The Catholic Lighthouse to be reduced!

By Cynthia Brewer

The Diocese of Victoria wants to be sure parishioners are receiving their Catholic diocesan news in the most economical, technological and “green” way.

Beginning with this issue (January 2012), the diocesan newspaper, The Catholic Light- house, will become “greener and leaner”.

The Diocese of Victoria will begin printing a smaller, more lightweight newspaper, reducing its pages from 20 to 12 in an effort to reduce costs and the amount of paper it uses. By shortening the paper, it will use fewer resources and weigh less, thus cost less to mail it to each Catholic residence in the Diocese of Victoria.

The savings of printing and mailing a 12-page newspaper, compared to a 20-page paper, is nearly $17,000 per year.

Also, because originally The Catholic Lighthouse was mandated to go to each and every Catholic family registered to a parish in the diocese, nearly 19,000 papers are mailed out each month. Over a 12-month period, the postage costs come to nearly $30,000 annually.

In an effort to streamline the distribution of the newspaper, the chancery office would like to mail the paper only to parishioners who wish to receive one in hard- copy (paper) form.

Those who would prefer to use today’s technology and read the paper solely on the diocesan website, may do so at http://www.victoriadiocese.org. Often times before the paper would arrive at one’s door.

In order to help the chancery get The Catholic Lighthouse to those who really enjoy receiving it, we need to hear from each and every family as to whether or not they wish to continue receiving the paper by mail.

If you would still like to continue receiving the diocesan newspaper in the mail, as opposed to reading it in “PDF format” on the diocesan website, please forward your name, address and phone number to the chancery office at (361) 573-0828 or send an electronic form by going to www.victoriadiocese.org and clicking on the “RENEW YOUR SUBSCRIPTION TODAY” link on the homepage. You may also fill out the registration card that will be included in this year’s Diocesan Services Appeal (DSA), which you will be receiving in the mail soon.

Notification must be received in the chancery office by March 31 if you wish to continue receiv- ing The Catholic Lighthouse.

Thank you for your time and cooperation in letting us know how you’d like to receive your diocesan news.

~ Candlelight March ~
Will be held
Thurs., Jan. 26
starting at Northside Baptist and ending at
Our Lady of Victory Cathedral
See p. 2 for more info.

Print vs. Online

How would you feel if print versions of Catholic newspapers and magazines — including your diocesan newspaper or magazine — ceased publication and moved their operations entirely online?

By Cynthia Brewer

Two permanent deacons have been called to the diocesan for the Diocese of Victoria.

On Saturday morning, December 17, 2011, Kenneth Wayne Fishbeck of St. Joseph’s Church in Moulton and Larry Wayne Koether of Holy Cross Church in Bay City were ordained by the Most Rev. David E. Fellhauer at the 10 a.m. Mass at Our Lady of Victory Cathedral in Victoria.

The ordination celebration was truly a family affair as a daughter of each deacon was a lector for the Mass; Jackie Fishbeck Horras read the first reading, Jeremiah 1:4-9; and Jessica Koether read 1 Tim. 3:8-10, 12-13a. Also, the deacons’ spouses, Mrs. Lynn Koether and Mrs. Kathy Fishbeck, assisted their husbands with the investiture of the deacon’s stole and dalmatic, as well as presented the gifts.

Twelve deacons from throughout the diocese, as well as transitional deacon Patrick Knippenberg, honored Deacons Fishbeck and Koether with their presence at the ordination Mass, and Deacon John McCourt of Queen of the Holy Rosary Parish in Houstyn was the Deacon of the Word. Thirteen diocesan priests concelebrated the Mass. Father Tommy Chen, of Sacred Heart Church in Hallettsville, was the master of ceremonies.

Altar servers were diocesan seminarians: Jacob Koether, son of the newly ordained Deacon Deacon celebrates the Rite of Ordination for two deacons

By Cynthia Brewer

The Diocese of Victoria will become “greener and leaner”.

At the pulpit, Father Gabriel Bentil, pastor of St. Joseph Parish in Inez, joyfully addresses his flock at the end of the Mass of Blessing December 4, 2011. The newly renovated church doubled in size and seating. The church added paled, iridescent tile behind its original crucifix to help match it to the larger wall space, and its new altar was the altar KSG Emil “Al” Hesser (deceased) originally built in the 1980s for Bishop Charles V. Grannemann’s home chapel.

At the pulpit, Father Gabriel Bentil, pastor of St. Joseph Parish in Inez, joyfully addresses his flock at the end of the Mass of Blessing December 4, 2011. The newly renovated church doubled in size and seating. The church added paled, iridescent tile behind its original crucifix to help match it to the larger wall space, and its new altar was the altar KSG Emil “Al” Hesser (deceased) originally built in the 1980s for Bishop Charles V. Grannemann’s home chapel.

INEZ — “God is so Good” seems to be Father Gabriel Ben- til’s favorite song: he’s always singing it at Mass because he wants everyone to know how true it is!

On Dec. 4, 2011, Father Gab- riel had a great reason for sing- ing God’s praises to his congrega- tion – his parish church had been renovated and was being blessed by Bishop David E. Fellhauer.

The designing of the addition began August 2009, the demoli- tion and construction started in August 2010, and the project was completed in time for its blessing on Dec. 4, the following year.

With a great number of pa- rishioners on the building board, finance and parish councils, and the design team, the entire parish family was able to help Michael Maraggia and Fred Warzecha with the building board, Krueger Construction, the general contra- ctor, and Heimsath & Associates, the architect firm, complete a magnificent structure in the ex- cellent cooperation in letting us know how you’d like to receive your diocesan news.

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Our Lady of Victory Cathedral
See p. 2 for more info.

PRINT VS. ONLINE—Thirty-nine percent of respondents said they would respond negatively if Catholic newspapers and magazines ceased publication and moved their operations entirely online. (CNS graphic/Emily Thompson)
St. Joseph Church, the tallest building in “Beautiful Inez!”

Continued from p. 1

the project. I always thank God for all the combinations of our able leaders on the Building Board, Finance and Parish Councils, the Design Team, and the entire parish family.

To tell you, the whole project was completed in just 14 months. So you can imagine the number of meetings and discussions (and arguments!) that went into this project. I always thank God for all the good people who spent their Time, Talent and Treasure to make the church what it is now. Also, I thank the Heimath Architects and the Krueger Construction Co. for their great work.

In case you are wondering how much the whole project cost, $1.6 million is the answer.

“Growing Our Family of Faith” has been our theme for our Capital Campaign. This campaign is going very well, thanks to the pledges that are being received by parishioners and friends of St. Joseph. I trust that God’s blessings will always be with us so we can remain faithful to God.

~ From Father Gabriel Bentil

Effective December 17, 2011, newly-ordained Deacon Larry W. Koether is appointed to exercise his ministry of Deacon at St. Joseph Church, Moulton.

Effective December 17, 2011, newly-ordained Deacon Kenneth W Fishbeek is appointed to exercise his ministry of Deacon at Holy Cross Church, Bay City.

Pray for Vocations!

The Victoria Candlelight March for Life will be held Thursday, January 26, at 7:00 p.m. Assembly and marching will begin at Northside Baptist Church parking lot at 4:00 P.M. Lauren and continue to Our Lady of Victory, 1309 E. Mesquite Lane, where a Pro-life speaker will address the assembly. Candles will be provided, and a bus will be available to return “marchers” from OLV to Northside Baptist.

See page 11 for more Life events including El Campo’s Sanctity of Life Celebration.

Official Appointments By Most Rev. David E. Fellhauer

Parish Contribution Totals: $10,057,911.61
Parish Pledge Totals: $12,937,977.45
Diocesan Goal: $9,000,000.00

The Catholic Lighthouse
Page 2 ~ January 2012

Bishop Fellhauer’s Schedule

December 19, 2011

Dear Editor,

The points on the errors of socialism from the www.americanedefolam.org website quoted in the last issue (P. 18) was a well-intentioned, but too narrow attempt to present Catholic social thought on a philosophy with a long and evolutionary history. Socialism is subject to various expressions that depend on the historical circumstances in which it has occurred. To understand them accurately, one must understand both socialism’s origins and its growth as a movement. It does not always equate historically with “communism”, nor can it be stated that all “socialists” have been or are “communists”.

The Roman Catholic Encyclopedia states, “…modern Socialism is not a mere arbitrary exercise at state-building, but a deliberate attempt to relieve, on explicit principles, the existing social conditions, which are regarded as intolerable. The great inequalities of human life and opportunity, produced by the excessive concentration of wealth in the hands of a comparatively small section of the community, (description sound familiar?) have been the cause and still are the stimulus of what is called the Socialistic movement.…” It should come as no surprise to informed Catholics that the ideas of socialism again have a chance to flourish in our current economic climate.

Thus, socialism is rooted in an attempt—however misguided—to correct social injustices that have been observed. But it does so on the basis of a solely materialistic solution with its limited view of the human person, which John Paul II noted both as bishop of Krakow and as Pope. Many papal address the same problems but on the basis of the Catholic concept of human life. The first encyclical in this vein was Pope Leo XIII’s “Rerum Novarum: On the Condition of Workers” in 1891. In our own time, Blessed John Paul II also stated, “It may well be that modernization will prove to be a far more serious problem for the Church than was communism”.

When we Roman Catholics fail to sow in our lives, the wisdom of one hundred years of teachings by Roman Pontiffs on economics and social justice (wheat), we can expect to reap what we sow in society (weeds). The warning of Jesus, “You cannot worship both God and money” rings true here. This year especially, Bethlehem and the Wise Men call us to reconsider our values system behind our economic choices and lifestyle. As we ponder the message of the King born there as one of the economically oppressed poor of His day, let us ask ourselves the question, “Who or what do I really worship—i.e. for which I live and work?”

And it should come as no surprise that in Matthew 25, the eschatology of this Savior born in Bethlehem will proclaim that when He returns the Second time as Judge, He will do so on the basis of how we responded to the hungry, the homeless, the sick and the poor among us. May each of us live worthy of a place in His Kingdom of Love, Justice and Peace, now and forever.

A Blessed Christmas and New Year celebrating His Love among us, Sr. Elizabeth Riebschlaeger, CCVI
Cerro, TX 79730

Next month, Sister Elizabeth will submit another article that will expand on the topics of socialism and the social justice encyclicals of the popes.

Letter to the Editor

Candlelight March for Life

The Victoria Candlelight March for Life will be held Thursday, January 26, at 7:00 p.m. Assembly and marching will begin at Northside Baptist Church parking lot at 4:00 P.M. Lauren and continue to Our Lady of Victory Cathedral, 1309 E. Mesquite Lane, where a Pro-life speaker will address the assembly. Candles will be provided, and a bus will be available to return “marchers” from OLV to Northside Baptist.

See page 11 for more Life events including El Campo’s Sanctity of Life Celebration.

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Parish Contribution Totals: $10,057,911.61
Parish Pledge Totals: $12,937,977.45
Diocesan Goal: $9,000,000.00
Parish Contribution Totals: $7,418,797.3
Parish Pledge Totals: $12,937,977.45
Diocesan Goal: $9,000,000.00
Number of Parish Families Participating: 3,747

Reflection of Faith Capital Campaign

Parish Contribution Totals: $7,418,797.3
Parish Pledge Totals: $9,000,000.00
Number of Parish Families Participating: 6,768
By Sister Mildred Truchard, IWBS

Sisterly Thoughts

Time to Celebrate!

Claire, Sister Paul Goux, Sister Mary Claude M. Dubuis' request. Five Sisters decided to respond affirmatively to Bishop would make the founding of a monastery Word to the people of South Texas. Survivors of the journey who immediately volunteers died before the party ever got totracted yellow fever. As a result, four of the times. Unfortunately, the voyage came toan unhappy end for the Sisters when the I understand that the soldiers were very be able to meet Bishop Dubuis' request. So get some Sisters from Europe, they might sparing any Sisters for a new venture. After nova were eligible for and hardships - includextreme poverty, the ravages of the ing extreme poverty, the ravages of theing Civil War, yellow fever epidemics, anding track to a few need to back-
etract a reality, we

This was Mother St. Claire's house (formerly the post office) which served as the original Cement and School in January 1867. Unidentified children in front of pecan tree.

In memory of ...

Georgia M. Dulak Lyons died, mother of Father Michael Lyons

West–Georgia Mary Dulak Lyons, 85, of West, passed away Friday, Dec. 30, 2011, at The Plaza Nursing Home in Richardson. She was born Feb. 3, 1926, in Elkh, the daughter of August and Mary Ann Morris Dulak.

She attended the Cottonwood school and graduated from West High School in 1943 prior to attending Baylor University and Draughn's Business College. On June 5, 1948, she was united in marriage to John F. Lyons in Waco. She owned and operated the Playdium Swimming Pool in West from 1973 to 1988. She was a member of St. Mary's Catholic Church of the Assumption, where she served on the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults Team. She was also a member of the Catholic Daughters of America #828 and the S.P.J.S.T. Lodge No. 54. She enjoyed reading and traveling. She especially loved visiting with her children, grandchildren, and great grandchildren, as well as her friends.

She was preceded in death by her parents; husband, and brother, Edwin Dulak.

A Rosary was recited and Mass of Christian Burial was held Monday, Jan. 2, 2012, at St. Mary's Catholic Church of the Assumption in West, with Bishop David E. Fellhauer, Rev. Ed Karasek and Rev. Michael Lyons as celebrants. Private graveside services were held at Rosemound Cemetery in Waco.

Pallbearers were: Mark Poteet, Florencito Perez, Martin Fletcher, Christopher Massey, John R. Poten and Kenneth McMorrough.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to West Senior Center, 200 Tokio Rd., West, TX 76691; or Catholic Daughters of America Court #292 of West.

You are invited to share your thoughts and memories of Georgia in her memorial guest book found at www. aholeshlerfuneralhome.com

Prayer for Vocations

Havenly Father, if it is thy divine will, inspire many of our youth to say "Yes" to your special calling to be priests, sisters and brothers. Amen.

Catholic War Veterans St. John's Post 1299, Victoria, has had a busy fall. Four members attended the 2011 National Convention in Orlando, FL, in August. Mrs. Lupita Martinez presided at the conven-
tion and completed serving her two-year term as national president; however, she was quickly elected to serve as 2011-2012, three-year national director and the newly elected national president, Barbara Podbielski of Ohio, appointed her to serve as 2012 National Convention chairlady. The 2012 National Convention will be held in Albuquerque, N.M.

In September the post had its Annual Awards and Installation Banquet at the CWV Post Home. Newly elected officers are president - Lupita Martinez, 1st vice-president - Toney Aguilar, 2nd vice-president - Lila Gutierrez, 3rd vice-president - Cecilia Garcia, secretary - Mary Reyes, treasurer - Cecilia Garcia, welfare officer - Toney Aguilar, historian - Carmen Nazen, ritual officer, Selina Driscoll, 3-year direc-
tor - Nilda Reyna, 2-year director - Mary Reyes, 1-year director - Lena Quiroz, liaison officer - Ernest Canoso, chaplain - Father Stan DeBoe, O.S.S.T.

Two events were held in October, first was post's participation in the Chain for Life, and on October 16, they had their Annual Turkey Dinner Fundraiser to help support their various community projects. It was a success and they are thankful for everyone who supported the event.

On November 6, the post attended Mass at St. Mary's Church in Praha, Texas, celebrated by Bishop David Fellhauer, and then participated in the following 49th An-
nual Veteran's Day Memorial Service.

The post's on-going projects include serving coffee at the VA Clinic and providing a monthly birthday party and luncheon at the Manor Home. They lead the rosary at Rosary Manor Nursing Home on the First Friday of each month and at Aftonpointe Arms Adult Home, celebrating Bishop's Day on the second and 4th Wednesday. They also volunteer at Our Lady of Sorrows Resale Shop when needed.

As one can see, they stay very busy. St. John's Post 1269 Auxillary is looking for new members to join them. Mem-
bership is authorized to Catholic mothers, wives, widows, sisters, daughters, nieces, grandparents, granddaughters, aunts and in-laws, such as mothers-in-law, sisters-in-
law, daughters-in-law, grandmothers-in-
law, not less than eighteen (18) years of age, living or deceased War Veterans, including the wife of an individual who is a Prisoner of War or Missing in Action, and provided further that such in-
dividual shall be admitted to membership; and provided further that the dues for such member shall be waived for so long as that member's dependent remains a Prisoner of War or Missing in Action. Membership in an Auxillary is also authorized to any female who is qualified to be a member of the Catholic War Veterans of the United States of America, Inc.

Monthly meetings are held at the CWV Annex Building located right behind the CWV Hall, 1007 S. Main Street, on the 2nd Wednesday of the month. The Holy Rosary is said at 7 p.m., prior to the meeting which begins at 7:30 p.m.

The yearly dues are $23. To join, please contact Mrs. Lupita Martinez at (361) 578-1489 or danielm894@aol.com.

1007 S. Main St., on the 2nd Wednesday of the month. The Holy Rosary is said at 7 p.m., prior to the meeting which begins at 7:30 p.m.

The yearly dues are $23. To join, please contact Mrs. Lupita Martinez at (361) 578-1489 or danielm894@aol.com.
Sisters of Divine Providence celebrate 250th anniversary of founding

SAN ANTONIO—The Congregation of Divine Providence of San Antonio (CDP), along with six other Congregations of women religious trace their roots to 1762 France, when Father Moye arrived in Louisiana. That is why I mentioned it is important for priests and seminarians to continue doing the things they enjoy. Being in public is a way to grow in virtue (and living in Houston makes it easier). If all we did was hide in the seminary or rectory, we could never grow in virtue. By getting out we have the chance to lead by example as Christ did. That is what life is all about and what everyone is called to do—to love and live like Christ.

Along with living as Christ did, there are also four major steps we take in the seminary to be prepared to ordain. First are instations as lector and acolyte, then being called as a candidate to the diaconate, and finally being ordained as a transitional deacon. On November 20, I was installed as an acolyte by Bishop Eustratius. Teaching, nursing, working with the poor, ministering in parishes, and offering pastoral care to the sick. In both Mexico and the United States, the CDP congregations number almost 800 persons.

In memory of Blessed John Martin Moye and Mother St. Andrew Fedlin, their Texas foundress, the San Antonio based community currently minister in 14 states in Africa, Asia, Europe, and North and South America.

In 1866 two Sisters called to Texas to educate the children of immigrants. They established their first school in Austin but later settled in Castroville, Texas. Within twenty years the young branch of Sisters grew and taught in more than twenty Texas schools. In 1886, however, the community was separated from its motherhouse in France. The CDPs opened their first school in San Antonio at St. Joseph Academy in 1875 and later moved the Congregation’s headquarters to Our Lady of the Lake Convent in San Antonio. During their first one hundred years in the U.S., they established or taught in more than 160 schools in Texas, Louisiana, Oklahoma, Missouri, Arkansas, California, and New Mexico.

In 1985, the Sisters of Divine Providence formed a Associates Program. They invited women and men to commit themselves to prayer and service by manifesting the charism and mission of their congregation in their daily lives, work, and prayer. In both Mexico and the United States, the CDP’s congregations number almost 800 persons.

In memory of Fr. John from Edwin and Julie Stryk 10.00
In memory of Brian Najvar by In honor of Fr. Joseph Kolek 20.00
In memory of Rev. Charles, John and Mary Kolek by In honor of Msgr. Edward Bartsch 100.00
In honor of Fr. John by In memory of Rev. Celestine Say 10.00
In memory of St. Anthony of Padua, P. O. Box 900, Dallas, TX 75237.

SEMINARY BURSES

DIOCESE OF VICTORIA

By Scott Hill, Theology II

In memory of Doris Lyssy by In memory of Msgr. Edward Bartsch 20.00
In memory of Charles, John & Mildred Kolek 10.00
In memory of Rev. Charles, John and Mary Kolek by Edwin and Julie Stryk 10.00
In honor of Fr. Celestine Say by Catholic Life Insurance Co. 10.00
In memory of Doris Lysy by Catholic Life Insurance Co. 10.00
In memory of Harold and Diane Hefle 10.00
In memory of Brian Najvar by Harold and Diane Hefle 10.00
In memory of Rev. Celestine Say by Harold and Diane Hefle 10.00
In memory of Msgr. Edward Bartsch by In memory of Rev. Celestine Say 10.00
In memory of Rev. Celestine Say by Mary & John Kolek 10.00
May Holy Mother Mary comfort you in your time of need. May God grant you rest and eternal peace. May mercy you may do so by sending their contributions with the appropriate burse designation to:

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

Happy Birthday!

Philip Brune is in his Pastoral Year at St. Anthony Church in Palacios. His home parish is Sts. Peter and Paul, Freiburg, and his birthday is January 24. Please show your support for this seminarian by sending him a card. Philip Brune, St. Anthony of Padua, P. O. Box 900, Palacios, TX 77465.

Percentage of Americans who are married reaches all-time low, Pew says

WASHINGTON (CNS) — With cohabitation, single-person households and single parenthood on the rise, the percentage of Americans who are currently married has reached an all-time low. A new report from the Pew Research Center analyzing Census data found that only 51 percent of Americans 18 and over were married in 2010, compared with 72 percent in 1980. Among Hispanics and African-Americans, the decline is even more steep: Fifty-five percent of white Americans were married in 2010, down from 74 percent 50 years earlier. But among Hispanics and blacks, married people are already in the minority. Forty-eight percent of Hispanics and 31 percent of African-Americans were married in 2010, compared with 72 percent and 61 percent, respectively, in 1980. The authors said it was “beyond the scope of this analysis to explain why marriage has declined,” but they noted that its popularity has fallen less sharply among college graduates. The Pew report found that the median age at first marriage has been steadily rising for both men and women over the past five decades, from 22.8 for men and 20.3 for women in 1960. The median age in 2010 was 28.7 for men and 24.6 for women.
Prayers answered
East Bernard parishioners bring Christmas blessings to Eagle Lake family

By Cynthia Brewer

Last month Alicia Salinas from Eagle Lake came to St. Joseph Church in East Bernard with James Ryza and his wife Janie with a request on Alicia’s behalf. Alicia’s four children’s van was stolen last year and they were in desperate need of a replacement. Alicia and her family were in financial need and this situation added to their struggles. James Ryza is a well-known philanthropist in the area and he was moved by Alicia’s story. He purchased a Ford Windstar minivan for her and her family. Alicia’s gratitude was expressed when she said, “I just said to Alicia, ‘Baby, it’s brand new!’”

The letter

The “letter” went in the December issue. The Catholic Lighthouse arrived at the home of Janie and James Ryza, parishioners of Holy Cross Parish in East Bernard. Janie spotted the letter and told James about it. It turns out that they were going to donate their used vehicle to a non-profit organization, which would then sell it to help finance the organization.

When James, a Vietnam War veteran, heard about Alicia’s need and that she too was a veteran, it just spoke to his heart. This transaction was made possible, “because of a blessing I received; therefore, I don’t mind you printing it in a paper,” he said.

They even put a brand new CD player in it for us – just the day before they gave it to us,” Javier said, “and they didn’t even know I’m a musician – a bass player who used to play in various local bands.”

The “letter” story is an example of how one small act of kindness can make a huge impact on someone’s life. Alicia’s family is grateful for the donation and the “letter” that made it happen. It is a reminder of the importance of helping those in need and the power of doing simple acts of kindness.

Scholarship deadline approaches for Catholic laity

Applications may be obtained by submitting an application, which may be found online at www.claio.com, contact- ing the Communications Department at (210) 828-9921 or 1-800-292-2548, or by writing to Catholic Life Insurance Company, Attn: Communications Department, P.O. Box 659527, San Antonio, TX 78265-9527.

KJZT GIVES DONATION TO ST. PHILIP PARISH IN EL CAMPO—Catholic laymen and women pursuing a graduate degree in theology or religious studies in order to serve their church in a professional capacity may submit applications for the Rev. Msgr. Larry J. Droll Scholarship by February 15, 2012. The renewable $2,000 scholarship will be awarded to two candidates in need of tuition assistance for additional education who serve or want to serve his or her parish as an administrator, youth minister, parish coordinator or other role.

This scholarship is geared towards those who have already obtained their bachelor’s degree and are either enrolled or wanting to enroll into any Catholic graduate school in Texas, Arizona, Florida, Louisiana, New Mexico, Oklahoma or Mississippi. Applicants may also be enrolled in an extension program or in the Catholic University of America School of Canon Law.
Scott Hill, St. Roch, Mentz; Max Landman, Uvalde; and John Dougharty, Holy Cross, Bay City.

Jacob Koether, Holy Cross, Bay City; Veronica Munoz, IWBS; Sister Patricia Marie Lohre, IWBS; which benefited the state and local charities adopted by KJT Society #20.

The proceeds will be used by the school to purchase floor mats for all campuses. Also presenting the check were society officers Vice-President Edwin Machacek, Secretary Glen Kloesel and Treasurer Elizabeth Wagner.

The group then joined a group of Sacred Heart Catholic High School students for a social hour and dinner. That night the international students were hosted by several Sacred Heart families who enjoyed getting to know the students.

On Monday, the students spent the morning making presentations about their countries to Sacred Heart students and staff. Many were dressed in native costumes and brought cultural artifacts from their countries. They shared information about their countries’ customs, food, language, and culture. They come from countries as diverse as Japan, Germany, the Netherlands, Brazil, Pakistan, and Yemen. After the presentations, the international students joined Sacred Heart high school students during lunch and continued to strengthen the bonds of friendship that had quickly developed.

Having the opportunity to meet the international students and learn about their diverse backgrounds was a wonderful experience for Sacred Heart students and faculty. The students are sponsored through AYUSA International, a non-profit exchange student organization. They will remain in the United States through May, living with host families in the San Antonio area and surrounding area and attending high schools.

KJT #139 PRESENTS GRANT TO HOLY CROSS SCHOOL—A matching grant of $400 from the KJT was presented to Holy Cross School in Bay City. Society #139 in Bay City held a bake sale fundraiser on September 26, 2011, at the regular society meeting. A total of $481.00 was raised during the bake sale, which made for a grand total of $881.00 for the school. At the presentation of the grant on November 16 were (left to right): Holy Cross School Principal Stephanie Kuercer; Society Vice-President Larry Browning; Society President Joe Koliba; Society Secretary/Treasurer Vince Nemes; and Society Sales Representative Dan Stavena.

Not present at the time of the presentation was Society Chaplain Rev. Casimir Jarzombek. The donation will be used to purchase new audio-visual equipment for the school.

Sacred Heart School in Hallettsville hosted 14 international high school students in their community during International Education Week in November 2011.

Keagan Lustig, Ava Logsdon, Sierra Gutierrez, and Heather Fuchs are seniors at Sacred Heart High School.

HIS EXCELLENCY BISHOP DAVID FELHLAUSER—His Excellency Bishop David Fellhauer, archbishop of the Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston, along with Vicar General Paul G. Azzopardi, was in Lavaca County on Monday, November 7, 2011, to participate in the Lavaca County Courthouse dedication.

Raul Koliba, Society Secretary/Treasurer, presented to Holy Cross School in Bay City.

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The Catholic Lighthouse Page 6 — January 2012

Dukes for Downs Syndrome Collected—Third grade students at St. Rose of Lima Catholic School in Schulenburg celebrate collecting over $160.00 for Dimes for Downs Syndrome. Mrs. Brandly Bosl brought ice cream and her youngest son, Caleb, to thank third graders for being the class to raise the most money. Pictured, 1st row: William Porr, Kaitlyn Maldonado and Bailey; Bryan Wison and Sean Jacobs; and back row: Becka Wagner, Colten Flood, Mrs. Bosl, and Alex Lozano; absent: Annie Stoner.

SJHS Basketball Team supports “Hoops for Hope”

The St. Joseph High School basketball team will participate in “Hoops for Hope.” The event is an opportunity for teams and communities to raise money for charities in the Victoria area. St. Joseph High School has chosen to raise funds for ALS, also known as Lou Gehrig’s Disease.

The team will be wearing royal blue colors and selling t-shirts for $10 each in support of ALS during their junior and varsity games against Gonzales at 5:00, 6:15 and 7:30 p.m. Jan. 24 at St. Joseph gymnasium. There will also be many activities available for junior high kids to participate in. For more information about ALS, please visit www.alsa.org.

The proceeds will be used by the school to purchase floor mats for all campuses. Also presenting the check were society officers Vice-President Edwin Machacek, Secretary Glen Kloesel and Treasurer Elizabeth Wagner.

The group then joined a group of Sacred Heart Catholic High School students for a social hour and dinner. That night the international students were hosted by several Sacred Heart families who enjoyed getting to know the students.

On Monday, the students spent the morning making presentations about their countries to Sacred Heart students and staff. Many were dressed in native costumes and brought cultural artifacts from their countries. They shared information about their countries’ customs, food, language, and culture. They come from countries as diverse as Japan, Germany, the Netherlands, Brazil, Pakistan, and Yemen. After the presentations, the international students joined Sacred Heart high school students during lunch and continued to strengthen the bonds of friendship that had quickly developed.

Having the opportunity to meet the international students and learn about their diverse backgrounds was a wonderful experience for Sacred Heart students and faculty. The students are sponsored through AYUSA International, a non-profit exchange student organization. They will remain in the United States through May, living with host families in the San Antonio area and surrounding area and attending high schools.

SJHS Basketball Team supports “Hoops for Hope”

The St. Joseph High School basketball team will participate in “Hoops for Hope.” The event is an opportunity for teams and communities to raise money for charities in the Victoria area. St. Joseph High School has chosen to raise funds for ALS, also known as Lou Gehrig’s Disease.

The team will be wearing royal blue colors and selling t-shirts for $10 each in support of ALS during their junior and varsity games against Gonzales at 5:00, 6:15 and 7:30 p.m. Jan. 24 at St. Joseph gymnasium. There will also be many activities available for junior high kids to participate in. For more information about ALS, please visit www.alsa.org.
A note from The Ordinandi

Our faith journey over the past six years has made us much more aware that our God is an awesome God. He has bestowed upon us many, many blessings in our call to serve Him as Permanent Deacons for the Diocese of Victoria.

Firstly, the blessing of our dear Bishop David E. Fellhauer to whom we are most grateful for his inspiration and goodness, his encouragement and support, but especially for his prayers for us throughout our formation process.

Secondly, we are blessed to have one of the most dedicated Directors of Deacon Formation, The Rev. Gabriel Maison, and extreme support of our wives and families over the last six years. Without the gift of ourselves and their love on this journey with us, we would not be here today.

It is with great joy and love that we welcome our families and friends to this celebration. As you have done in the past, please continue to pray for us as we embark on our mission of service to God’s people. May God bless you, Deacon Kenneth Fishbeck and Deacon Larry Koether.
March for Life

My father was the product of a marriage that lasted about five minutes. According to family lore, the ink wasn’t dry on the marriage license before the d-word came up. The breach in his parents’ marriage had a lasting effect on Dad. The healing came when he realized that God had called him into being despite the circumstances of his conception. Despite the anguish that existed between his parents. Even though his parents’ refusal to speak to one another lasted sixty years, Dad knew that God had a plan for his life.

My sister and I are 10 1/2 months apart in age. I wasn’t in the plan – at least not the plan my parents had created with my entry into Mother Church. He taught me to love God and follow Him – no matter where the journey took me.

Dad’s life was a gift to everyone he met. I am the mother of four children. At the age of 40, I entered the Catholic Church.

To date, I have written articles for 43 diocesan newspapers, shared my conversion story with numerous partners, and served as a guest on two EWTN programs, and been interviewed on so many radio shows that I have lost count. I have taught hundreds of students over the years. I continue to write.

Holy Father’s Intentions January 2012

General Intention: Victims of Natural Disasters. That the victims of natural disasters may receive the spiritual and material comfort they need to rebuild their lives.

Missionary Intention: Dedication to Peace. That the dedication of Christians to peace may bear witness to the name of Christ before all men and women of good will.

“If the Priests” announce Spring 2012 North American Tour

Hailing from Northern Ireland, Fathers Martin O’Hagan, Eugene O’Hagan and David Delargy, better known to their millions of fans as “The Priests”, have announced the rescheduling of their first multi-city North American Tour due to a scheduling conflict that has forced the delay of the planned start of the U.S. tour to April and May 2012. They will be in Spring, Texas, at the Centrum on April 24, and in Dallas, at the McFarlin Auditorium on April 25. “The Priests’” U.S. concert performances are available at Ticketmaster.com, BREPresents.com, or by phone to 1-800-745-3000. For further information, please go to www.thepriests.com or www.brepresents.com.

December Puzzle Contest Winners Announced

The winner of the December contest and the book The Pope & The CEO – John Paul II’s Leadership Lessons to a Young Swiss Guard by Andreas Widmer and published by Emmaus Road Publishing (Striehallengel, Ohio – emmausroad.org) is Jerry Paruta of Queen of Peace Parish in Sweet Home. The winners of the children’s contest are Rachel Wittig (9) of St. Joseph Mission in Boling, and Christopher Stewart (9) of St. Philip School in El Campo; they each will receive a gift from the Incarnate Word Gift Shop. The winner of the January Puzzle Contest will win “The Art of Consecration – Renewing Yourself Through the Practice of Holiness” by Paul Wilkes. Please mail all completed January puzzle forms to arrive in The Catholic Lighthouse office, P. O. Box 4070, Victoria, TX 77903 by Wednesday, January 25, 2012.

The Art of Consecration will be January Puzzle Contest prize

Paul Wilkes has written an elegant, pre- scriptive, secular book—a spiritual gem— that renews the power of confession as an integral part of our spiritual lives. Its techniques include “praying backward through the day” – a five-step examination of consciousness: light, thanks, feeling, focus, and future. Wilkes illuminates confession’s three K’s: risk, relief, renewal; secret confessions; and when not to confess.

The Art of Consecration offers a new way of living, a way to restore our humanity and reconnect with the deepest – and best – part of ourselves.

Paul Wilkes, who has written many books on spirituality, is the author, most recently, of “In Due Season: A Catholic Life.” The ART OF CONFESSION is published by Workman Publishing, www.workman.com; hardback: 144 pages; ISBN: 9780761511596 (0761155961); $18.95(US)

The Art of Consecration – Renewing Yourself Through the Practice of Holiness

PAUL WILKES

The Art of Consecration provides a practical, contemporary, relevant, universal – and vital to incorporate into daily life. Its techniques include “praying backward through the day” – a five-step examination of consciousness: light, thanks, feeling, focus, and future. Wilkes illuminates confession’s three K’s: risk, relief, renewal; secret confessions; and when not to confess.

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FAITH & FAMILY

NEW TESTAMENT WOMEN

H H K P R I C I L L A V A Z Y
H C P E M W L A A C N S N I J
W A K A H T R A M K O N N F C
W D E J Y R A M O D A E T S S
M E Z L Q T U S I O N N A U
R B P L I U X J J E E P N S
B D H P J Z Q H L N P M G N A
V B D S E Y A A R H R K A A N
W K E A W U D B D M D H O N
A D B L X G R N R E N Y S T T A
Q V E O A G A I W T V F I X Y
I B W M J N H W F H J B O I
S J C E H Z F U R E N S A D L
A L L I S U R D G C I M T J U
A Z Y M L B X Z P S Y K Q D J

ANNA
DRUSILLA
ELIZABETH
DORCAS
JOANNA
LOIS
MAGDALEN
MARTHA
MARY
MARGARET
PHEEBE
PRICILLA
SALOME
SAPPHIRA
SUSANNA
TABITHA

The Catholic Lighthouse
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Catholic By Grace

Denise Bossert
www.catholicbygrace.blogspot.com

www.workmanpublishing.com

www.therpriests.com

Drawing on traditions as old as ancient Greece and as modern as psychotherapy, as diverse as Judaism, Buddhism, and Christianity, THE ART OF CONFESSION makes the practice contemporary, relevant,
Pope Benedict XVI

CNS photo from Reuters

By Cindy Wooden
Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Christians should look toward the New Year with hope and a commitment to working for justice and peace, Pope Benedict XVI said.

“God is love, he is just and peaceable, and anyone wishing to honor him must first of all act like a child following his father’s example,” the pope said Jan. 1 during a Mass marking the feast of Mary, Mother of God and World Peace Day.

The pope ended 2011 by celebrating an evening prayer service Dec. 31 in the basilica and offering God thanks for the past year. The next morning, he celebrated Mass in St. Peter’s and received, along with visitors gathered in St. Peter’s Square, the news that the Vatican had decided to try to open the path to sainthood for 79 people.

He told the crowd in the square that thanks to Mary’s openess to God’s will, “the true light that illuminates every human heart, the sun, the moon, the stars, the wind and the rain, the path to peace was opened.”

“I invite all of you to join me in the act of praying earnestly for peace throughout the world, for reconciliation and forgiveness in areas of conflict, and for a more just and equitable distribution of the world’s resources,” he said.

Earlier, during his homily at Mass, the pope said Jesus’ birth changed human history, filling it with hope and promise.

“He is the mercy and the peace that the world of itself, cannot give, and which it needs at least as much as bread,” the pope said.

For World Peace Day 2012 (Jan. 1), Pope Benedict focused on the theme of educating young people in justice and peace.

“In the face of the shadows that obscure the horizons of today’s world, to assume responsibility for educating young people in knowledge of the truth, in fundamental values and virtues, is to look toward the future with hope,” the pope said.

With the ease of communications, travel and globalization, he said, the world seems smaller in many ways and people come into contact more often with others from a different race, religion or culture.

“Now, more than ever, it is indispensable to learn its importance and the art of peaceful coexistence, mutual respect, dialogue and understanding,” he said.

While young people naturally are open, the pope said they often are targets of manipulation by those who are intolerant and violent, so “a solid education of their conscience is important.”

Education begins in the family, which must help children “develop a personality that combines a profound sense of justice with respect for their neighbor, with a capacity to address conflicts without arrogance, with the inner strength to bear witness to good, even when it involves sacrifice, with forgiveness and reconciliation,” the pope said.

Religious leaders must contribute as well, he said, because “every pathway of authentic religious formation guides the purpose of their lives and look with confidence to the future.”

“From within the fabric of humanity, which is plundered by so much injustice, wickedness and violence, there bursts forth in an unforeseeable way the joyful and liberating novelty of Christ our savior, who leads us to contemplate the goodness and tenderness of God,” the pope said.

“There is no more room for anxiety in the face of time that passes, never to return,” he said. “Now there is room for unlimited trust in God, by whom we know we are loved, from whom we live and to whom our life is directed.”

The Pope Speaks

Pope Benedict XVI

Catholic Southwest earns two Catholic Press Association awards

AUSTIN — The Texas Catholic Historical Society’s journal, Catholic Southwest: A Journal of History and Culture, earned two Catholic Press Association awards this year in the Scholarly Magazines category.

The 2010 issue of Catholic Southwest won second place for the Cardinal John P. Foley Award for General Excellence and second place for Best Feature Article for an article titled: “Courage Under Fire: St. Katharine Drexel and the Sisters of the Blessed Sacrament Confront the Ku Klux Klan.”

Published annually by the Texas Catholic Historical Society, Catholic Southwest features essays on aspects of the Roman Catholic heritage in Texas and the Southwest as expressed through history, art, architecture, literature, music, and other related subjects. The journal is a core component of the Texas Catholic Historical Society’s endeavors to discover, collect, preserve, and publish historical material relating to the Catholic community in Texas and the Southwest.

The 2011 edition of Catholic Southwest has just been released and features several articles including:

From Hispanic Gateway to Border Byway: The Catholic Church in the Middle Rio Grande District of Coahuila/Texas up to 1866.

The Missionary Explorer-Scientist, Father Eusebio Kino, S.A.; Faith, Maps, Sea Shells and the Mission San Xavier del Bac; and, One Bread, One Body: The Sisters of the Blessed Sacrament in Southeast Texas.

To subscribe to Catholic Southwest or learn more about the Texas Catholic Historical Society, call 512-339-9882 or visit www.txcatholichistoricalsociety.org.

Sunday Readings from Jan. 15 to Feb. 5

January 15 —
Second Sunday
In Ordinary Time

Second Sunday
In Ordinary Time

January 22 —
Third Sunday
In Ordinary Time

January 29 —
Fourth Sunday
In Ordinary Time

February 5 —
Fifth Sunday
In Ordinary Time

February 12 —
Sixth Sunday
In Ordinary Time

John 1:21-28
John 1:29-36
Mark 1:1-11
Mark 1:12-20
Mark 1:21-28
Mark 2:1-12


Catholic Southwest: A Journal of History and Culture, published by the Texas Catholic Historical Society, is released twice each year. The January-June edition is available online at www.txcatholichistorical...
WASHINGTON (CNS) — The head of the U.S. bishops’ Committee on Domestic Justice and Human Development joined with others in praising a new federal rule to cut down on the amount of toxins emit- ted from coal- and oil-fired plants. “It just makes good sense to want to have clean air for our children and families to breathe and for future generations,” said a statement by Bishop Stephen E. Blaire of Stockton, Calif., issued Dec. 21, the date the new EPA rules on toxins were unveiled. “Children, inside and outside the womb, are uniquely vulnerable to environmental hazards and exposure to toxic pollutants in the environ- ment,” they said. “Their bodies, behaviors and size leave them more exposed than adults to such health hazards.” The EPA rule, which has been in the works since 1990, is intended to cut mercury, arsenic and other toxins by up to 90 percent by 2016, the year the rule would be fully implemented. The rule is expected to eliminate among other things, 11,000 premature deaths and 130,000 cases of asthma a year. EPA Administrator Lisa Jackson, at a Dec. 21 news conference at the Children’s National Medical Center in Washington, said that 89 million children are at a disproportionate risk, with routinely higher rates of lead poisoning and asthma-related deaths and hospitalization, it added.

Bishops join others in lauding new EPA toxins rule

W RITES at

BRAZIL, the most Catholic country in the world with almost 137 million faithful, reportedly loses half a million Catholics each year. Keep Faith with the Church in Latin America.

Young people wait to sing national anthem outside Catholic-run school in Haiti — Young people stand in the schoolyard of the Academy for Peace and Justice while waiting to sing the national anthem in Port-au-Prince, Haiti, Jan. 9. Jan. 12 will mark the second anniversary of the devast- ating earthquake that killed more than 300,000 people, destroyed numerous schools, crippled infrastructure and left 1.5 million homeless. The school is run by a Catholic priest and funded by a roster of Hollywood celebrities. (CN) Photo/Swaner, Parkers

Haitian quake survivors leaving camps for a place they can call home

WASHINGTON (CNS) — It took almost two years, but Haitian earthquake survivor Sonya Mallebranche has a place she can call home again. It’s only three rooms, making it less than perfect. Malle- branche admits, especially for adults and three toddler grandchildren. But Malle- branche, 51, finds it far better than living in a tattered tent in the fetid, dusty camp known as Petit Place Carenue alongside hundreds of others displaced by the power- ful Jan. 12, 2010, earthquake that leveled much of the region around Port-au-Prince. “I’m so much more comfortable. Now I can sleep peacefully. Now I have my fam- ily with me,” Mallebranche told Catholic News Service Jan. 5 via cell phone from her new home. “I am really happy to have that house,” she said through a translator. Mallebranche’s family was among 460 families that have moved from the camp into long-term housing since November under a pilot program initiated by Catholic Relief Services, the U.S. bishops’ overseas relief and development agency. Called Ann Ale Lukay, Croele for Let’s Go Home, the program is designed to address a variety of needs in addition to long-term housing by preparing camp dwellers frustrated by months of living in squash conditions for a return to some sense of normalcy. The program incorporates two professional psy- chologists and 12 social workers to guide earthquake survivors in resolving conflict, managing money and overcoming the sense of loss that lingers two years after disaster disrupted their lives. “We realized there was a lot of fear about moving out of the camps, about restarting their lives after the earthquake,” explained Luke King, CRS country director in Haiti. “People were concerned about how to go about returning to a normal life.”

Start your St. Rose Parish Festival
St. Mary Church — Victoria
188th Anniversary
Annual Parish Festival
Sunday, February 12, 2012
10:30 a.m. to 6 p.m.
Victoria Community Center
FRIED CHICKEN MEAL
Serving 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.
$8.00 PER PLATE
Car Service Available
Bluff Service at 12:00 n.
Quilts • Antiques • Crafts • Collectibles
Beer Garden • Cake Wheel • Concessions
Ping Pong • Silent Auction • Games for Children
Jewelry • Plants • Country Store
2011 Toyota Corolla Sport +
GIVE AWAY
(11-7-2011907-8)

Lauding new EPA toxins rule

became a Catholic priest in 2011. EPA Administrator Lisa Jackson, at a Dec. 21 news conference at the Children’s National Medical Center in Washington, said that 89 million children are at a disproportionate risk, with routinely higher rates of lead poisoning and asthma-related deaths and hospitalization, it added.

Former Episcopal bishop to head new US ordinariate for ex-Anglicans

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Pope Benedict XVI has established a U.S. ordinariate for former Anglicans who wish to become Catholics and named a married former Episcopal bishop to head it. The Personal Ordinariate of the Chair of St. Peter — functionally equivalent to a diocese, but national in scope — will be based at a parish in Houston and will be led by Father Jeffrey N. Steenson, the former Episcopal bishop of the Rio Grande who was ordained a Catholic priest at the former Episcopal bishop of the Rio Grande who was ordained a Catholic priest to head it. The Personal Ordinariate of the Chair of St. Peter — functionally equivalent to a diocese, but national in scope — will be based at a parish in Houston and will be led by Father Jeffrey N. Steenson, the former Episcopal bishop of the Rio Grande who was ordained a Catholic priest in February 2009. The establishment of the ordinariate and the naming of its first leader were announced by the Vatican Jan. 1. More than 100 former Anglicans who have applied to become Catholic priests in the ordinariate and 1,400 individuals from more than 100 former Anglican priests and bishops were announced by the Vatican Jan. 1. More than 100 former Anglicans who have applied to become Catholic priests in the ordinariate and 1,400 individuals from 11 countries expressed interest in joining. The website for the new ordinari- ate is www.asordinarie.org.

Bishops issue brief written earlier this year. The personal ordinariate’s leader was announced by the Vatican Jan. 1. More than 100 former Anglicans who have applied to become Catholic priests in the ordinariate and 1,400 individuals from 11 countries expressed interest in joining. The website for the new ordinari- ate is www.asordinarie.org.

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PRAGUE archbishop remembers Havel as friend, ‘fellow prisoner’

PRAGUE (CNS) — Calling former Czech President Vaclav Havel “a friend and fellow prisoner,” the president of the Czech bishops’ conference said the entire nation owes Havel a debt of gratitude for its freedom and the new flourishing of Czech life and culture. Archbishop Dominik Duka of Prague, who was imprisoned with Havel by the communists, asked that the bells of all Catholic churches in the Czech Republic ring at 6 p.m. Dec. 18 in memory of the former president who died that morning at the age of 75. The archbishop, who met Havel in prison in 1981 and continued to meet with him after the end of commu- nism in 1989, was scheduled to celebrate Havel’s funeral mass Dec. 23 in St. Vitus Cathedral. “He knew the loss of freedom, the denial of human dignity, oppression and imprisonment,” Archbishop Duka said in a statement posted Dec. 18 on the Czech bishops’ website. “I am convinced that everyone across the country, regardless of political or religious beliefs, owes him honor and thanks.” Havel, a playwright and essayist, was one of the founders of the Charter 77 movement, which began criticizing the communist government of then-Czechoslovakia, particularly for its lack of respect for human rights, in 1977. He served four years of hard labor and nine months in prison for dissident activities before becoming head of state after the 1989 “Velvet Revolution” that toppled communism. He resigned in 1992 when Slovak republic was declared its independence, but Havel in prison in 1981 and continued to meet with him after the end of commu- nism in 1989, was scheduled to celebrate Havel’s funeral mass Dec. 23 in St. Vitus Cathedral. “He knew the loss of freedom, the denial of human dignity, oppression and imprisonment,” Archbishop Duka said in a statement posted Dec. 18 on the Czech bishops’ website. “I am convinced that everyone across the country, regardless of political or religious beliefs, owes him honor and thanks.” Havel, a playwright and essayist, was one of the founders of the Charter 77 movement, which began criticizing the communist government of then-Czechoslovakia, particularly for its lack of respect for human rights, in 1977. He served four years of hard labor and nine months in prison for dissident activities before becoming head of state after the 1989 “Velvet Revolution” that toppled communism. He resigned in 1992 when Slovak republic was declared its independence, but Havel in prison in 1981 and continued to meet with him after the end of commu- nism in 1989, was scheduled to celebrate Havel’s funeral mass Dec. 23 in St. Vitus Cathedral. “He knew the loss of freedom, the denial of human dignity, oppression and imprisonment,” Archbishop Duka said in a statement posted Dec. 18 on the Czech bishops’ website. “I am convinced that everyone across the country, regardless of political or religious beliefs, owes him honor and thanks.” Havel, a playwright and essayist, was one of the founders of the Charter 77 movement, which began criticizing the communist government of then-Czechoslovakia, particularly for its lack of respect for human rights, in 1977. He served four years of hard labor and nine months in prison for dissident activities before becoming head of state after the 1989 “Velvet Revolution” that toppled communism. He resigned in 1992 when Slovak republic was declared its independence, but Havel in prison in 1981 and continued to meet with him after the end of commu- nism in 1989, was scheduled to celebrate Havel’s funeral mass Dec. 23 in St. Vitus Cathedral. “He knew the loss of freedom, the denial of human dignity, oppression and imprisonment,” Archbishop Duka said in a statement posted Dec. 18 on the Czech bishops’ website. “I am convinced that everyone across the country, regardless of political or religious beliefs, owes him honor and thanks.” Havel, a playwright and essayist, was one of the founders of the Charter 77 movement, which began criticizing the communist government of then-Czechoslovakia, particularly for its lack of respect for human rights, in 1977. He served four years of hard labor and nine months in prison for dissident activities before becoming head of state after the 1989 “Velvet Revolution” that toppled communism. He resigned in 1992 when Slovak republic was declared its independence, but...
That Man is You! — The men’s faith meetings will be held at three parishes in the diocese: Bay City, Holy Cross Catholic Church, 400 N. Louisiana Ave.; Victoria, Assumption B.V.M. parish hall, Wednesdays, 5:30 – 7:15 p.m.; and Victoria, Holy Family education building, Wednesdays, 5:45 – 7:00 a.m. All men are welcome (no fee). For more information, please call Sharon at (361) 578-7572 before attending.

Gabriel Project — a ministry providing help to women in a crisis pregnancy, offers a “Come and See” weekend — holds monthly meetings to open everyone interested. Meetings, including a light supper, are held in Victoria the 2nd Tuesday of each month at 6:30 p.m. For more information, please call 655-3030 for more information. Meetings are held the 4th Tuesday of each month at 6:30 p.m. at the Catholic Education Building, back cafeteria for more information.

Engaged Encounter — For a listing of e-mail addresses and websites of Catholic organizations that focus on the family from marriage preparation to marriage enrichment, Fatherhood, and beyond. Visit: www.caacatholic.org. Visit also this time to married couples who would like marriage help. All are welcome and encouraged to attend.

The Weekend Encounter — a retreat on “Forgiveness and Reconciliation”, held at the IWBS Convent in Victoria on Jan. 21-22. Please check us out at www.adorationandreconciliation.com. For more information, please call P. Coelho at (361) 286-3349. The IWBS Convent is located on 206 Depot. Speaker will be Senator Glenn Hegar; all are welcome. Please call Senator Glenn Hegar at (979) 541-6881 if you would like to book Michael to facilitate your Parish Mission. El Campo — St. Philip the Apostle Church presents a one-day Life in the Spirit Seminar at Incarnate Word Convent from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Saturday, Jan. 28, followed by a healing Mass at 6:00 p.m. See information below. For more information, please contact P. Coelho at (361) 573-3477.

El Campo — St. Philip the Apostle Church invites you to a one-day Life in the Spirit Seminar at Incarnate Word Convent from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Saturday, Jan. 28, followed by a healing Mass at 6:00 p.m. For more information, please contact P. Coelho at (361) 573-3477.

El Campo — Senator Glenn Hegar, from Katy, Texas, and recognized with the “Perfectly Pro-Life Award” from Texas Right to Life in 2011, will be the guest speaker for the “2012 Sanctity of Life Celebration.”

The Pro-Life Sanctity of Life program will be hosted at El Campo’s First Baptist Church by its pastor, Rev. Richard Dubberson, on Wednesday, Jan. 25, at 7:00 a.m. All, students and adults, are invited to the event to be held on 206 Depot Street.

“The Sanctity of Life event began after the unfortunate Roe Decision was made January 23, 1973, to allow abortion,” said E.C. Life Advocate coordinator and activity director, Denise K. Convey. “This hour will be offered to you so that you can pray for the unborn and your loved ones. A love offering is accepted for the day. Please call for reservations 1-800-319-7774.

El Campo — Sanctity of Life Celebration — Life is Sacred is sponsored by El Campo Life Advocates and will be held Jan. 25 at 7:00 a.m. and hosted by First Baptist Church on 206 Depot. Speaker will be Senator Glenn Hegar; all are invited. For more information, please contact El Campo Life Advocates at (361) 573-4329 with St. Philip the Apostle Church.

President — St. Philip the Apostle Church will offer a “Come and See” weekend at Incarnate Word Convent in Victoria on Jan. 21-22. Please check us out at www.adorationandreconciliation.com. For more information, please call P. Coelho at (361) 286-3349.

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ST. PAUL ALUMNI GIVE BACK TO THE IWB’S SISTERS—For the past eight years a group from the St. Paul class of ’89 have been giving the IWB Sisters a Christmas gift to show their appreciation from their days at St. Ludmila. They purchase and deliver Shiner Strudels just in time for the Christmas Hollidays. This year they delivered 39 strudels to the Sisters assuring them there would have a good supply of homemade goodness. All the Sisters in the IWB’s Motherhouse in Victoria are very appreciative of this gesture, and the Sisters who have taught in Shiner often say: “We get a little taste of Shiner again.” The former students enjoy this one-on-one visit with the Sisters and are happy to give something back to them. Pictured (front row, l. – r.) are Sister Elaine Reeder, Philip Pilat ’89, Halle Pilat, Bobby Kneifel ’89, Gracie Pilat, Noah Leist, Kade Leist, and Sister Sylvia Grahmann; back row: Sister Frances Cabrini Janiszewski, Sister Marietta Hajdik, Monica Peters ’89, Sister Anna Marie Poppe, Denise (Siegel) Leist ’89, Sister Esther Gerbermann, Jennifer Pilat and Charlie Pilat. Other alumini from the class of ’89 not in the photo are Dwayne Maly and Clarice (Thibodeaux) Butler.

CATHOLIC FAITH WITNESSED—On the feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe, December 12, 2011, parishioners of St. Anthony of Padua Catholic Church in Palacios celebrated with a procession through the streets with marachis, matachines, and praying of the rosary. Over 300 people took part in the procession, Holy Mass, and the party afterward. It was a great witness of our Catholic faith.

Capitol Comments:

Catholics called to National Migration Week, January 8-14

Remembering the Holy Family

By Jeffery R. Patterson
Executive Director
Texas Catholic Conference

We are given to many meditations during the Advent and Christmas seasons; several involve how Gospel narratives can be applied to circumstances today. One of the most profound involves the Holy Family’s struggles in the Nativity gospels and the plight of the contemporaneous migrant families. This connection across time is not as arbitrary as some political leaders may wish. Diaspora and migration – and the hardships and uncertainties that accompany them – are ubiquitous themes throughout the Bible. Above all, the story of the Holy Family has become something of an archetype for refugee families and migrant families.

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The Nativity is a powerful story. Surely, it is not merely coincidence that the U.S. Catholic Conference of Bishops plans the observance of National Migration Week (January 8 through 14) so quickly after Christmas. As it has for the past 25 years, this year’s National Migration Week celebration seeks to guide Catholics to grasp the Church’s trinitarian diversity and better understand the plight of migrants searching for better lives or fleeing persecution, war, or violence. Such a humble and inspiring story still resonates so clearly as a religious meme that it serves to encourage all Catholics to open our hearts and homes to migrant families who may be isolated and vulnerable. Immigration is a familiar issue in Texas, where immigrants and refugees are drawn by dreams of a better life or to escape the lawlessness that consumes many regions across the border. Who among us would not want to follow the Magi’s dreams? The failure of federal officials to embrace fair and comprehensive immigration reform, coupled with a history of inconsistent immigration legislation created by state governments tends to create a harsh environment for undocumented people, and the conference can help advocates learn how to help these immigrants. “On a broader scale, it allows us to be part of the solution that we hope will come about once the 2012 elections are over,” he said. Immigration must be dealt with on a federal level, said Kevin Appleby, USCCB’s director of migration policy.

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