ATLANTA — The National Review Board (NRB), a lay group advising the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) on the handling of the sexual abuse of minors by clergy, issued a 10-year progress report, June 13, at the USCCB spring meeting in Atlanta.


The NRB noted that “Ten years later, there has been striking improvement in the Church’s response to and treatment of victims. Children are safer now because of the creation of safe environments and action has been taken to permanently remove offenders from ministry.”

“Yet, much work still needs to be done,” the NRB said.

The NRB added that “found the incidence of abuse began to rise in the sixties, peaked in the seventies and declined sharply in the eighties.” Even cases from the past which are reported now, the NRB said, “continue to fall into this same pattern” and “the hundreds of cases reported yearly continue to fall within the timeline of the published curve.”

“These results do not mean that the hurt of the abuse is in the past,” the report said. “It is apparent that many people abused fifty years ago are still hurting.”

The report said that “Strides have been made in the work of healing and reconciliation.” The NRB said, for example, that “prior to the Charter, at least 25 dioceses/eparchies had Victim Assistance Coordinators (VAC); since 2002 all 195 dioceses/eparchies have them. The VAC assists in responding to those making allegations in ways that promote healing and reconciliation. The Church learned that responding to victims in a strictly legal manner did not help either the victims or the Church. In the long run, the strictly legal response caused more pain, did more damage and cost more money. The lesson learned by the Church is clear: we must treat these making allegations of sexual abuse with compassionate care.”

“Only the best solution but the right thing to do and an integral part of the Church’s spiritual mission.”
CHRISTIAN MOTHERS’ SOCIETY ACCEPTS NEW MEMBERS—The Christian Mothers’ Society of Nada accepted 10 new members following the May 19, 2012, evening Mass. Pictured in Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary Church (St. Mary’s) from l. to r., front row, are Melissa Ray, Monica Gomez, Father Joe Vrana, Holly Labay, Rita Henneke; back row: Pat Wobbe, Peggy Burns, Christina Leopold, Christi Heimann, Holly Class and Peggy Trochta. Not pictured, but present, is President Betty Leopold, Vice President Rose Stall and member La Juan Branden.

EL CAMPO KNIGHTS HONOR VETERANS ON MEMORIAL DAY—Brother Knights from Council 2490 assisted American Legion Post 251 in putting flags on all the deceased veterans graves for Memorial Day at the Holy Cross Cemetery in El Campo – a total of 300 flags were displayed. Pictured from l. to r. are Charles Merta, Dennis Marek, James Kocurek, Lee Drapela, Nobert Eggemeyer, Ed Pospisil, Joe Janda, and Greg Witcher. Photo contributed by Gerry Mikeska.

MEMORY OF ST. PHILIP TEACHER HONORED—The Dennis Krenek family is honored with a pavilion built on the grounds of St. Philip the Apostle Elementary School in El Campo in memory of their beloved Nancy, a teacher at St. Philip’s, who was killed in an automobile accident December 30, 2011. She loved watching the students at St. Philip run around and play. The building was funded by anonymous donations.

LOYAL MEMBERSHIP TO KJZT—Catholic Family Fraternal of Texas KJZT Society No. 43 of Assumption BVM Church in Ganado honored 2 of their members by recognizing their 75 plus years of loyal membership. Awarded their 75 year KJZT pins at the June 2012 meeting, were honorees, seated l-r, Julia Vinklarek Peters and Delores Novosad Gabrysch with President Cecilia French (in back). Also present was Susan Peters Gabrysch, No. 43 member who is the daughter of Julia and the daughter-in-law of Delores. The Society presented a lovely red rose to each recipient following the pin ceremony.

YOUTH ATTEND CAMP—On June 9 the youth group from St. Robert’s Parish in El Campo hosted a kids day camp. The day consisted of games, crafts and bible stories. The camp was focused on prayer and the kids learned about two stories, Daniel in the Lions Den and St. Paul. They played games and made different crafts dealing with prayer. They learned songs with hand motions. The kids took everything home in reusable bags that were donated by Palais Royal in El Campo.

(above) Campers wait in-line to go down the slip-n-slide. Jim Wearden making sure it has enough water for them to slide on.

FUN DAY—KJT Society #115 members Lawrence and Barbara Yanta, Wendy Hrncir, Kadren and Allyson Swope and Kristie and Katie Swoboda joined Hillje at Youth Day at Splashway in Sheridan on June 18. The Brosh clan pictured: front l-r, Xeiss Sapp, Braylon Swonke; middle l-r, Irene Brosh, Donald Dusek; middle r, Lawrence Yanta, president and Joe Putska, treasurer.

During the week of June 10 there were over 100 campers for two over-night sessions at Camp David and over 50 campers for the elementary day camp. All campers made rosaries and participated in different faith building experiences. See more photos on pg. 15

On June 14, 1777, in order to establish an official flag for the new nation, the Continental Congress passed the first Flag Act: “Resolved, That the flag of the United States be made of thirteen stripes, alternate red and white; that the union be thirteen stars, white in a blue field, representing a new Constellation.”
participating: St. Philip the Apostle, El Campo.

Thus far, 17 parishes in our diocese are participating in the annual training, the following parishes have chosen to expand their efforts in religious activities and ministries within the church and Catholic school system of the Diocese of Victoria.

The Diocese currently has over 130 Safe Environment Coordinators and since 2003, the diocese and its coordinators have trained over 10,000 adults to recognize, report and prevent child abuse. Annually, over 800 adults in our diocese become part of our Keeping Kids & Vulnerable Adults SAFE program. This is our goal to provide the safest environment possible for all children, youth and adults who are part of our programs.

Vacation Bible Schools receive child safety training from Office of Child and Youth Protection

The Diocese of Victoria and its parishes, in conjunction with the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children, have joined the “Take 25” child safety training campaign. “Take 25” is designed to raise awareness of the issues surrounding missing and exploited children, and encourages parents, guardians, educators, and others to take 25 minutes to talk to children about safety.

With a focus on prevention, “Take 25” offers resources for 25 tips, conversation starters, and engaging activities, such as Child ID Fingerprinting. “Take 25” offers resources for 25 ways to make kids safer: at Home; at School; while using technology; while traveling; when engaged in sports and other activities, such as Child ID Finger-printing, conversation starters, and engaging activities.

Vacation Bible Schools offers com-

Schools, such as Child ID Fingerprinting, conversation starters, and engaging activities, such as Child ID Fingerprinting, conversation starters, and engaging activities.

The vacation Bible Schools is placed on Child Victimization, Online Predators, and Exposure to inappropriate content.

Annu-

ly, we visit the Office of Child and Youth Protection.

Vacation Bible Schools receive child safety training from Office of Child and Youth Protection.

In addition, the adults who work with children and youth must complete and clear a thorough background check, attend classes and be approved by the pastor of the parish or principal of the school before he or she can begin their ministry in our diocese.

Because we know that children are our first line of defense in our religious education programs and Catholic schools offer personal safety classes to each child. Each program is child-led by the pastor, religious education director, principal or teacher. Last year, over 9,000 children were trained in the area of personal safety. In addition to those 9,000 children and youth, approximately 2,500 parents attended the personal safety training sessions with their children.

Please note that anyone who suspects or knows of child or adult abuse, should contact the police at 1-800-252-5400 or make a report online to "Take 25".

"Take 25" is a safety training to an estimated 1700 children.

"Take 25" takes into consideration that childhood is full of rewards and potential risks. Fortunately, potential risks that children face throughout their lives can be lessened when parents and guardians teach safety concepts. While it may not be possible for parents and guardians to be with their children every minute of the day, they can take 25 minutes talking to them, setting appropriate limits, and helping them make good choices. Just minutes of prevention can make a huge impact in the life of a child.

You may reach the Safe Environment Office at (361) 573-0828 ext. 2243, to request these materials for your parish.

We are bidding a fond farewell to one of our principals at the close of this school year. After having served five years in that capacity at Nazareth Academy, Scott Kloesel has submitted his resignation.

Kloesel has been a part of our family, however, for 15 years, as both counselor and assistant principal. We wish Scott the best as he travels to Houston to accept an administrative position at St. Vincent de Paul elementary school. Our thanks to Mr. Kloesel for keeping the “Jews for Jesus” spirit throughout the halls of N.A.

We welcome Sister Evelyn Korenek, IWBS, as she returns to the principal position, following an absence of some twelve years. Sister Evelyn is presently the General Superior of the IWBS order; she will end her tenue soon, so that she may begin her new position at Nazareth Academy.

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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 June 26, 2012

TOTA LS

— Rev. John C. Billy
Previously reported $9,244.00
In memory of Lucy Leistiky by C. A. and J. Meckel 25.00
In memory of Delores Menisk Janik by: James and Barbara Janik 50.00
Douglas and Sandy Pesek 20.00
Total $10,019.00

— Rev. John C. Peters Burse #5
Previously reported $4,339.00
In memory of Sylvester Janik by Frank Forester & Barbara Appelt 25.00
In memory of Sylvia Kallus by CDA Court Sacred Heart #797, Halletsville 25.00
In honor of Fr. John Peters for National Catholic Schools Pastor Appreciation by Sacred Heart Catholic School Faculty, Staff and Students 300.00
In memory of Edwin J. Stock by Neptos Father John Peters 25.00
For Vocations by Deacon Sonny and Elaine Rogers 100.00
In honor of Deacon Sonny and Elaine Rogers’ 65th wedding anniversary by Gilbert and Mary Urbish 25.00
In honor of Rev. John Peters’ 38th ordination anniversary by Don and Frances Spring 25.00
In honor of Rev. Tommy Chen’s 1st ordination anniversary by Don and Frances Peters 25.00
Total $4,889.00

— Rev. Mggr. Julius Petru Burse #2
Previously reported $930.00
In honor of Albert and Patricia Kresta’s 50th wedding anniversary by Mary Ann Kucera 25.00
In honor of Dorothy and Rosemary Nohavitza’s 50th anniversary by Mary Ann Kucera 25.00
Total $980.00

— Rev. Michael Rother
Previously reported $4,310.00
In memory of Jon E. Abshier by: John Rother, Jr. 50.00
Bernard and Madeline Rother 50.00
Total $4,415.00

— Rev. Jerome J. Stryk
Previously reported $14,719.50
In memory of Rev. Jerome Stryk by descendants of Josef and Theresa Stryk, Puxa, TX 300.00
Total $15,019.50

— Knights of Columbus 4th Degree Victoria Council #1329 Burse #3
Previously reported $11,682.50
In memory of Ronald M. Hysyquierdo by KC Council #1329 100.00
Total $11,782.50

— Rev. Theophil Okrulidik & Rev. Vincent Vorndran
Previously reported $10,667.89
In memory of Ernest Chaloupka by Agnes Olsovsky 10.00
Total $10,677.89

— Catholic Daughters Court of St. Ann #369, Victoria Burse #2
Previously reported $9,373.99
In memory of Mary Ramirez by CDA Court #369 25.00
Total $9,398.99

— Will Wearden (NEW BURSE)
In memory of Will Wearden by: Theresa and James Wearden anonymously donated 250.00
Franklin and Marilyn Nieser 20.00
Total $270.00

Additional Burses for donations:

• Rev. Vadlov Bily
• Rev. Jos Leyva
• Rev. Marcus Valenta
• Rev. Godfrey F. Kurakoz
• Rev. Mggr. John Hanacek
• Sophie Schmidt
• Rev. Mggr. Robert Schmidt
• St. Mary’s Church – Praha
• St. Mary’s Church – High Hill
• Rev. Charles Kearn
• William L. Schmidt
• St. M. Perpetuas Howes, IWBIS
• Sr. Barbara Konvicka
• Rev. Jerry Caponi
• More

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

SEMINARY BURES DIocese of vICTORIA
P. O. Box 4070
victoria, TX 77903

One of the key factors in my vocational discernment is that I enjoy rural settings. Life in the city is different from living in urban areas. You definitely do not see a combine driving through Main Street in downtown Houston! There seems to be a beautiful simplicity in taking life at a slower pace.

As I reflect on my vocational discernment, I recall the six years I spent with the Knights of the Holy Eucharist at the Shrine of the Most Blessed Sacra ment. It is located outside of the small city of Hanceville, Alabama. As a Brother, I realized how much I enjoyed living in the country while cutting grass and upkeep ing the grounds at the Shrine.

In 2008, I entered seminary at Holy Apostles College Seminary in Cromwell, Connecticut. I spent a year and a half in Connecticut. I always looked forward to leaving the cities up North and returning to the rural South. While I was in Connecticut, I discerned that the Lord was calling me to study for the Priesthood, but that I needed to return to my calling to the Knights. After three months of intense discernment, I departed the order. I transferred from the Knights of the Holy Eucharist to the Diocese of Victoria. A key factor in my discernment for the diocese was the fact that it predominantly consists of rural cities.

As a resident of East Bernard, I have had numerous people from the Diocese of Galveston-Houston ask, “Why don’t you come to our diocese?” Even though I live closer, the answer to this question is that the Diocese of Galveston has many parishes located in large cities. When I departed the Knights, I discerned that God was calling me to live the life of a country priest. I did not believe I could do this in the Diocese of Galveston-Houston. With this in mind, I applied for the Diocese of Victoria, as I believe I could have a very rewarding and exciting time as a deacon in a rural diocese.

I am grateful for all of your support and prayers. Thank you for your fidelity to the teachings of the Church and for the support you give to our Bishop. As you are reading this article, I ask that you keep me in prayer. I am in Antigua, Guatemala, where I am working with the Spanish (through Spanish Immersion) so that I may better serve the people of our diocese. s. Patern Bohem! (With God!) — Stephen Vacek

Local man comes home to be a country priest

By Cynthia Brewer
WHARTON—This past June, Deacon Alvin Matthyss of Holy Family Parish in Wharton celebrated the 40th anniversary of his ordination to the permanent diaconate. He was ordained for the Diocese of Galveston-Houston at St. John Vianney Church in Houston on June 4, 1972. Thirty-nine permanent deacons were ordained from June 3 to June 6 in four services throughout Houston and Galveston.

As the 40-year anniversary comes to pass, he says, “It has been a very rewarding and exciting time for me and my family. That is not to say that all was well all the time. There were many trying times celebrating the good times. In all situations, God was always there, and I thank him for the time he afforded me to serve the Diocese of Victoria as a permanent deacon and my acceptance at Holy Family, Wharton; St. Joseph’s, Boling; and Our Lady of Mt. Carmel, Wharton (in my early years). I particularly thank Father Joseph Koebel (deceased) for accepting me as a deacon in the parish in

November 1979.
At the organization of the Diocese of Victoria the Diocese of Texas from the Galveston- Houston Diocese, Deacon Alvin served on the presbytery council for two years. He thanks Caroline, his wife of 57 years, for her dedicated support over the 40 years and for their life together.

“I could not have become a deacon without her support and that of our two children, Debra and Loretta,” he continued. At the age of 82 years, Deacon Alvin has full deacon privileges in Wharton and Boling, but he is beginning to limit his activities; however, he continues to hold marriage preparation classes, teach other classes, and be present at the sacraments of baptism. In addition, he continues to serve as chaplain for the Catholic Daughter’s Court #1990 as he has for the past 17 years. This court encompasses the diocese of Corpus Christi, St John and Our Lady of Mt. Carmel.

Of the 39 deacons originally ordained, Deacon Alvin believes seven are still active in their ministries and two had gone on to become priests.

Deacon Alvin Matthyss celebrates 40th Anniversary of Ordination

Harvest Feast

Sunday, August 12

Veteran’s Memorial Park - Weimar, Texas
Fried Chicken & Stew Dinner

At 11:00 a.m. - ADULTS $10.00 - CHILDREN 14 & UNDER FREE - DRINKS AVAILABLE & ALL PLATES TO GO - 1:00

Raffle Drawing: 6:00 p.m.
Free Dance: Czechaholics 11 a.m. - 3 p.m.
Red Ravens 3 - 7 p.m. and Hitmen 7 - 11 p.m.
Softball Tournament - Sat. & Sun.
Water Pitcher Tournament - Sun.
Contact Carl (979) 966-5003 or Mark (979) 484-6094

Feeding the Hungry—KJZT Society No. 43 of Catholic Family Fraternal of Towns of Assumption as well as Parish, Canton, participated in the Project 300 activities and presented the Matthew 25 Ministry a donation of $100 for the needy of the parish and community. KJZT Fraternal is proud to be able to contribute toward helping those in need. Pictured are: l-r are: Frances Vesely, society treasurer; Steve Labay, Matthew 25 director and Cecilia French, society president. All are from Assumption Parish, Canton.
Catechetical Sunday 2012 materials available online

WASHINGTON—Materials for Catechetical Sunday 2012 are available online for free download by parishes in the United States. This year’s theme for Catechetical Sunday, which will be celebrated the weekend of September 16, is “Catechists and Teachers as Agents of the New Evangelization.”

Office of Catechetical Ministry

PASTORAL INSTITUTE

Summer Short-Term classes will be offered throughout the diocese over the next few months:

• Getting Started will be offered at the chancery in Victoria (1505 E. Mesquite Lane) on Monday, July 9 from 6:00 – 9:00 p.m.
• Sacraments will be offered at the St. Anthony in Columbus (Pastoral center) on Tuesday and Thursday, July 10 and 12 from 6:00 – 9:00 p.m.
• Sacraments will be offered at the chosen Sunday (1505 E. Mesquite Lane) on Tuesday, July 10 and 17 from 6:00 – 9:00 p.m.
• Methods for Grades 1 - 8 will be offered at Our Lady of Lourdes in Victoria (RE building, 212 E. Forrest) on Thursday, July 12 from 7:00 – 9:00 p.m.

For a listings of all the classes being offered, visit www.victoriadiocese.org or call Melissa Gutierrez at (361) 573-0828 ext 2223.

XXV Annual Conference for Catechesis and Ministry

“Year of Faith and the New Evangelization”

On Saturday, September 29, 2012 the XXV Annual Conference for Catechesis and Ministry will be held at Holy Family Church in Victoria. The Reverend Mr. Gerald W. DuPont, D.Min. director of the Diocesan Program for the Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston will offer the keynote address “Year of Faith and the New Evangelization” in English.

A new feature at the conference: A keynote address in Spanish by Dr. Fanny Cepeda Pedraza, D.Min., RCL/Benziger consultant, will offer a keynote titled, “Year of Faith and the New Evangelization and Catechesis of the U.S.”

The New Evangelization, the effort to rekindle the faith in Catholics, whether practicing or not, is a major focus of the Year of Faith, an effort announced by Pope Benedict XVI beginning on October 11 and running through November 24, 2013.

Materials available for Catechetical Sunday 2012 include resources on welcoming Catholics back to church, building cultural competencies, explaining the New Evangelization and providing engaging activities for young people. The materials also include posters, certificates, prayer cards, bulletin inserts and resources for a family retreat. Spanish language materials will be available soon.

Catechetical Sunday, which is observed on the third Sunday in September, is a celebration of catechists and teachers of the Catholic faith. The U.S. bishops have provided resources for Catechetical Sunday since 1971. For more information visit: www.usccb.org/catecheticsunday.

Divine one, I rejoice in the gifts which You have given me. I pray that I may attain these gifts and use them to the best of my ability. Amen.

from Guardians of His Faith Inspirational Prayers in Encourage Catechists by Timothy J. McLoughlin

The Incarnate Word Sisters Leadership Elected

The Incarnate Word and Blessed Sacrament Sisters of Victoria met recently for a celebration of catechists and teachers of the Catholic faith. The Sisters were the concelebrants of the Mass.

The IWBS Leadership team, seated l. to r., is Sister Kathleen Goike, assistant general; Sister Stephana Marbach, general superior; Sister Laura Toman, councilor; standing, l. – r.: Sister Odilia Korenek, councilor; Sister Clare Underbrink, councilor; and Sister Andrea Hubnik, treasurer general; and Sister Amata Hollas, secretary general.

CDA court raises money for water projects

MOULTON—Father Joseph Kopp Court #2018 of the Catholic Daughters of the Americas in Moulton sponsored a bake sale on April 27, 2012. The purpose of the sale was to fund a water project for a village through Cross International Outreach and a water pump for another village through the Food for the Poor organization.

Food for the Poor serves the poorest of the poor throughout the Caribbean and Latin America, while Cross International Outreach assists desperate families throughout the world, most prominently in Haiti and Africa.

Through the generosity of all involved, the bake sale was a huge success. A check for $1,600 has been sent to Cross International Outreach to fund two water projects and $410 has been sent to Food for the Poor to pay for two water pumps.

Father Joseph Kopp Court #2018 in Moulton gratefully extends a huge thank you to all who supported their effort to make a difference in the lives of those less fortunate.
Years of Change
(Historical series, cont. since March 2012)

Although the Victoria community of IWBS Sisters had sent Sisters out to begin new foundations, the little community continued to prosper in the bustling little town on the Guadalupe River. Things were happening! The Italian Count Joseph Telfener, with a host of immigrants from his homeland, completed the railroad from Rosenberg to Victoria (the Macaroni Line) in 1882. Steamboats navigated the Guadalupe River to Victoria until the middle 1880’s. During this time telegraph service had reached Victoria; soon afterward telephone service was practiced at the time, he succumbed to the disease in 1880. At his death, the Rev. John Neraz was consecrated Bishop of the Diocese of San Antonio. Now Bishop Neraz was no stranger to the Sisters. He had come from France in 1866 on the way to the Villa in order to provide space for the Sisters and the Convent on Water St. As time went on, a garden and animals were grown to provide food for the Sisters and the Convent. The “Villa”, to take care of the rabbits and ducks and to clean the duck pond. During the summer the candidates spent the nights at the Villa in order to provide space for the candidates who lived and taught elsewhere during the school year and came home for the summer. When Nazareth Convent became overcrowded, it was decided to build Nazareth School on Water St. (to be continued)

For more about the early days of the Sisters in Victoria – please come by the Gift Shop at Nazareth School and purchase Sister Alberta Niewiadomski’s newest book: TExAS Footprints in the Sand of Time.

Emily Kossa

HALLETSVILLE—Emily Kossa, Valedictorian of the Sacred Heart Catholic High School Class of 2012, has been named a National Merit Scholar.

From approximately 1.5 million students who entered the 2012 National Merit Scholarship Program by taking the Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Text (PSAT), only about 16,000 were named Semifinalists. They were designated on a state representation basis, in proportion to each state’s percentage of the national total of high school graduating seniors and represent less than one percent of U.S. high school seniors, including the highest-scoring entrants in each state. In order to advance to the competition and be considered for a Merit Scholarship Award, a semifinalist had to become a Finalist by fulfilling several requirements that included submitting a detailed scholarship application, an essay, and information about the semifinalist’s participation and leadership in school and community activities. All winners of about 8,300 National Merit Scholarships were chosen from the group of approximately 15,000 distinguished Finalists.

Emily was involved in numerous activities throughout her high school career. As an athlete, she was on the volleyball, basketball, swimming, softball, tennis, and track team. She was Drum Major her junior and senior years and also placed in the All-State Band competition all four years.

Serving on staff at Camp Lone Star, a Christian summer camp, has been a highlight of Emily’s summers during high school. She also was a retreat planner and leader at the camp. A gifted musician, Emily has played the flute, guitar, piano, and organ for various churches.

Emily will be attending Texas A&M University in College Station, majoring in pre-medical and cell biology. She is being offered a college-sponsored Merit Scholarship award – the National Merit Texas A&M University Scholarship. This scholarship is sponsored by Texas A&M University. About 200 colleges and universities currently underwrite approximately 4,000 National Merit Scholarships in each annual competition. Emily is the daughter of Michael and Linda Kossa of LaGrange. She attended St. Rose of Lima School in Schultenburgh through 8th grade.

July Theology of the Body for Teens Trainings

Help your teens and pre-teens discover the life-changing message of Blessed John Paul II’s Theology of the Body. Please join us for this timely and important training session sponsored by the Diocese of Corpus Christi, TX, where you will be introduced to Blessed John Paul II’s Theology of the Body as it specifically relates to teens and pre-teens, and be given the tools to effectively and confidently pass it on to them. Review these Programs Below!

“The presenters are gifted in equipping leaders to prayerfully prepare to share the message. Emphasis on internal reflection and prayer, careful consideration of cultural and developmental climates, as well as thorough and engaging immersion in the Theology of the Body made this training effective in preparing us to impart the message to youth. - Becky Affold, Youth Minister at St. Joseph Catholic Church in Ponchatoula, LA.

For more information contact Nellie Serna with any questions; phone: (361) 6862-6919 ext. 634; e-mail: nsersa@diocesevec.org.
Following the Liturgy of the Word, Father Dan Morales presented Deacon Patrick to Bishop Fellhauer and testified to his readiness to serve as a priest, “Holy Mother Church testifies he’s been found worthy. We choose Patrick to the brotherhood of the priesthood.” The congregation welcomed the announcement with applause and then prepared to listen to Bishop Fellhauer’s homily and participate in the rite of ordination.  

In his homily, Bishop Fellhauer welcomed Deacon Patrick’s family, Betty and Bob Knippenberg, his brother Todd, and sisters Karen and Amy, and the KCs and Knights of St. Gregory, and then said to Patrick, “This is a day of rejoicing for the diocese and certain for you.” Bishop Fellhauer commented on the Holy Scriptures, read by Mr. Eddie Hose and Mrs. Jo Chancen, saying that the first reading, Isaiah 61:1-3, which states, “The spirit of the Lord God has anointed me,” is a personal call directed to Patrick. “This is a stupendous work of God; a messianic event,” the bishop said. “We’ve waited so long since the last ordination; it’s like a messianic event,” he said with a smile.  

Regarding the second reading, Hebrews 5:1-10, Bishop Fellhauer said the priestly “initiative comes from God; he takes the high priest from men.” Although “...the priestly vocation must be ratified by the Church, it is initiated by God.” And “God is faithful whenever one honestly seeks God’s will.”  

As the reading stated, “He (the high priest) is able to deal patiently with the ignorant and erring, for he himself is beset by weakness ...” the bishop commented that we are all beset by weakness, but we recognize that at the beginning of Mass we are filled with the presence and power of God. “We’re unprofitable servants, but also we’re no longer slaves, but friends,” he continued. “The point: the fact that one is beset with weaknesses, doesn’t excuse him.”  

From the Gospel, John 17:6, 26, 2012.  

When I first came to the Diocese of Victoria from the Dallas/Ft. Worth area in 2000, I was assigned to Sacred Heart Church in Hallettsville under the tutelage of Father John Pries. I was assigned to the Hallettsville parish to see if a city boy was comfortable with country living.  

After five months, in January 2001, I found myself heading off to seminary at the Pontifical College Josephinum in Columbus, Ohio, and the rest, as the cliché goes, is history.  

I took a two-year break between my philosophy days and my theology years in which I found myself attending St. Mary Seminary in Houston, Texas. Eleven years later, I find my dreams being fulfilled by becoming a priest for the Diocese of Victoria in Texas.  

Along the way there are so many people to thank that it is no way to include all the people that have supported me along the way. I have to thank Father John Pries and his then associate Father Kelly Hively and Deacon Sonny Rogers and Joe Targac. My advice to the Josephinums, Dr. Michael Ross, was also instrumental in my continuing formation.  

First and foremost I have to thank my parents, Bob and Betty, who have been supportive of anything I did, especially my pursuit of my priestly vocation. Without their support I would most likely not be a priest today. I thank my brothers and sisters who have always been supportive and encouraging in everything I have sought to do.  

I thank my brother, Father Bob Knippenberg; without his conversion to Catholicism and dedication to becoming a priest, I may not have ever become a priest, let alone a Catholic. I also thank Father Dan Morales (Vocation Director) who was instrumental in both Knippenberg vocations.  

I have to thank personally my good friend and fellow priest, Father Philip Gilchrist. Without his constant mentoring and support, I KNOW I would not be a priest here today. The Holy Spirit and Father Philip is encourage me this most unaccustomed servant that I indeed had a vocation to the priesthood and for this I am forever indebted to Father Gilchrist. I also thank many of my fellow seminarians who are now priests from the Josephinums for their continual encouragement towards my becoming a priest.  

I thank all my friends and seminarians from St. Mary Seminary that provided my ongoing support; without their support this would have been much harder than need be. I thank my fellow deacons from St. Mary who will soon be priests because they kept me in check at my most vulnerable time!  

I especially owe to thank the parishioners of both St. Cyril and Methodius of Shiner and my past parish of Holy Family, Victoria. Their love for me strengthened my resolve and dedication to the priesthood. I have to say that I found my vocation through these two parishes, and the generosity they exhibited fueled my desire so that this vocation could take place. Thank you!  

And, perhaps above all, I thank Bishop Fellhauer for accepting me as a seminarian and for entrusting me with the ministry and service to the People of God in the Diocese of Victoria.  

There is neither room our space enough to thank everyone that I should. Everyone who has touched my life... my friends, my classmates at both the Josephinums and St. Mary, my family, my brother priests, the many religious men and women who I have known and with whom I have worked, are all instrumental to my life and priestly vocation. Please be accorded my eternal gratitude. You will always be in my heart and prayers!”  

Father Patrick Knippenberg
Father Rachunek celebrates Golden Jubilee

BEASLEY – After serving 36 years in his hometown parish and 38 years in its mission, Father Henry C. Rachunek celebrated the Golden Jubilee of his priesthood with much pomp and circumstance. The Fourth Degree Knights of Columbus provided the color guard for the celebratory Mass as clergy from both the Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston and the Diocese of Victoria processed into St. Wenceslaus Church in Beasley on June 10, 2012. For 28 years, Father Rachunek had been a priest for both dioceses, as St. John in Hungerford became part of the Diocese of Victoria in 1982, while St. Wenceslaus, its mission, remained in the Diocese of Galveston-Houston.

At the 50-year-celebration, the Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston was represented by His Eminence Daniel Cardinal DiNardo and the archdiocese’s newly ordained auxiliary bishop, Bishop George A. Sheltz, the administrator of St. Wenceslaus, Rev. William Bartniski; Deacons Gerald Dupont and Billy Guerneer, many priests and seminarians, as well as altar servers.

The Most Rev. David E. Fellhauer, many diocesan priests, and altar servers from St. John’s, represented the Diocese of Victoria. Father Tommy Chen, parochial vicar in Hallettsville, served as the master of ceremonies, Deacon Larry Hoelscher, with seminarians Max Landman and Stephen Vacek, also assisted.

While Father Rachunek was the principal celebrant of the Mass, Cardinal DiNardo was the homilist, saying, “Father Henry has said ‘Yes,’ for the past 50 years so we could have the fruits of Christ: eternal life given through the Eucharist.”

“I had my doubts you’d make it 50 years,” he said with laughter “…one week you’d be in the hospital, the next out running around…. He is like the Energizer Bunny, he just keeps going and going.”

“Now he’s retired, but still dauntless in his service…. Always showing Father Henry is the blessed Mother. May God give him grace, peace and blessings,” Cardinal DiNardo concluded.

Before the final conclusion of the Mass, Father Rachunek spoke to those attending the celebration. “Why did I become a priest?” he asked, “Because I wanted to do the work of Christ, that he did on earth.” The Catholic priest continues the work of Christ.

Reflecting over 50 years of ministering, Father Rachunek said, “What a glorious privilege it is for me… I thank God that he has permitted me and helped me for five decades. It’s been the most wonderful task in all the world.”

“I thank the thousands of people I’ve been able to serve, in particular the splendid and wonderful people of this parish. There have been some difficulties and misunderstandings at times. I was impatient and stern… it was never very easy; I hope you can understand…. The operations, he was given a year’s leave. There were those who doubted he would return to become a priest, but his faith carried him through his illness. He resumed his studies in September 1961 and despite being weak from operations, taught school at St. Mary’s Star of the Sea Parish in Freeport.

On June 2, 1962, he was ordained at the Co-cathedral of the Archdiocese of Galveston- Houston by Bishop Wendelin
Rev. Hybner retires after 49 years in priesthood

Special To The Argus, newspaper of Flatonia
By Andy Bohlen

Slight editing to update time by Cynthia Brewer, The Catholic Lighthouse

Introduction: Father Joe Hybner celebrated his 49th anniversary of his priesthood at three parishes over a three-month period this spring. The parties, the celebrations, he says, “for the people!” He has always been such a joyful priest, and frequently learned the secret to that... his three favorite words are Peace, Love and Joy!

At the Sts. Cyril & Methodius celebration in Cistern on Feb. 12, the clergy celebrating the mass with him were Bishop David E. Fellhuauer, Victoria; Bishop Thomas Flanagan, retired, San Antonio; and Fathers John Peters, Eddie Winkler, Michael Petering, and Tim Koster, all of Diocese of Victoria.

Father Eddie Winkler, Diocese of Victoria, and Rev. Ricardo Hernandez, retired San Antonio, were present at the Divine Mercy Sunday Holy Hour celebration at Sacred Heart Church in Flatonia on April 15. Father Eddie gave the homily. Father Eddie will also replace Father Joe as the pastor in Flatonia and in Cistern.

Visiting clergy at the Sts. Cyril & Methodius celebration in Shiner May 6 were Bishop John H. Rust, retired Amarillo, who said the homily prepared by Bishop Charles Grahame, who was ill; Fathers Tommy Chen, Edward Winkler, and Henry Racunek (retired of the Diocese of Victoria; and Msgr. Douglas Fater, Fathers Lambert Bily, Dennis Darilek, Samuel Heitkamp, Stephen Neustra, Jim Henke, and Octavio Naguerra, all from San Antonio.

Rev. Joseph Hybner, pastor of Sacred Heart Catholic Parish in Flatonia, celebrated his 49th year in the priesthood on May 25. Two days later, on May 27, Father Hybner retired from the ministry.

He was Joe, as he is known by so many, recently visited with the Argus to discuss his career as a priest and some thoughts on retirement.

Joseph Martin Hybner was born to Leo and Josephine Kurtz Hybner on November 11, in Shiner, Texas. He attended school at St. Ludmila Academy in Shiner through junior high. Joseph Hybner entered St. John’s Seminary in San Antonio at the age of 14.

“I knew I wanted to be a priest ever since I was in the 6th grade,” he said. “My cousin, Lawrence Metula, and a friend, Victor Novak, and I all wanted to be priests. We wanted to go to the seminary together.

“They went to the seminary first,” Father Joe explained. “My father didn’t want me to go to the seminary yet. He thought I was too young. He wanted me to wait until I got out of high school. He wanted me to go to the Czech seminary in Illinois run by the Benedictine Order. But that was too far away for me. I wanted to be with my friends. Finally, my mother told Papa, ‘if he wants to go, let him go.’ So I went.”

Father Joseph Hybner was ordained to the priesthood at the Church of Saints Cyril and Methodius in his hometown of Shiner on May 25, 1963, by Bishop Steven A. Leven.

Father Joe’s career brought him first to St. John the Evangelist Parish in San Antonio. He served there from 1963 to 1965 and was active in the youth ministry. While at St. John, Father Joe organized a community cleanup project in the spring of 1964 that made headlines in San Antonio.

Father Joe next took an assignment as associate pastor at Notre Dame Parish in Kerrville. In Kerrville, Father Joe was assigned special duties as chaplain to the VA hospital and two other state hospitals in the area. He was instrumental in starting the All Saints Chapel at the Kerrville State Hospital.

In 1971, Father Joe left Notre Dame Parish for Our Lady of Victory Parish in Victoria. The following year, he served as associate pastor at St. Monica Parish in Converse.

In 1974, Father Joe was installed pastor at Sacred Heart Parish in Floresville. He helped Father Eddie Winkler, a close friend of Father Joe’s, said the homily during the Holy Hour.

From “The Life and Some Happenings of Rev. Joseph M. Hybner”

Father Joe spoke both Czech and Spanish fluently. He has been active in helping to preserve the cultural and ethnic backgrounds of all people as a means of bringing to all people the realization of the many ways we are able to praise and thank God.

Father Joe is very active in the Victoria County Czech Heritage Society. For several years he has offered the Mass in the Czech language with Czech hymns. He is very grateful to Alice and Carl Wright from San Antonio who organized the Mass and the choir and the Czech choir at the Our Lady of Victory Cathedral. With a smile, Father Joe says, “I always need to prepare for the Mass, because Church language is different than everyday talk. I always enjoy the eucharistic celebrations with the people.”

Father Joe sees some good in every individual and a lot of good in most people. He really believes Jesus Christ calls us all to holiness. His attitude invites all to respond to the many opportunities and graces given by the Holy Spirit to guide the Church.

Father Joe remembers very fondly as a child going to the K.J.T. and K.J.Z.T. meetings in Shiner. He remembers the lunch, “svacina,” that was always served and helping his mother carry the many “kolace” she would bake.

On March 25, 1993, Father Joe was given the responsibility of State Chaplain of the K.J.T. J.J.Z.T. meetings in Shiner. He remembers the lunches, “svacina,” that was always served and helping his mother carry the many “kolace” she would bake.

Father Joe’s Czech Heritage

From “The Life and Some Happenings of Rev. Joseph M. Hybner”

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Rev. Hybner retires after 49 years in priesthood
Continued from p. 9

Father Joe Hybner sings with the Hobo Band, with Edward Caka on the accordion, at his retirement reception in Shiner, his hometown. (Photo by Kathleen Leinenger, Shiner)


a Shiner beer in Praha and eat homemade ice cream in Ganado, all in the same day. The tradition lasted all the years he was pastor in Ganado.

Father Joe served six years as pastor in Ganado before Bishop David Fellhauer of the Victoria Diocese came for a visit and requested he become pastor to the communities of Cistern and Flatonia.

Father Joe was installed as pastor in Flatonia on October 23, 2004 — Czihlispiel weekend. The installation took place on Saturday at 5 p.m., and at noon on Sunday Father Joe rode in the Czihlispiel Parade on the Polka Lovers Club of America float dressed in his Czech vest.

“It was a wonderful way to be introduced to the flock,” he said.

Moving to Flatonia was an easy transition, he said, since he knew the town well from childhood. He and his father often made trips up to Flatonia from Shiner to visit with friends and eat at Grumpy’s.

The Sacred Heart pastor retires this year after almost eight years in Flatonia. While he may be retiring, Father Joe said his schedule won’t be getting any easier.

“Since the priests in the area know I’m retiring, they’ve been calling and asking me to fill-in for them while they’re on trips,” he said. “I already have Masses scheduled in Hillje and Fredericksburg.”

Father Joe traveled extensively over the years, and he said he plans to do more traveling in his retirement.

“I’ve been to a great many places already, thanks be to God,” he said. “While I was a young pastor, I often had an assistant. I had to wear a hat during the Mass because the sun was so hot!”

Through his travels, he was able to see the pope on six different occasions. The first was in 1985 on a trip to Africa.

“It was 110 degrees outside,” he recalled. “At a Mass with the pope, I was chosen to give Communion. I had to wear a hat during the Mass because the sun was so hot!”

He saw Pope John Paul II again in 1998 while on a sabbatical to the North American Seminary in Rome. After a Mass in the Vatican, the director of the seminary arranged a photo for a group from the seminary with the pope.

“The director said, ‘The pope is coming,’ and we were all so nervous,” Father Joe said. “(The pope) came and talked with us for a while and I shook his hand, I was speechless because here was the man that affected my life so much.”

Father Joe said he plans to do some more traveling during his retirement. He already has one trip he’s committed to making.

“I hope Blessed John Paul II is canonized in my lifetime,” he said. “I know in my mind that, if I’m able, I will be in Rome for that canonization. That man has influenced my life greatly.”

Father Joe officially retired on May 27. There have been three celebrations for Father Hybner to mark the occasion – at Sts. Cyril and Methodius Church in Cistern, Sacred Heart in Flatonia and finally where it all began – in Shiner.

“Everything that happened to me spiritually happened in Shiner,” he recalled. “My baptism, first Communion, confirmation, and ordination all took place at Sts. Cyril and Methodist Church in Shiner. And that’s why I’m having my celebration there. It always goes back to Shiner.

“I’ll be buried there too,” he joked. “Unless I fall from an airplane over the sea!”

(above) Father Joe holds the hat he wore at Mass because it was so hot – 110 degrees – during Pope John Paul II’s visit to Africa in 1985. This hat has “seen” Pope John Paul II five times.

The soon to be released book, “Lifted by Angels,” explores how the Early Church understood the life and role of angels. The author, Joel J. Miller, asks, “What are we to angels, and what are they to us?” That’s the question trying answering. Finding the answer led me through the salvation narrative of Scripture; the icons and frescoes of the early Church; the books, sermons, and letters of Augustine, Ambrose, Gregory of Nyssa, Ignatius of Antioch, Ephraim the Syrian, and dozens besides. While varying at points, the voices converge into a simple and profound message: Angels labor to lead us to and through a saving experience of Christ.

A look at the role of angels in the lives of people goes back to the early Christians and presents modern readers with a vision of angels as seen through their eyes and experiences — how they understood the angelic realms, the guidance and protection of angels, and the struggles with the devil and his demons. Whether in trial or temptation, praise or prayer, we find angels present and positioned to help and comfort, guide and correct, walking with us till the point of death and beyond, escorting us to the very arms of Christ.

The early Church’s view of angels ends up being richer, more nuanced, and more compelling than our contemporary and popular conceptions. And ultimately more inspiring as well,” the author states.

For a chance to win this book, yet to be released to the market, please send completed puzzle contest and completed form to The Catholic Lighthouse, P. O. Box 40/70, Victoria, TX 77903 by July 25, 2012.
Submission, not power, raises people up to God, says pope at audience

By Carol Glatz

P. O. Box 4070
Diocese of Victoria
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The Catholic Lighthouse

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Speaks

The Catholic News Service

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By Alan D. Wolfelt, Ph.D.

Editor’s note: This is “The Mourner’s Bill of Rights” that was posted online at www.vatican.va/holy_father/benedict_xvi/audiences/2012/documents/hf_ben-xvi_20120627_audience.en.html.

Pray for Vocations to the priesthood & religious life

Confusion, distraction, despair, fear, guilt and relief are just a few of the emotions one might feel as part of your grief journey. Others may try to tell you that feeling angry, for example, is wrong. Don’t take these judgmental responses to heart. Instead, find listeners who will accept your feelings without condition.

4. You have the right to be tolerant of your physical and emotional limits. Your feelings of loss and sadness will probably leave you feeling fatigued. Respect what your body and mind are telling you. Get daily rest. Eat balanced meals. And don’t allow others to push you into doing things you don’t feel ready to do.

5. You have the right to experience “griefbouts.” Sometimes, out of nowhere, a powerful surge of grief may overcome you. This can be frightening, but is normal and natural. Find someone who understands and will let you talk it out.

6. You have the right to make use of ritual. The funeral ritual does more than acknowledge the death of someone loved. It helps provide you with the support of caring people. More importantly, the funeral is a way for you to mourn. If others tell you the funeral or other healing rituals such as these are silly or unnecessary, don’t listen.

7. You have the right to embrace your spirituality. It’s part of who you are. If you need help, express it in ways that seem appropriate to you. Allow yourself to be around people who understand and support your religious beliefs. If you feel angry at God, find someone to talk with who won’t criticise your feelings of hurt and abandonment.

8. You have the right to search for meaning. You may find yourself asking, “Why did he or she die? Why now?” Some of your questions may have answers, but some may not. And watch out for the clichéd responses some people may give you. Comments like, “It was God’s will” or “Think of what you have to be thankful for” are not helpful and you do not have to accept them.

9. You have the right to treasure your memories. Memories are one of the best legacies that exist after the death of someone loved. You will always remember. Instead of ignoring your memories, find others with whom you can share them.

10. You have the right to move toward your grief and heal. Reconciling your grief will not happen quickly. Remember, grief is a process, not an event. Be patient and tolerant with yourself and avoid people who are impatient and intolerant with you. Neither you nor things around you must forget that the death of someone loved changes your life forever.

Copyright 2007, Center for Loss and Life Transition at http://griefprofessional.com/professionalscomments.html
Archbishop takes ‘fortnight for freedom’ to Rome  
By Francis X. Rocca  
Catholic News Service  
ROME (CNS) — On the same day that the U.S. Supreme Court upheld the Obama administration’s health care law, Archbishop William E. Lori of Baltimore warned an audience in Rome about what he characterized as the law’s threat to religious freedom. “The archbishop, chairman of the ad hoc committee of bishops’ Ad Hoc Committee on Religious Freedom,” he said, “and I want to take several hours before the announce-ment of the court’s decision to express our concern about what our nation’s laws and policies mean for our religious institutions. We have long and clearly stated that the federal health care law, which requires that the health plans of most businesses offer a range of contraceptive services and abortion-inducing drugs, is in direct violation of the church’s moral doctrine.” “This is an unprecedented effort in this case as part of a broader trend,” Archbishop Lori said. “Unless we stop it now, this narrow, governmental definition of what a church is will spread throughout our nation’s laws and policies, he said.”  
The archbishop described the archdiocese’s effort as this case as part of a broader trend. “Once we lose it in American culture and law,” he said. “And this loss of freedom for the Catholic church is being lost in American culture and law.” “We believe that the provision will have a significant impact on our ability to minister to the common good of our nation or other nations where bloody religious persecutions are under way.”  
Bishops urge Congress to fix health law flaws after high court decision  
By Father Kenneth Doyle  
Catholic News Service  
CHILDREN’S  
MORALITY  
Q. Some weeks ago, when explaining the concept of a general confession, you said in your column, “Some serious sins are not already forgiven should be confessed to a priest in kind and with its potential human and moral consequences.” Can the priests at the diocese of Goliad, through the same family ownership.  
CHA has agreed with the bishops in urging the government to expand its definition of religious employers who are exempt from the requirement to provide contraceptives and sterilization free of charge to their employees.  
CHA’s motion was supported by the Ohio Catholic Conference.  
To make application for either position, please send your resume or an application to:  
CHA, 5000 E. Mesquite Ln., Victoria, Texas 77901.  
Applications are available under the Business Office tab at www.victoriadiocese.org.  
All applicants chosen for employment will be subject to a background check to certify that he/she is eligible for employment.

Social:

Question Corner

Confessing past sins: the morality of body piercing

Q. First, let me say what the parties involved in this case as part of a broader trend. “Once we lose it in American culture and law,” he said. “And this loss of freedom for the Catholic church is being lost in American culture and law.” “We believe that the provision will have a significant impact on our ability to minister to the common good of our nation or other nations where bloody religious persecutions are under way.”  
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Applications are available under the Business Office tab at www.victoriadiocese.org.  
All applicants chosen for employment will be subject to a background check to certify that he/she is eligible for employment.
Special Collections

Retired and needy Priests of the Diocese
September 8-9

Ongoing Events

Grapeland/Longview—Announcement of the Healing of a thalassemia patient. Register for the healing by contacting the home at (409) 575-1588.

The Beginning Experience — A ministry providing help to pregnant women in the Diocese of Victoria. For more information, please call 1-800-532-5973 or see the website www.beginningexperience.org. Register as soon as you have contacted the ministry.

Engaged Encounter — For more information, please call (361) 645-3752 or see the website www.janakr@victoriadiocese.org. For a registration form, please contact John and Jennifer Vincent at 17-19. Go to www.retrouvaille.org for more information or contact Nellie Serna with any questions; e-mails on the website at janakr@victoriadiocese.org.

Church — Activity Center, 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. Lunch will be served. Music during the day will be a country store, toy walk, games and cakewalk along with much music. Lunch will be served at 11:00 a.m. RSVP to Irene 573-2669.

St. Michael Parish Picnic Aug. 12

Prada — St. Mary Parish Picnic Aug. 15

High Hill — St. Mary Picnic Sept. 2

Our Lady of Guadalupe Picnic Sept. 2

Shiner — St. Cyril and Methodist Picnic Sept. 2

Hallettsville — Sacred Heart Festival Sept. 2

St. Mary Picnic Sept. 9

Vanderbilt — St. John Bosco Parish Picnic Sept. 2

Yorktown — Holy Cross Church Parish Festival Sept. 9

St. Wenceslaus Parish Picnic Sept. 16

El Campo — St. Philip’s Apostolic Parish Picnic Sept. 30

Wharton—Holy Family Fall Festival Oct. 20

Church — Activity Center, 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. Lunch will be served.

Blessing — St. Peter Centennial Celebration July 15 begins with a 10 a.m. Mass. There will be a full day of festivities. RSVP by July 1 by calling (361) 573-6824; (361) 573-6872, or by e-mailing stpeteres@gmail.com.

Nabawi — Ascension of Our Lord Parish Picnic July 15 located at FM 957 and FM 532 begins with Mass at 10:00 a.m. There will be food and chicken dinners, and children’s games. Admission is $5 per adult and $3 per child. Go to www.antiochparish.org for more information.

Moravia — Our Lady of Guadalupe Picnic Aug. 15 located at FM 957 and FM 532 begins with Mass at 10:00 a.m. There will be games, bean cookoff, and chicken dinners. Admission is $5 per adult and $3 per child. Go to moraviacatholic.com for more information.

Picnics, Activities, etc.

Julia

Blessing — St. Peter Centennial Celebration July 15 begins with a 10 a.m. Mass. There will be a full day of festivities. For more information call 1-800-532-5973 or see the website www.beginningexperience.org. Register as soon as you have contacted the ministry.

DVD and Blu-ray release

By John Mulderig Catholic News Service

NEW YORK (CNS) — For marriage-seekers and those who labor and are heavy-burdened, and I will give you rest. For more information, please call 1-800-532-5973 or see the website www.beginningexperience.org. Register as soon as you have contacted the ministry.

St. Francis and St. Clare Fraternity/Secular Franciscans—Catholic Family Services—Engaged Encounter—St. Francis and St. Clare Fraternity/Secular Franciscans–Catholic Family Services—Engaged Encounter—St.

DVD and Blu-ray release

By John Mulderig Catholic News Service

NEW YORK (CNS) — The Vatican has released their celebration for the 500th anniversary of the Diocese of Victoria—The Ames Mess Spirituality Center. To learn more about their Retreats, Taize Prayer and Lentin Vesperes, call (361) 575-7111 or email americangroups@vcioc.org.

Shiner-Latin Masses will be celebrated by Father Bob Knippen- berg at St. Cyril and Methodist Church every 1st & 3rd Sunday of the month starting August 1. For more information, please call (361) 575-7111 or Sister Louise Marie at (361) 575-7111.

Tulit—Our Lady of Guadalupe Church invites you to a Healing Mass and Prayer Service September 22 at 7:00 p.m. Mark your calendars for next month. Mass is followed by praise and worship/adoration, healing prayers, praying over, etc. Counseling available. Please come; bring your family and friends; and experience the healing touch of the Lord! For more information, please contact Rev. Gabriel P. Cenzo at (361) 286-3340.

ACTS Retreats — For information on ACTS retreats, please go to ACTS Web site at www.ACTSministries.org. For more information about the ACTS community movement in the El Campo Diocese, to download an ACTS retreat application tract, or to contact a program director across the El Campo Diocese, please visit their site at http://victoriadiocese.org/ACTS.

Pilgrimages, Tours, etc.

For more information call Betty Urbanovsky at (361) 543-2333 or barbara266@msn.com.

Pilgrimage To Italy — Rome, Assisi & San Giovani Rotondo. Are you being called to a journey of faith? Experience the home of the Roman Catholic Church, the home of St. Peter’s, the Basilica, the ancient Christian Catacombs; Assisi, the home of St. Francis; and St. Clare. San Giovani Rotondo, visit the shrine of St. Pio. www.vcioc.org. For more information or to register, please call (361) 575-7111 or (800) 470-2230. For meeting dates, please call (361) 575-7111 or (210) 224-0372. To learn more about www.vcioc.org visit the website at pilgrimcenterofhope.org.

Have an event?? Contact us by e-mail: janak@victoriadiocese.org.

DVD and Blu-ray release

By John Mulderig Catholic News Service

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By Cynthia Brewer

*The Catholic Lighthouse*

NEW TAINTON — St. John Nepomucene Catholic Church in New Taiton, Texas, celebrated the 100th anniversary of its existence during its parish festival June 10, 2012. Bishop David E. Fellhauer was the main celebrant at the 8:00 a.m. Mass, with Fathers Gabriel Oduro Tawiah, pastor of St. John’s; Kirby Hlavaty, former parishioner and now pastor at Shiner; and Gary Janak and Albert Yankey, El Campo, concelebrating. Deacons Patrick Kubala and Edward Wendel of New Taiton, and Jarrel Nohavitza of El Campo, assisted.

The celebration actually came 101 years after its formation. There had been some confusion as to the date of its creation; some documents have 1911, others 1912. Proof of the correct date came from research by Jan Socha Ammann who discovered an article published in the October 12, 1911, edition, XX - No. 35, issue of the *Southern Messenger*, a Catholic newspaper published for the Dallas and San Antonio areas; more information was found on the original building cornerstone by Jeraleine Socha, who also compiled the early history of the parish from various sources. It has been confirmed by the *Southern Messenger* article and the original cornerstone that the St. John Nepomucene Church was blessed at Jones’ Creek on Tuesday, October 3, 1911, by Rt. Rev. J. W. Shaw, coadjutor-administrator, bishop of San Antonio.

Those living in Taiton were of German and Czech descent and Catholic in their religious belief; they had to travel to Nada in Colorado County to attend church services. Their Catholic neighbors of the Jones Creek school district had to travel to El Campo for Catholic services. Thanks to the financial benefits of a good cotton crop at good prices in 1910, the two Catholic communities were able to unite to establish a Catholic church in their community.  

Well-known contractor Mr. Benicker of the El Campo area was engaged for the building of the Lumber and wall materials were hauled on farm wagons from El Campo to the five-acre site near the boundary line of Taiton and the Jones Creek school district. The recorded deed shows a price of $125.00 was paid to Mr. John (Jan) Holub for the land he had offered for the church.  

Construction of the church began in February 1911 and was completed in May 1911. The Martyr of the Confessional, St. John Nepomuk, born in Nada, Bohemia, as John Wolfthin, was selected the patron of the church, and Taiton became a mission church of St. Philip the Apostle Church in El Campo. In its 100-year history, St. John’s was a mission whose administrator switched between El Campo and Nada at various times.  

Father William Heffernan, pastor at El Campo, said the first Holy Mass in the new building on the third Sunday of May 1911 and continued to say Mass every third Sunday of the month until October 1912, when his health declined.  

The first child baptized in the church was John (Janu) Charlie Merta, the son of Velav and Ludmilla Koryza Merta, on August 20, 1911. On October 17, 1911, Josef Vacek and Frantiska Drapela were the first couple to be married. One of the first organizations established by the church was St. Anne Society #39 – KJZT, which organized in 1913 to offer life insurance to women of the parish. Charter members were Zofie Dluhos, Marie Mass on June 10 was celebrated by Bishop David E. Fellhauer and concelebrated by Fathers Gabriel Oduro Tawiah, Kirby Hlavaty, Albert Yankey and Deacons Patrick Kubala, Edward Wendel and Jarrel Nohavitza.

Top photo (black and white) is a photo showing both churches around 1958 and 1959. On April 27, 1958, the new church was dedicated by the Rt. Rev. Msgr. Frederick O. Beck.

The photo above shows St. John Nepomucene Church today. (Aerial photo, courtesy Silver Star Helicopter, LLC, photographer Heather Morton.)

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With the increase of parishioners, the church was expanded in 1918 or 1919 (contracting dates), to include wings on each side to the back.  

The community of Taiton, located on what is now County Road 371, was abandoned with the construction of Highway 71 in 1927, and moved to the present location and renamed New Taiton.

One of the longer appointed administrators of El Campo Taiton was newly ordained Father Victor A. Raska, who served St. John’s from El Campo for almost 25 years, until April 1946. Then Rev. Marcus Valenta administered the mission from 1946 to 1955, when Father Julius A. Petru replaced him. Two years later, on Dec. 3, 1957, Father Petru was invested a monsignor.  

In 1956 the congregation unanimously voted to replace the wood-frame church with a modern brick building. On July 25, 1956, Archbishop Robert E. Lucey approved a revised plan for the new church building; the bid was awarded to Vaclavick Construction of El Campo on May 23, 1957. On the feast of St. Michael, September 29, 1957, the cornerstone of the current St. John Nepomucene’s Church was blessed and laid by Father Anthony Drozd, dean of the Weimar Deanery; it was dedicated by the Rt. Rev. Msgr. Frederick O. Beck on April 27, 1958. The first couple married in the new church was Clarence Zbranek and Joyce Socha on May 10, 1958.  

Another new building on the third Sunday of May 1958 was the new church on the third Sunday of May 1958 was the new church on the third Sunday of May 1958 was the new church on the third Sunday of May 1958 was the new church on the third Sunday of May 1958 was the new church on the third Sunday of May 1958 was the new church on the third Sunday of May 1958 was the new church on the third Sunday of May 1958 was the new church on the third Sunday of May 1958 was the new church on the third Sunday of May 1958 was the new church on the third Sunday of May 1958 was the new church on the third Sunday of May 1958 was the new church on the third Sunday of May 1958 was the new church on the third Sunday of May 1958 was the new church on the third Sunday of May 1958 was the new church on the third Sunday of May 1958 was the new church on the third Sunday of May 1958 was the new church on the third Sunday of May 1958 was the new church on the third Sunday of May 1958 was the new church on the third Sunday of May 1958 was the new church on the third Sunday of May 1958 was the new church on the third Sunday of May 1958 was the new church on the third Sunday of May 1958 was the new church on the third Sunday of May 1958 was the new church on the third Sunday of May 1958 was the new church on the third Sunday of May 1958 was the new church on the third Sunday of May 1958 was the new church on the third Sunday of May 1958 was the new church on the third Sunday of May 1958 was the new church.