred Heart won 1st place in the Dia del Rio Watershed Study Project. The high school’s AP Biology Class received the 1st place trophy for the Best of Texas Basins. The study included 130 school groups from Texas, New Mexico, and Colorado, as well as the country of Mexico.

Sacred Heart Catholic School adopted the Reasoning Mind (RM) Math Program for 2, 3, and 4 grades as a supplemental program to the core math program. The mission of RM is to provide a first-rate math education for every child.

Sacred Heart is also advancing development of The Future Starts Here - The Future Starts Now: A Capital Campaign.

For more information, call (361) 798-5349 (elementary) or (361) 798-4251 (high school) or visit www.smhschool.org.

At St. Anthony Catholic School, Columbus, we create student teams for PreK-4 through 8th grade. Each teacher leads a team and together with the students, they decide inspirational names to coincide with the CSW theme. We started the week participating in the Walk for Life, joining our community in faith. On Sunday, we celebrated with our faith community during Mass. School attendees entered church wearing team colors and carrying banners displaying team names.

Also, we participated in many activities including a school-wide rosary, a Spelling Bee, practice for a PSAI Academic Meet, and our 9th Annual Field Day. Teams cleaned the school and neighborhood. We prepared care packages and wrote letters to soldiers serving overseas. We also organized a shoe drive and shared a meal prepared by a local charity group. Our week concluded with Mass, a team lunch, and
YOUTH

St. Joseph Catholic School, Yoakum, celebrated a special Liturgy with the students singing and 8th graders leading in the parts of the Mass to begin CSW. Afterwards, an Open House was held to view new renovations of the school. Family, students, and friends visited a book fair in the library and the viewed displays of students’ work and projects in the classrooms. Students organized a ‘Thank You for Your Service’ project as cards and homemade baked goods were distributed to the Yoakum fire and police stations, hospital, and Yoakum I.S.D. Students’ decorated bookmarks were donated to the public library. Valentine cards were presented to nursing home residents. Students collected coins for ‘Pennies for Patients’ to support the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society. As an ongoing project for the year, older students tutored younger students as a service in the community.

Fr. Matthew Huehlefeldt gave a special blessing for all military soldiers. Students prepared a ‘Wall of Honor’ with pictures and stories of family members and heroes who served in the military. They made Valentine cards for the Wounded Military Soldiers Angel’s Program in San Antonio and gave a monetary donation to the Military Working Dog Fund at the San Antonio Lackland Airforce Base. The Endowment Fund Stew Supper was held at the Family Center in the evening. Students prayed a special prayer for vocations. 5th graders visited the IWBS Motherhouse earlier in January.

For more information, call (361) 293-9000 or visit www.stjosephcatholicschool.com.

St. Michael’s Catholic School, Cuero, has had our highest enrollment in 12 years. To accommodate such growth, renovations to the library, offices, 4 classrooms, and the hallway were made in the past couple of years. 20 iPads, interactive whiteboards for each classroom, and 14 iMac computers were purchased during this past year. Recently, the school received a grant to purchase additional iPads and computers.

The school family enjoyed the week with the celebration of the Eucharist, an Open House, and completion of a family project. Also, students and faculty committed themselves, along with students across the nation, to 40 hours of community service and prayer. Each class selected a service project. The school sponsored a blood drive, collected ‘Socks of Love’ for local shelters, and gathered stuffed animals for local nursing homes and police stations.

Students and faculty also had fun with a Religion Bee, Bunco and Bingo tournaments, a Book Share between older students and younger students, and a cooking demonstration from a local chef.

For more information, call (361) 277-3854 or visit www.stmichaels-cuero.org.

St. Rose of Lima, Schulenburg, celebrates its 125th anniversary this year. Receiving exemplary marks from the TCCED in areas of Catholic identity and our guidance program, has been an honor and reminds us of the strength of our school.

In honor of CSW’s 40th anniversary, faculty and staff dedicated an additional 40 minutes of daily prayer. In the art gallery, each student created a portrait of a faculty or staff member as part of the ‘Portraits of Knowledge.’

Students also spend countless hours each year reaching out to those in need. The Thanksgiving food drive, meal baskets for the Family Crisis Center, toy donations to deputy Santa, monthly visits to local nursing homes, and Christmas caroling are a few examples of their service.

For more information, call (979) 743-3080 or visit www.strosecardinals.org.

For more information, call (979) 732-2901 or visit www.stanthonyschool.homestead.com.

For more information, call (361) 573-5505 or visit www.stjvictoria.com.
Following Jesus as beloved sons and daughters of the Father

I was having a hard time letting go of all the decorations and carols of the Christmas season. I was looking back to years long ago when the Christmas season officially ended on the Feast of the Presentation of the Infant Jesus in the Temple, a feast that was celebrated on February 2. I was thinking of how an event such as the Incarnation, when the Son of God became one of us, deserved as much celebration time as possible.

It was during one of our Amor Meus retreats that I was able to shift my thinking into appreciating Ordinary Time in the Church. The retreat director pointed out the significance of the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord. We all remember the Gospel story of how Jesus was baptized in the Jordan River by his cousin John. As Jesus was coming out of the water an awesome event occurred! We remember how the Holy Spirit came down in the form of a dove, and we remember how the Holy Spirit at our baptism; however, we might not be aware that the Father looks down upon each of us as a beloved son or daughter. How awesome that thought is; like Jesus, we are the Father’s beloved sons and daughters! That thought needs some getting used to! If we truly let it permeate our whole being, it will regenerate us! It will give us ‘new eyes’ through which we can look upon all our brothers and sisters and all of God’s creation.

Moreover, as we follow Jesus through Matthew’s Gospel each Sunday, we will have new insight into Jesus’ proclamation of the Kingdom of God. We will see how Jesus called upon us to be salt of the earth and light for the world. This message is especially relevant for us since we are aware that we are already beloved sons and daughters of the Father. We will see Jesus reminding us to keep the commandments and telling us the consequences of our failure to do so. As sons and daughters of the Father we are especially challenged—“whoever obeys and teaches these commandments will be called greatest in the kingdom of heaven.”

Also, as sons and daughters of God, we will be reminded of our obligation to love everyone when we hear that Jesus said, “love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, that you may be children of your heavenly Father.”

Finally, on the last Sunday in Ordinary Time before Lent, we will be told to place our trust in God, our heavenly Father. What a wonderful way to approach the season of Lent. Let us remember the awesome fact that like Jesus, we are the Father’s beloved sons and daughters! Happy St. Valentine’s Day as we enjoy expressions of love for one another.
Disciples on the Journey resonates during Lenten season

Continued from p. 1

in my group.

I believe the whole program is important— from reading and reflecting on Scripture, sharing faith, praying together, the opening prayer, the closing prayer ritual, and especially the suggestions in the Living as Disciples section—and encourages participants to live their faith daily.

Meet Sr. Stephana Marbach

My role and responsibility has been that of encouragement and support of this Lenten resource. I believe anything we or I can do individually and as a congregation in providing resources for evangelization and spiritual growth in a world starving for spiritual nourishment is worth our prayer, support, time, and resources.

Disciples on the Journey gives guidance. The commentaries and format are very inviting and beneficial individually and for sharing the Word with others. Besides showing God is truly a priority in our lives, faith-sharing is a healthy and challenging form of spiritual strengthening, discipline, and growth. Individually, as a family, and as faith groups, we can deepen our spiritual lives and our relationship with God.

Disciples on the Journey includes reflections from our order’s foundress, Mother Jeanne Chezard de Matel. Her spirituality is contagious and very Biblical, Marian, Liturgical, and Trinitarian.

Sr. Stephana Marbach, IWBS

Disciples on the Journey is an excellent resource book for faith-sharing during Lent. Since the sharing focuses on the scriptural readings for each Sunday, the faith-sharing session opens up the word of God and prepares individuals for Sunday Mass where Scripture becomes alive and applicable to daily living. The Liturgy of the Eucharist is anticipated with joy.

This built-in accountability of the book helps sincere persons to ‘walk the talk.’

Disciples on the Journey will:

• deepen one’s personal relationship with God
• inspire and encourage participants to live as Jesus’ disciples in daily life
• enliven faith by personal reflection on Scripture
• provide new insights into Sunday readings through commentaries, discussions, and sharing with others
• enhance the ability to hear and be open to the Word of God proclaimed at Sunday liturgy

The 11th edition is available for $25 per 10-pack or $2.50 each.

This Lent, do not overlook an opportunity to grow deeper in your connection with God. Consider participating in a prayer circle or faith-sharing group and nurture your faith during Lent.

View the video on the YouTube channel Disciples on the Journey!

For more information or to obtain a copy, contact Sr. Digna Vela at (361) 575-7111 x114, toll free at 1-866-500-3688, dj@disciplesonthejourney.org, or visit www.disciplesonthejourney.org.

Lenten Vespers

Sundays of Lent:
March 9, 16, 23, & 30
April 6 & 13
5:00 p.m.-6:00 p.m.

Incarnate Word Convent Chapel
1101 N.E. Water Street, Victoria

For information call,
(361) 575-7111 or visit www.amormeusspiritualitycenter.org

Humility was the key

Never underestimate the Holy Spirit in revealing those things one needs to jettison. Recently, the Holy Spirit sat me down and had a ‘come to Jesus’ chat with me.

I was replaying someone’s offense over and over in my mind. Every time I remembered the offense, I would feel the betrayal anew, which led to another act of forgiveness. My memory was hijacking me.


It would be so much easier to get amnesia. Forgiveness may be an act of will, but what can a person do with an active memory? How could I stop remembering? Would I ever get out of the spin cycle?

With a little help from the Holy Spirit, I realized the problem was arrogance and pride— which meant the antidote was meekness and humility.

So, each time I remembered, I would hit my knees.

If I did that the very second in which my memory took me back to the offense, my heart evaporated and peace took its place. I mean in the very second— like when stepping out of the shower and I am shivering cold or when snuggled down under the covers for the night. I immediately began to pray, on my knees.

Within a few weeks, I stumbled across this quote by Blessed Teresa of Calcutta: “Forgiving requires love; forgetting requires humility.” The Holy Spirit was nodding.

I certainly do not. It is a pretty awful existence to see others and immediately think of just one thing, that thing.

Within weeks, I began remembering the good in the one who had hurt me in the past. That is some kind of spiritual miracle. That is the power of God active in the life of a believer. I stopped remembering the thing, and I remembered how to love.

This is not a self-improvement program. It is not about working on one’s bad habits. Jesus Christ changes us.

We talk about the good news and sanctifying, but what does that mean?

Are we really just the same people, doing the same things in all the same ways? Is the only notable difference between us and everybody else a mere label? What does it mean to be a follower of Christ? What does it mean to be Catholic?

It means that even the most ingrained habits can change. In fact, the things in us that do not look like Christ must change!

I must be conformed to the image of my Lord Jesus Christ—the One who forgives even the worst sinner— even me. The same power that raised Jesus from the dead transforms us and the spin cycle of sin loses its hold on our lives.

Go ahead. Hit your knees. There is power there. You were meant for far greater things than relentless bitterness. You have been called to the abundant life in Christ. It is amazing one can discover joy and freedom in the simple act of kneeling before God.
Youth Calendar

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

24 students from St. Paul High School and 8 chaperones of the Sts. Cyril and Methodius Church, Shiner, traveled to Washington, D.C. and participated in the National March For Life. They joined over 10,000 pilgrims, many of them youth from schools around the nation, in the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception to pray for an end to abortion. They continued marching the next day as they joined nearly 600,000 pro-life supporters at the U.S. Supreme Court building. One of the chants echoed during the march was, “I am the pro-life generation.”

St. Anthony of Padua Church, Palacios, took 29 high school students to the Texas Rally for Life in Austin, TX last month. To show their support, participants marched, prayed, and sang songs with thousands of people from all faiths and backgrounds at the state capitol.

Puzzle contest winners

The winner of the January puzzle contest and the book *Sister Wendy on the Art of Mary* by Sister Wendy Beckett is Georgia Cerny of St. Mary’s Church, Praha. The winners of the children’s contest are Lacie and Kaylie Olivarez 5 and 7-year-olds, of Sacred Heart Parish, Hallettsville and Ella Lauritsen, 7-year-old, of St. Philip School, El Campo. They will receive a gift from the Incarnate Word Gift Shop.

The next puzzle contest will be held in March. Enjoy the Catholic Schools Week articles!

In preparation for the coming of Christ, the St. Rose of Lima, Schulenburg, 4th, 5th, and 6th grade religion classes hosted a ‘Baby Shower for Jesus’ and donated their gifts to the Gabriel Project in Victoria. The Gabriel Project helps unfortunate expectant mothers with support and much needed baby items. For more information on the Gabriel Project, visit the Holy Family website at www.hfccvic.org or www.gabrielproject.com. Holding collected baby items are back row, left to right: Annie Stoner, Morgan Marburger, Alaina Adcox, Reagan Lux, Justin Stang, Joan Hairell, Gabriel Project representative; Julia Oeding, Dorothy Vecera, junior high religion teacher and Becca Wagner. Front row, left to right: Liam Bennett, Julie Guentert, Brynlee Hollas, Elizabeth Seyl, Taylor Demel, and Mindy Girard.

Junior Catholic Daughters of the Americas Court St. Paul #1604, Shiner, spread holiday cheer last Dec. by bringing gifts to the young children at Bluebonnet Youth Ranch in Yoakum. Instead of exchanging gifts among the members, they elected to buy gifts for the children living at the ranch. Accompanied by chaperones, they visited youth and sang Christmas carols. Bluebonnet Youth Ranch is home to abused and neglected children in the area.

Our Lady of Victory, Victoria, recently participated in the Ident-A-Kid safety program with their students. Sr. Laura Toman, principal of OLV stated, “For many years, OLV has promoted and supported the Ident-a-Kid program and has had wonderful participation from the parents. OLV is dedicated to provide a safe environment for our children, and we feel this is one more way we can ensure our children’s safety whether at school or at home.”

Ident-A-Kid’s products are in over 5,000 schools across the nation. Their products have helped to protect thousands of students over the last 25 years as one of the nation’s leading child safety providers.

Ident-A-Kid’s mission is focused on child safety programs utilizing the latest technologies in order to develop with the varying needs of parents and schools.
ACTS Retreats—For information, visit www.actsmissions.org.

Amarillo—7th Annual Women’s Retreat Feb. 22 beginning at 8:00 a.m. at St. Thomas the Apostle Church. Guest speakers are Jennifer and Greg Willits (The Catholicons Next Door radio talk show host). Men are invited too. $20 p/p. For more information, call (806) 352-0831.

Austin—Man to Man 2nd Annual Men’s Conference Feb. 22 from 9 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at San Jose Church. $39 p/p. Fr. Larry Richards and Justin Fatica will be featured speakers. For more information, visit www.catholicmancounter.org.

Bryan—Catholic Charities Central Texas 3rd Annual Celebrate Life Dinner Feb. 13 at 6:30 p.m. at the Parish Activity Center at St. Joseph Church. David Bereit will be the guest speaker. For more information, visit www.ccxts.org.

Bryan—100th Aggie Awakening Retreat Feb. 28-Mar. 2 at St. Mary’s and Christ the Good Shepherd Chapel. For more information, visit www.aa100.aggiencatholic.org.

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

Lubbock—Raider Awakening #50 College Retreat Program Feb. 21-23 at St. Elizabeth Parish at Texas Tech University. For more information, visit www.raidercatholic.org.

San Antonio—Begin Lent with the Catholic Men’s Conference March 7-8, 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 others. FMI, call (210) 521-3377.

San Antonio—Catholic Women’s Conference Sept. 19-20. It is a ministry of the Pilgrim Center of Hope. The mission of the conference will be to foster an appreciation for the personal dignity of women, to encourage women to know and love God, and to inspire women to use their feminine gifts to transform the family and society. FMI, visit www.pilgrimcenterofhope.org.

San Antonio—Midwinter Gathering’s Blessed are the Merciful, for They Shall be Shown Mercy Feb. 20 from 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. at Oblate School of Theology. $37 p/p. Keynote speakers are Joe Paracki and Patty Noris. For more information, call (210) 734-1638.

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 Forgiveness Guided Retreat 9:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m. Feb. 8 with Fr. Daniel Houde, O.S.S.T. at 1101 NE Water St. Men and women are welcome. Also, an Overnight Directed Retreat will be Feb. 12-14 (2 nights) will include opportunities for liturgy or prayer service and daily meeting with a retreat director focusing on the retreatant’s experience of God. Please register a week in advance. For more information or more retreat dates, call (361) 575-7111 or visit www.amormeusspiritualitycenter.org.

Victoria—Come and See Discernment Weekend March 1-2 for single Catholic women 18-50 years of age at Incarnate Word Convent. For more information, call (361) 575-7111, e-mail ibsvsoc@ ibswvoc.com, or visit www.ibswvoc.org.

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 Sr. Louise Marie Jones at iwbsvoc2@yahoo.com.

Victoria—Spirit Wind Ministry hosts Mirroring the Greatness of Life Retreat April 25-27 at the Spiritual Renewal Center. $190 p/p. Grants available. Led by lecturer, columnist, and author Fr. Ronald Rolheiser, OFS. He currently serves as president of the Oblate School of Theology, San Antonio. For more information, contact Susan Oakley at (361) 576-1515, (361) 649-6391, or smoak53@msn.com.

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., JPHI Family Center. Visit www.thatmanisyou.org.

Blessing—Knights of Columbus Council #4307 Lenten Fish Fry 10:30 a.m.-1:00 p.m. Mar. 9 at St. Peter’s Church Parish Hall. Fried catfish, trimmings, dessert, and drink. $8 p/p. Auction and raffle will be held during event.

Hungerford—KJT Society #79 and KJZT Society #57 host BBQ Chicken and Sausage Dinner Mar. 2 at Hungerford Community Center. Serving begins at 10:30 a.m. Dine-in or plates-to-go available. Auction and free dance until 5:00 p.m. Music by Red Ravens.

New Taiton—St. John’s Altar Society Chicken Dinner and Spring Festival Mar. 9 at the Taiton Community Center. Serving begins at 11:00 a.m. Fried chicken plates include homemade dressing. $8 p/p. Dine-in or plates-to-go available. 12:30 p.m. auction. There will be games, cakewalk, and country store.

Schulenburg—St. Rose of Lima Spring Festival Mar. 9 at KC Hall. Turkey dinner served 10:30 a.m.-1:00 p.m. $6.50 p/p.


Victoria—The Rite of Election Mar. 9 at 3:00 p.m. at Our Lady of Victory. Bishop Fellhauer will preside.

Wharton—Catholic Daughters Court #1990 Mardi Gras Dance Mar. 1 from 8:00 p.m. to midnight at the KC Hall. $6 p/p. $12 per couple. There will be silent and cake auctions. Music by Legacy Band. For more information, call (979) 532-1466.

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.naadflm.org.

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.naadflm.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.courager.net.

Engaged Encounter—2014 dates: 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 barbaranecce685@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, call Sharon at (361) 578-7572.

Incarcere 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.wwme.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. To learn about the sympto-thermal method in the Victoria area and NFP class schedules, contact David and Annie Coffey at victorianfertilityteachers@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 Fletana. Peer counseling and spiritual direction are also available for those suffering a loss of a baby due to miscarriage, stillbirth, infant death, or abortion. For more information, visit www.raphaels refuge.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@ sbgglobal.net or (361) 580-2770; call (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.lostcompanioneros-sfo.org.
Nearly 240 fifth graders from several schools in the diocese participated in Vocation Awareness Days at IWBS Convent last month: Holy Cross Elementary, Bay City; Our Lady of the Gulf, Port Lavaca; Our Lady of Victory, Victoria; Nazareth Academy, Victoria; Sacred Heart Elementary, Hallettsville; St. Anthony School, Columbus; St. Joseph, Yoakum; St. Ludmila Elementary, Shiner; St. Michael School, Cuero; St. Michael School, Weimar; St. Philip School, El Campo and St. Rose of Lima, Schulenburg.

Students were divided into groups and chaperoned by their teachers to listen to a number of talks about religious life and the priesthood. Some of the sessions also involved tours (which included the Gift Shop and Hall of Memories), music, and presentations regarding service and people of other cultures. Students asked questions and learned being called to a vocation incorporates prayer, helping others in need, and more. The day culminated in a prayer service highlighting the gifts of the Holy Spirit.

Vocation Awareness Days were sponsored by the Vocations Office of the Diocese of Victoria, the Serra Club of Victoria, Knights of Columbus Council #1329, The Catholic Daughters of the Americas Court St. Ann #369, and the Sisters of the Incarnate Word and Blessed Sacrament.

**IWBS Vocation Days**

St. Peter Damian was born in 1007 in Ravenna, Italy. He lost his parents when he was young. One of his brothers sent him to school and Peter became a professor. He prayed and studied the Bible. He was very kind to the poor. He aspired to re-establish primitive obedience among the religious and priests. Pope Stephen IX named Peter the cardinal-bishop of Ostia, Italy. He died on February 22, 1072 and in 1828 he was acknowledged as a Doctor of the Church.

“Let us faithfully transmit to posterity the example of virtue which we have received from our forefathers.” ~ St. Peter Damian

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**Scouting in the diocese and beyond**

The Pope Pius XII Emblem is part of the church-related ministries and vocations program. To receive the award, a retreat or program involving youth-led discussions regarding church and society is required.

**Boy Scouts**

Scouting educates, builds character, and teaches devotion to God in a setting that provides healthy fun under the direction of adult role models. The National Catholic Committee on Scouting (NCCS) is a church committee acting as advisors to the Boy Scouts of America, and relating to the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) through its bishop liaison.

**Girl Scouts**

The National Catholic Committee for Girl Scouts (NCCGS) helps Catholic youth, adults, and parishes by promoting spiritual growth through quality faith-based programs which is central to its mission. Evident in the oath are values such as trust and responsibility.


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- **Schulenburg**: Royce Shimek, FIC (979) 743-4313

*Interest rates are subject to change. Minimum guaranteed rate is 1.50%.
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**Pope Pius XII medals were recently awarded to recipients from the Boy Scout Troop #228, Yoakum. At the presentation, left to right: Reed Gearson, Travis Beem, Michael Chomout III, Bill Briscoe, scout representative and Fr. Matthew Huehlefeld, pastor of St. Joseph Catholic Church. Not pictured is scout, Gabriel Garcia.**