Retrouvaille achieves
10-year milestone

The Diocese of Victoria Retrouvaille ministry celebrates its tenth anniversary this year. Retrouvaille, meaning rediscovery, is a marriage-healing ministry. It began as a French language program in Québec, Canada in 1977. In 1998, the program was translated into English, and later expanded to include the Post Weekend. Today, Retrouvaille is offered in over 150 countries around the world and nearly 100 couples have participated in Retrouvaille since its inception in the diocese.

Marriage Encounter, a program to renew and refresh good marriages, had been a part of the Diocese of Victoria since 1977. As years passed, the team couples for Marriage Encounter began to see more and more couples coming to the weekend who had broken and hurting marriages and were in need of additional help. In September, 2004, Retrouvaille was introduced in Victoria and the first weekend was held in the Spiritual Renewal Center.

In honor of the anniversary, TCL recently interviewed Fr. Gary Janak, diocesan chancellor, and Stanley and Judy Sulak, an integral couple to the program that have been married for 46 years.

TCL: How did you become involved in the program? What are your roles and responsibilities?

Fr. Gary Janak: I had been working with Marriage Encounter for a few years and I learned about Retrouvaille through some of the team couples. It connected with what I had discovered in my counseling sessions with married couples. I realized there was a great need in the diocese for some type of Catholic-based program that could assist couples who were hurting in their marriages or on the verge of divorce. I am a member of the team and I participate in all of the presentations throughout the weekend. I also serve as the spiritual director for the program and assist the team couple coordinating the program.

Judy Sulak: Stanley and I were the Retrouvaille coordinating couple for the first several years. Then, Gerd and Linda Conner took over our role and did an excellent job keeping the weekend alive and flourishing. Gerd died 2 years ago, and since that time, John and Jennifer Vincent have been our coordinating couple. Stanley and I are a team couple for the Post Weekend experience, sharing our lived experiences with the couples who choose to continue their journey of bettering their marriages. As we share with the couples attending, our own marriage is refreshed.

See Retrouvaille, p. 9

St. Joseph Church, Moulton
Church celebrates 125th anniversary

St. Joseph’s parish, Moulton, began as a mission church in Halletsville in 1888. Fr. John A. Forest ministered to the spiritual needs of the people in a church which was completed Nov. 15, 1888. Sam and Will Moore donated 5.5 acres of land. This was one year after the San Antonio and Aransas Pass Railroad was built through the present site of Moulton and the first business, a general store, was established. For half a century before this date, Moulton was a mission of Hallettsville and the first weekend was held in the Spiritual Renewal Center.

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During the long pastorate of Fr. Joseph Kopp (1920-1959) the present brick church was built in 1924. The two-story frame building served as a rectory until 1948, a classroom school building and auditorium in 1953, and a convent from 1948 to 1967. It now serves as the parish CCD center and community social center. During 1967 through 1969, the rectory, church, and auditorium were completely renovated and air-conditioned.

7 women from the parish have become nuns. The first priest from the parish, Fr. Dennis Darilek was a mission of Hallettsville until Feb. 1893 when Fr. Charles Benes was appointed pastor of Moulton with Shiner as a mission. Shiner remained a mission until 1912. A parish school was built in 1894 and was staffed by the Sisters of Divine Providence. It was in operation until May 1965.

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Bishop Fellhauer’s Schedule

January
6-10 Region X Bishops' Retreat, Oblate Renewal Center, San Antonio
15 4:00 p.m. Diocesan Building Board meeting, Chancery Office
12-16 First Week of Diocesan Priests’ Retreat, Spiritual Renewal Center
19-23 Second Week of Diocesan Priests’ Retreat, Spiritual Renewal Center
23 7:00 p.m. Candlelight March for Life
24 1:00 p.m. Spelling Bee, Our Lady of Victory School Gym, Victoria
25 5:00 p.m. Mass, Catholic Committee on Scouting, Boy Scout Retreat, Camp Mauritz, Ganado
26 9:00 a.m. Mass, Catholic Schools Week, Our Lady of Victory Cathedral
27 Ordination and Installation of Most Rev. Michael Sis as Bishop of San Angelo Diocese, San Angelo
29 Ordination and Installation of Most Rev. Michael Olson as Bishop of Ft. Worth Diocese, Ft. Worth

February
2 2:00 p.m. Blessing of the outdoor Stations of the Cross and Rosary Path, Incarnate Word Convent, Victoria
5 10:00 a.m. Pension Board meeting, Chancery Office
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

DSA & Reflection of Faith Capital Campaign Updates

2013 DSA
Diocesan Goal: $1,721,343.00
Parish Pledge Totals: $894,258.26
Parish Contribution Totals: $866,125.19
Number of Parish Families Participating: 3,610

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

Thank you note

Dear Bishop,
We have received your recent check for $3,901.81. This amount has been posted to the 2013 Collection for the Catholic Communication Campaign. I am grateful for your assistance in facilitating the generous gifts of the parishioners in your diocese.
Sincerely,
Bevin C. Kennedy, Office of National Collections
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 3, 2014

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<td>In memory of Marvin and Mary Frances Turner (parents) by Tommy, Carol and Justin Turner</td>
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<td>In honor of Kimberly Hailey (Godchild) by Tommy and Carol Turner (Godparents)</td>
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<td>In honor of Scott Kulcak by Tommy Turner (confirmation sponsor)</td>
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<tr>
<td>In honor of Will Orr by Tommy Turner (confirmation sponsor)</td>
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<tr>
<td>In honor of B.G. and Betty Parma (Godparents) by Justin Turner (Godchild)</td>
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<td>In honor of Lindsey Riha by Carol Turner (confirmation sponsor)</td>
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<tr>
<td>In honor of Toby Riha (Godchild) by Tommy and Carol Turner (Godparents)</td>
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<td>In loving memory of Frank S. Sisti by Grace E. Rigamonti</td>
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<tr>
<td>In loving memory of Patrick Taglibue by Grace E. Rigamonti</td>
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<tr>
<td>In honor of M/M Robert Penconi’s 50th wedding anniversary by Stephen and Christine Meismer Moore</td>
<td>33.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>In honor of M/M Edwin Vachlack’s 50th wedding anniversary by Stephen and Christine Meismer Moore</td>
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<td>Burse #2</td>
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<tr>
<td>In memory of Andrew R. Brosch, Sr. by Willie E. Barborak</td>
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<tr>
<td>In memory of Lena Grafe by Ed and Peggy Scherer</td>
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<td>In memory of Agnes Holik by Sacred Heart CDA #797</td>
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<td>In memory of Bobby Pavlisha by Willie Barborak</td>
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<td>Ed and Peggy Scherer</td>
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<td>In memory of Timothy Borch by M/M R.G. Schaefer</td>
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<td>In honor of David and Lorine Kebenka’s 50th wedding anniversary by Edna Bludau</td>
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<th>Rev. Msgr. Celestino Say</th>
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Rev. Vincent Verderame</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>O.M.I.</td>
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<tr>
<td>In loving memory of Rev. Vincent Verderame by Mrs. Felicia Perrone</td>
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<tr>
<td>M/M John Perrone</td>
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<tr>
<td>Robert E. and Margaret Clegg</td>
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<tr>
<td>St. Patrick’s Church, Seadrift Catholic Ladies Club</td>
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<td>Hector and Okla Flores</td>
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<th>Rev. Vincent Verderame O.M.I.</th>
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<tr>
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The KJT Society #115, Victoria, recently made a donation to Our Lady of Victory Cathedral’s Eternally We Build Fund. A check was presented at the society’s Christmas party. Left to right: Lawrence Yanta, society president; Fr. Gary Janak, pastor at OLV, and Joe Putska, society treasurer.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Spring Extended Program: Liturgy</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tuesdays: Jan. 14-Feb. 25*</td>
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<tr>
<td>*Note: Class will not be held Feb. 4.</td>
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</table>

“Liturgy is the summit toward which the activity of the Church is directed; it is also the font from which all her power flows” (Catechism of the Catholic Church #1073). The course will benefit all Catholics, but it is highly recommended for catechists and liturgical ministers, such as lectors and extraordinary ministers of Holy Communion.

The course will be taught by Mr. Ron Friedel. Classes will be held Tuesdays 9:15-11:30 a.m., and repeated again 7:00-9:15 p.m.

Classes are available at three sites: Chancery, Victoria, via distance learning at Holy Cross, East Bernard and St. Ann’s, Point Comfort.

DIOCESE OF VICTORIA
SEMINARY BURSES
P. O. BOX 4070
VICTORIA, TX 77903
The Gabriel Project recently received $200 from Catholic Life. The Gabriel Project extends their sincere gratitude and support to Catholic Life. Left to right: Bob Melnar, Catholic Life representative and Barbara McCain Williams, Gabriel Project representative. Another donation made to the Gabriel Project was from a group of students from St. Joseph High School, Victoria, for $250. Madeline Schaal, junior at STJ, presented a check to Stefani Spears, Gabriel Project hotline coordinator. The Gabriel Project is thankful to all the students who participated in helping protect the dignity of life.

The KJZT Society #20, Shiner, presented a check for the KJZT Priests & Religious Retirement Fund at their Christmas Social. Left to right: Edwin Machacek, society vice president; David Wagner, society president; Margaret Hanslik, state director; Wilma Wagner, secretary and Elizabeth Wagner, society treasurer.

Sister M. Jeanne de Matel Hayden, 95, of Victoria, died December 14, 2013. She was born May 1, 1918, in San Antonio, TX to the late Robert Joseph Hayden and Emma Caroline (Nocker) Hayden. She was a Catholic and a member of the Sisters of the Incarnate Word and Blessed Sacrament. She completed grammar grades at St. Leo’s Elementary School, high school at Blessed Sacrament Academy, San Antonio and graduated in 1936. She entered Blessed Sacrament Convent as a Postulant on August 17, 1936. On June 10, 1937, she received the habit of the Sisters of IWBS. On June 11, 1938 she made her first profession of vows. She received a BA degree with a major in English and a minor in Spanish and a master’s degree from Incarnate Word College with a major in Education and a minor in History. During the 75 years of her religious profession, she taught at the elementary and junior high levels at Sacred Heart School, Hallettsville; St. Leo School and Blessed Sacrament Academy, San Antonio; Nazareth Academy, Victoria; St. Mary School, Praha; Holy Cross School, Bay City; Assumption School, Ganado; St. Michael School, Weimar; Sacred Heart School, Crosby and Holy Cross School, East Bernard. She also served 15 years as principal in 4 of the schools. After retiring from full-time classroom ministry, she served the congregation as an assistant to the treasurer general. She continued to use her ‘green thumb’ to enhance the beauty of the chapel and the living quarters of the Sisters at Incarnate Word Convent. She also made rosaries for the missions. She entered into her Apostolate of Prayer and Suffering in 2004. She was preceded in death by: parents, Robert Joseph Hayden and Emma Caroline (Nocker) Hayden; brother, Vernon Joseph Hayden; brother-in-law, Oscar Clark; sisters-in-law, Hilda Hayden, and Mercedes Hayden. Survivors: sisters, Sister M. John Hayden, and Mrs. Lillian Clark, nieces and nephews. She is buried at Catholic Cemetery No. 3. Memorials may be made to Incarnate Word Convent, Hospice of South Texas, or donor’s choice.

The KJZT Society #13, Yoakum, recently held a taco fundraiser. Members and youth participated, raising $375. The KJZT state headquarters matched the amount for a total of $750. The KJZT state headquarters also provided St. Joseph Catholic School, Yoakum, with a $400 grant to assist the school’s technology program. A check presentation was held at the society’s Christmas social. Left to right: Anthony Harper, society treasurer; Dorothy Zabransky, society secretary; Susan Kelley, school principal, and Robert Hybner, society president.

The St. Anne’s KJZT Society #30, East Bernard, recently sponsored a ‘Bake-No-Bake’ fundraiser to benefit the Diocese of Victoria’s Seminarian Education Fund. The KJZT state headquarters matched half of the $1,000 raised. A presentation was made at Holy Cross Catholic Church. Officers presented the check to Fr. Donald Ruppert and then to Bishop David E. Fellhauer. Left to right: Angeline Grigar, society secretary; Sophie Korenek, society president; Fr. Don Ruppert, pastor of Holy Cross; Gladys Dusek, society vice president and Emilia Svozoda, society treasurer.

Happy Birthday!

Deacon Philip Brune is in Theology IV at St. Mary’s Seminary in Houston. His home parish is Sts. Peter and Paul, Frelsburg. His birthday is Jan. 24. Please show your support for this seminarian by writing to: Deacon Philip Brune, St. Mary’s Seminary, 9845 Memorial Drive, Houston, TX 77024.
Povertyusa

More than 46 million people in America are living below the poverty line. Nearly 1 in 6 of us live in poverty and worse yet, nearly 1 in 5 children... Who lives in Poverty USA? All those who make less than the federal government’s official poverty threshold—which for a family of 4 is $22,811.00. People working at minimum wage, even holding down several jobs. Seniors living on fixed incomes. Wage earners suddenly out of work. Millions of families everywhere from our cities to rural communities...It can end. Break the cycle of poverty and help people move themselves out of Poverty USA.

For more information, visit www.PovertyUSA.org.

January is Poverty in America Awareness Month

Poverty awareness

WASHINGTON—The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) is marking Poverty Awareness Month with a new Spanish-language website, updated online statistics, blog posts on poverty and a calendar to educate Catholics about poverty through the month of January and beyond.

“We hope Poverty Awareness Month raises the consciousness of Catholics and other Americans about the debilitating poverty that smothers the spirit and weakens the soul of our neighbors everywhere,” said Bishop Jaime Soto of Sacramento, California, chairman of the Catholic Campaign for Human Development (CCHD), the U.S. bishops’ domestic anti-poverty program. “As we wrestle with the effects of the enduring economic crisis, let us work together so that this vital apostolate of justice and mercy will reduce poverty and restore human dignity in our society.”

The Poverty USA website has been updated to reflect latest census statistics. These include: 9.5 million U.S. families, or 11.8 percent of families live in poverty, 25 percent of children under the age of 6 live in poverty, and 20.4 million people live in deep poverty or living at less than half the poverty line. Also, 23 million people are unemployed or underemployed. For more information, visit www.usccb.org.

TCL advertising notice for 2014

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

Advertising requirements for TCL include:

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

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

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

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

Thank you

The Diocese of Victoria wishes to thank Knights of Columbus Council #9088, of Holy Family Church, Victoria, for the donation of three flags at the Chancery.

St. Mary Church
Victoria • 190th Anniversary

ANNUAL PARISH FESTIVAL

Sunday, February 9, 2014 • 10:30 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.
Victoria Community Center

Serving 11:00 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.
Roast beef
with gravy, country potatoes, green beans, etc.
Plates — $8 • Dine-in or plates-to-go available

Bid Auction at 12:30 p.m.
Quilts • Antiques • Crafts • Collectibles • Jewelry

Beer Garden • Cake Wheel • Concessions
Bingo • Silent Auction • Games for Children

Raffle tickets available at the church office and at the festival!

(Lic. #1-74-1109707-8)
**Feast of Mary, Mother of God**

Jan. 1 was the Marian feast day of Mary. It was a Holy Day of Obligation and beginning of a new year. Let us look to Mary as a model for renewed Christian life: in her openness to the Holy Spirit, her radical assent to God’s will for her life, her patience through suffering, and her willingness to bring the Savior into the world.

To watch Our Lady and Me, a video devotion to Mary, visit www.usccb.org/media/ and click on the video link.

**March for Life**

The March for Life began in 1973, when an assembly worried that the first anniversary of Roe v. Wade would not be recognized. It is typically a peaceful gathering as those who believe pro-life witness to the truth regarding the utmost human rights violation of legalized abortion.

The march in Washington, D.C. will be held on Jan. 22. It began as a small demonstration and grew to be a major pro-life event in the world. Multiple ceremonies and events will take place around the U.S. A rally will be held at the National Mall, featuring guest speakers and a concert. Following the rally, the march will start towards Capitol Hill.

Locally, the 27th Annual Candlelight March for Life will be held Jan. 23 at 7:00 p.m. It will start at the De Leon Plaza in downtown Victoria and proceed to Our Lady of Sorrows.

**Church celebrates 125th anniversary**

**Continued from p. 1**

ordained on April 27, 1973. Parishioners in the early 2000s numbered approximately 1,300 representing about 90 percent of the community’s population.

Under Fr. Maison’s leadership, the parish church was renovated and rededicated. After the extensive renovation to restore the church to its original design of early 20th century Gothic-style to include a long nave, a pair of side aisles supported by 10 columns, stained glass windows, and a chancel, The Most Rev. David E. Fellhauer presided over the rededication 70 years after the first construction and dedication on March 20, 1994.

Other projects followed such as putting a new roof on the parish hall and C.C.D. building, updating the rectory, and repaving the parking lot. A new family room was added to the C.C.D. building and a quilting room was added to provide a place for a ladies’ group to quilt. The Youth Ministry Center opened Oct. 19, 2008 for all children in the community. The Youth Choir utilizes it for practice and presently, an average of 80 children participate in activities at the center weekly.

On May 27, 2012 an outdoor Resurrection Chapel was constructed as a much needed location to gather for funeral rites, reflection, and prayer. It has a columbarium, a consecrated resting place for the inurnment of created remains, and a place to memorialize our deceased loved ones.

In celebration of the 125th anniversary, the church continues the mission of Christ by celebrating the sacraments, caring for the pastoral needs of parishioners, reaching out in charity to those in need in the community and surrounding area. The church maintains a vibrant and integral part of the Moulton community.

(Some portions included from research by Ernest J. Novosad for the 125th Anniversary Celebration)

**A day of penance and prayer**

For the first time, as per the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, in all the dioceses of the U.S., Jan. 22 shall be observed as a particular day of penance for violations to the dignity of the human person committed through acts of abortion and of prayer for the full restoration of the legal guarantee of the right to life.

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**Secretariat for Pro-Life Activities United States Conference of Catholic Bishops**

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**Current serving St. Joseph’s parish**

- Rev. Gabriel Maison, pastor
- Milburn Kram, permanent deacon
- Kenneth Fishbeck, permanent deacon

**A few important dates**

- Early beginnings and dedication of first church: 1888
- Dedication of present church: 1924 and rededication: 1994
- Texas historical marker: 1988
- Patronal feast: March 19

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**The Catholic Lighthouse**

**SPIRITUALITY**

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**Feast of Mary, Mother of God**

Jan. 23 at 7:00, a Christmas

Last month, St. Mary’s, Nada, held a 15th annual nativity play, _Mary’s First Christmas_, an outdoor performance. A soup and sandwich supper was served afterwards in the parish hall.
A prayer for hope, a prayer for life

Lord Jesus Christ, Savior and Redeemer, you are The Way, The Truth, and The Life. I pray you will send the Holy Spirit into the lives of all clergy of every denomination so they will proclaim the message of the one true God who has revealed himself to us for all time in His Son, Our Lord Jesus Christ, that pro-life is a condition Christianity, just as John Paul II wrote in his Evangelium Vitae (The Living Gospel of Life), “to be Catholic is to be unconditionally pro-life.”

~Pro-God, Pro-Life Coalition of America

Week of prayer for Christian unity

The Week of Prayer for Christian Unity (WPCU), which enters into congregations and parishes worldwide, will take place Jan. 18-25, 2014. Various Christian churches agree to set aside one week for intensive prayer and action in view of Christian unity demonstrating the need for more unity among believers in Christ. Remember, God gives His children varieties of gifts.

By annually observing the WPCU, Christians move toward the fulfillment of Jesus’ prayer at the Last Supper “that they all may be one.” (cf. John 17:21)

For biblical reflections, prayers and more, there are several resources available for WPCU. For more information, visit www.usccb.org, www.oikoumene.org/en/resources/week-of-prayer, or www.geii.org/week_of_prayer_for_christian_unity/index.html.

Christ Cathedral, new name and project underway

by Daniel Linskey
Catholic News Service

WASHINGTON (CNS)—Bishop Tod D. Brown of Orange, CA, said Christ Cathedral is the new name of the former Crystal Cathedral, currently owned by the diocese and once home to the ministries of the Rev. Robert H. Schuller.

The new name was one of the most popular among suggestions from 4,129 Catholics. It was officially approved by the Vatican.

Msgr. Michael Heher said Rev. Schuller, the televangelist who founded the Crystal Cathedral and led its popular nationally broadcast TV program ‘Hour of Power,’ told him he had built the cathedral for Christ adding, “Dr. Schuller said he knew that under Roman Catholic ownership, the Crystal Cathedral would be with Christ forever. It was a powerful gesture of confidence.” After the renovation is completed, there will be a dedication for the cathedral.

Msgr. Heher said, “It is a gorgeous rite. The ritual for the dedication of a church almost mirrors a baptism.”

On Jan. 1, Pope Francis released Fraternity, the Foundation and Pathway to Peace as the 47th annual World Day of Peace message. He urges us to open our hearts in a new way to our brothers and sisters affected by poverty, hunger, conflicts, migrations, inequalities, pollution, underdevelopment, and injustice. When we break free from indifference and see ourselves and members of one human family, we can truly ‘encounter’ one another and build peace.

Pope Francis prays as he leads a Marian prayer service near the Spanish Steps in Rome. (CNS photo/Paul Haring)
One morning last spring, I caught my older daughter flipping through a diocesan newspaper while eating breakfast. I had to smile. On that particularly morning, she was not officially Catholic. She entered the church later that day at Mass at the Cathedral Basilica in St. Louis, Missouri. It was Pentecost Sunday and soon, my second child would be entering the faith I had chosen less than a decade earlier. 

“Did you read the diocesan newspapers when you lived here? Or is this a new thing for you?” I asked her.

She looked up from the paper and smiled. “When there was no catalog or magazine on the table, I would read it. It was something to do.” She laughed and closed the paper.

Those were rough years. She had moved into our house with her little boys and was trying to juggle them and full-time employment. She was also trying hard to avoid God.

On this particular Sunday, the fight against God ended. On that day, she was received into Mother Church.

My husband also used to scan diocesan newspapers and magazines before he converted. He is the kind of guy that goes through withdrawal when he does not have a book to read. In the years after my conversion (and before his own conversion), he would read the Catholic papers that were on the table- the random complimentary copies I received as a columnist. This is the same man who promised he would never become Catholic. He was born Southern Baptist, and he would die Southern Baptist.

He has been Catholic since 2008.

I do not know if there is a cause and effect relationship between conversions and subscriptions to diocesan periodicals, but at the very least, there is some correlation. I believe families that have subscriptions to diocesan papers are the very families most likely to experience conversion and ongoing conversion- even among families in which some members actively resist God. There are times the diocesan newspaper on the kitchen table is the only remaining voice for Mother Church in the lives of those who stubbornly resist grace.

I am blessed to write for diocesan papers and magazines, but I am even more blessed to have those periodicals in my home and on my kitchen table. There was a time when my husband told me to stop talking about my newly found faith- but he would still read the diocesan newspaper. My daughter tuned me out for years. However, last spring, she entered the church.

Diocesan papers are tools of evangelization. Sometimes, they are the only evangelization tool in a household.

If you are reading this, you understand how important this magazine or newspaper is. You know that it assists you in your journey- and you know that it assists those who live under your roof and sit at your kitchen table.

In a world that is filled with many voices and so many words, it is a blessing to have faithful media coming into our homes and sharing words that matter- words that bring life.
Liturgical conference in Beaumont

The Southwest Liturgical Conference (SWLC) is a liturgical organization. It was established in 1962 and consists of the 27 Roman Catholic Dioceses of Region X of the Federation of Diocesan Liturgical Commissions (FDLC). States include Arizona, Colorado, New Mexico, Oklahoma, Texas, Utah, and Wyoming. The SWLC echo’s the Catholic heritage of the Southwest as evident in multicultural, urban, and rural communities.

SWLC started during the Second Vatican Council. It is the oldest continuous regional liturgical conference in the U.S. On an annual basis, the SWLC Study Week is held to emphasize the rich diversity of its people. Liturgists and those involved in ministry meet to study and prayerfully celebrate traditions of the Catholic faith.

SWLC’s purpose is to cultivate the ongoing renewal of the liturgy as articulated in the Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy and the important liturgical documents of the Church. In collaboration with all Bishops of Region X, diocesan directors of worship and other liturgical leaders, the SWLC imparts opportunities for education, formation, growth, and networking.

Hosted by the Diocese of Beaumont, the 52nd Annual Southwest Liturgical Conference Study Week will be held January 22-25 at the Ford Park Event Center and MCM Elegante Hotel in Beaumont, TX.

Workshops will cover a variety of topics. It is a time for all to gather in community and prayer and to find profound understanding and appreciation of the prayer of the Church and everyone’s gift: liturgy.

TCL: What do you feel is most important or most interesting aspect about the program?
Fr. Gary Janak: I am impressed with how the technique of dialogue and communication taught in the program works so effectively and, for many husbands and wives, so quickly.

The Sulaks: We believe that the most important or most interesting aspect about the program is that it is a peer ministry; hurting couples ministering to hurting couples. We have noticed in sharing our struggles and pain, our own marriage is healed.

TCL: Is the purpose of the program being fulfilled?
Fr. Gary Janak: It is exactly what is needed in our diocese to assist couples who are hurting and in need of guidance and healing in their marriages. Priests want to assist couples with serious marital problems, but often do not have the time to do so or believe they do not have the professional training required. Such assistance to seriously hurting couples can require months of counseling. The Retrouvaille program has a proven track record of getting couples back on the right track much quicker and in a profoundly spiritual way. The added advantage is that Retrouvaille allows couples to minister to other couples, who share the same hurt and need for healing. Judy Sulak: Stanley and I had been involved in marriage ministry for much of our married lives. The Retrouvaille weekend provides an added service in that there is a Post Weekend program in place which offers 6 additional weeks of peer ministry dealing with issues such as family of origin, the decisions needed to make marriage successful, conflict management, and others. The mission of the program, which is to help hurting couples, is definitely being fulfilled.

TCL: Has the program impacted your life? If so, how?
Fr. Gary Janak: Retrouvaille has greatly assisted me in further defining my vocation and how holy orders and holy marriage are so intertwined and connected with one another. The couples involved have impacted my life by challenging me to be a better priest and to pay more attention to how I am serving my spouse, the church. I pray more priests, deacons, spiritual directors, and professional counselors will recommend Retrouvaille to those they serve and come to realize the rich gift Retrouvaille is to the Catholic Church.

Judy Sulak: Little did Stanley and I know how much we needed to be a part of this movement. Since we made our Retrouvaille weekend 9 years ago, our lives have been faced with challenges: we had problems with children, I went through breast cancer and Stanley went through colon cancer, we had 3 years of crop failure and had to quit farming, which we loved, and move on to new ways of supporting ourselves. The financial stress was one of the biggest challenges we have ever faced in our marriage, and we are so glad we had the tools learned in Retrouvaille to help get us through.

TCL: What is the greatest component or most beneficial for others regarding the program?
Fr. Gary Janak: It offers married couples a solid foundation upon which they can rebuild their marriages and shows them how to pay closer attention to the gift of the sacrament of marriage.

The Sulaks: We think what is most beneficial about the program is couples realizing there is no shame in having marriage problems. Shame is in giving up too easily. We share with the couples— it is in our problems and failures in which we learn the most. Our past struggles have made us see more than ever that God is always with us. He can get us through anything, if we only turn to Him and the sacramental graces that He holds out to us.

A Retrouvaille weekend will be held in August 2014.

Retrouvaille is not only a peer ministry, but a ministry of hope. The team couples, by sharing their own lives, give other couples hope. The degree of the problems shared is not the issue. What is important for struggling couples to hear and know, is the willingness of others to work to keep their marriages united.

For more information, contact John and Jennifer Vincent at jbivjov@sbglobal.net or (361) 580-2770. Call 1(800) 470-2230 or visit www.helpourmarriage.org or www.retrouvaille.org.
Students at Shiner Catholic School have a new way to read. Neely Yackel, principal, watches the 6th grade language arts class read novels on their Kindle Fire HD Tablets. The school is currently developing a web-based library where students can check out, download, and read books in digital formats. Some of the books will be used as part of the school’s curriculum. Additional titles will be available for children to use at home on their personal devices. Book titles will be available for students Pre-K through high school.

Puzzle contest winners

The winner of the December puzzle contest and the book New Vision, New Directions by Robert J. Hater is Janice Garcia of St. Rose of Lima, Schulenburg. The winner of the children’s contest is 7-year-old, Bethany Baker, St. Philip School, El Campo. She will receive a gift from the Incarnate Word Gift Shop.

The winner of the January contest will win Sister Wendy on the Art of Mary by Sister Wendy Beckett. The book provides insights on 14 works of art that illustrate scenes from, the mother of Jesus, Mary’s life. The author offers interpretation and inspiration. It is a treasure for those who appreciate experiential wisdom and art.

If you have not won the puzzle contest within the past six months, please mail a completed January puzzle form by January 27, 2014 to The Catholic Lighthouse, P.O. Box 4070, Victoria, TX 77903 for a chance to win!

Sister Wendy on the Art of Mary

Christian Store
(979) 543-2850
1603 N Mechanic
El Campo, TX 77437
Sat. 9:30 – 3:00

Praise God for His many blessings!
Visit our new location!
Providing Christian items for yourself, gifts for others, or for your church.
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., JP II Family Center. Visit www. thatmanisyou.org.

East Bernard—The Catholic Daughters of the Americas St. Bernadette #1108 Chicken Noodle Soup and Sandwich Supper and Raffle. Jan. 29 at 5 p.m. at the American Legion Hall on Hwy. 60. $3 soup, $3 sandwich. Dine-in or bring containers to enjoy at home. A large variety of pastries will be available for purchase. Raffle tickets are $1 each or $5 for a book of 6. Drawing for 68 prizes at 7:00 p.m. There will be a silent auction and entertainment by Keller Academy of Performing Arts.

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

Victoria—Catholic Daughters of the Americas Court St. Ann #869 will host a games party on Jan. 26 from 1:00 to 4:00 p.m. at the KC Hall on the corner of Airline and Ben Wilson. Admission is $7/p. Lunch served at 1:30 p.m. There will be a silent auction, door prizes and more. For reservations call Donna Boehm at (361) 574-8569 or Jo Ann Lau at (361) 573-3669.

Victoria—The Religious Community of the Missionary Catechists of the Sacred Hearts of Jesus and Mary (MC/SH) Benefit Dinner Jan. 19 at CWV Hall, 1007 S. Main St. from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Brisket and trimmings are $8/p. 11:45 a.m. auction. Proceeds benefit the Sister’s Province.

Victoria—Nazareth Academy Open House Jan. 27 at 5:30 p.m. Campus tours Jan. 28 are from 1:00 to 3:00 p.m. For more information, visit www.nazarethacademy.org or call (361) 573-6651.

Victoria—Our Lady of Victory Open House Jan. 27 at 6:30 p.m. in the cafeteria. Visit www.ourladyvictory.org.


Edna—Catholic Daughters of the Americas spiritual retreat Feb. 1 at St. Agnes Parish Hall, 506 N. Allen Ave. Sponsored by CDA Districts 12, 14, 29, and 34. 8:00 a.m. registration, 9:00 a.m. opening, followed by breakfast. Message to be presented by Olga Samaniego, 2nd vice national regent of El Paso. 1:00 p.m. closing of retreat.

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

Shiner—10th Annual Taste of Paradise Religious Education Gala Feb. 15. For more information, call Sts. Cyril & Methodius Catholic Church parish office at (361) 594-3836.

Victoria—Blessing of the outdoor Stations of the Cross and Rosary Path Feb. 2 at 2:00 p.m. at Incarnate Word Convent.

Victoria—St. Mary Parish Festival Feb. 9 at the Community Center. For more information, see ad on pg. 5.
A prayer for the new year

Remember us, O God; from age to age be our comforter. You have given us the wonder of time, blessings in days and nights, seasons and years. Bless your children at the turning of the year and fill the months ahead with the bright hope that is ours in the coming of Christ. You are our God, living and reigning, forever and ever.

~Catholic Household Blessings & Prayers

Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre of Jerusalem meeting highlights and investiture

The annual meeting and investiture of the Southwestern Lieutenancy of the Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre of Jerusalem was held at the Omni Hotel and various churches in Fort Worth, TX Oct. 25-28.

A traveler’s Mass was held at St. Patrick Cathedral. The principal celebrant was Msgr. Stephen J. Berg, diocesan administrator. Concelebrants were clergy members of the order. The deacon was Rev. James M. Crites. Music was provided by the St. Ambrose and Laudate Chamber Choirs and directed by music director and organist, Rev. Raymond McDaniel, Jr., KHS. His Excellency Dennis M. Malloy, KGCHS lieutenant of the Southwestern Lieutenancy, USA presided with chancellor, Sir Steven Robert Pinion, KGCHS. For members and guests, a black-tie reception and dinner was organized at the hotel followed by night prayer, exposition, reconciliation, and all-night adoration.

Benediction was held on Sunday morning. The meeting was called to order and as in years past, for the 8th consecutive year, it was reported the Lieutenancy would send $1,000,000 to the Holy Land. Such a contribution supports churches, hospitals, schools, and universities to preserve Christianity. The Mass and Rite of Solemn Investiture were held in the afternoon at the Vietnamese Martyrs Catholic Church in Arlington, TX. It is considered to be the largest Vietnamese church in the U.S. It was dedicated Dec. 10, 2011 by the previous bishop of Fort Worth, The Most Rev. Kevin W. Vann. The principal celebrant, homilist, and investiture conductor was Cardinal Edwin F. O’Brien. Concelebrants were Cardinal Daniel N. DiNardo, archbishops, bishops, priests, and members. Masters of Ceremonies were Deacon Don Warner and Rev. Gary Picou. Members of the Diocese of Victoria had 2 investees: Lady Janet Holub, LHS and Msgr. John E. Kozar, LHS, both from El Campo, TX. A white-tie reception and dinner were held in the evening. Msgr. John E. Kozar, LHS from the Catholic New East Welfare Association, was the banquet speaker.

A traveler’s Mass was held at the cathedral on Monday morning. The celebrant was Msgr. Joseph Pemberton. A concluding breakfast was held in the Pastoral Center. The 2014 annual meeting and investiture will be Oct. 17-20 at the Hilton Americas Hotel in Houston, TX. For more information, visit www.eohssouthwest.com.

Students in grades 1-8 from St. Philip Catholic School, El Campo, presented ‘An Out-of-the-Box Christmas’ Dec. 11 at the El Campo High School Auditorium. The setting of the musical took place at the final dress rehearsal for a Christmas pageant. When costumes arrived and were pulled out of the box- they were all wrong! Working together, the children generated unique, comical, and heartfelt ways to share the Christmas message with friends and family.

Did you know?
The Diocese of Victoria offers several ministry programs including:

- Catechetical Ministry
- Family Ministries
- Library and Media Center
- Pastoral Institute
- Prison Ministry
- Youth and Young Adult Ministry

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

Students participate in Catholic Schools Week

Catholic schools in Victoria will join the nation’s Catholic schools in celebration of Catholic Schools Week Jan. 26-Feb. 1. This year’s theme is Catholic Schools: Communities of Faith, Knowledge, and Service. Left to right: Dominic Alvarez, 1st grader, Nazareth Academy; Madison Korinek, 5th grader, Our Lady of Victory and AJ Calvo, senior at St. Joseph High School.