Chancery hopes to hear from 8,000 more readers!

NOTICE
~ Action Required To Keep Receiving The Lighthouse ~

Thanks to the more than 2,000 readers of The Catholic Lighthouse who have contacted the chancery office with their request to continue receiving the diocesan paper in newspaper form.

Based on national surveys, approximately half of diocesan newspaper readers prefer to receive their diocesan news in newspaper form, the other half via the Internet. With these statistics, we expect to receive another 8,000 requests to have newspapers sent to homes.

Those wishing to receive the paper on-line may already do so at http://www.victoriadiocese.org/lighthouse/lighthouse.htm. If, however, at a later date you decide you would rather receive the paper, or if you find your computer is not compatible with our website, you may always contact us to put you back on our address list.

To continue receiving the paper, please send your name, address and parish name to:

Return DSA Postcard to:
The Diocese of Victoria
The Catholic Lighthouse
P.O. Box 4070
Victoria, TX 77903

State, women, senators join fight against HHS contraceptive mandate

By Nancy Frazier O’Brien

Catholic News Service

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Seven states have filed suit against the Department of Health and Human Services’ mandate that nearly all health insurance plans cover contraceptives free of charge, saying that it violates religious freedom and leaves “countless additional religious freedoms vulnerable to government intrusion.”

Joining the attorneys general of Nebraska, South Carolina, Michigan, Texas, Florida, Ohio and Oklahoma in the lawsuit was the Omaha-based Catholic Mutual Group, a self-insurance fund that covers more than 125 dioceses or archdioceses and 200 Catholic religious congregations in the U.S. and Canada.

The latest lawsuit was filed as protests against the HHS mandate continued. More than 4,500 have been filed.

By Cynthia Brewer

March 2012

The Untold Story of the Worst School Disaster in American History

Gone at 3:17

The book takes one’s breath away as it recounts stories from the explosion.

A natural gas leak had silently mounted. More than 4,500 requests have been received to have newspapers sent to homes.

The story is recreated in the factual and riveting book “Gone at 3:17,” written by David M. Brown and Michael Wereschajgin, just in time for the observance of the 75th anniversary of the tragedy.

New London Junior-Senior High School was a state-of-the-art, million-dollar school, built within a year of the Black Giant Oil Boom that had begun in East Texas in 1931. New London school district was considered the richest rural school district in the nation. But, as United Press reporter Henry McLemore had written March 19, 1937, “… the richest little school district in the world became the poorest.”

A natural gas leak had silently and effortlessly filled the 62,500 cubic foot basement of the E-shaped school building, which ignited when shop teacher Leonard Burst switched on a power switch of an electric sander for a student.

The book takes one’s breath away as it recounts stories from survivors and written reports of volume. The rescue of the chaos and pandemonium that followed the explosion.

The Mother Frances Hospital collapsed in the explosion.

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Local Knights of Columbus Council #2490 Receives International Recognition

EL CAMPO—Knights of Columbus Council #2490 of El Campo, is a Columbian Award winner for the 2010-2011 fraternal year. The award is presented for excellence in the sponsorship of programs that serve the Church, community, families, geo-life and youth— as well as council members.

The announcement was made by Knights of Columbus international headquarters located in New Haven, Connecticut. Alvin Kulcak, Victoria Diocesan Deputy, presented the engraved plaque to the council at the Annual Ladies Night and Awards ceremony on Saturday, Janu-
ary 21.

Renee Knight Carl A. Anderson, president of the international organization, in recognizing the local winner, said, “Please accept my sincere congratulations on attaining this prestigious award. The dedica-
tion of the order shown by your council is seen in the high standard of excel-
ence you have shown. For the same time, I encourage you to carry forward this enthusiasm to meet the challenges that will face the Knights of Columbus in the years ahead. May this award be a reminder and an inspiration to the members of your council to continue to promote the ideals of Columbianism for the good of the Church, your community, and the order.”

In accepting the award, Greg Witcher, head of the local council, said “Receiving this award is quite an honor. We’re very pleased with this accomplishment.”

The Knights of Columbus is the world’s largest Catholic lay organization. With more that 1.8 million members in more than 14,000 councils around the world, the Knights of Columbus annually donate over $154 million and 70 million hours of service to charitable causes. Please visit www.kofc.org for more information.

Thank You Notes

Dear Bishop Fellhauer,

God give you peace.

I am in receipt of your check in the amount of $40,628.12 representing the gifts of the people of the Diocese of Victoria to the Jerusalem Mother Church for the 2011 Good Friday collection. This gift will not only assist in the presentation of the Holy Places but will also help the people to whom the Franciscans of the Holy Land Custody minister.

In the name of the Friars and those to whom they minister, I express our deepest gratitude to you, Bishop Fellhauer, and to our Sisters and Brothers in the Diocese of Victoria, who continue to give most gener-
ously to help those who are in need! May God bless and reward all of you.

The Good Friday Collection is a Pontifi-
cal Collection and is absolutely vital. This collection helps support the Holy Land Shrines and also the educational, pastoral and charitable programs for the people there. The Custody cares for the poorest social classes, the Living Stones. I am sure you are well aware that it is not easy to be a Christian today in the Holy Land.

With deep appreciation, much gratitude and a promise of prayer, I ask you, and the People of God in the Diocese of Victoria, I am yours,

Sincerely and gratefully,
Bro. Joe Rogenski, O.F.M.
Commissary of the Holy Land
St. Louis Region
P.S. Your check arrived at my office the beginning of February 2012.

DIOCESE

Letter to the Editor

To Whom It May Concern:

Are you a true Christian? Do you try to help those in need?

Subject: Grief

Grief is something that will touch each of us at some time, yet it is probably one of the least discussed subjects talked about or written about. It affects each of us in a different way, no matter how it affects us, its impact should be treated with respect.

A very wise doctor that has written on the subject says to listen to people, don’t tell them not to cry, they need to cry and they need to talk.

Isn’t it funny that we don’t want to talk or listen to a grieving person, we are too busy. Let someone say so and so are living together, getting a divorce, having an affair, pregnant, etc...—we have plenty of time to listen to that and even stop the next person we see to spread the gossip—just can’t wait to spread the latest.

Grief is not easy to deal with, but remember you could be next. There is no guidelines, no instructions to follow; it just hits each of us in its own way. Some way may need to talk, may repeat the same thing over and over, may even realize they are doing it. Some may not talk at all, some become a recluse but each person is different as each relationship is. Grief is no one’s favorite subject but if you are a true Christian (no matter what church act like one, show respect and help if you can. Help can be just listening, a hug, being there in whatever way is needed. None

See Letter to the Editor, p. 3

DSA & Reflection of Faith Capital Campaign Updates

2011 DSA

Diocesan Goal: $1,471,384.00
Parish Pledge Totals: $777,954.73
Parish Contribution Totals: $769,447.73
Number of Parish Families Participating: 3,794

Reflection of Faith Capital Campaign

Diocesan Goal: $9,000,000.00
Parish Pledge Totals: $12,927,404.86
Parish Contribution Totals: $10,253,726.79
Number of Parish Families Participating: 6,768

Have you moved? Address Changed?
Call 361-573-0828 with the change in your address.
Saves Money!

3-21 “Ad Limina” Visit, Rome, Italy
22 6:30 p.m., Mother Elizabeth Ann Seton Awards, Knights of Columbus, Hall, Shiner
24 4:00 p.m., Confirmation Mass, St. John Nepomucene Church, New Tafton
25 11:00 a.m., Living History Memorial Service, Fannin
26 6:30 p.m., Mass, Diocese of Corpus Christi-Centennial Jubilee, American Bank Center, Corpus Christi
April 1 9:00 a.m., Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord, Our Lady of Victory Cathedral
3 10:00 a.m., Chrism Mass, Our Lady of Lady of Victory Cathedral
5 6:30 p.m., Mass of the Lord’s Supper, Our Lady of Victory Cathedral
12 12:15 p.m., Way of the Cross, Holy Trinity Chapel, Selver City
7 8:00 p.m., Easter Vigil, Our Lady of Victory Cathedral

Chrimst Mass - April 3 OLV Cathedral at 10 a.m.

Channery Office will be closed April 5-9 for the Holy Days and Easter Monday.

Official Appointments By Most Rev. David E. Fellhauer

Effective February 13, 2012:

The Rev. Roger Hawes is appointed Deacon of the Coeur de Neantery
The Rev. Raphael Baidoo, OSST, is appointed the Coeur de Neantery Representative to the Provincial Council
The Rev. Gabriel Espinosa is appointed Pastor of Our Lady of Mount Carmel Church, Wharton
The Rev. Dominic Antwi-Boasiai is relieved of his office as Pastor of Our Lady of Mount Carmel Church, Wharton, while remaining as Pastor of Holy Family Church, Wharton, and St. Joseph Church, Boling
The Rev. Daniel A. Danso of the Diocese of Konongo-Mpong, Ghana, West Africa, is appointed Parish Vicar at Our Lady of Guadalupe Church, Cuero; St. Michael Church, Cuero; Sts. Peter & Paul Church, Meyersville; and St. Aloysius Mission Church, Westhoff.

Effective February 18, 2012, the resignation of Monsignor Thomas C. McLaughlin as Vicar General and Chancellor of the Diocese of Victoria is accepted.

In spite of earlier hardships experienced by the Sisters in Victoria December 21, 1866, and opened the eagerly-awaited school on January 7, 1867; the Sisters enjoyed their success during that first semester. A young woman from New Braunfels had joined them the day they arrived in Victoria and soon another followed. The people of Victoria were most generous in supporting the Sisters and the newly established school, and enrollment steadily climbed. Besides the usual academic curriculum, studies included fine arts such as music, painting, ornamental penmanship and needlework. French was taught and, after a young immigrant woman from German, German was added to the curriculum.

As the summer vacation ended and the school reopened in September, hopes were high that the success of the previous semester would continue. Alas, sorrow would strike them again, the scourse of yellow fever made its appearance in Victoria that fall (1867). The two young women from Texas who had entered the Convent both succumbed to the illness. Needless to say, their deaths were a severe blow to the school. However, fortunately for the young foundation, three Sisters from France and two young postulants from Ireland arrived in Texas several months later. At that time travel was quite challenging, even though some railroads had been built by this point. Let’s follow the Sisters arrival’s diary for an account of their trip from Port Lavaca to Victoria.

We departed when all was ready, we, in the company of good Bishop Dubuis, boarded a train, on which there was about two dozen other passengers. The weather was fine; but, since the month was January, we were protuded in with several woolen blankets as protection against a possible “norther,” for we were lighted.

“Hardly an hour passed when the “norther” was upon us. In five minutes the temperature had fallen below the freezing point. The train seemed to have no stoves. We huddled ourselves in our blankets we blessed our kind benefactor (a thoughtful woman who had given bright red blankets to the Nuns who had no knowledge of Texas weather). Soon the train derailed and in doing so scattered the contents of the train box on the ground. The gentlemen came to our assistance and escorted us to the baggage car, which had retained its position. Our seats were boxes, barrels, plowshares, and planks. After a night’s wait while the men worked on the engine to no purpose, one of the party suggested that we hitch a ride to the next station. Bishop Dubuis thought it too much for us. But one of the gentlemen favored the plan; so off we started, plowing through mud and water until we reached our destination, where we rested for hours.

“Late in the afternoon we made another start on the same train, only to experience a repetition of the first accident. However, somehow, we had managed to arrange for carriages (on-carts) to meet us, and thus we were able to continue our journey to Victoria, where we were met by Father Gardet (the pastor) and a delegation of citizens, who conducted us to the convent, into which we were received with great joy and open-heartedness by Mother Saint Clare (the first foundress) and the other dear Sisters.”

To be continued.

More Triumphs and Trials

Letter to the Editor continued

Continued from p. 2

You can’t imagine what it is like. There is no hand to hold, no shoulder to cry on, no tender touch on your back that says I’m here, I love you and support you. Do you know how sweet and precious it is to have a hand to hold?

I bet you never thought sitting watch- ing TV you were making each other happy and content. Many things you did together, you can’t remember because it wasn’t what you were doing, it was the fact that you were together — that simple.

You now have memories and a head- stone to replace your soul mate, the love of your life — never forget, life is short and we never know how short.

Show please compassion, love, and caring for others who have lost a loved one. If you can touch your loved ones, you can’t count your blessings because the day will come when you can no longer do that, then you will know grief.

Anonymous

Grief — it doesn’t go away

To the person who sent this, thank you.

The writer also included “The Mourner’s Bill of Rights” by Alan D. Wolfelt, Ph.D. I think this may help you understand the grief you are in this in another issue. Until then, it and other grief resources by Dr. Wolfelt may be found at http://griefgrief.com/professional-train.html

Also see Grief Group, p. 11.

Papal Solutions To Economic Crises: Part II

By Sr. Elizabeth Riebschlaeger, CCVI

e-mail: elricevci@gmail.com

The sinful tendency of human ego- centricity (the “It’s all about me” philosophy so popular today) stands in direct opposition to the Spirit of Jesus or Love. Self-centeredness can lead some to cling to their private property, the point of the Socialism.

Excessive resources are accumu- lated and hoarded by the few instead of shared for the Common Good. This is especially true today of natural resources like land for agriculture, water, and clean air for breathing, which God intended to be shared for all. For example, human activity that causes safe water to be available only from water purifying companies in plast- ic bottles is an abuse of water, a natural resource given to the human family by the Creator for survival. Even water can become a source for greed—an abuse of one of God’s gifts to us.

The full statement on “socialism” found in the on-line Roman Catholic Encyclopaedia states, “Monover modern Socialism is not a mere arbitrary exercise at state-building; but a deliberate attempt to relieve, on explicit principles, the exist- ing social conditions which are regarded as intolerable. The great inequalities of human life and opportunity, produced by the profits made by the work of their em- ployees, that system is unjust. But a ray of hope is brought to the marketplace as some corporations in our capitalist system operate with an equal share of the profits divided among all in the company: workers, managers, and corporative CEO share equally the ownership and profits of the labor of what they accomplish together.

The popes’ observations in their en- cyclics over the last century could serve as clear warning signs along the road to the economic crisis we face today, as they repeatedly pointed out practices that violated Christian moral principles and caring for others who have lost a loved one.

The Holy Father is referring to the oppor- tunity to work and earn a living wage for all systems shut out workers and assure those in executive positions of the profits made by the work of their em- ployees, that system is unjust. But a ray of hope is brought to the marketplace as some corporations in our capitalist system operate with an equal share of the profits divided among all in the company: workers, managers, and corporative CEO share equally the ownership and profits of the labor of what they accomplish together.

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Seminaries are a permanent fund used for the education of future priests for the Diocese of Victoria. The goal of each tour 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 February 27, 2012

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The proceeds of this tournament have helped subsidize funding of an annual boys vocation camp as well as an annual mission trip to an orphanage in Guatemala, and allowed for expansion of our retreat program for confirmation, junior high, and high school students just to name a few of the many projects these funds have supported. In measurable outcomes, the diocese has realized a 300 percent increase in vocations since implementing the various camps and direct contact initiatives. This year all monies received from our $1,000 sponsors (Bishop Level), will be earmarked exclusively for the seminarian education fund. The tremendous increase in seminarians in our diocese necessitates more funds to educate these prospective priests. Please consider becoming a $1,000 Bishop Level sponsor in the name of one of our eleven seminarians. You may personally choose a seminarian to sponsor or one can be assigned to you (see photos below and sample sponsor poster). Please contact Monroe Rieger at (361) 571-6535

Growing Up Takes Time

By Jacob Koether
Parish: Holy Cross, Bay City
Seminary: St. Mary Seminary
Theology II

I find it interesting that it takes nine months for a child to develop in its mother’s womb and it will take me nine years to become a priest. This parallel speaks of a particular aspect of seminary formation that I’ve found to be very important. I often think it also answers a question that I’ve encountered more than a few times, “Why does it take seminarians so long to become priests?” If anyone has ever asked themselves this question, the simple answer is: growing up takes time. When I first began preparing for the priesthood I didn’t really have an idea of what I was getting myself into. I thought, “Maybe I’ll be praying all the time or maybe I’ll be stuck in my room trying to learn what it means to be a good priest.” I was pretty clueless. But I think now I’m beginning to realize that seminary is about becoming the man God created me to be. Just as a child grows in the womb, so my vocation right now is to grow in the “womb” of the Church. The academics, the formation meet- ings, spiritual direction, prayer requirements, and ministry are all helping me develop and mature. I believe that this is one of the greatest gifts the seminary has given me. I’ve been able to learn about myself, who I am, how I teach, how I communicate, and how I participate. I’ve also been given the opportunity to spend time with...
Proudly displaying the state banner at the Texas State CDA 95th Anniversary are, front row, State Youth/JCDA Chairman Terri Beltran, CDA 2nd V-Regent Ever Trevino, CDA State Regent Carolyn Malik, CDA State Treasurer Melody Blunt; back row: State CDA Secretary Rose Stockwell, 1st V-Regent Peggy Rosales, and National Director Olga Sanamaniego.

CDA Texas State Court Celebrates 95th Anniversary

By Terrie Vacek, State Public Relations Chair
ORR ISABEL — The Catholic Daugh-
ters of the Americas Texas State Court en-
joyed the kick-off anniversary celebration of their 95th anniversary hosted by Port Isabel Court #2569 for the dioceses of Corpus Christi and Brownsville. Court Regent Judy Gutierrez welcomed representatives from National, State, and thirteen area courts that gathered in Port Isabel, Texas, to celebrate the bountiful successes over the past 95 years. Also celebrating the anniversary were Past State Regents - Amy Rueda, 1996-1998, El Pasó; Immediate Past National Regent Libby Ramirez, 2002, 2000, Victoria; Past National Director Duchess Collins, 2000-2002, Sugar Land; National Director Olga Samaniego, 2005-2007, El Paso; Carolyn Bachmann, 2007-2009, Scotland; Four State Chairmen - Terri Beltran, El Cenisco; Barbara, Rosenberg; Rosa Linda Gutierrez, Kingston; Terrie Vacek, Willis; Eight District Deputies - Pat Medina #16, Corpus Christi; Sara Valdez, #22, Mission; Janie Corona, #22, San Benito; Socorro Vicinaiz, #31, Los Fresnos; Iris Hinjosa #43, Benavides; Delma Cantu #43, Weslaco; Terri Contreras, #50, McAl-
en; Benita Sanchez, #57, Kingsville; Monsignor Patrick Wells, Port Isabel; and members’ husbands.

Rev. James Erving was celebrating for the opening Mass at Our Lady Star of the Sea in Port Isabel. Before leaving the recitory Father Erving was questioned, “Lots and lots and lots of women all dressed in white are going into the church, are they new?” He replied, “No, but just as holy!”

In his homily he stated that, “Even after our Father’s love for you is a deep and profound longing. Through your service you have known his love for you individu-
ally as his precious daughter; ‘In love he destined you in adoption to himself’. It’s not only about your Martha service; it’s about who you are as daughters of the Fa-
thor. The real gift of CDA is the witness of who you are to men, women and children because of your love. You bring the gift of hope to his people.

‘Who is Mary called Blessed?’ It’s be-
cAUSE she believed in the promise. Mary’s example calls you to know and believe in the promise that you can make to your fa-
ually, to your courts, and your ministries. This charism, your vocation, your witness of love, proclaims the divine gift of wis-
dom, for you are called by name to obey and serve. For 95 years, you have been very generous women and your Father will never be outdone in his generosity to you as you live individually and corporately.

I join the Carmelite Nuns with a closing blessing and thank you, ‘God Re-
ward You.’”

Texas State Senator Eddie Lucio pre-

tented State Regent Carolyn Malik, Shiner, with Senate Proclamation No. 24 recognize-
ing the Catholic Daughters of the Americas as an exceptional organization having a profound influence on their communities while practicing the values of faith, hope, and charity, and commends the Texas State Court on their many achievements and dedication for the past 95 years.

Guest Speaker Rev. Gregory Labus in his message on “Spirituality & Service through Unity & Charity” stated that, “Each of us is here as illegal aliens on a temporary visa because heaven is our real home. We’re on a road to unity consecrated in truth by love. It’s a sacramental love that we are all called to because of the transforming true love of Christ himself.”

NA PLACES 1ST, OLV 2ND, IN REGIONAL MATHCOUNTS COMPETITION— Nazareth Academy placed 1st in the Regional MathCounts Competition held in the Our Lady of Victory gymnasium Sunday, February 19, hosted by the diocesan Youth and Young Adult Ministry office.

The youth were treated to a fantastic day of ministry and challenges from RADIX, the two-man Catholic ministry from 17 parishes within the Diocese of Victoria, over 350 Jr. High and High School youth attended the 2012 Youth Spectacular at the Holy Family Activi-
ty Center Sunday, February 19, hosted by the diocesan Youth and Young Adult Ministry office.

The youth were treated to a fantastic
day of ministry and challenges from RADIX, the two-man Catholic ministry of Doug Barry and Eric Genius, that has been presenting unforgettable experi-
ences to youth and adults using a variety of means such as drama, music, comedy and history.

The duo teamed up perfectly with the youth office’s theme for the Spectacular, “God Wants You! – Soldiers for Christ,” training and challenging the “Soldiers for Christ” to know their Catholic faith by us-
ing the teachings of the Seven Sacraments and Ten Commandments. The Youth Leadership team wore camouflage t-shirts to keep the Spectacular in a recruiting and boot camp mood.

Eric Genius, an award-winning vir-
tuoso pianist, performed two songs for the youth and the house band entertained with high-energy music to get the youth in-
volved in the day’s “spectacular” theme.

RADIX’s Living And served their ministry with Nazareth Academy and Our Lady of Vic-
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Find us now on Facebook! At Diocese of Victoria – Youth Ministry

For more information contact:
Wendy Eggert at the Office of Youth Ministry at (361) 574-0282 ext. 2250 or e-mail at weggert@victoriadiocese.org
new youth office e-mail vmy@victoriadiocese.org, or visit our website at www.victoriadiocese.org/youthoffice

2012 Youth Spectacular hosts RADIX

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tory junior high students on Feb. 20.
HOLY CROSS SCHOOL RAISES $13,000 WITH CATHOLIC LIFE—Holy Cross School in Bay City recently participated, along with 53 other Catholic schools in Texas, in the Fifth Annual Catholic Life Insurance Sweepstakes. The sweepstakes drawing, with all prizes donated by Catholic Life Insurance, is an annual fundraising event with all monies raised going directly and immediately to the school. The school may choose to utilize the money they have raised however they wish, including tuition assistance, or the purchase of new playground or computer equipment. Holy Cross School raised more than $13,000. The grand-prize winner of the drawing had the choice of a 2012 Ford F-150, a 2012 Ford Fusion, or a $20,000 prepaid Visa card. Other prizes awarded included four $2,500 Visa cards, and ten $1,000 Visa cards. From left to right are student Nathan, Mrs. Stephanie Kucera, principal of Holy Cross School, students Kaley and Taylor, Father Greg Korenek, and Mike Allison, Catholic Life Insurance Agent-representative, who was responsible for bringing the fundraiser to Holy Cross.

DONATIONS MADE TO L.A.M.B. IN HALLETTSVILLE—A donation was made to L.A.M.B. (Lavaca Assistance Ministry Body) /Manna Food Pantry on behalf of the Knights of Columbus #2433, Hallettsville. A check for $1,000 was also presented to L.A.M.B./Manna Food Pantry by Catholic Financial Life St. John’s Branch #564. Pictured from left to right are Father John Peters, Jackie Robinson of L.A.M.B., Bill Curley and Frank Janecek, KC members.

OVER $700 DONATED TO THE HUNGRY BY KJZT #53—Recently, Molly Peters and Mary Ann Stock of KJZT Society #53 of Shiner, presented Father Kirby Havaty, pastor of Sts. Cyril & Methodius Parish in Shiner, with a check for $710 for the Sts. Cyril & Methodius Assistance Ministry. The funds were proceeds from a bake sale sponsored by Society #53 and matching funds from the state KJZT office.

CATHOLIC FINANCIAL LIFE DONATES TO RIGHT TO LIFE—Catholic Financial Life St John’s Branch #564 in Hallettsville assisted in collecting and donating to the Right to Life organization in Lavaca County. Presenting the $500 check to Right to Life treasurer John Butschek is Branch Vice President Kathy Steinhofer; both are from Hallettsville.

STUDENTS DONATE TO GABRIEL PROJECT SCHULENBURG—In honor of Catholic Schools Week, the St. Rose of Lima Early Childhood students in Schulenburg completed the “Bundles of Blessings” service project. For two weeks students collected basic baby care items, blankets, clothes and furniture to benefit the Diocese of Victoria Gabriel Project. The Respect Life Program of the Diocese of Victoria works to instill respect and reverence for all human life, and to bring about a conversion of heart and mind for all to be open to God’s special gift of love.

Pray for the unborn!

CATHOLIC LIFE—youth, sponsor and pastor shown in picture are, from left to right, Blake Torres, Father Ty Bazar, Kea in Holdgraf, Mrs. Leah Suarez, and Abby Koenning.

HOGS GIVING HOPE—Harley Davidson of Victoria donated $400 to the Gabriel Project from their December 2011 fundraiser. The owners, Tim and Dawn Eaton, made this possible by donating $50 each from the sale of eight Harley Davidsions. Those purchasing Harleys and giving their permission to donate $50 to the Gabriel Project, which provides assistance to those in need during pregnancy, were Solomon Kahookele, Billy Ham, James Wessels, James Cummins, Darrell Quinney, Nick McGaharan and Leroy Garza. Pictured is Barbara McCain (r.) accepting the $400 check on behalf of the Gabriel Project. With her from left, are Harley Davidson employees Emily Gower, Sarah Bloseman and Barbara Gentry.

SACRED HEART SENIOR SIGNS WITH INCARNATE WORD—Cole Wick (c.), son of Bo and Pam Wick, is a senior at Sacred Heart Catholic High School in Hallettsville. He was voted All Area Tight End, First Team All State Defensive End and Second Team All State Tight End. He also received TAPPS Academic All State. He has always loved football and wanted to continue playing in college. He was told that most of your bigger universities only look at 5-A and 4-A public schools and do not usually give small private school athletes a second look. He continued to attend as many camps as possible to get better. Then two days before national signing day, he was invited to Incarnate Word to an “official visit” and they offered him a scholarship for both football and academics. He signed on high school’s National Signing Day and will play football at the University of The Incarnate Word next year. He plans to work on the BBA and MBA five-year program majoring in business administration and then attend law school. He is also on Sacred Heart’s basketball team, swims team, track team, golf team, and baseball team. He has gone to state in track in high jump and won first place and to state in baseball, golf team, and baseball team. He has gone to law school. He is also on Sacred Heart’s basketball team, swim team, track team, golf team, and baseball team. He has gone to state in track in high jump and won first place and to state in swimming, his freshman year and his senior year.

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JCDA DAY PROCLAIMED IN SHINER—Shiner Mayor Henry Hilscher met with Shiner JCDA members Feb. 3, 2012, to sign the Proclamation for National JCDA Day, which was held Sunday, February 19, 2012. This date was observed as the 86th Annual National Junior Catholic Daughters of the Americas Day. Those in attendance for the proclamation signing were, from left to right, Sydney Herrmann, Bailey Machacek; State CDA Regent Carolyn Malik; Bethany Nevuds; and Emma Herman. Seat ed is Mayor Hilscher. The Junior Catholic Daughters organization is for Catholic girls, age 6 through 18; their involvement is Message, Service and Community.

SOUPER BOWL OF CARING RAISES FOOD AND MONEY IN POINT COMFORT—Confirmation youth from St. Ann’s Catholic Church in Point Comfort, a mission of Our Lady of the Gulf Parish in Point Lavaca, helped to recognize the Souper Bowl of Caring at Sunday Mass, February 5, 2012. With the help of the parishioners, they collected $103.75 and 43 canned goods. The confirmation youth will give the donations to the Calhoun County Food Pantry.

JUNIOR CATHOLIC DAUGHTERS OF THE AMERICAS—Mrs. Josephine Beinhalk; Mrs. Karen Skrobak; and Mrs. Patricia Pieper of Sts. Cyril & Methodius Parish in Shiner, with a check for $710 for the Sts. Cyril & Methodius Assistance Ministry. The funds were proceeds from a bake sale sponsored by Society #53 and matching funds from the state KJZT office.

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Holy Family KC Council #9088 honors members at awards banquet

At the recent Holy Family Knights of Columbus Council #9088 Awards Banquet in Victoria, Otto Bleier was honored as the Knight of the Year and Ed and Carol Lehnert were honored as the Family of the Year. Also honored, was Jerry A. Hajek for his 21 years of service to the Council as Financial Secretary. Knights of the Month and Families of the Quarter were also recognized. Service pins and certificates were given to those Knights with many years of membership and service, anywhere from 20 to 65 years.

Otto Bleier, the Knight of the Year, is known throughout the diocese for his culinary skills, serving as chef for many church and community functions, including barbecuing hams, making sausage, and planning, cooking and serving meals. You see him cooking and serving for the diocese, the Sisters of Incarnate Word and Blessed Sacrament, the Serra Club or for a birthday or wedding anniversary. He has served his church and community as an ecumenical minister, Lector, Grand Knight for Council #9088, District Deputy, Faithful Navigator and Bursar for the 4th Degree. Retirement is not a word in Otto’s dictionary.

Ed and Carol Lehnert, the Family of the Year, are also very involved with Holy Family Church. Ed serves as the newsletter editor for K C Council #9088; cooks the best chicken-fried steak and fried fish; and is handy at making sponsor posters and advertising flyers for fundraisers such as the Holy Family Festival, the Bishop’s Golf Tournament, the Nazareth Fishing Tournament and the Fat Tuesday Fundraiser. His good-natured personality makes you feel welcome. His wife, Carol is the C.C.D. minister, lector, Grand Knight for Council #9088, District Deputy, Faithful Navigator and Bursar for the 4th Degree. Retirement is not a word in Otto’s dictionary.

Jerry Hajek, in addition to his service for 21 years as financial secretary for K C. Council #9088, has served as Grand Knight for K C. Councils in several communities.

Growing Up Takes Time

Continued from p. 4

The Lord in prayer and on retreats and grow in knowledge of him through my classes. Through grace, reflection, and a lot of work, I have begun to develop into who I'm meant to be.

And this analogy applies to all of us at the seminary. Whether we're in our early 20s or early 60s, we all need to grow. It includes not only growth in character and maturity but also in our spiritual lives and identity as sons of God.

However, all of this takes time and patience. I can’t rush through the process and expect to be sufficiently formed, but rather must be open to growing up. And though I may want to speed up the process, kicking and squirming like a baby does, I have to wait until I’m ready. I have at least three years left until my priestly ordination, which means that I still have room left to grow. (But I'm in my last trimester!)
The Donkey That No One Could Ride

A Brand New Easter Classic!

Tell the Easter Bunny to hop aside!

Biblical scholars and theologians agree it was no accident that Jesus chose a lowly donkey to carry him into Jerusalem. But how did the donkey feel about that?

Best-selling author Anthony DeStefano begins his creative telling of the beloved Bible story of Christ’s triumphant entry by introducing the young donkey that will yet to realize his important mission. In The Donkey That No One Could Ride, the author weaves a tale of the transforming power of faith as seen through the eyes of a curious yet little-examined donkey.

And what a tale it is!

The lowly creature believes he can do nothing noble, but that’s before he meets the Master...

Then Jesus said to the donkey, “It’s timely, you know—about the great thing that you’re destined to do...” He hears the sad donkey cry, “Just leave me alone and cast me aside. I am not a poor donkey that no one can ride.”

With breath-taking illustrations by New York Times bestselling artist Richard Cowdrey (Illustrator of the Marley & Me series), DeStefano writes in charming rhymes of a weak and useless donkey whose life is changed forever after meeting the au...

To see a sample of the book, go to The Catholic Lighthouse website and click on this link: http://anthonydesteiano.com/TDTNOCR/TDTNOCR-sample-pages-01.htm

The Donkey That No One Could Ride is published by Harvest House Publishers; hardback: 32 pages; 9.1” x 9.1” x 0.4”; list price: is $15.99, but can be found at amazon.com for $10.76.

For a chance at winning a copy of The Donkey That No One Could Ride, please send completed puzzle and form to The Catholic Lighthouse at P.O. Box 4070, Victoria, TX 77903 by March 28.

“A Baby Book” wins The Manhattan Declaration poetry contest

A BABY BOOK

by Heather Spears Kallus

A parishioner of St. Joseph Parish, Inez, Texas

As I slowly turn the pages of my baby book, I feel a tear slide down my cheek – I take a closer look. I see a mommy full of love, a daddy...so, so proud, An echo of my baby heartbeat – strong and very loud.

I close my eyes just to feel their tender warm embrace, Recalling many memories, birthday parties and the fun, I almost feel the warmth of my own childhood sun. And neatly tucked there in the book…a Mother’s Day note, I almost feel the warmth of my own childhood sun.

I cry a little, I dry a little. I turn to the next page. I see a clipping of my hair and pause for just awhile.

As they gently trace the tiny features of my baby face. I close my eyes just to feel their tender warm embrace, Recalling many memories, birthday parties and the fun, I almost feel the warmth of my own childhood sun.

I read about my “firsts” – first food, first step, first smile, As I slowly turn the pages of my baby book, I feel a tear slide down my cheek – I take a closer look. I see a mommy full of love, a daddy...so, so proud, An echo of my baby heartbeat – strong and very loud.

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Lenten ashes are called to repentance, humility, pope says at Mass

By Cindy Wooden

Catholic News Service

ROME (CNS) — Receiving ashes at the beginning of Lent is a call to repentance and humility and a sign that believers know that death will not have the final word in their lives, Pope Benedict XVI said.

The pope’s Ash Wednesday Mass Feb. 22 was preceded by a procession from Rome’s Church of St. Anselm to the Church of Santa Sabina. Unlike last year, when Pope Benedict walked the block between the two churches, this year he rode in a golf cart modified to be a mini-penitentiary.

Pope Benedict, 84, has been using a mobile platform to process into St. Peter’s Basilica since last October. Jesuit Father Federico Lombardi, Vatican spokesman, said then that use of the platform was to help the pope conserve his energy and that Pope Benedict had no serious health problems.

During Wednesday’s Mass, the pope received ashes on his head from retired Slovakian Cardinal Jozef Tomko, the cardinal-priest of Santa Sabina.

Before receiving and distributing ashes, Pope Benedict gave a homily focused on the meaning of ashes and of the admonition from the Book of Genesis, “You are dust and to dust you shall return.”

In the Catholic liturgy, ashes are “one of those material signs that bring the cosmos into the liturgy,” he said. They recall both the fact that God created human beings out of the dust of the earth and breathed divine life into them, but also that after Adam and Eve sinned, God cursed the ground and made it bring forth thistles and thorns, the pope said.

With their sin, “the dust of the earth no longer recalls the creative gesture of God, completely open to life, but becomes a sign of the inescapable destiny of death,” he said.

While God punishes people for their sins, the pope said, his punishment is “medicinal” because God is good and loving.

“Along with the just punishment, he also intends to announce a path of salvation that passes precisely through the earth, through that dust, that ‘flesh’ taken on by Jesus and given up on the cross for the sins of all, he said.

“Distribution of ashes is ‘an invitation to repentance, to humility, to remembering one’s own moral condition, not in order to end up in desperation, but in order to welcome—precisely in our mortality— the unimaginable nearness of God,’” the pope said.

While all men and women will die, God “opens the passage to the resurrection (and) to the final, completely rediscovers,” he said.

God sent his son “to our earth devastated by sin” so that “we can, prodigal sons and daughters, could return repentant and redeemed by his mercy to our true homeland” in heaven, Pope Benedict said.

Santa Sabina is the “station church” for the first day of Lent. The assigning of a Rome church to a set day during Lent goes back to the fourth century when the pope would move around the city, celebrating Mass in different churches during Lent and on holy days as a sign of the unity of all the city’s Catholics.

NEW TEXAS AUXILIARY BISHOP—Pope Benedict XVI has named Msgr. George A. Sheltz, who is vicar general, chancellor and moderator of the Diocese of Galveston-Houston, a bishop for the Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston.

Journey to the Foot of the Cross: Bishop Ricken Offers 10 Things to Remember for Lent

WASHINGTON — Bishop David E. Ricken of Green Bay, Wisconsin, chairman of the Committee on Evangelization and Catechesis of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB), offers “10 Things to Remember for Lent” as the church prepares to begin its 40-day penitential season on Ash Wednesday on February 22:

1.) Remember the formula.

2.) It’s a time to fast.

3.) It’s a time to work on discipline.

4.) It’s a time to pray more. I’m going to pray more. I’m going to be nicer to my family, friends and coworkers.

5.) It’s about dying to yourself.

6.) It’s a time to exercise.

7.) Lent reminds us of our weakness.

8.) Be patient with yourself.

9.) It’s a time to make a sacrifice.

10.) The resurrection of the Lord, the Sunday of the passion of the Lord.

All daily and Sunday readings, as well as a daily reflection video, are available in text or video at: www.usccb.org/bible/readings

Brought to you by the Catholic Communications Campaign – please be generous.
women signed a letter calling on President Obama, HHS Secretary Kathleen Sebelius and Congress “to allow religious institu-
tions and individuals to continue to witness to their faiths in all their fullness.” In addition, 18 U.S. senators asked President Obama to rescind the mandate, saying that its implementation “will un-
justly impact religiously affiliated organiza-
tions, as part of preventive health services
and individuals to avoid using their
viable options for religiously affiliated orga-
nizations and individuals to continue to
witness to their faiths in all their fullness.”

The mandate requires no-cost coverage of all contraceptives approved by Food and Drug Administration, including some that can cause an abortion, as well as steriliza-
tions, as part of preventive health services
for women. A narrow religious exemption applies only to those employed by houses of worship.

In a revision announced Feb. 10, Obama said religious employers could decline to
cover contraceptives if they were morally opposed to them, but the health insurers that
provide their health plans would be required to offer contraceptives free of charge to
women who requested such coverage.

The lawsuit by the seven attorneys gen-
eral, all Republicans, followed earlier suits
filed by Belmont Abbey College in North Carolina and Colorado Christian University in Denver; the Eternal Word Television
Network in Birmingham, Ala.; and Ave Maria University in Naples, Fla.

“The First Amendment has, for centu-
ries, served as a rampart against govern-
ment interference with religious liberty,” says the brief filed with the U.S. District
Court for Nebraska. “The federal govern-
ment’s regulation is an unprecedented invasion of the plaintiffs’ First Amendment
rights ....”

The open letter from women was orga-
nized by Helen Alvare, who teaches law at
George Mason University School of Law, and Kim Daniels, former counsel to the
Thomas More Law Center, and the bat-
ter, Women Speak for Themselves (http://
womenspeakforthemselves.com).

The letter from 18 Republican senators
said the president’s revised rule “leaves few
viable options for religiously affiliated orga-
nizations and individuals to avoid using their
funds to pay, directly or indirectly, for services
they consider morally objectionable.”

Among the options would be to drop
health insurance coverage for their em-
ployees or to limit hiring only to Catholics
in order to fit the administration’s “narrow
definition of a religious employer,” they
said.

“Because religiously affiliated hospitals and other organizations are major employ-
ers in many communities, ... it is hard to
comprehend why this administration would deliberately implement a policy that
would have such a detrimental impact,” the sena-
s said.

Forming Consciences for
Faithful Citizenship
“Responsible citizenship is a virtue, and participation in political life is
a moral obligation” – taken from Forming Consciences for Faithful Citizenship.
For more information in English and Spanish go to http://www.usccb.org/issues-and-action/faithful-citizenship/.

El Campo K of C Spring Picnic
Knights of Columbus Council 2490
Sunday, April 1
at the K of C Hall located at Hwy. 71 and
Armory Road • 1458 CR 406
A Chicken-Barbecue Dinner $7.50 p/p
Dine-in or Drive-thru
Serving from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.
Entertainment for the family begins at 1:00 p.m.
Games for Children
Cakewalk Fusion
Free Dance! Music provided by The Red Ravens Polka Band

Bishop Blaire Refutes White House Press Secretary’s Claim That Bishops Never Supported Health Care Reform
WASHINGTON – The White House press secretary, Jay Carney, said in a press
briefing at the White House on February 13, “I would simply note with regard to the
bishops that they never supported health care reform to begin with.”
“This is not the case,” said Bishop Ste-
phen Blaire, chairman of the Committee
on Domestic Justice and Human Develop-
ment for the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB).
“Since 1919, the United States Catholic
bishops have supported decent health care for all and government and private action to
advance this essential goal,” Bishop Blaire
said. “Long before the current battles, the
Catholic Church was persistently and consistently advocating for this overdue
national priority.”

In the recent health care debate the USCCB called universal and affordable
health care “an urgent national priority and
moral imperative.” The USCCB’s criteria
insisted reform should be truly universal,
protect human life and conscience and not
discriminate against immigrants. “The
USCCB opposed the final legislation be-
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say this. ...
Haugersdorf — KJIT Society #79 and KJIT Society #57 will host their Annual Barbecue-Chicken and Sausage Dinner March 4 at the community center. Serving begins at 18:30. Plates-to-go will be available for $10. There will be an auction, and a free dance will be held from 21:00 p.m. with music by The Texas Legacy Church Band and the Legacy Czech Band.

Schulenburg — St. Rose Spring Festival March 11 at the KCH. A turkey dinner will be served from 10:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at $35 p/p for adults and $10 for children. Drive-thru plate and table plates available only. There will be an auction at 11:30 a.m., cakewalk, cakewalk, and much more. Proceeds to benefit St. Rose Altar Ushers and our Church.

New Tafton — St. John’s Altar Society Annual Chicken Dinner March 11 at the Tafton Activity Center. Serving begins at 11:00 a.m. with fried-chicken, homemade dressing and all the trimmings. There will be a 50/50 raffle at $8 p/p. There will also be an auction, cakewalk, country store and more.

Bay City — 2nd Annual Bayside ACTS Community Golf Tournament will be held on Saturday, April 14, at the well-manicured Rio Colorado Golf Club in Bay City. The tournament will be a four-person scramble. Registration begins at 7:00 a.m., with a shotgun start at 8:00 a.m. The cost for this event is only $80 per four-man team. This price includes 18 holes of golf, cart ride, range balls, lunch and refreshments. Some of the side events planned are a 50/50 raffle, a putting contest and many more. For more information, please contact R. C. Smith at (979) 475-0604 or baysideacts@yahoo.com.

Lent

East Bernard — Knights of Columbus Annual Fish Fry event Friday, April 5 until April 6, in the Knights’ fellowship hall, fries, hashbrowns, cole slaw and beans from 5:30-7:30 p.m. at Riverside Hall with drive-through service. For $10 p/p, all you can eat (dine-in) at $15 p/p with children 6-11 and under free. Proceeds to benefit scholarships and local charities.

Victoria — Our Lady of Guadalupe Church will be sponsoring fish and shrimp dinners on Fridays, March 22 and March 23. The dinners will be served in the cafeteria from 5:00 - 7:00 p.m. for either dine-in or take-out. These dinners include catfish, shrimp, hashbrowns, green beans, coleslaw and toast for $5 p/p.

Upcoming Events

Ina — Catholic Daughters Court St. Joseph, Protector of Mary Consecration event will be held on April 22 from 8:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at St. Joseph’s Parish. Admission of $7 p/p. There will be door prizes, refreshments and more. You are invited — St. Ann’s Holy Week Fish Fry on April 19, in their fellowship hall, fries, hashbrowns, cole slaw and beans from 4:00-7:00 p.m. Please call (512) 994-7259 for more information. All are welcome; no fees. More information at: thatmanisyou.org or call (979) 476-0054 or Mike Allison at (979) 479-1370.

Parish Missions with Michael Fonseca

Yoakum—God’s Embrace Parish Mission will be held at the Ina Catholic Church — Holy Cross Church Parish, 110 N. E. Water St. on the Sundays of Lent: March 4, 11, 18 and 25; from 9:00 – 6:00. Evening Prayer (or Evensong) is an ancient prayer form that pays great spiritual attention. It is a gift for our Jewish brothers and sisters. Evening Prayer finds its base in the prayers of the Psalms. This prayer calls us to give praise and Thanksgiving to our living God. This prayer prepares us for the great feast of Easter. For information, please call (361) 575-7111.

San Antonio — Catholic Women’s Luncheon — BY POPULAR DEMAND — upcoming luncheon open to men! When Catholic Answers’ Shannon L. Strange is in town for our Catholic Women’s Conference in October, men too need to be in hear her speak! For more information, please contact Garriott David Co. at (361) 575-3369.

Port Lavaca — The local Catholic Knights of Columbus, Council #79 and #57, will host the Fifth Annual Catholic Knowledge Bowl on Friday, March 31. The tournament begins at 7:00 p.m. in the Church Hall. Proceeds to benefit scholarships and local charities.

The Catholic Lighthouse Page 11 — March 2012

HEAVENLY HELPERS
Christian Store (979) 943-2805

Bibles Gifts Books Jewelry Music Religious Articles Videos Christian Supplies

1005-B Mechanic East

M-F: 9:30 a.m. - 5:30 p.m. • Sat: 9:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
St. Joseph students raise over $11,000 for Wounded Warriors

St. Joseph High School held a prayer service at the STJ Gymnasium in Victoria on January 25, 2012, honoring those who have served in the U.S. military. This year will mark the 6th celebration of Warrior’s Weekend and the 4th celebration of the Family of the Year. Warrior’s Weekend started with 60 soldiers and has grown to host over 500 soldiers, family members, and caregivers at the annual event each May. This is the second year Warrior’s Weekend has partnered with the Senior Class at STJ. Initially 550 flags were placed in the Field of Honor, but since partnering with area high school students and faith-based organizations the result has quadrupled to 2,126 flags. Seventeen STJ Seniors have led the way in garnering sponsorships selling 10 or more flags. STJ Senior Cameron Becker was the top producer with a total of 55 flag sponsorships. Warrior’s Weekend believes in future generations and has issued a rebate check of a percentage of the school’s sales to STJ in the amount of $11,320!

The Warrior’s Weekend Field of Honor is located at the corner of Mockingbird and Sam Houston and will be held from May 12 to June 3, 2012. The flag posting ceremony will begin at 9 a.m. on May 12, 2012. The Senior Class of 2012 invited you to support the Wounded Warriors Weekend and STJ Project Graduation 2012. For more information, please visit http://www.warriorsweekend.org or contact Colonel (Ret) Michael Petrash at (210) 364-4512 or michael.petrash@gmail.com.

By Victor Keefe
K of C Council 9088

“Sacrifice the Homeless”, is the fourth of the seven Corporal Works of Mercy. “Charity” is the first of the four Principles of the Knights of Columbus. Combine shelter and charity and you may hear “Awesome”. That was the one-word comment by Angela Cantu to describe the scene at the site of her daughter’s Habitat for Humanity house under construction at Swan Crossing in Victoria.

On a chilly Saturday morning, while the front was still heavy on the roof top of Angela Cantu’s soon-to-be completed new home, a dedicated team of Angela’s co-workers, family members and a couple dozen volunteers from Holy Family of Joseph, Mary and Jesus Roman Catholic Church of Victoria, Knights of Columbus of Victoria Council #9088, gathered at the Brother Chris Dwyer, superintendent for Habitat, and the Knights of Columbus Council #9088 family of the year awarded—

The Dennis Edwards family received the Family of the Year for the Fraternal Year 2010-2011 for Knights of Columbus Council 2490, El Campo. Left to right are Family Directors Leonard and Marilyn Goering, family members Zachary Edwards, Matthew Edwards, Owen Edwards, Dennis Edwards, and Grand Knight Greg Witcher. The family, who attends St. Philip the Apostle Catholic Church, is very active in the church and community. Both sons are active in scouting, youth choir, St. Philip Youth and Men’s Ministry, and Zachary and his father, Dennis, are members of both the KC Council and Assembly 1131, as well as both being Eagle Scouts, with younger son, Matthew, working on his Eagle Scout designation. Dennis and Zachary are instrumental in maintaining and improving the electrical operations of the local council hall. Gwen is the principal at St. Philip the Apostle Catholic School. She also trains altar servers for the parish.

75th Habitat for Humanity Home built in Victoria

By Victor Keefe

“This house is near my parents’ lot and lived in some not so nice places.” Angela Cantu to describe the scene at the site of her daughter’s Habitat for Humanity house under construction at Swan Crossing in Victoria.

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