By Dennis Sadowski

The Christian Foundation for Children and Aging has surpassed the financial milestone of $1 billion since its inception nine years ago.

The organization is able to support 300,000 children and senior citizens with basic needs such as food, medical care, clothing and school tuition, said Martin Kraus, director of finance. The organization does not rely on government or corporate sponsorships ranging from $15 to $30 per month. It is formed through periodic contributions from individuals. It operates programs in 22 countries.

“I don’t think they ever thought it would happen,” Kraus said. “We’re proud of the operations we’ve been able to accomplish all around the world.”

Kraus said such encounters help form a lasting emotional bond that is difficult to break. “I don’t think they ever expected to be able to develop such a close relationship with the person they are sponsoring, regularly exchanging letters and photos.”

Sponsors also can meet the child or elderly person they are supporting through periodic mission trips the agency organizes. Kraus said such encounters help form an emotional bond that serves to bridge cultural and geographic divides.

Three decades after helping CFCA get off the ground, Hentzen remains an integral part of the operation. He lives in San Lucas Toliman, Guatemala. In June 2011, he completed a 17-month, 8,000-mile walk across 12 countries to show solidarity with the poor.

Editor’s Note: More information about the Christian Foundation for Children and Aging can be found online at www.cfcausa.org.

Catholic News Service

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**Bishop Fellhauer’s Schedule**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Month</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>May</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>5:00 p.m., Mass, social, and meal for Sister Digna’s farewell, Chancery Staff</td>
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<td>5</td>
<td>5:00 p.m., Confirmation Mass, Sts. Cyril and Methodius Church, Shiner</td>
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<td>6</td>
<td>10:30 a.m., Confirmation Mass, St. Agnes Church, Edna</td>
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<td>7</td>
<td>6:00 p.m., Confirmation Mass, Assumption Church, Cuero</td>
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<td>8</td>
<td>1:00-6:00 p.m., Going away reception for Sister Digna, Chancery Office</td>
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<td></td>
<td>9</td>
<td>10:00 a.m., Priests and Lay Pension Board meeting, Chancery Office</td>
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<td>10</td>
<td>8:00 a.m., Mass, 100th Anniversary, Homecoming, and Parish Picnic, St. John the Baptist Church, Cuero (Hallettsville)</td>
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<td>11</td>
<td>12:30 p.m., Confirmation Mass, St. Mary Church, Praha</td>
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<td>12</td>
<td>6:30 p.m., Confirmation Mass, St. Michael Church, including Our Lady of Guadalupe Church, Cuero</td>
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<td>13</td>
<td>8:00 a.m., Confirmation Mass, St. Mary Church, Praha</td>
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<td></td>
<td>14</td>
<td>10:00 a.m., Confirmation Mass, St. Joseph Church, followed by dedication of Resurrection Chapel, Moulton</td>
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<td>June</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>11:00 a.m., Serra Club Sisters’ “cookout,” Inmate Ward Convent, Victoria</td>
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<td>2</td>
<td>6:00 p.m., Confirmation Mass, St. Patrick’s Church, Bloomington</td>
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<td>3</td>
<td>9:15 a.m., Confirmation Mass, St. Mary Church, St. Mary (Hallettsville)</td>
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<td>4</td>
<td>12:30 p.m., Confirmation Mass, St. Peter Church, Blessing</td>
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<td>5</td>
<td>6:30 p.m., Confirmation Mass, St. John the Baptist Church, St. John, including the Ascension of Our Lord Church, Moravia</td>
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<td>6</td>
<td>7:30 p.m., Serra Club Priests’ “cookout,” St. Mary Church Hall, St. Mary (Hallettsville)</td>
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<td></td>
<td>7</td>
<td>9:00 p.m., Confirmation Mass, Sacred Heart Church, Falfurrias</td>
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<td></td>
<td>8</td>
<td>8:00 a.m., Mass, 100th Anniversary, Homecoming, and Parish Picnic, St. John Nepomucene Church, New Tallow</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>9</td>
<td>8:00 a.m., Mass, 100th Anniversary, Homecoming, and Parish Picnic, St. John Nepomucene Church, New Tallow</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>10</td>
<td>3:00 p.m., Mass, Celebrating 50th Anniversary of Priestly Ordination of Father Henry Rachunek, St. Wenceslaus Church, Beasley</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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**Official Appointments By Most Rev. David E. Fellhauer**

Effective April 18, 2012, the Rev. Dan Morales is appointed chaplain for the Serra Club of Victoria.

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**From the USCCB**

The HHS public comment period ends June 19. Please act today!

**RELIGIOUS LIBERTY**

_Past and Present_

In 1634, a mix of Catholic and Protestant settlers arrived in Southern England from abroad the Ark and the Dove. They had come at the invitation of the Catholic Lord Baltimore, who had been granted the land by the Protestant King Charles I of England. While Catholics and Protestants were killing each other in Europe, Lord Baltimore imagined Maryland as a society where people of different faiths could live together peacefully. This vision was soon codified in Maryland’s 1649 Act Concerning Religion (also called the “Toleration Act”), which was the first law in our nation’s history to protect an individual’s right to freedom of conscience.

Maryland’s early history teaches us **See The most cherished, p. 10**

**Thank You Notes**

From the Vatican, 30 March 2012

**Your Excellency,**

At the Holy Father’s direction, I am writing to acknowledge the sum of $28,377.47, which you kindly forwarded to the Apostolic Nunciature as the Peter’s Pence offering of the diocese of Victoria for the year 2011. This donation will be recorded in the 2012 Relazione della Sede Apostolica (Rome Report of the Secretary of State). His Holiness thanks you and your people for this charitable contribution, which assists him in the exercise of his ministry. He deeply appreciates your willingness to share in his concern for the needs of the universal Church.

Praying that Almighty God will grant joy and peace to you and to all those entrusted to your pastoral care, the Holy Father cordially imparts his Apostolic Blessing.

With personal good wishes, I remain yours sincerely in Christ, Tusciano Card. Bertone, Vatican Secretary of State

From the Vatican, 2 April 2012

**Your Excellency,**

The Holy Father has asked me to thank you for the kind offering which you presented to him on the occasion of your “ad Limina” visit.

His Holiness is grateful for this donation and for the devoted sentiments which inspired it. He very much appreciates the support which you have given to him in his ministry to the universal Church.

I am pleased to assure you of the Holy Father’s prayers for you, and for the clergy, religious, and laity of the Diocese of Victoria. Upon all of you he invokes the joy and peace which flow from fidelity to Christ and his Church, and he cordially imparts his Apostolic Blessing.

With every good wish, I remain yours sincerely in Christ, Tusciano Card. Bertone, Vatican Secretary of State

**CORRECTION**

In the April issue of The Catholic Lighthouse, the contribution amount listed under the Holy Father’s Peter’s Pence collection from the Diocese of Victoria for 2011 should have been $28,377.47. The amount was inadvertently typed into the Catholic Communication Campaign thank you note. The CCC thank you note amount should have been $21,114.81.

I apologize for this confusion, Cynthia Brewer, editor

**KC FISH FRY RAISES MONEY FOR ST. PHILIP SCHOOL—**


The money is from the profits of the Ash Wednesday Fish Fry, a joint effort between St. Philip School and the Knights of Columbus. This donation was presented at the March 27 K of C meeting. The council also donated $350 to Bethany Baker, Kindergarten student in Mrs. Irby’s class for selling the most tickets, $100 to Mrs. Irby’s class as the top-selling class, and $80 to Mrs. Hollingsworth’s 3rd grade class, the second-place selling class.

**EL CAMPO KC BLOOD DRIVE HAS RAISED OVER 1,000 PINTS OF BLOOD—**

Deacon Larry Hoelscher donates double-red-blood cells at the Community Blood Drive held at the El Campo Knights of Columbus Hall. The community has donated over 1,100 pints of blood products since the KC Council started having the Community Blood Drives every eight weeks three years ago. This past drive, 88 pints of product were collected and 93 individuals tried to donate. Everyone was treated to a hamburger plate after donating to the drive. The next drive will be on Wednesday, May 30; you can register to be transfused by drive number 5911. Every pint collected will save three lives. The KC hall is located on Armory Road in El Campo.

**DSA & Reflection of Faith Capital Campaign Updates**

2012 DSA

Diocesan Goal: $1,623,907.00

Parish Pledge Totals: $1,028,548.70

Parish Contribution Totals: $386,523.70

Number of Parish Families Participating: 2,691

Reflection of Faith Capital Campaign

Diocesan Goal: $9,000,000.00

Parish Pledge Totals: $12,919,112.17

Parish Contribution Totals: $10,419,770.37

Number of Parish Families Participating: 6,769

**The Catholic Lighthouse**

Published monthly at 1505 E. Mesquite Lane — Victoria, TX 77901 (361) 573-0828 — FAX (361) 573-5725 — victoriadiocese.org

_Effective April 18, 2012, the Rev. Dan Morales is appointed chaplain for the Serra Club of Victoria._
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 used annually to support 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 April 27, 2012

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<tr>
<th>BURSE</th>
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<tr>
<td>- Joseph R. Janak Burse #2</td>
<td>$2,083.77</td>
<td>In honor of Rev. Gary Janak’s 24th Ordination Anniversary by Rose Marie Janak</td>
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<tr>
<td>- Rev. Michael Rother</td>
<td>$4,285.00</td>
<td>In memory of Nelo Seaman by Bernard and Madeleine Rother</td>
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<td>- CDA #369 St. Ann Burse #2</td>
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<td>Annual Donation by CDA Court #369 and in memory of Betty Stevenson by Otto and JoAnn Blieser</td>
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<td>- SEMINARY BURSES</td>
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Additional Burses for donations:
- Catholic Daughters of Americas Court Our Lady Queen of Peace #3174
- Rev. Msgr. Julius Petru Burse #2
- Rev. Joe Levy
- Rev. Marcus Valentia
- Rev. Godfrey F. Karako
- Rev. Msgr. John Blancek
- Catholic Family Fraternal of Texas KJZT Burse #5
- Sophie Schmidt
- Rev. Sean Donohue Burse #2

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:

St. Mary Activity Center

In honor of Josephat R. Janak by

- Rev. Msgr. John Hanacek
- Rev. Godfrey F. Kuratko
- Rev. Joe Levya
- Catholic Daughters of Americas Court Our Lady Queen of Peace #369
- CDA Court #369 St. Ann Burse #2
- In memory of Betty Stevenson by Otto and JoAnn Blieser
- Leo and Dorothy Henke
- Father John Peters
- In memory of Philip Hill by Leo and Joyce Janda
- In memory of Louis Strecker & Mae Ritz
- In memory of Deacon Sonny and Elaine Rogers
- In memory of Elizabeth Hermes by CDA Court Sacred Heart #797
- In memory of Elizabeth Stock Fuller by Father John Peters
- In memory of Raymond Ben Steffek by Leo and Dorothy Henke
- Marvin and Susan Buijouck
- M.M. Norbert Sobotik
- Charles and Josephine Mashake
- Scott and Sharon Hennewick
- David and Jennifer Thrash Family
- Richard and Jeanne Sonnemattite
- Michael Wolff
- David J. Steffek and Allison Renken
- Jerome Pesek
- Elaine Schindler

Total | $1,005.00

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<td>- in honor of Rev. Joseph Hybner by KJZT Society #53, Patrons</td>
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<td>- in honor of Rev. Joseph Hybner by Mildred Elam</td>
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<tr>
<td>- Rev. Mgr. Hubert J. Janak</td>
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<td>Previously reported</td>
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<tr>
<td>- in memory of Joseph D. Janak by Joseph and Elizabeth Zarski</td>
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<tr>
<td>- Joseph D. Janak &amp; Mildred Janak by Charles and Charlene Christ</td>
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<td>- in memory of Joseph D. Janak by Peoples State Bank, Hallettville</td>
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<tr>
<td>- Rev. John C. Peters Burse #5</td>
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<td>- in memory of Louis Strecker &amp; Mae Ritz</td>
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<td>- in memory of Leo and Joyce Janda</td>
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<td>- in memory of Laddie Muras by The Bernadette Bacak Family</td>
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Seminary says pope quest for peace must also be quest for truth

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — The quest for justice and peace will bear fruit only if it’s a quest for the truth about the human person, created by God and “endowed with intelligence and freedom, capable of knowing and loving,” Pope Benedict XVI said. Intelligence enables people to discover what is good and beneficial – “the right or the holy or the beautiful,” he said – and to distinguish that from what is wrong or evil.

While others may work with the RCIA program recently participated in a Solo & Ensemble Competition at Patti Welder Middle School. The students who competed placed with a Superior Rating of 1 (one), the highest of all ratings. The band this year is under the direction of Mr. Tony Wilhem. More information can be found in the school’s first competition!

St. John Nepomucene Catholic Parish in New Tafton celebrates 100-year anniversary

Sunday, June 10, 8:00 a.m. Mass

With Bishop David E. Fellhauer Presiding

Celebration to follow at Tafton Community Center with fun for entire family and meal served from 10:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.

All are welcome to celebrate with the parishioners!

The honor of your presence is requested at the 25th Anniversary Celebration of

Rev. Anthony Boatseng-Mensah
Ordination to the Priesthood
Mass 3:00 P.M.
Sunday, May 20, 2012
St. Mary Catholic Church
102 W. Church Street
Victoria, Texas
Reception and Dinner to follow at St. Mary Activity Center

Please bring a side dish and also RSVP to (361) 935-6701

Father Tony will be returning permanently to Ghana on May 29.

Band Instruments needed for OLV

Our Lady of Victory School in Victoria is still looking for donations of band instruments that might be in your closet or attic that students at OLV could be using. They will be extending their band program next school year and are needing instruments for students who cannot afford to rent one. Please consider donating or lending an instrument to OLV, and if you have a friend that has one, please mention this possibility.

For more information, please call OLV School at (361) 575-5391.

Join Us For Great Adventures

- Rushmore & Badlands – June 11-20
- Imperial Cities – Prague • Vienna • Budapest
- Alaska • Hawaii • Norwegian Cruise
- Paris • London • - June 11-20

Pathways with Patti
334 Jurek Road
Port Lavaca, TX 77979
361.592.2095 or 361.920.3216

St. Mary Activity Center

In memory of Betty Stevenson by Otto and JoAnn Blieser

Total | $3,948.99

Students from Our Lady of Victory School, Victoria, advanced band program recently participated in a Solo & Ensemble Competition at Patti Welder Middle School. The students who competed placed with a Superior Rating of 1 (one), the highest of all ratings. The band this year is under the direction of Mr. Tony Wilhem. More information can be found in the school’s first competition!

Happy Birthday! Jacob Mendoza is finishing Pre-Theology II at St. Joseph Seminary in Saint Benedict, Louisiana; his birthday is June 6. Please show your support for this seminarian by writing to: Jacob Mendoza, St. John Nepomucene Catholic Parish, P.O. Box 2448, Victoria, TX 77902.

Pray for Vocations to the priesthood & religious life!
Bishop’s Golf Tournament benefits seminarians and youth

By Cynthia Brewer

The 15th annual Bishop David Fellhauer Invitational Charity Golf Tournament, held for the diocesan Seminarian Education Fund, Vocations, and Youth offices, was an even greater success this year than the most successful tournament held last year, as Bishop Level sponsorships brought in $24,000 on behalf of our local seminarians.

The tournament, which was held at the Colony Creek Country Club, Friday, April 13, is sponsored by the Knights of Columbus Holy Family Council #9088 of Victoria.

This year’s tournament raised over $52,000 — the most ever raised in this tournament — thanks to many generous sponsors and the participation of 28 teams. These proceeds will benefit numerous new and existing vocations and youth programs throughout the diocese.

The tremendous increase in seminarians in our diocese necessitates more funds to educate these prospective priests.

Twenty-two sponsors stepped up to the “tee” becoming $1,000 Bishop Level sponsors and golfed in the name of one of our 13 seminarians. The $24,000 raised will go directly to the Seminarian Education Fund.

A special thanks goes to the 2012 Bishop Level sponsors; the Blackwood See Bishop’s Golf, p. 5

Youth Hold 10-hour Fast to Raise Hunger Awareness

EL CAMPO — Students from El Campo abstained from food for 10 hours March 31, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., as part of Food Fast, a program designed by Catholic Relief Services (CRS) that links the Catholic tradition of fasting with global hunger. Through materials provided by CRS, youth learned about global hunger issues and poverty in the developing world while also raising awareness about hunger in their own community.

Throughout their fast, members of the Youth Ministry Program at St. Robert’s Catholic Church in El Campo participated in a range of activities including prayer, music, games, crafts, and the celebration of Mass.

This was St. Robert’s youth group’s 5th Food Fast through Catholic Relief Services. After the first fast was completed, the kids received recognition from CRS for being the only youth (that year) in their area that completed a food fast. The group from that year were invited to come back and face the fast again this year.

As one of the retreat facilitators, Elisa Garcia, said, she has to state that each year is different. Each group has had different reactions, but each group has walked away with a new view about hunger and poverty issues.

Other facilitators included Elena Pullin, Raphaela Garcia, and Young Adult helpers Robert Torres, Jacob Gonzalez, Senae and Deanna Davidson, and Jackie Flores.

“At the beginning of the fast we try to explain that the youth will go through hunger pains, irritability, headaches, nausea, tiredness, and fatigue,” Elisa said. “We also explain that although we want them to complete the fast, if they are beyond their limits they need to let us know so we may contact their parents to pick them up. This is why permission forms have to be filled out, with contact numbers, and parents have to be accessible at all times.”

Throughout the day we try to keep the kids busy. We usually play games at the beginning, mainly because by the middle of the day their energy level gets really low. We also have literature on hunger about hunger issues globally to planning a meal with different budgets. Prayer is also very essential.

“The kids are handed a prayer on a string that they wear like a necklace. We explain that whenever they feel hungry we need a little push to help them continue, to say that prayer. Throughout the day you will see them on their own take that card and read it,” said Elisa Garcia.

The group attends Mass to end of the day. Since the fast, I see that person and wonder, ‘Have they had breakfast yet?’”

Although the event is a service project for the St. Robert Youth Group, teens from outside the group have participated. The challenge is open; only a few will accept. Those who are accepted are commendable for their sacrifice.

Catholic Relief Services is the official international humanitarian agency of the Catholic community in the United States. The agency alleviates suffering and provides assistance to people in need in nearly 100 countries, without regard to race, religion or nationality. For more information, please visit www.crs.org or www.crsespanol.org.

Young Adult Website available from the USCCB

Check out Busted Halo: a website for young adults from the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops at www.bustedhalo.org. It is an online magazine for spiritual seekers that is sponsored by the Paulists and written by young adults for young adults. Includes discussion boards on various topics, a Flash trivia quiz, guides for seekers and so much more.
By Sister Mildred Truchard, IWBS

SISTERLY THOUGHTS

Travel may have been difficult; the aftermath of the Civil War and the Reconstruction which followed it proved to be difficult for the residents; and the periodic occurrences of diseases sickened and often killed its victims; however the fledging “Convent School” associated with the “Monastery of the Incarnate Word and Blessed Sacrament of Victoria, Texas” prospered. The number of day students and boarding students rapidly increased, so that more buildings were necessary. By 1872 (remember that the school opened in 1867) three new buildings were added. Much of the construction was done free of charge; among the volunteers was Bishop Dubuis, who was Bishop of Texas at that time.

Meanwhile, in 1868, Father Augustine Garret, who had so graciously welcomed the Sisters to Victoria and given them his house, opened a school for boys across the street on the site of the current South Main Street Post Office. Since there were no public schools at the time, the two schools provided educational opportunities for the students of the some 5,000 residents of Victoria County. At the Convent School, girls, from local areas and from faraway places, attended the school as boarders.

Nazareth Convent Facing Church Street around 1872: This is a close-up of a two-story frame building (boarders on second floor; classrooms below) joined to the reception room and the Sisters’ Chapel and old St. Mary’s Church, which stood on the corner of Church and Bridge streets. There are more buildings behind the church. Later, land would be swapped and the current St. Mary’s Church would be built on its current location on Main Street. Note the fence around the church. Within the Convent itself there were probably some means (like a grill) of separating the Sisters from the public.

Because of the cloister, the students had to come into the Monastery; the Sisters did not go out to teach in the parishes until many years later. I plan to explain this in a future article. Until then, let us appreciate the legacy of Nazareth Academy.

If you really want to read about the early days of the Sisters in Victoria – and much, much more, I would invite you to come by the Gift Shop at Incarnate Word Convent and purchase Sister Alberta Novosad’s new book: TEXAS FOOTPRINTS in the Sands of Time. Read this book and learn about the Sisters in the Wild West.


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) 573-0282 ext. 2250.

Family, Mike and Cindy Bludau and Heather and Landon Zamylak; Margaret Donnak, Friends of Father David Berger, the Clara Haewes Family, Holy Family of JMU Church, Victoria; Holy Family Knights of Columbus Council # 9088, Albert and Margaret Janak, Robert and Pam Kovar, Berniece and Don Krueger, Hardy and JoAnn McCulough, John McCulleen, Betty and Emory Migura, Bob and Susan Oakley, Pekilda Surveyors, Monroe and Mary Margaret Rieger, Roberts, Roberts, Odeley and Witte, LLP; the Henry and McFrances Schaefer Family, the Serra Club of Victoria, and Penny Pitts, the Vitek Family, and Michele.

We also thank this year’s golf committee members: Monroe Rieger, tournament chairperson; Wendy Eggert, Debbie Vannell, Gerald Bludau, Michael McDonald, Bob McEllimes, Anthony McCullough, Rev. Dan Morales, John Prhythm, Tommy Trebyng, Bennie Viek, George Wenzel, Ron Sitka, Glenn Machiack, and Gerald Bryant.

Shiner’s Footprint—This is a very easy video to watch, but I would like you to spend some time reflecting on the words of the song. I hope you are inspired to participate in some of the events that have been planned.

DASH FOR DOWNS—Your mark, get set, ready, GO! Dash For Downs was a Junior Catholic Daughter’s of the America’s #206 donation recipient at the April 19 JCKA meeting. Miss Macy Svec and her younger sister, Maddie, graciously accepted the donation. Dash for Downs, which was created in honor of Macy, is a 5k fun run to support children with Down Syndrome and their families. The 2nd annual Dash for Downs race will be held on May 12, 2012, beginning at 8:00 a.m. at the Yoakum Shap/Shoe Co. If you would like to participate in this fun event may be picked up at the Yoakum Shap/Shoe Co or call (361) 293-9593. See more JCKA news on The Catholic Lighthouse website edition.

Bishop’s Golf Tournament benefits seminarians and youth

Continued from p.4

Family, Mike and Cindy Bludau and Heather and Landon Zamylak; Margaret Donnak, Friends of Father David Berger, the Clara Haewes Family, Holy Family of JMU Church, Victoria; Holy Family Knights of Columbus Council # 9088, Albert and Margaret Janak, Robert and Pam Kovar, Berniece and Don Krueger, Hardy and JoAnn McCulough, John McCulleen, Betty and Emory Migura, Bob and Susan Oakley, Pekilda Surveyors, Monro...
Participants walk in the First Annual Buddy Walk to benefit people with Down syndrome which was held at the Hallettsville City Park this past February.

Hallettsville holds 1st Annual Buddy Walk for region

Hallettsville—Over 400 people gathered at the Hallettsville City Park February 26, 2012, for the first Annual Buddy Walk, which was hosted by the Down Syndrome Foundation of South Texas. In attendance were families, friends, and community support groups from Hallettsville, Shiner, Yoakum, Moulton, Cuero, Houston, Victoria, El Campo, Falls City, Schulenburg and surrounding areas.

The Buddy Walk is a one-mile walk in which anyone can participate without special training. It is an inspirational and educational event that celebrates the many abilities and accomplishments of people with Down syndrome.

The Buddy Walk was established in 1995 by the National Down Syndrome Society (NDSS) to celebrate Down Syndrome Awareness Month October and to promote acceptance and inclusion of people with Down syndrome.

Today the Buddy Walk program is supported nationally through NDSS and organizes at the local level by parent support groups, schools and other organizations and individuals.

Over the past 16 years, the Buddy Walk program has grown from 17 walks to nearly 300 across the country and around the world. In 2010, 285,000 people participated in a Buddy Walk. The Down Syndrome Foundation of South Texas (DSFSTX) began in July 2011 in Victoria and our surrounding counties.

The Down Syndrome Foundation of South Texas (DSFSTX) began in July 2011 with several families wanting to unite for Down syndrome awareness and promotions.

The goals of DSFSTX follow a TLC motto: learn about the individuals with Down syndrome who have touched our lives. Buddy Walk board members, President Jeanette Shimiek, Treasurer Brandly Bosl, Legal Advisor Donna Tucker-Gratée, Vice-president Mary Beth Najvar, and Secretary Amy Shimiek, wish to thank these special sponsors: Hallettsville Livestock Commission Co., Jonell Jancek, Kathleen Steeckenr, Kenneth Products, Leopold Insurance Agency, Lavaca County Farm Bureau Insurance-Terry Bludau, Audio Video Plus, Joseph Tractor Sales, Inc., Hallettsville Lumber Co., Allen & Allen Attorney at Law, Wells Fargo, 3D Belt Company, Alpha Upson Lambda, Chamber Diilling Co., Colorado Valley Bank, First National Bank of Shiner, Frank’s Restaurant, Hoffe’s Drive-In Grocery, Lavaca Farm Equipment Inc.,... People State Bank, Prime Products, Sacred Heart Federal Credit Union, Sweet Home Sand & Gravel Inc., The Hitching Post, Anchor Lumber Yard, Bludau Fabrication Inc., Ex- terran, Grafe Chevrolet GMC, Hallettsville Abstract & Title Company, Horizon Pe- trol Inc., Family of Karra Raab, Knight of Columbus #2433, Paul’s Supply Inc., Paddy’s Texas Kitchen and Tyson Romine Memorial. DSFSTX would also like to thank County Judge Tramer Woytek for coming out and starting the Buddy Walk with the opening prayer.

If you would like more information or be a part of the DSFSTX, please e-mail DSFSTX@yahoo.com, call 361-772-6053, or follow us on Face book at Down Syn- drome Foundation of South Texas or dsfstx.blogspot.com.

DIOCESE

BEAUTIFUL YOU
by Heather Spears Kallus, St. Joseph Parish, Inez

Nine long months they waited - to see your precious face, Little did they know - that day would be a race.

The doctor said, “There’s something quite perfect with his heart, We’ll need to have some tests - and that is just the start.”

That is the day they felt their world would just not be the same, How could this be? Why should this be? Is anyone to blame? Ten perfect little fingers, ten perfect little toes, A perfect tiny mouth and a picture-perfect nose.

“Who is this special child God has chosen just for us?”

They searched to find the answer - amongst all the fuss, With something extra special, in your knowing eyes, Their love for you kept growing - amidst all the “Whys”?

Several nights spent praying there - they knelt by your side, Tears of mercy falling as they pleaded and they cried.

“Are you there, Lord? Are you listening? Please hear us, heal our son, If anyone can make him well - we know you’re the One.”

And, yes, the Lord was listening to them that very day, As He touched your tiny heart in His most Holy Way.

“Heart surgery won’t be needed for this special little guy, But,” the doctor said that day, “not sure exactly why.”

But, we all knew the answer. We all knew the reason. God had given you a chance - another day, another season. You are a miracle to each of us - a gift of love sent down, You teach us about love more than anyone, we’ve found.

Your arms are always open - always ready to embrace, You love to touch our mouths - our lips, our nose, our face. Your smile is so contagious, as you grin from ear to ear, And, your giggle is the sweetest sound we’ll ever hear need.

God must have really loved us to have sent you, my dear child, A slight slant to your little eyes, with hair so cute and wild. You teach us more than we could ever dream of teaching you, Beautiful - perfectly perfect - perfectly, beautiful you.

~ “Sips of Sunshine” www.sipsofsunshine.blogspot.com ~

Capitol Comments: A Sign of Hope and Opportunity for Prayer

By Jennifer Carr Allmon, Associate Di- rector Texas Catholic Conference

For several years we advocated for the passage of the bill to authorize a “Choose Life” license plate as a part of our legisla- tive efforts. At times some in our com- munity questioned why we would fight so hard or even support pro-life efforts. All of them require our action.

At times some in our com- munity questioned why we would fight so hard or even support pro-life efforts. All of them require our action.

All are important to our basic foundational principle to protect human life and dignity. All of them require our action.

We can and should work to restrict abortion through legislative action, but our efforts can’t stop there. We must also encourage individual women to choose life, and provide support to women when they do—like access to food, education, and healthcare for their children. The “real” money raised by each plate is donated to organizations educating mothers about the loving option of entrusting their children’s lives to another family through adoption. Thousands of children are adopted or desires to become parents and wait on long wait- ing lists to adopt babies.

In addition to the funding raised by the plates, they are a sign of hope and an opportunity for prayer. When a woman or teenager is facing an overwhelming preg- nancy there are many who pressure these mothers to consider abortion. We pray regularly for women and their families. I believe that in their hearts, many of these women are also praying, asking God for a sign. I pray that my Choose Life plate is just such a sign of hope for them to save the life of their unborn child.

I picked up plates last week and as I did, I said a very “real” prayer for those who need our support to Choose Life and for those would-be parents waiting on... See Capitol Comments, p. 9

Texas Catholic Conference

Allmon prays that her license plate will promote a Culture of Life that cherished babies like baby Joshua and provides sup- port for mothers facing an overwhelming pregnancy.
Winners of the 2012 Guadalupe Valley Electric Cooperative Youth Tour are pictured l. to r.: Cole Hybner, Shiner; and Kristen Henke, Hallettsville. They will be going to Washington, D.C. this June along with Morgan Simper, Gonzales; Jake Robinson, Nixon-Smiley.

Local Catholic school students to attend GVEC youth tour

Continued from p. 5

Local Catholic school students to attend GVEC youth tour

The world is hugged by the faithful arms of volunteers. The gift of time is priceless.

Volunteers don’t necessarily have the time, but they have the heart.

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The above monthly premiums reflect Catholic Life’s super-preferred non-tobacco rates and may not be available to all who apply. Additional ages available. Home Office: San Antonio, Texas. BT 4/12.

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A new low rate

Volunteers honors—The Fifteenth Annual Mother Elizabeth Ann Seton Awards were presented recently in Shiner by the Office of Catholic Schools. A dinner was served, followed by the presentation of the awards. Making the presentations were Rev. John Peters, Vicar General; John Quary, school superintendent; and Janie Carrales, administrative assistant for Diocesan Catholic Schools. The recipients of the award for the year 2012 were front row (l-r): Traci Darilek, St. Ludmila Elementary, Shiner; Brenda Schoenfeld, St. Michael, Weimar; Cookie Reyna, Our Lady of Victory, Victoria; Shirley Buchanan, Sacred Heart High School, Hallettsville; Karen Wysocki, Sacred Heart Elementary School, Hallettsville; Beth Johnson, St. Paul High School, Shiner; Fredalyn Sutton, St. Philip, El Campo; top row (l-r): Rev. John Peters, Morris Sadleir, Our Lady of the Gulf, Port Lavaca; Lisa Kristynik, Nazareth Academy, Victoria; Beth High, St. Joseph High School, Victoria; Kathleen Leske, St. Michael, Cuero; Donna Tesch, St. Anthony, Columbus; Kenneth Miksch, St. Rose, Schulenburg; Ron Johnson, St. Paul High School, Shiner; Brenda Natha, St. Joseph, Yoakum; John Quary. Not pictured Farrah Petersen, Holy Cross, Bay City.
Being single and 35 wasn’t part of the plan. That is, it wasn’t part of Emily Stimpson’s plan. Her plan was marriage, babies, and homeschool co-op, but God didn’t get the memo.

Instead, He gave her a great job as a Catholic writer, a beautiful old house to call her own, and a small army of godchildren. He also gave her two editors at Emmaus Road Publishing who believed Emily knew a thing or two about the single years from which other young women could benefit—women who, like Emily, believe God is calling them to marriage but find themselves waiting for Mr. Right. A bit longer than they expected to wait.

Somehow, those editors convinced Emily to go along with their plan, and the result is a book unlike any other singles book on the market today. Steeped in the Church’s teachings on the feminine genius, marriage, and the theology of the body, The Catholic Girl’s Survival Guide is chock full of practical insights on the nitty-gritty “how to” of the single years. With both wit and wisdom, it helps women address some of their most pressing questions about singleness, including:

• Why am I still single?
• Is there any such thing as a “Single Vocation”?
• What is authentic femininity and what’s so great about it in the first place?
• How do I date as an adult without losing my sanity or my soul?
• Why didn’t I throw in the towel on chastity?
• How do I make decisions about school, work, and finances when there’s no husband or babies on the immediate horizon?
• How do I deal with all my married friends and their children?
• And what does it take to battle the Single Girl Blues? As hopeful as it is honest, The Catholic Girl’s Survival Guide is the perfect companion for women whose journey to “I do” is turning out to be a longer one than they or (their mothers) would have liked.


**April Puzzle Contest Winners Announced**

The winner of the April puzzle contest and the book “Were You There?” by Diana L. Hayes is Dahiha S. Navarro of Our Lady of the Gulf Parish in Port Lavaca. The book is published by Maryknoll’s Orbis Books and may be purchased online at http://www.orbisbooks.com. The winners of the children’s contest are John David Andruss (8) of Holy Family Parish in Victoria and Julia E. Foegelle (9) of St. Philip the Apostle School in El Campo (sent in with class). They each will receive a gift from Incarnate Word Gift Shop. The winner of the May Puzzle Contest will win “The Catholic Girl’s Survival Guide for the Single Years” published by Emmaus Road Publishing. Please mail all completed May puzzle forms to arrive in The Catholic Lighthouse office, P. O. Box 4070, Victoria, TX 77903 by May 25.

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**OK, SO PEOPLE CALL ME A “SPECIAL NEEDS BABY.”**

**I’M COOL WITH THAT.**

**BUT MAYBE GOD GAVE ME SPECIAL NEEDS FOR A REASON.**

**LIKE MAYBE MY PARENTS HAVE SPECIAL NEEDS, TOO.**

**FAITH & FAMILY**

Page 8 — May 2012

**The Catholic Lighthouse**
By Cora Glatz
Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY (CNS)—When a community is faced with crisis, persecution and trouble, it should come together in prayer for strength from God, not formulate strategic plans to defend itself from difficulties, Pope Benedict XVI said.

That is fundamental, he said, and the community needs to come together and ask “only to proclaim the word of God fearlessly in the face of persecution,” not to avoid tests, trials and tribulation.

There was a festive atmosphere during the pope’s general audience in St. Peter’s Square April 18 – two days after the pope turned 85 years old.

Thousands of pilgrims sang “Happy Birthday” when a Bavarian band struck up the tune, and smaller groups of the 22,000 people present sang or shouted “Happy Birthday” in their native languages.

The pope also thanked people for their well-wishes marking the seventh anniversary of his pontificate April 19.

“I ask that you always support me with your prayers so that, with the help of the Holy Spirit, I may persevere in my service to Christ and the Church,” he said.

In his main audience talk, the pope continued his cycle of talks on prayer.

He looked at how the early Christian community prayed when the apostles Peter and John were released after being arrested for teaching in the name of Jesus.

The fledgling community “raised their voices to God with one accord,” St. Luke says in the Acts of the Apostles, asking the Lord to note the threats being made against them and give them the power and courage “to speak your word with all boldness.”

“Facing danger, difficulties and threats, the first Christian community does not seek to analyze how to react or devise a strategy in how to defend itself, what measures to adopt,” the pope said.

The vulnerable community did not pray to God for revenge or “to be defended, he spared trials and suffering, it is not a prayer to be successful,” but just to be able to proclaim the word of God, candor, freedom and courage and make “God’s beauty visible.”

An important aspect of their prayer was that it took place in unison and harmony, he said, underlining how important such unity is for the Church.

“The community didn’t get scared and didn’t split up, but it was deeply united in prayer,” he said. “Unity is consolidated rather than be compromised because it is sustained by unifying prayer.”

At the end of their prayer, the Gospel says, “the place where they were gathered shook, and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and continued to speak the word of God with boldness.”

The pope said the trembling building is meant to show that “faith has the power to transform the earth, the world” and that being filled with the Holy Spirit pushed the disciples to proclaim the Gospel everywhere.

“Guided by the spirit of Jesus Christ we will be able to live through every situation with severity, courage and joy,” the pope said, “knowing that troubles bring about patience” and the Holy Spirit brings hope which doesn’t disappoint.

Pope Benedict’s Intentions June 2012

General Intention: Christ, Present in the Eucharist. That believers may recognize in the Eucharist the living presence of the Risen One who accompanies them in daily life.

Missionary Intention: Europeans. That Christians in Europe may rediscover their true identity and participate with greater enthusiasm in the proclamation of the Gospel.

By Tim Puet
Catholic News Service

Catholic News Service (CNS)—Pope Benedict XVI wants the Catholic Church in America to be in the forefront of reviving Catholicism worldwide, the apostolic nuncio to the United States Carlo Maria Vigano said.

“The church in the United States should lead the entire church in the world in a re-vitalization effort,” Archbishop Carlo Maria Vigano said. “This is a great task, but you have the determination and the grace to do it. This is how I am looking to the Holy Father regarding the church in the United States.”

“The archbishop was speaking to an audience of seminarians and benefactors of the Pontifical College Josephinum at the annual rector’s dinner April 23. He called on the American church to go beyond its mission of evangelizing the United States and “to be missionaries not only to the Third World, but especially to the countries of Europe.”

“Christianity (in Europe) is in a crisis. There are young people, particularly those studying for the priesthood at the Josephinum. The institution has experienced substantial growth in recent years and currently has an enrollment of more than 180 men, its highest in 25 years. They represent 24 dioceses from all over the United States including the Virginia Diocese.

The nuncio, who serves as the Vatican’s ambassador to the United States and is based in Washington, also serves as chancellor of the Josephinum.

Editor’s note: Seminarian Kristopher Fuchs attends the Pontifical College Josephinum for the Diocese of Victoria.

Our Lady of Guadalupe Icon Comes To MACC

SAN ANTONIO — On April 11, 2012, the Mexican American Catholic College received a very special gift from Mexico City — an exact, digital replica of the image of Our Lady of Guadalupe!

The image is one of 220 that were blessed and consecrated as relics in 2004 at Our Lady’s Basílica where she touched the original, miraculous tilma of San Juan Diego! The Lay Apostle - Vida y Misericordia International – was charged with taking these relic images to all parts of the world for public evangelization and to foster conversions, reverence for life, and sanctity of the family and solidarity of the Church in America.

On the occasion of MACC’s 40th Anniversary, April 11, 2012, one of these images of Our Lady — along with a small replica of the Divine Mercy Image as described by St. Faustina – was welcomed into our Church. The Enthronement of The Divine Mercy and Our Lady of Guadalupe images was held at the Mexican American Catholic College (MACC) April 11, 2012, the occasion of MACC’s 40th Anniversary, at 315 West Ashby Place, San Antonio. A Mass was celebrated by Most Rev. Michael Peifer, OMI, bishop of San Angelo, Texas, followed by a procession to MACC’s Guadalupe Chapel and a presentation by Fernando Anchurteguz of Vida y Misericordia Internacional.

Following the Enthronement, from April 12 – 15, these sacred icons also traveled to the San Antonio Coalition for Life 40 Days For Life vigil at the Planned Parenthood Clinic on 104 Babcock Road and St. James Catholic Church, 907 W. Tho, before returning to MACC.

The Sacred Icons will also travel as missionary images to parishes in the archdiocese and the surrounding communities. Therefore, this gift to MACC is a gift to us all! For more information, contact 210-732-2156, or visit www.maccc.edu.

Our Lady of Guadalupe image is being used in the May 6 issue of the Catholic Lighthourse Page 9 May 2012

Sunday Readings from May 6 to June 10

May 6 — Fifth Sunday of Easter
Acts 9:26-31
Psalms 22:26-27, 28, 30, 31-32
1 John 3:18-24
John 15:1-8

May 13 — Sixth Sunday of Easter
Psalms 98: 1, 2, 3-4, 3
1 John 4:7-10
John 15:9-17

May 20 — Solemnity of the Ascension of the Lord
Acts 1:1-11
Psalms 47:2-3, 6, 7-8
Ephesians 1:17-23
Mark 16:15-20

May 27 — Pentecost Sunday
Acts 2:1-11
Psalms 101: 24, 29-30, 31, 34
1 Corinthians 12:8-7, 12-13
John 20:19-23

June 3 — Solomnity of the Most Holy Trinity
Deuteronomy 4:32-34, 39-40
Psalms 33:5-6, 9, 18-19, 20, 22
Romans 8:14-17
Matthew 28:16-20

June 10 — Solemnity of the Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ
Exodus 24:3-8
Psalms 116:12-13, 15, 16-17
Hebrews 9:11-13
Mark 14:12-16, 22-26

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

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Prayer, not strategic campaign, is needed during crisis, pope says

By Carol Glatz
Catholic News Service

The Pope wants US Catholics to lead worldwide church revival, nuncio says

By Tim Puet
Catholic News Service

Catholic News Service (CNS)—Pope Benedict XVI wants the Catholic Church in America to be in the forefront of reviving Catholicism worldwide, the apostolic nuncio to the United States Carlo Maria Vigano said. “This is a great task, but you have the determination and the grace to do it. This is how I am looking to the Holy Father regarding the church in the United States.”

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By Alfredo Cardenas, South Texas Catholic
CORPUS CHRISTI—Daniel Cardinal DiNardo, archbishop of Galveston-Houston was the principal celebrant at the Centennial Jubilee Mass for the Diocese of Corpus Christi at the American Bank Center on March 26. He said he would tell his report to the Holy Father on the event as “Walking on ice with confidence.”

He was referring to the fact that the Mass he had celebrated was on the floor of an ice rink used by the local semi-pro hockey team; and the ice was underneath the floor.

It is from the Diocese of Galveston that the Diocese of Corpus Christi sprung forth, Bishop Mulvey pointed out in his opening remarks before the Penitential Procession. The diocese was erected in 1915, women religious educated in the Church. “Even before the diocese was born and served as priests in the Diocese of Corpus Christi, Bishop Mulvey extended a special thanks to the many women religious in the Church.”

The principal celebrant at the Centennial Jubilee Mass for the 100-year anniversary of the Diocese of Corpus Christi, March 26, 2012, was Daniel Cardinal DiNardo. Bishops from throughout Texas, Oklahoma, Arkansas, Minnesota and Connecticut concelebrated. More than 5,000 faithful attended the Mass held in the American Bank Center, making it the largest attendance at any Mass in the history of the diocese.

He thanked the faithful for their “willingness to march together into the future with hope to bring to life the Word of God…” Bishop Mulvey also shared with attendants his meeting with the Holy Father Pope Benedict XVI earlier in the month. The pope, Bishop Mulvey said, “sent not only his greetings but his blessings.”

Cardinal DiNardo read a letter from the Vatican Secretary of State Cardinal Angelo Sodano on behalf of the Pope. The letter said that Holy Father was confident that the people of the Diocese of Corpus Christi, inspired by their pioneering predecessors, would continue their “missionary commitment to the spread of the Gospel.”

In his homily, Cardinal DiNardo offered congratulatory remarks to Bishop Mulvey and the faithful of the Diocese of Corpus Christi. The Centennial Mass fell on the Solemnity of the Annunciation of the Lord and the Cardinal’s homily focused on the Blessed Mother’s “yes” to the Lord, which resulted in the Word made flesh and in the community.

Corpus Christi—the body of Christ, which is the Church. Recalling the tumultuous first decade of the diocese, which faced two hurricanes, the unexpected death of clergy to the Spanish flu and the caring for clergy and religious fleeing the uprising in Mexico, Cardinal DiNardo said the people possessed a “resilience of faith in the Word made flesh.”

“What a tremendous history you have that of reality in the Diocese of Corpus Christi,” Cardinal DiNardo said.

“We need to take this 100th anniversary, stand back, thank God, praise God, ponder and then move ahead in mission, the mission is to make Jesus known,” the cardinal said.

“I ask that in the Year of Faith about to begin in October, that all the members of Corpus Christi here in Corpus Christi—your town happens to be called Corpus Christi but you are the members of the body of Christ—I beg you that you make your own yes that of the Virgin Mary,” Cardinal DiNardo said.

More than 5,000 faithful attended the Mass, making it the largest attendance at any Mass in the history of the diocese. In 1912, four cardinals filled the now demolished Memorial Coliseum, which was a smaller venue.

The Diocese of Corpus Christi sprung forth from Corpus Christi, which was a penitential process to which it belongs. Cardinal DiNardo is no stranger to Corpus Christi having presided over the installation Mass for Bishop Wm. Michael Mulvey two years ago.

Bishop Mulvey, Bishop Emeritus Edmond Carmody and bishops from Texas and other invited bishops and priests concelebrated the Mass with Cardinal DiNardo.

“Walking on ice with confidence.”

that, like any freedom, religious liberty requires constant vigilance and protection, or it will disappear. Maryland’s experience in religious toleration ended within a few decades. The colony was placed under royal control and the Church of England became the established religion. Discriminatory laws, including the loss of political rights, were enacted against those who refused to conform. Catholic churches were closed and Catholics were restricted to practicing their faith in their homes. The Catholic community lived under this coercion until the American Revolution.

By the end of the 18th century our nation’s founders embraced the concept of religion as an essential condition of a free and democratic society. So when the Bill of Rights was ratified, religious freedom had the distinction of being the First Amendment. Religious liberty is indeed the first liberty.

This is our American heritage, our most cherished freedom. If we are not free in our conscience and our practice of religion, all other freedoms are fragile. If our obligations and duties to God are impeded, or even worse, contradicted by the government, then we can no longer claim to be a land of the free.

Is our most cherished freedom truly under threat? Among many current challenges, consider the recent Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) mandate requiring all private health plans to cover contraception, sterilization and abortion-inducing drugs. For the first time in our history, the federal government will force religious institutions to facilitate drugs and procedures contrary to our moral teaching, and purport to define which religious institutions are “religious enough” to merit an exemption. This is not a matter of whether contraception may be prohibited by the Church. It is not even a matter of whether contraception may be suppressed by the government. It is a matter of whether religious people and institutions may be forced by the government to provide coverage for contraception and sterilization, even when it violates their religious beliefs.

What kind of religious freedom do we protection of religious freedom?

To learn more about our first freedom, and to send your message to HHS and Congress, please go to usccb.org/conscience. The HHS public comment period ends June 19. Please act today! Thank you for joining the effort to end this unprecedented government coercion of conscience and intrusion in religious affairs.

Catholics Care. Catholics Vote: Political Engagement is Every Catholic’s Duty

continued from p. 1

common good (#1913-15). Either way, political participation, at its best, is an expression of faith lived out in the world.

The bishops, as pastors and teachers, apply the Church’s moral voice to issues affecting human life and dignity in the public square, and Catholics as a whole engage in the political process through such means as voting and, according to the bishops, “running for office; working within political parties; communicating their concerns and positions to elected officials; and joining diocesan social mission or advocacy networks, state Catholic conference initiatives, community organizations, and other efforts to apply authentic moral common good in the public square.”

This is a year-round deal, but not in the sense of the perennial campaign that poisons so much public discourse. Catholics aren’t called to be hyper-partisans waging a scorched Earth campaign for permanent political dominance. In fact the bishops offer a commendation that Catholics don’t let their parties lead them to “neglect or deny fundamental moral truths.”

Instead Catholics are called to be engaged in the public square. The duty of the politically-engaged Catholic isn’t just to take sides in the political debate, but to transform it.
**New Taint——100-year Anniversary Celebration for St. John Neumann Church**

Mass will be celebrated at 8 a.m. by Bishop David E. Fellhauer and Father Gabriel Ondrak Tuiw, a Byzantine Catholic priest of the Archeparchy of Pittsburgh. Father Phi Nguyen to celebrate Mass and Prayer Service every First Friday of the month at 7 p.m. and 8:00 p.m., country store, cake wheel, games and more. Those interested in participating are invited to attend for a free meal! Music, auction at 1:00 p.m., country store, cake wheel, games and more. Those interested in participating are invited to attend for a free meal! Music, auction at 1:00 p.m., country store, cake wheel, games and more. Those interested in participating are invited to attend for a free meal! Music, auction at 1:00 p.m., country store, cake wheel, games and more.

**Picnics, Activities, etc.**

**Hosten—Holy Rosary Mayfest 6 on the parish grounds** 1365 K.C. Blvd. 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. A barbecue-pork and sausage dinner will be served starting at 11:00 a.m. at $6.00 p/p for adults. Hamburgers are available at 2:00 p.m. The auction starts at 1:00 p.m. There will be a country store, games, cake and plant wheel and much more. Music throughout the day with Texas Sound Check and Czehoboliks.

**Victoria—Holy Family Festival**

Will be held May 15 at the community center at 11:00 a.m. A stew and sausage dinner at 11:00 a.m. at $10.00 p/p for adults, $5.00 p/p for children. Hamburgers are available at 2:00 p.m. The auction starts at 1:00 p.m. There will be a country store, games, cake and plant wheel and much more. Music throughout the day with Sound Check, Tony Janak and Red Ravens. See page 10.

**Retrouvaille—Music, Art, and Encounter**

Mass and Prayer Service every First Friday of the month at 7:00 p.m., country store, cake wheel, games and more. Those interested in participating are invited to attend for a free meal! Music, auction at 1:00 p.m., country store, cake wheel, games and more. Those interested in participating are invited to attend for a free meal! Music, auction at 1:00 p.m., country store, cake wheel, games and more. Those interested in participating are invited to attend for a free meal! Music, auction at 1:00 p.m., country store, cake wheel, games and more. Those interested in participating are invited to attend for a free meal! Music, auction at 1:00 p.m., country store, cake wheel, games and more.

**Tivoli——Our Lady of Guadalupe Festival May 25 (on Hwy 35). A brisket dinner will be served starting at 11:00 a.m. at $7.50 p/p. There will be a country store, baked items, auction (12:30 p.m.), games, and a lot of fun and fellowship!**

**Wharton—Our Lady of Guadalupe Feast May 25 from 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.**

A stew and sausage dinner will be served starting at 11:00 a.m. at $7.50 p/p. There will be a country store, baked items, auction (12:30 p.m.), games, and a lot of fun and fellowship. **Please come; bring your address to your home, please contact the Diocese of Victoria, as Father Phi Nguyen, chaplain of IWBS convent, a Byzantine Catholic priest of the Archeparchy of Pittsburgh, is following by praise and worship/adoration, healing prayers, praying over, etc. Counseling available. Please come; bring your address to your home, please contact the Diocese of Victoria, as Father Phi Nguyen, chaplain of IWBS convent, a Byzantine Catholic priest of the Archeparchy of Pittsburgh, is following by praise and worship/adoration, healing prayers, praying over, etc. Counseling available. Please come; bring your address to your home, please contact the Diocese of Victoria, as Father Phi Nguyen, chaplain of IWBS convent, a Byzantine Catholic priest of the Archeparchy of Pittsburgh, is following by praise and worship/adoration, healing prayers, praying over, etc. Counseling available.**

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**Tivoli——Our Lady of Guadalupe Church invites you to a Healing Mass, 10:30 a.m. Monday, May 14 at St. John Neumann Church. Music throughout the day with Texas Sound Check, Tony Janak and Red Ravens. See page 10.**

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The Passion of Jesus Christ—St. Philip Catholic Parish Youth Ministry of El Campo presented The Passion of Jesus Christ Friday, April 6, 2012, at El Campo High School Auditorium. Thirty-five youth were involved in the production, which they worked hard to put on for the audience of all ages. They are to be commended, each and every one of them: the actors, actresses, readers, singers, and those in charge of sound effects, and lighting. It was a team effort and they worked great together as a team. The following were involved in portraying the Live Stations of the Cross (seat-ed): Emma Holley, Kali Kocian, Mary Marecek, Erin Easterling, Christine Bittick, Marissa Ynclan, and Kaylynn Benez. 2nd row (kneeling): Jake Juleff and Coy Cordell; Guards – Brett Hodge and Jacob Goell; and Justin Natal played the role of Jesus. Not pictured: Dani Sparer and Mrs. Cilo Hagens.

Returning to and joining the faith … it’s a family affair!

ACTS Retreats draw many back to their faith

By Cynthia Brewer and Rose Chovanec

During this year’s Rite of Election, always held the first Sunday of Lent, I noticed that when Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary Parish in Ganado announced their candidates and catechumens, several of them had the same last name. I was excited that families were coming into the Catholic Church together, so I called the parish to learn more. The pastor, Father Michael Lyons, referred me to the parish RCIA director, Mrs. Rose Chovanec.

She informed me that I had heard correctly, that a family of five, the Luera’s, was entering the church, and in fact three other families and a total of 19 new members would be welcomed into the parish at the Easter Vigil, April 7, 2012. Nine catechumens received the three sacraments of initiation: baptism, Holy Communion, and confirmation; and 10 candidates received full communion into the Catholic faith.

The families that were united in the faith at Assumption Parish this past Easter were the Luerras, the Peters, the Tarvers, the Bracknells, the Glorors, the Floyds and the Bures’. All but two families had been touched by ACTS retreats.

“While ACTS seems to play a significant role in helping Catholic’s come home, and sometimes in helping those of other faiths see the beauty and truth of the Catholic faith,” said Rose Chovanec, “it is not always the tool that the Holy Spirit uses… but here in Ganado, I think that ACTS has helped our entire Church Community live out authentic love through Adoration, Community, Theology, and Service.”

Editor’s note: To read the family’s conversion stories, please go to http://www.victoriadiocese.org/lighthouse/lighthouse.htm and click on May issue. The story will follow page 12.

Christ Jesus, even if your resurrection kindles within us a flame that may be quite weak, it enables us to live in communion with you. And by your Gospel we realize that you came to earth not just for part of humankind, but for every human being, even if they are unaware of your presence within them.

Reprinted from “peace of heart in all things”
Br. Roger of Taizé

WEIMAR STUDENTS RE-ENACT LAST SUPPER—
The 2nd grade students at St. Michael School in Weimar reenacted the Last Supper on Holy Thursday, April 2, while the 8th graders portrayed the Living Stations. Tanner Janak, an 8th grader, portrayed Jesus at the Last Supper reenactment and in the Living Stations, while Austin Purdy (l.) and Chase Gindler (r.), on either side of Tanner, portrayed the two criminals in the Living Stations.

5TS. CYRIL & METHODIUS YOUTH PUT ON PASSION PLAY—The Senior students of St. Paul High School and Sts. Cyril & Methodius Religious Education Program did an outstanding job in portraying our Lord’s Passion and Crucifixion on Wednesday, April 4. These young people of the local Catholic parish came together and worked hard to put on a performance for the people of our community. Their goal was for those viewing the enactment to see a glimpse of the great love our Lord has for all of us as he made his way to Calvary. And that is what they did for the audience of all ages. They are to be commended, each and every one of them: the actors, actresses, readers, singers, and those in charge of sound effects, and lighting. It was a team effort and they worked great together as a team. The following were involved in portraying the Live Stations of the Cross (seat-ed): Emma Holley, Kali Kocian, Mary Marecek, Erin Easterling, Christine Bittick, Marissa Ynclan, and Kaylynn Benez. 2nd row (kneeling): Jake Juleff and Coy Cordell; Guards – Brett Hodge and Jacob Goell; and Justin Natal played the role of Jesus. Not pictured: Dani Sparer and Mrs. Cilo Hagens.

Have a Blessed and Happy Easter Season!
By Cynthia Brewer and Rose Chavez

This is the continued version.

During this year’s Rite of Election, always held the first Sunday of Lent, I noticed that when Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary Parish in Ganado announced their ACTS retreats and church’s, several of them had the same last name.

I was excited that a large family was coming to attend the Catholic Church together, so I called the parish to learn more.

The pastor, Father Michael Lyons, referred me to the parish RCIA director, Mrs. Rose Chavez.

She informed me that I had heard correctly, that a family of five, the Luera’s, was entering the church, and in fact three other families and a total of 19 new members would be welcomed into the parish at the Easter Vigil, April 7, 2012. Nine catechumens received the three sacraments of initiation: baptism, Holy Communion, and confirmation, and 10 candidates received full communion into the Catholic faith.

The families that were united in the faith at Assumption Parish this past Easter were the Luera’s, the Peters, the Tarvers, the Bricknel’s, and the Gloors.

The Luera Family – Gilbert was a baptized Catholic, but did not marry in the Church.

Gilbert Luera’s story:
“I had pulled away from my Catholic religion in 1992. My wife and I were not married through the Catholic Church and when we had tried to get my son baptized we were not able to. At the time I though there were too many rules to have to get remarried through the church to have him baptized, and it was easier to go to my church. I attended with my family but always knew it wasn’t ‘my’ church. And I knew there was something spiritually missing in me.”

“For 17 years I attended my wife, Jane’s church until my daughter’s (ACTS) candle-light mass and she approached me. I felt something I had never felt before. I knew God had been knocking at my front door for the last two years before this but refused to open it until that night. I didn’t know how to react on the way home, and my wife was asking me what was wrong. It was a feeling that I knew God was coming back into my life. I was scheduled to work that weekend but decided to take off to attend my daughter return ACTS Mass. It had been 17 years since I had attended the Catholic Church. And when I did, I felt like I was home.”

Gilbert continued to struggle over the next two years, even when he knew God was calling him. Then a friend approached him about attending a Men’s ACTS retreat in October of 2011.

“Attending the retreat opened up my heart to letting Christ in. I have always struggled with my faith because of the trials in my put in. (But after the retreat) I realized if you put God first you will take care of the rest. I continue to go to church, I attend ‘That Man is You’ class on Wednesdays; and now I’m a team leader for the next ACTS men’s retreat. I will take what I learned to touch people the way they helped me and remember to always put God first.”

Jane Luera’s story:
“In answer to the question of what led me and my girls to the Catholic religion, it began back when my oldest daughter, Shelby, attended her first ACTS teen retreat. She began to feel the pull toward the Catholic religion during this time. We were members of a different church (my parents’ church) but did not feel at home there after both my parents had passed away. … Shelby started to attend church with some of her Catholic friends and then was asked to be on the team for the next teen retreat. During that time she really started to change and started to take a path in changing her life. Several adults during that time had started to touch her life and she began to walk the Catholic faith.”

“I had been struggling spiritually for several years (children’s health situations, both parents passing away, and marriage struggle).” (Then) my husband decided to go on the Men’s ACTS retreat, and it was life changing for both of us and our family. When he had returned we both knew the path in which we were suppose to take.

“... When I started my RCIA classes I thought I knew something about God. I attended church as a kid and adult, but I actually did not know much. Things started to come together for me and make sense. My youngest girls have been in the youth classes and have had a thirst to learn more and more. The whole class has been awesome! Rose Chavez has an angel on my shoulder the last several months and has helped guide me down a path that has been life changing. There is a love and acceptence of Catholic friends and then there is a feeling that I have never felt anywhere before. It is now my family.”

The Peters Family – Brandon Peters attended an ACTS retreat in Oct 2010 and his wife, Sabrina, attended the following spring. Sabrina teamed (helped run) another ACTS retreats in August of the same year. Rose Chavez was on the team with her on the August 2011 retreat and on their way back Sabrina said something to the effect that “I am so confused and I have so many questions.” Rose said, “I can help you with that!” The Peters made the decision to attend RCIA, and on October 23 they had their marriage blessed in the Catholic Church. Brandon immediately went back to receiving the Eucharist. Sabrina and their 11-year-old daughter, Sydney, were received into the Church on Holy Saturday. Sydney says she is enthralled by the saints and their stories.

The Bricknell’s – Troy was raised Jehovah Witness and had never been baptized. His wife, Cynthia, was raised Catholic but never received Confirmation. They have two very small children. Troy made his ACTS retreats in Oct 2010 and Cynthia in April 2011. Close friends, Missie and Robert Landry, who live here in Ganado, have walked this RCA journey with them. Troy says that having so many different churches over the course of his life, really confused him on so many topics, but the Catholic Faith has answered so many questions, with sound logic, and finally things are making sense.

The Tarvers’ – While Freddy and Christina need their marriage blessed and are waiting on a annulment, their two children were fully received into the Catholic faith at the Easter Vigil. Freddy has made much progress, Rose said, and she is sure he will be baptized and fully initiated next Easter. Freddy feels comfortable here in Ganado, he says that he feels comfortable.

The Gloor Family — Austin is a 7th grader (12 years old) who was baptized as an infant in the Catholic Church and is now helping to bring his family back to the faith. His mother, Destini, and father, Jason, fell away and began attending the Baptist Church. This past fall, Austin decided that he was ready to be Catholic! His aunts and his grandparents were Catholic, and his parents had both attended ACTS retreats. His Dad wanted to return to the Catholic faith after his own retreat, but Destini was not ready. Later, after much prayer from Destini’s extended family, Rose gave Destini some taped conversion stories and she and Destini teamed an ACTS retreat together.

At the beginning of the retreat, Destini told Rose she was so torn. “She wanted to be with the Catholics, and she wanted to be there with the Baptists…. she loved both ….,” she had told Rose. Rose asked her, “Do you love the faith, or the people?” At the end of the retreat Destini told Rose she pondered that question through the whole retreat and had come to her decision that she wanted her marriage blessed by Father Michael.

“The Tuesday after our return, at our evaluation meeting, we were planning to say a rosary of thanksgiving, but instead we started with the witnessing of her marriage!!!” The retreat was Palm Sunday, so Holy Tuesday was the wedding, and on Easter Vigil, Austin, and his mother and father, received Holy Communion together! Mom and Dad, for the first time in years!!

There were also others who joined the Church during the Easter Vigil who had nothing to do with the ACTS retreats. Eric Floyd joined his wife and daughter in the Catholic faith, and Kelly Bures decided on her own accord that she was ready to attend RCIA and join her husband in the Catholic faith.

ACTS seems to play a significant role in helping Catholic’s come home, and sometimes in helping those of other faiths see the beauty and truth of the Catholic faith, “said Rose.” It’s not always the tool that the Holy Spirit uses…. but here in Ganado, I think that ACTS has helped our entire Catholic Community live out authentic love through Adoration, Community, Theology, and Service.”

Thank you for the Rain

Thank you for the rain, O Lord
The water and the life
We are grateful for an end
To this specific strife

For our land was parched with thirst
The trees, the grass, the crops
Please grant us rain, sufficient rain
Until this drought, it stops

Fill our rivers, fill our tanks
Please let abundaance flow
Bless us with fertility
Let all Creation grow

Thank you for the rain, O Lord
The water and the life
We are grateful for an end
To this specific strife

-Martha Egan
Shiner Texas
The St. Joseph High School Varsity Choir won Two Texas Private School Music Educators Association (TPSMEA) Concert & Sightreading Trophies on Friday, March 23, 2012. The choir contest was hosted by St. Agnus Academy of Houston and held at The First Christian Church of Houston. The STJ Varsity Treble and STJ Varsity Mixed Choirs were judged by a panel of three judges in two separate areas of musical competition. A Concert & Sightreading award is a choral organization that receives 1st division (Superior) ratings in both Concert Singing and Sightreading.

The STJ Varsity Mixed Choir performed “Come Celebrate With Joyful Pleasure” by Arcadelt, “In Stiller Nacht” by Brahms, and “Agnus Dei” by Poulenc. Comments from the judging panel included, “Excellent diction, intonation & blend. Lovely tone quality, ability to convey different moods, mature interpretation.”

The STJ Varsity Treble Choir performed “Agnus Dei” by Durante, “Der Herr Segne Euch” by Bach, and “Pie Jesu” by Lightfoot. Comments from the judging panel were, “Excellent applause you for singing in German, in addition to English and Latin. Excellent blend, intonation, and sensitive interpretation. Very musical.”

Director for the STJ High School Choir is Michael Petrisky, accompanied by Mrs. Sandra Glenn. Mr. Petrisky commented, “All of the students did a great job. To my knowledge, as far as TPSMEA Contest results, this is a first for STJ to win two Concert & Sightreading Trophies at the same contest.” Petrisky concluded, “With each judge awarding a rating, the choirs were a perfect 12 out of 12 first divisions awarded. We were also fortunate to have Sandra Glenn help as our accompanist. She is a big contributor to the students’ success with her talents.”

The STJ Choirs sang their Spring Concert on Thursday, May 3, 2012. The concert took place at Our Saviour’s Lutheran Church.

Pictured are St. Joseph Varsity Chorale Officers 2011-12 (l. to r.) Vice President Jillian Strauss, President Jaclyn Boozalis, Quartermaster Theodore Boozalis, Chaplain Kristin Janecek, and Librarian Marian Howard.

For more information, please contact Regina Tours at 1-800-CATHOLIC or visit http://www.regina-tours.com/STW/STWProduct.aspx?Theme=REGINA&P roductCode=31316

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www.truthandlifeapp.com

The Catholic Lighthouse
Page 14 — May 2012

DIOCESE-EXTRA

JCDA #206 has a busy spring

A Pilgrimage to Italy for the Canonization of two American Saints

Kateri Tekawitha and Blessed Marianne Cope

NEW YORK, NY — Regina Tours, a premier provider of customized Catholic interest tours, will celebrate the canonization of two Catholic Americans with a special program to Rome from October 15th through 22nd. The Pilgrimage to Italy for the Canonization of Kateri Tekawitha and Blessed Marianne Cope is an eight-day trip to the Eternal City, culminating in the historic canonization ceremonies at St. Peter’s Basilica on Sunday, October 21st.

Kateri Tekawitha, a Mohawk woman who was among the first Native Americans to convert to Catholicism, will become the first Native American to be canonized as a saint. Marianne Cope, a German-American nun who ministered to lepers in Hawaii, will also be canonized on the same day. Others to be canonized at the October 21st ceremony include Pedro Calungsod of the Philippines, Anna Schaffer of Germany, Giovanni Battista Piamarta of Italy, Jacques Berthieu of France and Carmen Salles of Spain.

This special itinerary, offered exclusively by Regina Tours, is available for $2,718 per person. A Papal Audience, round-trip international airfare, seven night hotel stay, breakfast and dinner daily, transportation within Italy and the services of a professional tour escort are all included in the package price.

For more information, please contact Regina Tours at 1-800-CATHOLIC or visit http://www.regina-tours.com/STW/STWProduct.aspx?Theme=REGINA&P roductCode=31316.
By Jennifer Carr-Allmon, Associate Di-rector, Texas Catholic Conference

Abortion is a difficult issue, which is why I am blessed with some additional time in the middle of the night for prayer and reflection when the world seems so chaotic and I need to soothe the pain. Last night, while rocking him in the nursery, I found myself wistfully thinking about the joy and anticipation of planning Parenthood. The blue room with the bright red racing stripes was so fun to decorate. Like most expectant parents, my husband and I have been busy buying for ourselves and planning for the arrival of our children.

A portion of the media coverage of Planned Parenthood insisting that they are a vital women’s health provider in Texas, I am struck by the clear deception of their name and how far they fall short of what they claim to be. From what I can tell, they fail to provide a consistent use of the terms, which would give many expectant women’s health a provider. Despite the fact that they bemoan their term “fetal tissue” from the Women’s Health Program as causing thousands of women to go without care, they fail to provide several reasonable options for women’s health services that a provider like Whole Woman Health offers, including pregnancy counseling, bone density tests, menopause treatment, treatment for post partum depression, ovarian cysts, or benign and premalignant tumors of the uterus and ovaries. Planned Parenthood supplies none of these diagnostic tests or treatments, only limited screening and referrals to health providers who do have the ability to provide the actual treatments for these issues. Those who need this treat-ment must go elsewhere. Eighty percent of women in the Women’s Health Program choose all other providers over Planned Parenthood’s clinic workers trained in fertility awareness meth-ods? When a couple discovers that they are having trouble conceiving, is Planned Parenthood capable of diagnosing and treating the underlying disease or hormonal imbalance causing the infertility? If a couple is unable to conceive, does Planned Parenthood guide them through the process of adoption or just provide a referral? No. Planned Parenthood does not pro-vide any of these classes or services. They don’t, in fact, assist anyone in planning for parenthood or raising children. Babies don’t, in fact, assist anyone in planning for parenthood. It is up to them to assist mothers in planning parenthood.

Wikipedia head joins Vatican meeting, talks about abortion contro-versy

By Cindy Wooden

By Denisy Bossert

American Stories for America’s Kids

~New technology, too~

American parents are taking notice of popular children’s books that aren’t con-sidering faith for making music with your voice or instruments. You are God’s gift. God made you in his own image. And that means that you made you to be - uniquely you. You are more creative than you think. You’re more creative than you think. dennybossert@centurytel.net

American parents are taking notice of popular children’s books that aren’t exactly sending the right messages. Even in Hollywood! That’s why Allen Coven - actor, writer, Dad - launched Cherry Tree: American Stories for America’s Kids http://www.cherrytreechildren.com Allen is passionate about this new project, and even made a video http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=06D-yWfSjE&feature=youtu.be to bring to his own daughter expressing the excitement of the talent. He put together a dream team of talented writers and artists to bring stories any time and any place. Cherry Tree is available on the iPad and iPhone so that your family can experience Cherry Tree stories any time you like. The talent for making music with your voice or instruments. You are God’s gift. God made you in his own image. And that means that you made you to be - uniquely you. You are more creative than you think. You’re more creative than you think. 

dennybossert@centurytel.net

http://youtu.be/fAjiL-UOFho

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=06D-yWfSjE&feature=youtu.be

http://www.cherrytreechildren.com

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=06D-yWfSjE&feature=youtu.be
April 7th 2012

Dear Everyone,

Holy Week 2012 saw me spending sacred moments ministering at the altar of humanity instead of kneeling before the church altar recalling the moments before, during and after Christ’s death on the cross. I comforted a weeping mother who lost her child in a stillbirth. I heard the cries of a young child who smashed his fingers in the door of a school building the likes of which he has never seen before this year. I repaired an almost severed thumb of a man who quietly moaned in pain. I gave out food and water to the people who labored to repair the eroded road that connects them to the outside world. I cried with people whose families lost animals in a raid by the neighboring tribe. Each day Christ appeared at my door in another guise asking for my help in alleviating pain, thirst, hunger. I met Christ in the way of the cross of his present day brothers and sisters. These days were holy indeed. And tomorrow as we come together as community to celebrate Christ’s resurrection I will meet these same people with their bandages, quenched thirst and hunger and we will smile a knowing smile at each other knowing we have experienced Christ this holy week.

Much like the early church, people here in this part of Pokot are hearing the name and message of Jesus for the first time. It is a slow teaching process that sees deeds speaking louder than words, especially when we do not know all the words! However each week sees new people arriving at our doorstep to hear about this person called Jesus and these people who are willing to help them improve their lives. We now have 3 communities that gather once a week to hear more and share the prayers of an emerging faith. Fr. Sean’s knowledge of the Pokot language is slowly coming back to him. He does all the services in Pokot which means he spends many hours each day painstakingly preparing the liturgies.

In the meantime I continue to see the sick and operate my little shop selling food stuffs and various commodities that the people request from ‘town’. We have had an offer of a greenhouse so are now preparing a small bit of land on which to erect it.

We will pipe water from one of the water tanks at the Mission which can be filled from the water well. We recently received a donation of food from the Kenya Bishops in Nairobi in the form of maize (corn), dry beans, finger millet flour and cooking oil to assist the people during this dry season. It is being distributed to the communities as food-for-work in which they present a project to improve something in the community and are then paid in food. So far we have improved the roads, the children of the new school in Rotu now have a playground after the community cut the bush, the community of Sukut has fenced its water pan and built a small shade of local trees for holding church services and other such projects.

Parents clearing the bush from around the school to create a playground for the children.

Early morning of Good Friday gun shots were heard in the distance. As the men rushed to find out the source of the gun fire the women and children rushed to the Mission in concern. Reports came back that a group from the neighboring Turkana tribe had raided 7 homes about 8 miles away taking over 700 goats. Before the day was over the message went to the government general service unit policemen who tried to follow the raiders, but all in vain. So this Easter sees people crying for the loss of precious household animals.

Fr. Sean and Fr. David (Barpello Mission) have made a great effort in addressing food security by re-stocking camels for many in the Pokot communities with the aid of donor agencies from Ireland. Over 100 camels were purchased from northeastern Kenya and distributed to people. Here in Rotu 30 camels arrived. Twenty camels were given out while 10 have been reserved to provide milk for the school children. Sean and I spent some days in Barpello branding the camels before bringing them up to Rotu.

On March 26th a new Novitiate of the Incarnate Word Sisters in Africa was opened in Molo which is about 185 miles north of where it was originally located in Nairobi. It has been built on a piece of farmland purchased a few years ago. The novices now have plenty of wide open spaces in which to further discover and develop their calls to service in the church. We are all hoping they will share their fresh produce with us as well! The area in which they have settled is significant as it was an area of the country that suffered greatly during the post-election violence that racked the country in early 2008. In fact the building was delayed because of the clashes. All around the compound are the shells of burned out homes of people who have yet to return. The Sisters have joined other religious living in the area to help foster healing of still very tender wounds.

As you can well imagine the people were happy.

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All is well here and once again I thank all of you for your continued support of our mission to God’s people here in this dry corner of Africa. We could not do what we are doing without your support and prayers. Thanks and God bless!

Rebecca

Sr. Rebecca Janacek
Rotu Catholic Mission, East Pokot
P.O. Box 105
Marigat 30403
Kenya, East Africa

Blessed Easter!