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2 Priests  
Assignments

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'Father Stu' a story  
worth watching

# The Catholic Lighthouse

The Cradle of Texas Immigration

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE DIOCESE OF VICTORIA IN TEXAS

VOL. 36, NO. 1

www.victoriadiocese.org



May 2022

## Eggs remarkable in nature and art

*Ukranian tradition highlighted in wartime*



Therese Guay is shown with the kindergartners at Holy Cross school in Bay City, front from left, Ryder, Emerson, Melody and Nadia, and standing, Hudson. (Contributed Photo)



A closeup of two of the pysanky eggs Therese Guay brought to show the kindergarten class at Holy Cross. (Contributed Photo)

By JANET JONES

*The Catholic Lighthouse*

BAY CITY – Eggs in nature are essential and beautiful. They hold a world of hope – a new life waiting to be fertilized and nurtured. And, at Easter time, many adorn them in bright colors and use them to symbolize Jesus's resurrection and the new life he offers us.

As the days of Lent drew to an end, Patti Steed's kindergarten class at Holy Cross Catholic School talked about how, in some places, people were helping victims of war in Ukraine by carrying on a tradition of pysanky, a particularly intricate way of coloring eggs using wax and multiple colors of dye. It happened that Therese Guay, who works as a substitute at Holy Cross, was familiar with pysanky.

"She visited the class to show them her sister's incredible talent designing Ukrainian eggs that

she dyes every year during Lent," according to Rhonda Westbrook, computer lab aid who works with the students and teachers at Holy Cross. "Everything just fell into place."

The kindergarten class also read "Rechenka's Eggs," a story about a Ukrainian woman named Babushka, who lovingly paints decorative eggs for the Easter Festival and her encounter with the goose Rechenka.

Various news stories during Lent told how many people are standing in the gap to help continue the Ukrainian tradition this year to remember those fleeing their homes and the war there. Some of the eggs have been sold to raise funds to help the people of Ukraine.

*See Eggs remarkable in nature,  
pg. 20*





# Religious communities bring 'powerful gift of hope' to all

A few years ago I received a letter from two Carmelite Sisters who were discerning a call to live their vows in a more ancient tradition. They belonged to a monastery in North Dakota and had received permission from their Mother Superior to explore the possibility of establishing a new Carmelite community following this more ancient tradition.

I responded to the letter and one day met Sister Maria of Divine Mercy and Sister Mary Ruth of the Eucharist. Their journey came to be united with our journey and now they are preparing for a new step with a move to the Diocese of Bridgeport in Connecticut. As they prepare for this new stage I give thanks to God for his patient guidance and to Mary our Mother for her faithful intercession for all of us.

The Carmelite Order traces its foundation to the end of the 12th century. At that time, pilgrims would journey to the Holy Land and some would settle around Mt. Carmel. They would commit to lives of penance and prayer, and develop a special devotion to the Blessed

## A Shepherd's Message

By Bishop Brendan Cahill



Mother Mary. Since its origins in these communities, the Carmelite Order has spread to every continent, and now has members who are priests, sisters, brothers and lay members.

When I first met Sister Maria and Sister Mary Ruth, they were looking for a temporary home. I listened to them and prayed for guidance. I remember driving them around the diocese and visiting some possible places. Eventually we discerned the possibility of the Rectory at Sts. Peter and Paul in Meyersville. Since the first day of their move to Meyersville, the people and priests of the parish have been warm and welcoming.

Over the past five years, I've often celebrated Saturday morning Mass with the Sis-

ters in Meyersville. I've asked them to pray for our priests, for our Rosary Congresses, for people who are sick, for friends who were mourning, and for many other special intentions. I believe that their prayer has made things better for all of us, even in these most challenging times.

I'll miss the Sisters as they move to Bridgeport, but in a more profound way, I know they will always be with us. The special call of the Carmelites is to the spiritual commitment to contemplate God in silence throughout the day. For the person called to this vocation, the silence leads to a clearer vision of the spiritual world. The Bishop of the Diocese of Bridgeport is a friend of

mine, and I know his area will experience the spiritual power of the Carmelite prayer. I also know that we will continue to experience the same power, as they remember us each day in prayer, and I'm sure we can send our prayer requests to the new address in Bridgeport.

Our diocese is blessed with the Incarnate Word and Blessed Sacrament Sisters, the Dominican Sisters of the Province of the Immaculate Heart of Mary and the Missionary Catechists of the Sacred Heart of Jesus and Immaculate Heart of Mary. Each of these communities has an interesting story and a powerful gift of hope for us.

In this month in which we honor our Blessed Mother Mary, I thank God for the women who witness the love and power of God each day in these religious communities. May God bless you and your families with the peace, love and joy of the Holy Spirit in these Easter days; let's keep each other in prayer.

+Brendan

## Priests celebrated, new assignments announced during Chrism Mass

By JANET JONES

The Catholic Lighthouse

During his homily at this year's Chrism Mass, Bishop Brendan Cahill said he's been asked, "Why are you always so happy?" His answer, he said, is "Because I get to see good each day."

He was speaking particularly about the priests and religious of the Diocese of Victoria. He spoke about the love that Jesus, "the Shepherd," has for his sheep and how the shepherds of the diocese love their own flocks. "And you serve them in beautiful ways each day," he told them.

"And the people love our shepherds," he said.

Priests and deacons from all parishes in the diocese attended the Chrism Mass and the priest renewed the promises they made during their ordinations.

The assembly of the faithful in the church asked for God's blessing on the priests to keep them faithful ministers of Christ and for

Bishop Cahill to be faithful to the apostolic office entrusted to him.

During this celebration of priesthood, Bishop Cahill recognized priests celebrating special anniversaries of their ordinations this year, including:

- The Rev. Pat Knippenberg, 10 years
  - The Rev. Gabriel Espinoza, the Rev. Michael Rother and the Rev. Eliecer Patino, 15 years
  - The Rev. Ty Bazaar, 20 years
  - The Rev. Gabriel Oduro Tawiah, 25 years
  - The Rev. Clement Quainoo, 40 years
  - The Most Rev. David Fellhauer, 57 years to the priesthood and 32 years as a bishop.
- He also announced new assignments that become effective July 1:
- The Rev. Kristopher Fuchs is appointed vocation director for the diocese.
  - The Rev. Charles Otsiwah is ap-



*Bishop Brendan Cahill receives the oil of balsam which is blended with olive oil to make the fragrant Holy Chrism used in the sacraments of baptism, confirmation and holy orders during the annual Chrism Mass on April 12. (Janet Jones/The Catholic Lighthouse)*

pointed episcopal vicar for clergy for the diocese.

- The Rev. Scott Hill is appointed vice-officialis with the diocesan tribunal.
- The Rev. James Dvorak is appointed parochial vicar at Sacred Heart in Hallettsville.
- The Rev. Chase Goodman is appointed parochial vicar at St. Rose of Lima

in Schulenburg.

There also are four new priests coming to the diocese from Ghana this summer:

- The Rev. Samuel Kwabena Owusu is appointed parochial vicar at St. Philip the Apostle in El Campo.

*See Priests celebrated, pg. 6*





Bishop Cahill's Schedule

May					
1	6 p.m. Confirmation Mass at Holy Cross Church; Bay City	10	• 9:30 a.m. Legion of Mary Praesidium meeting at the Cathedral Center; Victoria • 2 p.m. Catholic Rural Life Capital Campaign meeting; virtual	18	• 4 p.m. Diocesan Building Board; Chancery • 5:30 p.m. Mass and Eighth-grade Grade Bishop's Awards at The Cathedral of Our Lady of Victory
2	• 12:30 p.m. Mass at UHV • 6 p.m. Confirmation Mass at St. John's Church; Hungerford	11	• 10 a.m. Presbyteral Council at the Chancery • 7 p.m. Confirmation Mass for Parish of the Nativity Church; Eagle Lake	21	12:10 p.m. Annual Maritime Day Mass in the Crypt Church; Washington, D.C.
3	• 9:30 a.m. Legion of Mary Praesidium meeting at the Cathedral Center; Victoria • 6:30 p.m. Eighth-grade farewell dinner at St. Anthony's School; Columbus	12	• 10 a.m. Blessing of hands at DeTar North Chapel; Victoria • 7 p.m. Eighth-grade Bishop's Awards at the Cathedral Center; Victoria	22	9:30 a.m. Confirmation Mass at St. Joseph Church; Moulton
4	6 p.m. Confirmation Mass at Sacred Heart Church; Hallettsville	13	• Holy Trinity Board Meeting; Dallas • 6 p.m. Confirmation Mass for St. Andrew Church and St. Procopius Church; Hillje	23	• Noon Mass with Missionary Catechists • 5 p.m. Diocesan Liturgical Commission meeting; Chancery
5	St. Dominic Center Evening with the Bishops fundraiser; Houston	14	• 10 a.m. Mass for Deacon Candidacy at The Cathedral of Our Lady of Victory • 5 p.m. Confirmation Mass for Queen of Peace Church and St. John the Baptist Church; Sweet Home	24	Kenedy Memorial Foundation Board meeting; Corpus Christi
6	6:30 p.m. Emmaus Center Roast and Toast at the Cathedral Center; Victoria	15	• 9:30 a.m. Confirmation Mass for Holy Cross Church; Yorktown • 6 p.m. Confirmation Mass for St. Philip the Apostle Church; El Campo	25	7 p.m. Confirmation Mass for St. John Church; St. John
7	• Dr. Ray Guarendi's event at Our Lady of Sorrows; Victoria • 5:30 p.m. Confirmation Mass at St. Robert Bellarmine Church; El Campo	16	7 p.m. Eighth-grade Grade Bishop's Awards at Sacred Heart Church; Hallettsville	28	• Mass for Carmelites; Meyersville • 5 p.m. Confirmation Mass at St. Peter's Church; Blessing
8	• 9 a.m. Confirmation Mass for Immaculate Conception; Goliad • 3 p.m. Confirmation Mass for Our Lady of the Gulf and missions at Our Lady of the Gulf Church; Port Lavaca	17	• 6:30 a.m. Relevant Radio interview • 9:30 a.m. Legion of Mary Praesidium meeting at the Cathedral Center; Victoria	29	• 10:30 a.m. Confirmation Mass at St. Agnes Church; Edna
9	• 10 a.m. Catholic Rural Life Monthly Meeting; virtual • 2 p.m. Communities of Faith Meeting; Chancery • 6 p.m. Mass and confessions for the Healing Mission at Our Lady of Lourdes Church; Victoria				
June					
1 9:30 a.m. self-care retreat for church personnel at the Cathedral Center; Victoria					
2-3 Catholic Rural Life meeting; St. Paul Minnesota					
4 • Mass for Carmelites; Meyersville • 5 p.m. Confirmation Mass for St. Michael's Church; Cuero					
5 • 10 a.m. Confirmation Mass for St. John Bosco Church; Vanderbilt • 2 p.m. Confirmation Mass for Our Lady of Sorrows Church; Victoria					
6 Noon Subcommittee for African American Affairs Meeting; virtual					

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USPS-001015 (ISSN 0894-7740)  
**The Catholic Lighthouse** is published monthly at 1505 E. Mesquite Lane, Victoria, TX 77901.  
Subscription rates are: \$7 per year within the diocese / \$10 outside the diocese.  
E-mail local stories, photos or festival announcements to: [lighthouse@victoriadiocese.org](mailto:lighthouse@victoriadiocese.org)  
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In Memoriam

# Sister M. Carmelita Casso, IWBS, dies at age 100

Sister M. Carmelita Casso, IWBS, 100, died on April 12, 2022. She was born April 8, 1922, in San Antonio to the late Jesse and Luisa Diaz Casso. She was the eldest of seven children -- four girls and three boys.

Sister Carmelita attended elementary grades in Houghton Public Schools in Detroit, Mich., and St. Peter and St. Joseph Home in San Antonio. After she graduated from Blessed Sacrament Academy High School in San Antonio, she pursued her call to become a religious sister and entered the Postulancy of the Sisters of the Incarnate Word and Blessed Sacrament at Blessed Sacrament Convent in San Antonio on Sept. 9, 1939; became a Novice at Nazareth Convent in Victoria on June 10, 1940; and, professed religious vows on June 11, 1941.

She received a BA in English and Spanish from Incarnate Word College, a master's degree in Spanish from the University of Houston, and a master's in theology from St. Mary's University in San Antonio. She also studied music and was an excellent organist.

During her 81 years as a Sister, Sister Carmelita taught at the grade-school level in Shiner, Loire, San Marcos, Weimar, Selma, Cuero and at Nazareth Academy in Victoria. She taught at the high school level at Blessed Sacrament Academy in San Antonio. While at Nazareth, she had charge of the boarders for a while and assisted with the drum and bugle corps for nine years. She then served as secretary general for the congregation for six years.

From 1982 until 2010, she lived in Rome, Italy, and Lyons, France, while translating the French writings of the IWBS Foundress, Venerable Jeanne Chézaré de Matel, into English and in promoting the Cause of

Canonization of the foundress. There was great jubilation when the foundress was proclaimed "venerable" in 1992. Sister Carmelita was able to communicate in English, Spanish, French, Latin and Italian.

After 2010 Sister Carmelita resided at Incarnate Word Convent in Victoria and continued translating the writings of Venerable Jeanne de Matel and promoting the Cause of Canonization of the foundress in every way she could. Throughout her life, she was vivacious, entertaining, dedicated, deeply spiritual and an avid reader.

Sister Carmelita was preceded in death by her parents and all her siblings: Jessie, Beatrice (Betty), Mary Louise, Philip, Henry, Gloria and their spouses. She is survived by many nieces, nephews, relatives and friends.

Rosary and visitation at Incarnate Word Convent took place April 21. A wake service with evening praise and sharing of memories followed. On Friday, April 22, the Mass of Christian Burial took place at Incarnate Word Convent. Burial followed at Catholic Cemetery No. 3.

Memorial donations may be made to Incarnate Word Convent, Blessed Sacrament Academy, Nazareth Academy, Hospice of South Texas or donor's choice. Memories and condolences can be shared at [www.colonialfuneralhomevictoria.com](http://www.colonialfuneralhomevictoria.com).



Sister M. Carmelita Casso, IWBS

# Bernita Korenek, mother of Rev. Greg Korenek, passes away

NADA — Bernita M. Korenek, 85, of Nada, passed away on Thursday, April 14, 2022. She was born July 22, 1936, to the late Rudolf and Amalia Ulbrich Gold.

On Oct. 29, 1956, she married Edward Korenek. Upon his death in 2017, they were married 61 years.

Bernita was a devoted wife and mother, and caring for her family was done with absolute diligence. She had a large number of friends and acquaintances whose friendship she cherished deeply. She never met a stranger.

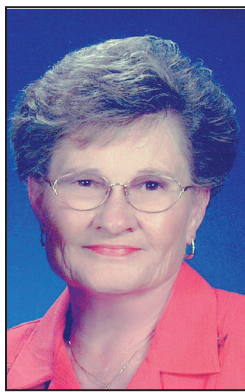
Bernita was a member of the Catholic Daughters of the Americas and the Christian Mothers. She held several offices, including regent in the CDA. During the years her children were in grade school, she belonged to the PTC and immersed herself in the activities of the school.

Bernita was very involved in her church, St. Mary's Church in Nada, where she belonged since the early days of her childhood. She took on numerous responsibilities associated with the parish, and had a special devotion to Eucharistic Adoration.

Bernita thoroughly enjoyed cooking, baking, gardening, canning, tending to her yard and plants, and dancing.

She is survived by her daughter, Phyllis Lesak (Richard) of Wharton; sons, the Rev. Greg Korenek of Ganado, Brian Korenek (Lorrie) of Nada, and Duane Korenek (Michelle) of El Campo; grandchildren Kyle Lesak (Jennise), Lauren Lesak Caraway (Gabe),

Kristen Lesak, Magen Lesak Geiger (Ethan), Chelsea Korenek Glueck (Brian), Rachel Korenek Valenta (Cody), Josh Korenek, Tucker



Bernita Korenek

Korenek, Kurt Korenek, Madysen Korenek, Lannah Korenek, Ty Korenek, Kynleigh Korenek, and 12 great-grandchildren and one on the way.

She was preceded in death by her husband, her parents; brothers Rudy, Albert, Edwin and Walter Gold; and sisters Lillie Gold Raaz

and Hilda Gold Guenther.

Visitation took place April 18 at St. Mary's Church in Nada, followed by a vigil service. Funeral Mass was April 19 at the church, with Bishop Brendan Cahill officiating and Rev. Greg Korenek, Rev. Paul Raaz, Bishop Gary Janak, and other priests of the Diocese of Victoria concelebrating. Burial followed at St. Mary's Catholic Cemetery.

Pallbearers were grandsons Kyle Lesak, Josh Korenek, Tucker Korenek, Kurt Korenek, Ty Korenek, and son-in-law, Richard Lesak.

Memorial donations may be made to St. Mary's Catholic Church, or the Diocese of Victoria Seminarian Education Fund.

# Deacon Patrick Kubala's wife, Rebecca, passes away

NEW TAITON — Rebecca Lynne Koehne Kubala, 65, of El Campo, passed away March 24, 2022. She was born on Oct. 11, 1956, in Wharton. Becky graduated from Wharton High School and from Wharton County Junior College as a medical transcriptionist. She was a member of the Catholic Daughters of the Americas, St. John's Altar Society and St. John Church.

Becky is survived by her father, Leonard Koehne, Jr.; husband, Patrick Kubala; son, Jordan Kubala and wife, Kristy; daughter, Haley Kubala; grandchildren, Jett and Kate Kubala; step-sister, Denise Palinek; step-brother, Tommy Mathews; half-sister, Kimberly Fojtik and half-brother, Earl (Bubba) Wiegand.

She was preceded in death by her step-mother, Mozel Blair Koehne and step-sister, Donna Vacek.

Funeral Mass was Tuesday, March 29, at St. John Church in New Taiton with Rev. Gabriel Oduro Tawiah, Rev. Gabriel Maison and Rev. Robert Guerra concelebrating. Burial followed at St. John Cemetery.

Lead pallbearers were Jordan Kubala and Haley Kubala. Pallbearers were Doug Sellers, Slate Srubar, Paul Kresta, Jeff Nohavitza, Scott Cunningham and Darrel Nohavitza. Honorary pallbearers will be Jett Kubala and Kate Kubala.

Memorial donations in memory of Becky may be made to the MS Foundation.

# Seminarians Summer Assignments

- Luke Prihoda - Holy Cross Parish, East Bernard
- Ryan Kapavik - St. Philip Parish, El Campo
- Joseph Blackburn - Spanish Immersion, Mexico Hospital Chaplains for the Summer
- Aaron Padilla - Lubbock, Texas
- Shane Goertz - Lubbock, Texas
- Caleb Kriskche - Houston, Texas

Keep these seminarians in your prayers. Also pray for an increase of vocations to the priesthood and religious life.



The Chancery Offices  
will be closed  
Monday, May 30 in  
observance of Memorial Day







## Seminary Endowment Fund

Seminary Endowment Fund (formerly known as Seminary Burses) is a permanent fund used for the education of future priests for the Diocese of Victoria. The goal of each burse is \$15,000. The **interest from this amount** is applied yearly to the education of seminarians. The burses are in memory of or in honor of an individual priest or layperson, living or deceased. Publication of the burses will appear periodically when new contributions are received. **Donation Categories: Lector - \$.01 - \$99.99; Acolyte – \$100 - \$499.99; Candidate – \$500 - \$1,499.99; Transitional Deacon – \$1,500 - \$2,499.99; Priest – \$2,500 >.**

*April 21, 2022*

• **Rev. Wayne Flagg and Rev. Philip Brune Seminary Burse**

*Lector*

In memory of Margaret Inez Flagg, by Darry and Barbara Meyer  
In memory of Janie Hrachovy, by Lambert and Carol Brune

• **Rev. Dan Morales Seminary Burse in Honor of his Work for Vocations**

*Acolyte*

In memory of the Rev. Dan Morales, by Court Daughters of the Holy Family #2665, Victoria

• **Josephat R. Janak Seminary Burse #2**

*Lector*

In honor of Auxiliary Bishop Gary Janak on the 34th year of Priesthood May 14, by Rose Marie Janak and Family

• **KJZT – Catholic Family Fraternal of Texas Seminary Burse #2**

*Candidate*

Donation by KJZT Family Life members and friends to support the education of the young men studying for the priesthood in the Diocese of Victoria

• **Rev. Scott Hill Seminary Burse**

*Acolyte*

In memory of Brother Knight Andrew Bockholt, Sr., by KC Council 2902, Schulenburg

To contribute to an existing Seminary Endowment Fund, send contributions with the appropriate fund designation to:

Diocese Of Victoria  
**Seminary Endowment Fund**  
P. O. Box 4070  
Victoria, TX 77903

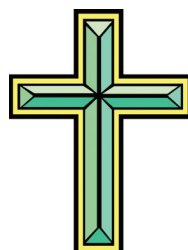
*Please remember in prayer the priests of the Diocese of Victoria, who were ordained during the month of May:*

Rev. Michael W. Petering	05/15/1999	St. Agnes Church, Edna
Rev. Greg E. Korenek	05/15/1993	Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Ganado
Rev. Edward J. Winkler	05/17/1986	Sacred Heart Church, Flatonia
Most Rev. Brendan J. Cahill	05/19/1990	Ordination to the Priesthood
Rev. Stephen Vacek	05/20/2017	Holy Cross Church, Bay City
Rev. Jacob Mendoza	05/20/2017	St. Michael Church, Cuero
Rev. Robert F. Guerra	05/20/2000	Parish of the Nativity Church, Eagle Lake
Rev. Philip L. Brune	05/24/2014	St. Robert Bellarmine Church, El Campo
Rev. Jasper J. Liggio	05/24/2014	St. Michael Church, Cuero
Rev. Msgr. John C. Bily	05/24/1958	Retired
Rev. Patrick S. Knippenberg	05/26/2012	Our Lady of Lourdes Church, Victoria
Rev. Daniel P. Kahlich	05/28/1966	Retired
Rev. Bryan O. Heyer	05/29/2004	Sts. Cyril and Methodius Church, Shiner
Rev. Kirby F. Hlavaty	05/29/1999	The Cathedral of Our Lady of Victory, Victoria
Most Rev. David E. Fellhauer	05/29/1965	Ordination to the Priesthood
	05/28/1990	Bishop Emeritus of the Diocese of Victoria
Rev. James Dvorak	05/30/2020	Our Lady of the Gulf Church, Port Lavaca
Rev. Dalton Ervin	05/30/2020	The Cathedral of Our Lady of Victory, Victoria
Rev. Chase Goodman	05/30/2020	St. Philip Church, El Campo

*Please remember in prayer the priests of the Diocese of Victoria, who died during the month of May:*

Rev. Emmett Kolodzie	05/01/1986
Rev. Patrick Fidgeon	05/14/1994
Rev. William Doran	05/25/2000

*Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,  
I will fear not evil, for you are with me;  
your rod and your staff comfort me. (Psalms 23:4)*



## Education of Seminarian Fund

The Education of Seminarian Fund is a fund in which **all of the monies** donated to this fund, as well as the earnings, are available to cover the cost of educating seminarians. The proceeds of the special collection on Holy Thursday are deposited into the Education of Seminarian Fund. Publication of this fund will appear when new contributions are received.

**Donation categories: Lector – \$.01 - \$99.99; Acolyte – \$100 - \$499.99; Candidate – \$500 - \$1,499.99; Transitional Deacon – \$1,500 - \$2,499.99; Priest – \$2,500 >.**

### Lector

Paz & Andrea Morales

*In Memory of Father Dan Morales*

John L. & Carol Anders

*In Memory of Msgr. Arnold Anders*

CDA Court Our Lady Queen of the Clergy #1990, Wharton

*In Memory of Leroy Dettling*

*Herminia Gonzales*

*Rosemary Hinze*

Mary Ann Henneke

Leon & Jeannette Macha

KJZT Society #43

Richard, Jeanie & Bruce Bures

Dan & Barbara Respondek

*In Memory of Bernita Korenek*

### Acolyte

CDA Court Our Lady Queen of the Clergy #1990, Wharton

*In Memory of Joan Karasek*

KC's #1329, Victoria

*In Memory of Robert Jones*

Hazel Kobersky

*In Memory of John J. Kobersky,  
Georger Kazmir, Bennie Kazmir*

Richard, Jeanie & Bruce Bures  
*In Memory of George Vasquez, Jr.*

Monroe & Mary Margaret Rieger  
Dot Hermansen

*In Memory of Bernita Korenek*

## Candidate Transitional Deacon

### Priest

Rev. James Ramsey

To contribute to the Education of Seminarian Fund, send contributions to:

Diocese Of Victoria  
**Education of Seminarian Fund**  
P. O. Box 4070  
Victoria, TX 77903

## Happy Birthday to Our Seminarian

**Joseph Blackburn** is in his Pastoral Year at Sts. Cyril and Methodius Church in Shiner. Joseph's is from Our Lady of the Gulf in Port Lavaca. His birthday is May 17. Write to Joseph at: Our Lady of the Gulf, 415 W Austin, Port Lavaca, TX 77979.



## Do you have a vocation to the priesthood or religious life?

Contact:

Father Tommy Chen

Director of Vocations

361-552-6140

tchenvictoriadiocese.org

OR

Father Kristopher Fuchs

Associate Director of Vocations

361-573-4328

kfuchsvictoriadiocese.org

**Happy Priestly Ordination  
to Bishop Cahill  
May 19**

**Happy Priestly Ordination  
to Bishop Emeritus  
David Fellhauer  
May 25 and May 29  
Ordination as Bishop**

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# We communicate with Jesus through sacraments and prayer

**EDITOR'S NOTE:** Father Kram wrote this homily for the third Sunday of Easter, Cycle A. He titled it "Word and Sacrament."

We human beings communicate with each other in many different ways. Perhaps the most frequent ways are by words and by actions.

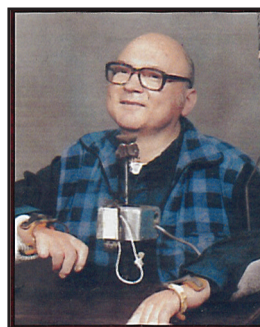
Actions are said to speak louder than words. Giving someone you love a box of long-stem roses (saying it with flowers) is usually much more effective than just saying, "I love you."

Burning someone in effigy has much more impact than just shouting some slogan at him.

We usually get our ideas across best by using both words and signs.

This is also true of our communication with the Lord Jesus through the sacraments.

We are cleansed by the waters of baptism. We are nourished by the consecrated bread and wine of the Eucharist. We are



1929-2000

## Father Charles Kram Corner

healed by the anointing with the oil of the sick.

Through the sacraments we meet the Lord Jesus, and he meets us and communicates his life and strength to us.

We also grow and mature in faith by the readings and, hopefully, also through the homilies at Mass, and by participation in the Eucharistic meal.

Though all these signs we can know a lot about Jesus without ever having seen him or walked with him like the disciples

on the road to Emmaus.

Notice that, as the three travelers drew near to Emmaus, Jesus acted as though he were going farther. He stayed with them only after they invited him. Even today, he does not impose himself on anyone. He remains only with those who welcome him.

I have met individuals who seemed to want the name of Christian, not because they intended to be good ones during their lifetimes, but rather, so that they might be buried by the Church. Obviously, we

should all be followers of Christ for his honor and glory and for our own growth in spiritual life.

Besides receiving Christ, we should also be happy to share him with others, like the two disciples rushing back to Jerusalem to tell others what had happened.

The disciples at Jerusalem had also become aware that Jesus had risen, and shared this with the travelers from Emmaus. In the same way, the experiences we have had with the Lord form powerful bonds between us — bonds of faith, love and a common goal.

*Lord Jesus, thank you for the many times you have walked with us on the road. Help us to grow ever closer to you and to each other through the words and sacraments you have given us. Grant that, before this world comes to an end, all men may come to share the blessings we have received. Amen.*

## CDA court celebrates 50 years

BAY CITY -- Catholic Daughters of the Americas, Court Resurrection #2054 celebrated their 50th anniversary April 21 at Bay City's historic El Zarape restaurant.

The court hosted a meal for members and spouses. Margaret Hicks, Mary Ann McKinney and Dorothy Stavena are charter members who attended. They and Dorothy Saha received 50-year pins.

Julie Estlinbaum, Camille Green, Alice Hagaman, Wilma McDonald and Robbie Scheel received 25-year pins. The Rev. Stephen Vacek's friend and colleague, the Rev. Bob Penhallurick, was a special guest. Pictured, from left, are, back row, Worthy Regent Barbara Carnley, Recording Secretary Claire Kucera, and Father Vacek; front, Margaret Hicks, financial secretary; and Karen Owens, treasurer. (Contributed Photo)



## Priests celebrated, new assignments announced during Chrism Mass

Continued from pg. 2

- The Rev. Michael Odartey Lamptey is appointed parochial vicar at Sts. Cyril and Methodius in Shiner.
- The Rev. Jonas Kuubeta is appointed parochial vicar at Holy Family in Victoria.
- And the Rev. Anthony Augustine Owusu Peprah is appointed parochial vicar at St. Robert Bellarmine in El Campo.

Bishop Cahill included in his announcements two significant events for vocations in coming months -- the June 11 ordination to the diaconate of seminarians Luke Prihoda

and Ryan Kapavik, and the Aug. 6 profession of perpetual vows of Sister Rosario Resendez, IWBS.

During Chrism Mass, the bishop blesses the Oil of the Sick and the Oil of Catechumens for those preparing for baptism to strengthen them so they can resist evil in all its forms. The third oil, Holy Chrism, which is mixed with balsam oil as a perfume, is consecrated by the bishop and priests of the diocese. It is used during baptism, confirmation and ordinations. It is also used to anoint altars and churches when they are dedicated.



### Do you have a vocation to the priesthood or religious life?

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361-552-6140  
tchen@victoriadiocese.org

Father Kristopher Fuchs  
Associate Director of Vocations  
361-573-4328  
kfuchs@victoriadiocese.org





## A Sister can be mother to all God's children

About a year after I moved to Victoria to enter the convent, my younger sister became pregnant with her first child. We were all excited as this would be the first boy born in our family full of girls. I'm one of three girls and my older sister had three girls.

One day, while I was driving to work, my younger sister called me because she thought her water had broken. According to the movies I have seen, when a pregnant woman's water breaks she immediately goes into severe pain and the baby is born about 10 minutes later. My sister sounded pretty calm, so I kept asking her questions and she kept answering, both of us not knowing if her answers meant that her water had indeed broken.

Finally, I asked her if she called our mom and she replied that she hadn't. I then asked if she called our older sister and she replied that she called me first. My response to her was, "Cooky! She has three kids! I have zero! If anyone has experience in this field, it is her!"

Cooky is my younger sister's nickname. I demanded she hang up with me and call our sister immediately, and, because I didn't want to leave it up to chance, I called my older sister to tell her to call Cooky, just in case she was overtaken by pain. I still thought the baby would be coming pretty soon if her water had indeed broken. I was so dumbfounded that she called me first, because I didn't have any way of knowing what it felt like to go into labor. If she had a question about cats or guinea pigs, I might have been of some assistance, but not babies!

Every time I see my oldest nephew I remember this story and I'm sure to bring it up to my sister several times a year. This year, as Mother's Day approaches, this story got me thinking about two other women, both with no

### Finding Beauty in Mystery

By Sister Rosario Resendez, IWBS



experience of childbirth but who leaned on each other for support: our Blessed Mother and her cousin Elizabeth.

While at the dining room table one evening, one of the Sisters talked about how naturally Mary would have gone to Elizabeth after she had been visited by the angel Gabriel. After all, who else would understand that her pregnancy was special except someone else whose pregnancy was also special? So, although neither of them may have had any experience in giving birth or being pregnant, both of them experienced being touched by God in a special way.

There is something about shared experiences that draws us closer to one another. We continued our conversation at the table on why this may be the reason it's hard for some mothers to allow their daughters to enter the convent. Mothers tend to pass experiences, gifts and talents down to their daughters, forming a bond that will last a lifetime. It could be something as simple as sewing a button or making tamales. It could be teaching them how to play softball or volleyball to raising animals for the livestock show. It could be anything, but it is usually something that

was taught to her by her mother that she will teach to her daughter in hopes that one day her daughter will teach it to her granddaughter. Yet, if there are no grandchildren, how will that talent or gift be passed down? Will it die with the daughter in the convent?

I can honestly say no, it does not die in the convent. Since December, we have lost three Sisters at IWBS Convent. Each had her own special set of gifts. Each is missed terribly and each has left her mark on the hearts of many. Posting their funeral arrangements online, I always get messages on how that Sister touched someone's heart in a special way. How that one Sister may have taught someone how to do something that they still do today. The most beautiful messages are how that Sister brought someone closer to Christ.

We may not have children of our own, but that is because we choose to open our arms to accept all of God's children. We will have over seven billion "children." We will be able to pass along what has been taught to us. We also will be able to teach new things, start new traditions, share our gifts with those we encounter in our daily lives.

Mothers, do not be afraid to encourage your daughters to discern religious life.

Though we are called sisters, we are called to love like mothers. Speaking for myself, that "mama bear energy" is alive and well. We will protect those we love, and we exist to be the human embrace of God's love on earth. If we live as we should and love as we should, bringing all closer to Jesus, then we will be well deserving of the name our Spanish-speaking brothers and sisters give us -- Madre.

*"Acclaim her for the work of her hands, and let her deeds praise her at the city gates."-- Proverbs 31:31*

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# Like clay jars, we break and reveal treasures

Consider the setting.

It is Saturday night and we sit in a dark church awash in a sense of bereavement holding candles that have been smothered out. Christ has died. We sit in darkness.

Then we hear it. Someone cries out, “*Lumen Christi* (the Light of Christ!)” and repeats this a second and third time. The little candles of the faithful that had been blown out by the death of Christ are sparked to new life from the single flame of the Paschal candle, the “Christ candle,” now lighted as the symbol of His resurrection. The Paschal candle is incensed and then: the *Exsultet* -- the proclamation of Easter.

The *Exsultet* is also called the *Praeconium Paschale*. Paschale is an adjective of a Latinized Hebrew word pascha, for the Passover meal of the lamb. *Praeconium* is “a crying out in public; a proclaiming, spreading abroad, publishing.” In a Christian context, it suggests the “crying out” of the Good News and is simultaneously a profession of faith and a call to faith extended to all who hear.

The *Exsultet* is blend of poem, hymn and prayer, the text of which has been part of the Roman liturgy since the 9th century. It begins with the invitation to “Exult!” (“to rejoice” or “to be happy about” and proceeds as an account of the works of God in the Paschal Mystery and the history of salvation.

The constant refrain is that this is a blessed night when the realities of the heavenly and the earthly merge and become one.

## At Your Service

By Deacon Michael Tankersley



It closes with a humble petition that God the Father will accept our Paschal candle, our evening sacrifice of praise, and bring it as one of the lights of the heaven.

Chanting the *Exsultet* is a humbling privilege but a musical challenge for the cantor. It is a 12-minute song that strains both the lungs and vocal range. The musical text does not allow the cantor the luxury of resting long on a particular note for relief. Rather, its tones dip and dive through the musical scale like a butterfly searching for nectar. Because it plays such a central role in this most beautiful and significant of liturgies, cantors do not take their task casually. We don’t want to miss a breath mark and then need to stop mid-phrase for a gulp of air. We fear getting lost in the maze of musical notation or failing to connect the lyrics to the proper notes. But we do. Our voices sometimes crack and sometimes our breath runs out before we can complete a phrase with the proper gusto. I have heard of cantors having to stop for a sip of water to moisten their dry throats before being able to continue; sometimes we get off-key and mispronounce words.

A few years ago, I was determined to navigate the song perfectly and practiced to that end. However, I had not anticipated that the smoke of the incense, which billowed from the thurible swinging behind me at the ambo as I sung, would bring water to my

For what we preach is not ourselves, but Jesus Christ as Lord, and ourselves as your servants for Jesus’ sake. For God, who said, “Let light shine out of darkness,” made his light shine in our hearts to give us the light of the knowledge of God’s glory displayed in the face of Christ. But we have this treasure in jars of clay to show that this all-surpassing power is from God and not from us. We are hard pressed on every side, but not crushed; perplexed, but not in despair; persecuted, but not abandoned; struck down, but not destroyed. We always carry around in our body the death of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus may also be revealed in our body. For we who are alive are always being given over to death for Jesus’ sake, so that his life may also be revealed in our mortal body.

(2 Corinthians 4:6-11)

eyes and dryness to my throat. My dream of “perfection” turned into the reality of “satisfactory.” I had texted what had happened to a priest friend who replied, “Next year, spend more time reading 2 Corinthians 4.”

In that chapter, Paul proclaims the beauty of the gospel and leads up to the unsuspecting statement about Christians being the jars of clay that hold this treasure. The original audience would have been familiar with their variety of uses. From cooking utensils to toilets, from vessels for water and containers of food, jars of clay were part of everyday life during biblical times, but certainly less so today.

The average person probably had multiple jars of clay in the home. While they were strong in their versatility, they were also weak and fragile in their construct and prone to cracking and breaking easily. Paul’s reference to man as being a “jar of clay” carries meanings of significance for all children of God:

• **Jars of clay are created, molded, and shaped.** That is what God does with his people. He is the potter and we are the clay.

It is never the clay who decides what it will be or is able to turn itself into a masterpiece. The potter is the one who kneads, forms and shapes the clay into a vessel for his purposes.

• **Jars of clay are ordinary and used for a variety of purposes, as are we.** Paul writes in Romans 12: “We have different gifts, according to the grace given to each of us.” We all have been graced with gifts that allow the body of Christ on earth to live, none more “special” than another, but all complementary.

• **Jars of clay are often judged by us to be of value based on outward appearances** -- color or size, graphics or design. However, Paul reveals that ultimate value is not on the container, but the contained; that is, the message of the gospel above the messenger of the gospel. The amazing news of Jesus Christ is carried by ordinary, frail, and fragile messengers -- cracked jars, if you will.

• **Jars of clay crack and break, but when broken, what is contained is revealed.** God has placed His precious message in common, ordinary-looking human vessels who tire, whose voices crack and run out of breath. We are weak and far less than perfect, but the treasure within us is glorious, for the treasure of the power and glory of God is within us and not of us. This is what Paul is really focusing on, and this is where our hope as believers is to come from.

Paul wrote in 2 Corinthians 12, “And He has said to me, ‘My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.’ Most gladly, therefore, I will rather boast about my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may dwell in me.”

Let us join our cracked and weak voices in continuing to sing what we contain:

“LUMEN CHRISTI, CHRIST IS RISEN!”

*Pax tibi,*  
Deacon Michael



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Living Stations of the Cross

Each year during Lent, Catholics are encouraged to meditate on Jesus’ journey to the cross and death in a special way called the Stations of the Cross. Though the stations are usually meditated on with prayer and visuals such as statues, pictures or carvings, many times churches or schools will bring the stations to life in a re-enactment. Our Lady of Victory School students and Our Lady of the Gulf students were two groups who reenacted the harsh punishment and death of Jesus. OLV students portray Pontius Pilate condemning Jesus to death and Jesus falling. OLG students portray Jesus on the Cross and Mary holding Jesus after His death. *(Contributed Photos)*



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### And they're off!

VICTORIA — On April 5, after a dedication ceremony of the new playground at Nazareth Academy, the students were allowed to play on it for the first time. Most of them ran toward the playground equipment as if a starter pistol were fired for a race. Ralph Buentello, who is on the school advisory committee, was one of the main movers and shakers for the project and



spent endless hours building and painting. He awarded trophies created from the same pipes used to build the large equipment to those who deserved a lot of credit making the project come to life including, from left, Mike Radwanski, Dr. Sam Williams, Tristan Spradlin and Sister Ann Meletio, IWBS.



### Reading is rewarding

EL CAMPO — St. Philip Catholic School recently held its annual Read A Thon to benefit the school Endowment Fund. During a 15-day period, students read a total of 128,430 minutes and raised over \$36,000. Grades PK3-8 participated. Pictured above are top readers: Caroline Neiderhiser, PreK-3; Avionna Marek, PreK-4; Paige Bard and Cameron Reck; kindergarten; Destin Litton, first grade; Kyla Perez, second grade; Will bowers, third; Alli Koudela, fourth; Abigail Garrett, fifth; Cade Konarik, sixth; Abby Wallis, seventh; and Leonardo Perez, eighth. Top money makers, pictured below, were Wyatt Prasek, fourth; Pierson Prasek, fourth; Isabel Wiese, fifth; Evelyn Harris, fourth; Weston Williams, third; Allie Zalman, eighth; Case Janssen, kindergarten; Luke Dornak, seventh; Annie Aertker, fourth; Barrett Pratka, second; Denim Litton, PreK-3; and Benjamin Harris, PreK-4. (Contributed Photos)



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## Egg scramble

The kindergarten class at Our Lady of Victory School scattered across the lawn of the DOV chancery next door after their teachers placed Easter eggs for them to find. The little ones had some fun Easter parties before they left for the Easter holiday. (Janet Jones/The Catholic Lighthouse)



## Historic moment

BAY CITY — Holy Cross Catholic School fifth-graders participated in a Revolutionary War project recently. From left are, top row, Marcella Rodriguez, Bailey Cook, Hayden Strange, Westin Pound and Reese Fortenberry; and, bottom row, Kylee Orsak, April Lemus, Dhilan Patel and Michael (Kane) Spencer. (Contributed Photo)

## 36<sup>th</sup> Annual SHINER Catholic Church Spring PICNIC Sunday May 29, 2022

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## New principals named

St. Michael's Catholic School in Cuero and Nazareth Academy in Victoria will both have new principals for the 2022-23 school year.

Sandra Stepflug, who has served many years as assistant principal at Our Lady of Victory Catholic School in Victoria was chosen as the new principal for St. Michael's. Jennifer Saenz, who is the current principal, is retiring after this year. She announced her plan to retire prior to the 2021-22 school year, but stayed on for one more year to allow time for a new principal to be hired and prepared.

Leslie New, literary director for Nazareth Academy, will fill the position of principal for the coming year as Sister Evelyn Korenek retires. New is the first laywoman to serve as principal there and the first alumnus to do so.



Sister  
Evelyn  
Korenek



Sandra  
Stepflug

Sister Evelyn will be honored for her 26 years at NA, 21 of those as principal, at a come and go reception on May 11. The event will take place from 3:30 to 5 p.m. at the NA playroom. Pictured above is New on the right signing the contract for her new role. With her are Dr. John Quarry, superintendent of Catholic Schools for the Diocese of Victoria, and Sister Kathleen Goike, general superior at the Incarnate Word and Blessed Sacrament community in Victoria. (Janet Jones/The Catholic Lighthouse)





# Las comunidades religiosas traen un ‘poderoso regalo de esperanza’

Queridos hermanos y hermanas,

Hace unos años recibí una carta de dos Hermanas Carmelitas que estaban discerniendo un llamado a vivir sus votos en una tradición más antigua. Pertenecían a un monasterio en North Dakota y habían recibido permiso de su Madre Superiora para explorar la posibilidad de establecer una nueva comunidad carmelita siguiendo esta tradición más antigua.

Respondí a la carta y un día me encontré con Hermana María de la Divina Misericordia y Hermana María Ruth de la Eucaristía. Su viaje vino a unirse con nuestro viaje y ahora se están preparando para un nuevo paso con una mudanza a la Diócesis de Bridgeport en Connecticut. Mientras se preparan para esta nueva etapa, doy gracias a Dios por su guía paciente ya María nuestra Madre por su fiel intercesión por todos nosotros.

La Orden Carmelita remonta su fundación a finales del siglo XII. En ese momento, los peregrinos viajarían a Tierra Santa y algunos se establecerían alrededor del Monte Carmelo. Se comprometerían a una vida de penitencia y oración, y desarrollarían una devoción especial a la Santísima Madre María. Desde

## Mensaje del Pastor

By Obispo Brendan Cahill



sus orígenes en estas comunidades, la Orden Carmelitana se ha extendido por todos los continentes, y ahora cuenta con miembros que son sacerdotes, hermanas, hermanos y laicos.

Cuando conocí a la Hermana María ya la Hermana Mary Ruth, estaban buscando un hogar temporal. Los escuché y oré por guía. Recuerdo conducirlos por la diócesis y visitar algunos lugares posibles. Eventualmente discernimos la posibilidad de la rectoría en Sts. Pedro y Pablo en Meyersville. Desde el primer día de su mudanza a Meyersville, la gente y los sacerdotes de la parroquia han sido cálidos y acogedores.

Durante los últimos cinco años, a menudo he celebrado la Misa del Sábado por la mañana con las Hermanas en Meyersville. Les

he pedido que oren por nuestros sacerdotes, por nuestros Congresos del Rosario, por los enfermos, por los amigos que estaban de luto y por muchas otras intenciones especiales. Creo que su oración ha mejorado las cosas para todos nosotros, incluso en estos tiempos tan difíciles.

Extrañaré a las Hermanas cuando se muden a Bridgeport, pero de una manera más profunda, sé que siempre estarán con nosotros. La llamada especial de los carmelitas es al compromiso espiritual de contemplar a Dios en silencio durante todo el día. Para la persona llamada a esta vocación, el silencio conduce a una visión más clara del mundo espiritual. El obispo de la Diócesis de Bridgeport es amigo mío y sé que su área

experimentará el poder espiritual de la oración Carmelita. También sé que seguiremos experimentando el mismo poder, ya que nos recuerdan cada día en oración, y estoy seguro de que podemos enviar nuestras peticiones de oración a la nueva dirección en Bridgeport.

Nuestra diócesis está bendecida con las Hermanas del Verbo Encarnado y del Santísimo Sacramento, las Hermanas Dominicas de la Provincia del Inmaculado Corazón de María y las Misioneras Catequistas del Sagrado Corazón de Jesús y del Inmaculado Corazón de María. Cada una de estas comunidades tiene una historia interesante y un poderoso regalo de esperanza para nosotros.

En este mes en que honramos a nuestra Santísima Madre María, doy gracias a Dios por las mujeres que son testigos del amor y poder de Dios cada día en estas comunidades religiosas. Que Dios los bendiga a ustedes ya sus familias con la paz, el amor y la alegría del Espíritu Santo en estos días de Pascua; mantengámonos unos a otros en oración.

Mantengámonos unos a otros en oración.

+Brendan



El Obispo Brendan Cahill celebra la Misa Crismal con la mayoría de los sacerdotes de la Diócesis de Victoria concelebrando. (Janet Jones/The Catholic Lighthouse)

## Nuevas asignaciones anunciadas durante la Misa Crismal

Por JANET JONES

The Catholic Lighthouse

Durante su homilía en la Misa Crismal de este año, el obispo Brendan Cahill dijo que le han preguntado: “¿Por qué siempre estás tan feliz?” Su respuesta, dijo: “Porque puedo ver el bien cada día”.

Hablaba particularmente de los sacerdotes y religiosos de la Diócesis de Victoria. Habló sobre el amor que Jesús, “el Pastor”, tiene por sus ovejas y cómo los pastores de la diócesis aman a sus propios rebaños. “Y los sirves de

maneras hermosas cada día”, les dijo.

“Y la gente ama a nuestros pastores”, dijo.

Sacerdotes y diáconos de todas las parroquias de la diócesis asistieron a la misa crismal y renovaron las promesas sacerdotales que hicieron durante sus ordenaciones.

La asamblea de fieles en la iglesia pidió la bendición de Dios sobre los sacerdotes para mantenerlos fieles ministros de Cristo y que el obispo Cahill fuera fiel al oficio apostólico que se le confió.

Durante esta celebración del sacerdocio,

el obispo Cahill reconoció a los sacerdotes que celebran aniversarios especiales de sus ordenaciones este año, incluyendo:

- El reverendo Pat Knippenberg, 10 años
- El reverendo Gabriel Espinoza, el reverendo Michael Rother y el reverendo Eliecer Patiño, 15 años
- El reverendo Ty Bazaar, 20 años
- El reverendo Gabriel Oduro Tawiah, 25 años
- El reverendo Clement Quainoo, 40 años
- El Reverendísimo David Fellhauer, 57

años al sacerdocio y 32 años como obispo.

También anunció nuevas asignaciones que entrarán en vigencia el 1 de julio:

- El reverendo Kristopher Fuchs es nombrado director vocacional de la diócesis.
- El reverendo Charles Otsiwah es nombrado vicario episcopal para el clero de la diócesis.
- El reverendo Scott Hill es nombrado vice-oficial del tribunal diocesano.
- El reverendo James Dvorak es nombrado vicario parroquial del Sagrado Corazón en Hallettsville.
- El reverendo Chase Goodman es nombrado vicario parroquial en Santa Rosa de Lima en Schulenburg.

También hay cuatro sacerdotes que vienen a la diócesis desde Ghana este verano:

- El reverendo Samuel Kwabena Owusu es nombrado vicario parroquial en San Felipe Apóstol en El Campo.
- El reverendo Michael Odartey Lamptey es nombrado vicario parroquial en los santos Cirilo y Metodio en Shiner.
- El reverendo Jonas Kuubeta es nombrado vicario parroquial de la Sagrada Familia en Victoria.
- Y el reverendo Anthony Augustine Owu-

Ver Nuevas asignaciones la página 14





# ‘Father Stu’ a story worth watching

As I write this month’s column, I just finished seeing the movie “Father Stu.”

Now, I wouldn’t recommend watching it with children, because of some rough language and other aspects of the movie, but for adults, I think it’s a much-needed film. I think it’s a very important film for our faith. What I loved about it was the sheer humanity of the film.

In it, we learn about Stuart Long, a man who aspires to become a priest after living a once wayward life. We get to know about his family and their pains, as well as the personal struggles Stuart went through before finding peace in God.

It wasn’t a pretty story, but that’s the whole point. None of our stories are pretty.

In today’s world of social media, we think everyone has their lives completely under control and picture perfect, but we all struggle. This film, in my opinion, captures well the reality of being human while seeking God. By the end of the film, you will likely find yourself rooting for Father Stu and his family. In each of us is a story of redemption as well, if we give God the opportunity.

I think our world needs more films like

## On the Table

By Justin Reyes



this, films that remind us of our humanity as we seek God. We aren’t perfect, but God is. He is so perfect that He came to redeem us, even when we didn’t want His redemption. Even when we rejected Him, He still walked the road to Calvary. And our hearts are restless until they rest in Him, as St. Thomas Aquinas says.

Don’t be ashamed of your humanity, but offer it to God. Let Him transform it. That’s exactly what Stuart Long does in the movie, and, boy, is it a wild ride. We see him go from reckless boxer, to wayward actor, to hopeful seminarian, to ... well, I won’t ruin the ending for you. Just trust me, and go see it. But also trust me in that it’s only for mature audiences, especially given its R rating.

What would our life look like if it was a movie? Would we let people see the ugly



Mark Wahlberg stars in a scene from the movie “Father Stu.” The Catholic News Service classification is A-III — adults. The Motion Picture Association rating is R — restricted.

(CNS photo/Sony Pictures)

parts, or only the highlights? If we aren’t vulnerable in sharing the ugly parts, we can’t give other people much hope. They need to know that we were lost without God, too, and even still struggle to follow Him, even though we are trying our best. People need to know that we are real people, too, if we want to help them follow Jesus.

I encourage you in this Easter season to let people see your wounds, like Jesus allowed for St. Thomas. It was in those wounds that St. Thomas found faith, and in our wounds people can see how God transforms

our brokenness. If we only show them our “perfect” side, they don’t even know half of the story. Don’t be afraid to let people know where you’ve been, so you can help them see where you’re trying to go — heaven.

May God bless you and your loved ones this Easter season. Through God’s grace, we can all have redemption stories like “Father Stu.”

• Justin Reyes is the Director of Family Evangelization for the Diocese of Victoria in Texas. He can be reached at 361-573-0828, Ext, 2265 or jreyes@victoriadiocese.org.

## Inspirational Summer Reflection!

### St. Mary’s Altar Society Retreat

### Vocations for All Ages



**Tuesday - May 10, 2022 - 9:00 a.m.**  
**Dynamic Speakers, Mass, & Lunch**

Registration - 8:30 a.m.

St. Mary’s Parish Hall  
401 S. Liberty St. - Victoria, TX

**Reservations, Gratis-Free ☺**

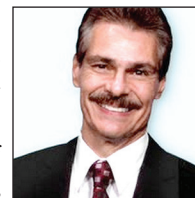
Virginia B. — 361-550-3053

Pattie S. — 361-894-2381

## Called to Community

By JANET JONES  
The Catholic Lighthouse

No matter a person’s state in their life, there is an innate need to be part of a community — a family, according to Justin Reyes, director of Family Evangelization for the Diocese of Victoria. And church, he said, is one place that will always be a gathering place for all ages and stages of life.



Dr. Ray Guarendi

After participating in the “Surviving Divorce” program, some of the members of the Catholic support group for divorced people suggested bringing Dr. Ray Guarendi, one of the experts who provide content for the program, to the Diocese of Victoria.

On May 7, Guarendi will speak at Our Lady of Sorrows in Victoria from 9 a.m. to noon. The event, “Called to Community,” is free and open to everyone. A free-will offering will be accepted and part of the offering will be given to help families from the war-torn Ukraine.

Reyes said leaders of the divorce sup-

port group thought Guarendi, a well-known psychologist, author and speaker, had a lot to offer everyone — regardless of marital status or stage of life.

“He’s humorous, down to earth, very practical and honest,” Reyes said. “He’s just what families need to hear,” Reyes said.

Guarendi, father of 10 grown children, has written about parenting, grandparenting, conquering anger, marriage and more. He also has radio and television programs and is a well-known speaker.

Sheila Martinka, one of the leaders of the diocese divorce support group, said the group is taking a break from the formal program until the fall, but wanted to do something in the meantime. Because they enjoyed Dr. Guarendi’s talks in the “Surviving Divorce” course so much, they were excited about bringing him to the diocese for everyone.

“He makes you laugh and makes you think a lot, too,” she said.

Martinka said his insights are relevant for people who are divorced, newly married or even married for 70 years.

“We’re excited to bring him here, and I hope the community takes advantage,” she said.





# Safe Environment

## Reporting Procedures for Suspected or Known Sexual Abuse of a Minor (person under 18 years of age) or Vulnerable Adult by a Member of the Clergy

**Contact:**

- The Texas Department of Family and Protective Services, within **48 hours**, at (800) 252-5400, [www.txabusehotline.org](http://www.txabusehotline.org), or local police department. **If person is in immediate danger call 911.**

and

- Shannon Thomas, LMSW, Coordinator of Pastoral Care and Outreach, Diocese of Victoria, (361) 827-7186, [pastoralcare@victoriadiocese.org](mailto:pastoralcare@victoriadiocese.org).

or

- Bishop or Chancellor of the Diocese of Victoria, (361) 573-0828  
Written allegations can be mailed to  
Office of the Bishop  
P.O. Box 4070  
Victoria, TX 77903  
marked “Personal and Confidential”

If sexual abuse by a member of clergy has occurred in another diocese, the Diocese of Victoria will help bring your concerns to church officials. For assistance contact Vicki Pyatt at (361) 827-7186 or [pastoralcare@victoriadiocese.org](mailto:pastoralcare@victoriadiocese.org).



*St. Isidore, patron saint of farmers*

## A Prayer to Saint Isidore, Patron of Country People

*St. Isidore, patron saint of farmers, was himself a farm born in the city of Madrid, Spain, about the year 1110; His chief appeal is to those who, as he did, work the land. But his good qualities-whole-hearted trust in God, his enthusiasm and vigor in doing his job, his spirit of prayer and devotion to religious practice-these can profitably be admired and imitated by all laboring men, just as his wife Maria, can serve as a model for working men's wives. His feast day is celebrated throughout the United States on May 15.*

GOOD Saint, we are told that your devotion to the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass was so great that you would rise before it was light in order to be able to attend Mass before beginning your work in the fields. Obtain for us, we pray you, some of that loving devotion to the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass. There it is that the fruits of our farm labor, bread and wine, are brought and offered to God by the priest. Then, in the consecration, Christ Himself, Body and Blood, Soul and Divinity, becomes present on our altars under the appearances of this same bread and wine. And in what was the altar bread. He comes to us to be the very food of our souls. If we deeply realize the value and beauty of Holy Mass, we will be very happy to attend as often as we possibly can.

Help us to understand that in the Mass we offer ourselves to God with Christ by the hands of the priest. There we can bring to God all that we do, and offer it to Him in union with His Holy Sacrifice. The oftener we do this now, the happier we shall be hereafter. Good Saint Isidore, bless us and our labors, that we may some day reap the reward of good works with you in heaven. Amen.

## Sunday Readings from May 8 - June 14

May 8 ~ Fourth Sunday of Easter  
Acts 13:14, 43-52  
Psalms 100:1-2, 3, 5  
Revelation 7:9, 14b-17  
John 10:27-30

May 15 ~ Fifth Sunday of Easter  
Acts 14:21-27  
Psalms 145:8-9, 10-11, 12-13  
Revelation 21:1-5a  
John 13:31-33a, 34-35

May 22 ~ Sixth Sunday of Easter  
Acts 15:1-2, 22-29  
Psalms 67:2-3, 5, 6, 8  
Revelation 21:10-14, 22-23  
John 14:23-29

May 29 ~ The Ascension of the Lord  
Acts 1:1-11  
Psalms 47:2-3, 6-7, 8-9  
Ephesians 1:17-23  
Luke 24:46-53

June 5 ~ Pentecost Sunday  
Mass during the Day  
Acts 2:1-11  
Psalms 104:1, 24, 29-30, 31, 34  
1 Corinthians 12:3b-7, 12-13  
John 20:19-23

June 14 ~ The Solemnity  
of the Most Holy Trinity  
Proverbs 8:22-31  
Psalms 8:4-5, 6-7, 8-9  
Romans 5:1-5  
John 16:12-15

For daily and Sunday readings, as well as a daily reflection video, visit  
[www.usccb.org/bible/readings](http://www.usccb.org/bible/readings).

Brought to you by: Catholic Communications Campaign



## Nuevas asignaciones anunciadas durante la Misa Crismal

*Continuación de la página 12*

su Peprah es nombrado vicario parroquial de San Roberto Belarmino en El Campo.

El obispo Cahill incluyó en sus anuncios dos eventos significativos para las vocaciones en los próximos meses: la ordenación del 11 de junio al diaconado de los seminaristas Luke Prihoda y Ryan Kapavik, y la profesión del 6 de agosto de votos perpetuos de la hermana Rosario Resendez, IWBS.

Durante la Misa Crismal, el obispo bendice el Aceite de los Enfermos y el Aceite

de los Catecúmenos para aquellos que se preparan para el bautismo para fortalecerlos para que puedan resistir el mal en todas sus formas. El tercer aceite, el Santo Crisma, que se mezcla con aceite de bálsamo como perfume, es consagrado por el obispo y los sacerdotes de la diócesis. Se utiliza durante los bautismos, confirmaciones y ordenaciones. También se utiliza para ungir altares e iglesias cuando están dedicados.

## Are you invested properly? Get a second opinion.



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## Gift for seminarians

Joyce Kurtz, state director for KJZT Family Life, presents Bishop Brendan Cahill with a \$1,389.58 check from the KJZT Clerical Endowment Fund of KJZT Family Life. The funds will help support the education of men studying for the priesthood in the Diocese of Victoria. (Janet Jones/The Catholic Lighthouse)

## CD or IRA Maturing?

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## Presidio La Bahia



### Wayback Every Wednesday in June & July

**10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.**

The history of Presidio La Bahia is brought to life.

Are you looking for something special to do during summer vacation? If so, plan a trip to Presidio La Bahia and get in on Wayback Wednesdays!

Visit with living historians as they bring the past to life and explore little known stories from the Presidio's early days. Learn about the daily life of a presidial trooper stationed on the frontier of Spanish Texas. Explore the stone walls and battlements of the old presidio and when you're done there, duck inside for a look at our museum and the wonderful collection of artifacts from the 1700 and 1800s. It's fun for the whole family so come on out and spend the day at Texas's only fully restored Spanish Presidio!

*Dress for the weather as this event takes place out of doors.*

All events subject to change. Please monitor their Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/PresidioLaBahia> for more up to date information or call 361-645-3752.

*Open daily 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Admission is \$5 for adults, \$4.50 for seniors, \$3.50 for military personnel, \$2 for children 6-11, and under 6 are free.*

*Group rates available when reservations are made in advance.*

*Guided tours available to large groups and schools. Please confirm in advance.*

*The fort is handicapped accessible. For more information, call 361-645-3752.*

## Spiritual Renewal Center

The Spiritual Renewal Center (SRC) is located on approximately 40 acres nestled along the banks of the San Antonio River and about a 25-minute drive from Victoria.

The SRS is open for small or large group which can be a one-day or over night with a kitchen staff to provide meals. There is also an open pavilion for outdoor activities. Handicap accessible.

For more information or to reserve the SRC contact Matthew Boyle, director, by email [src@victoriadiocese.org](mailto:src@victoriadiocese.org) or at 361-572-0836.

# New programs to help build holy families

By JANET JONES

*The Catholic Lighthouse*

A series of date nights for couples in the Diocese of Victoria is one of the new things the Office of Family Evangelization is going to try this year, according to Justin Reyes, director of the office.

Reyes said his goal is to engage about 100 couples altogether and provide a wonderful experience of a date with childcare while helping them enrich their relationship with the church and each other.

The Scanlan Foundation of Houston has underwritten this and several other incentives Reyes and Aldo Camacho, Hispanic Ministry coordinator, have been working to accomplish. In total the office received \$35,000 to meet some important goals of theirs.

"They (the foundation) are letting us be experimental, so we can figure out what works," said Reyes.

Aldo Camacho, Hispanic Ministry Coordinator for the office, said some of the funds are set aside to help the Diocese of Victoria host its first-ever Spanish-language conference on Sept. 24. Among the speakers planned are Bishop Brendan Cahill and Sister Normal Pimental, who gained some fame by being on *Time* magazine's list of 100 most influential people in 2020. She is the executive director of Catholic Charities of the Rio Grande Valley and has been working with immigrants for many years.

Camacho said the office is also planning an Engaged Encounter retreat in June for Spanish speakers which will also serve as a hands-on learning experience for the newly installed Hispanic Leadership Team.

The grant also will help provide funds for the Hispanic Leadership Team to attend formation conferences.

Other funds will be used to provide scholarships for people who want to enroll in leadership formation courses to be Missionaries to the Families.

Larry Massey Jr., Scanlan Foundation president, said the organization is always looking for new ministries that make a difference. Out of the 95 grant requests reviewed this year, he said, the Office of Family Evangelization's request was one that rose to the top. "We loved all of what we heard," he said. "It fit in our new strategic plans to build holy families."



## Bishop Gary Janak earns UHV Distinguished Alumni Award

By JANET JONES  
The Catholic Lighthouse

VICTORIA — The Most Rev. Gary Janak received the 2022 Distinguished Alumni Award from the University of Houston-Victoria at the annual alumni banquet April 22.

According to UHV president, Robert Glenn, the award goes to a person who represents the ideals and values of their alma mater.

“Bishop Gary has been a shining example of a UHV alumnus who contributes to the community he calls home,” he said.

Bishop Janak received his master of arts in counseling in 1997 from UHV while he was pastor of St. Joseph Catholic Church in Yoakum. He was moved to pursue this degree after seeing the great need for professional counseling among his parishioners and others.

He established the Emmaus Center for Counseling in the Catholic Tradition and served as the center’s executive director while also serving as pastor of Our Lady of Victory Parish in Victoria and chancellor for the Diocese of Victoria. In February of 2021, Pope Francis chose him to be auxiliary bishop in the Archdiocese of San Antonio where he now serves.

“Thank you for this recognition. Though undeserving of this honor, I humbly accept it, and I do so only acknowledging those who share it with me,” Bishop Janak said

after receiving the award. “This includes my parents.”

Bishop Janak said he and his three siblings were given an appreciation for education by his mother, a high school graduate, and father, who completed school after eighth grade.

“Education changed my family tree,” he said. “All four of us received a college degree and were the first generation in our family to do so.”

He also gave much credit to his teachers at UHV for his success, because they helped him navigate through a demanding schedule. “They gave of themselves. They did their best to meet our time schedules.

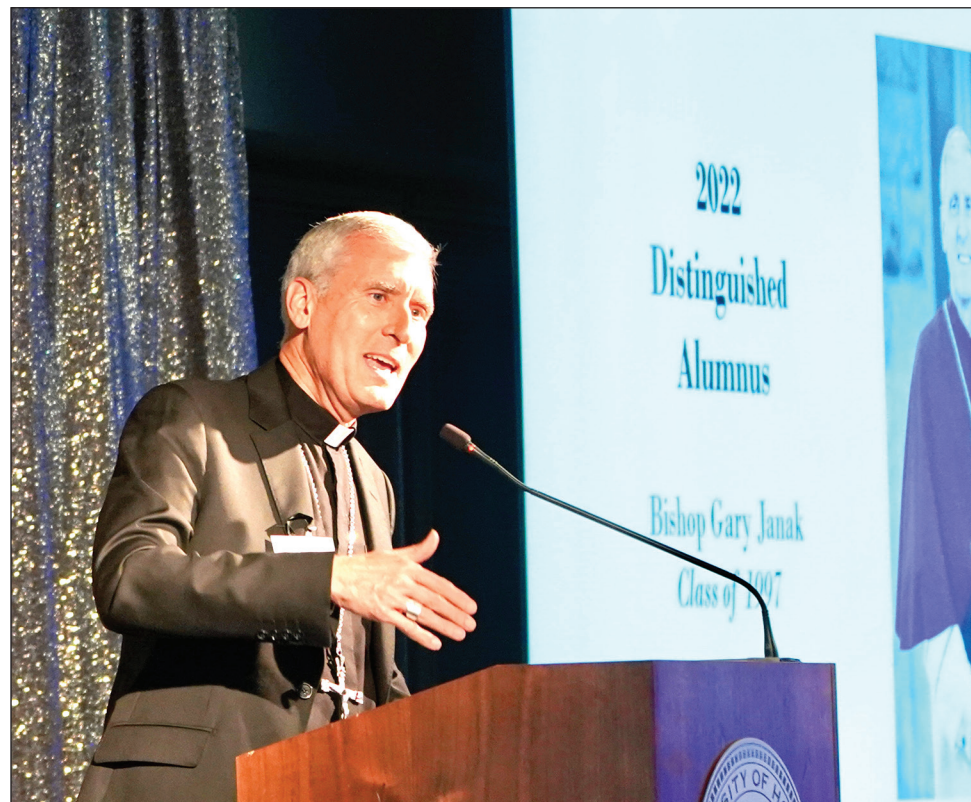
They share this recognition with me.”

Bishop Janak also shared the honor with everyone who supports UHV. “Every business leader and generous donor, both living and deceased, who had a vision — a vision of a university in the Victoria area to provide accredited education and training to those who perhaps never would have the opportunity to further their education and, in turn, change their family trees: In one way or another, each one of you share it with me.”

The university also presented its Young Alumni of the Year award to Loveth Ohenhen, a 2018 graduate with a master’s degree in Computer Science Information Systems. Today, she’s a systems engineer for Dell Technologies in Atlanta.

**“Education changed my family tree. All four of us received a college degree and were the first generation in our family to do so.”**

**Bishop Janak**



The Most Rev. Gary Janak, auxiliary bishop of the Archdiocese of San Antonio accepts the Distinguished Alumni Award from the University of Houston-Victoria where he completed his master’s degree in counseling. (Janet Jones/The Catholic Lighthouse)



### KCs support food pantry

PORT LAVACA -- The Knights of Columbus Council 3253 gave \$750 to the Calhoun County Food Pantry recently. From left are Grand Knight Lupe Aviles; Miles Thompson, financial secretary; Luis DeLaGarza, recorder; and Cristal Freudensprung, food pantry director. (Contributed Photo)

## Journeys of Faith

with Ceci

presents these great upcoming pilgrimages in 2022!

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with Bishop Brendan J. Cahill

10 Days  
August 21-30, 2022



#### Places You Will See

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- Naples
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\$3,895

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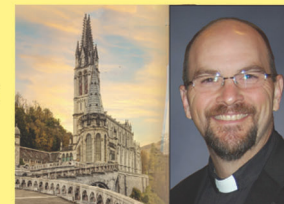
July  
20-30

Germany, Austria, Switzerland  
Pilgrimage with the Passion Play in Oberammergau with Father Kristopher Fuchs



A Marian Pilgrimage to Paris, Lourdes & Fatima with Father Michael Rother

October 3 - 14



Information and online fliers are found at [www.selectinternationaltours.com](http://www.selectinternationaltours.com) or contact Ceci Triska at [ceci.triska@gmail.com](mailto:ceci.triska@gmail.com)





## KCs give to help Ukraine

PORT LAVACA – The Knights of Columbus, Our Lady of the Gulf Council #3253 donated \$1,000 to the Ukraine Solidarity Fund. Pictured, from left, are Grand Knight Lupe Aviles, Tracey Hefley, Miles Thompson, Vern Lyssy, Paul Warren and the Rev. Tommy Chen.



## A Church That Listens

### The 2022 Diocesan Services Appeal (DSA)

Each parish has a goal amount to raise for the DSA to help support various programs and resources for the Diocese of Victoria.

Visit [www.victoriadiocese.org/DSA-2022](http://www.victoriadiocese.org/DSA-2022) to learn how your dollars help others.

You can mail your donation to:  
DSA, PO Box 4070, Victoria TX 77903



## Priests' Study Day

The priests of the Diocese of Victoria spent April 27 together for a day of continuing education. Dr. Ken Buckle of Gratia Plena Counseling in Stafford is presenting on issues related to mental health. (Contributed Photo)

## Sacred Heart Parish Spring 2022 Picnic

*Celebrating the Church's 140<sup>th</sup> Anniversary*

*Sunday, May 29, 2022*

*Hallettsville*

*At the K.C. Hall in Hallettsville, Texas*

**DINNER: SERVING FROM 10:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.**

**Dining in the KC Hall**

**Drive thru Plates-to-Go: 10:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.**

**Country Fried Chicken, Stew, Homemade  
Cornbread Dressing with all the trimmings!**

**Dinner Tickets: \$12**

Short Memorial at 1:00 p.m. given by Rev. Msgr. John Peters

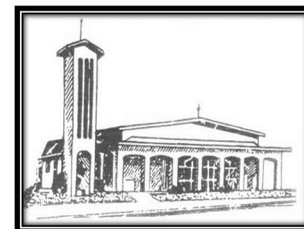
Inside the air-conditioned KC Hall

Cake Walk

Country Store

Religious Articles Booth

Bingo (Noon to 6:00 p.m.)



Washer Pitching Tournament  
Begins at 5:00 p.m.

Delicious Hamburgers, French  
Fries, Nachos, Popcorn, Funnel  
Cakes, Snow Cones, Lemonade &  
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## Auction sale at 1:00 pm

**Cattle, Quilts, Antiques, Homemade Canned Goods, Noodles, Vegetables, Outdoor Furniture & more**

### "20 GRAND GIVEAWAY"

(In Place of Polaris Ranger Raffle)

**Top Prize \$10,000 Gift Card**

**To be given away at Fall Parish Picnic**

**Sunday, September 4, 2022**

### --AUCTION & ACTIVITIES UNDER THE PAVILION--

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37 Cash Certificate Prizes valued at \$9,700 to be given away after Auction.



Texas Sound Czech

**Music on the Main Pavilion**

Kovanda Czech Band – 11:00 am-1:00 pm

Free Dance on the Polka Pavilion/Biergarten

Texas Sound Czech & Red Ravens

1:00 p.m.-7:00 p.m.



Red Raven

**EVERYBODY WELCOME! FUN FOR ALL AGES!**





### Looking at religious life

On March 5, 17 young ladies and their families from Saint Robert Bellarmine in El Campo visited the Dominican Sisters of Mary, Mother of the Eucharist, in Georgetown. They toured the priory, and saw the Sisters' humble way of life and the intense dedication that it demands. Two of the Sisters shared their vocation stories, and the Sisters made crafts and played games in the gym with them. The day concluded with participation in their Holy Hour with evening prayer and the Rosary. On May 8, World Day of Prayer for Vocations, also known as Good Shepherd Sunday, will be observed. The purpose of this day is to publicly fulfill the Lord's instruction to, "Pray the Lord of the harvest to send laborers into his harvest" (Matthew 9:38; Luke 10:2). The faithful are asked to pray that young men and women hear and respond generously to the Lord's call to the priesthood, diaconate, religious life, societies of apostolic life or secular institutes. Resources for promoting vocations can be found on the USCCB website. *(Contributed Photo)*

## Carmelites prepare for a move to Connecticut

MEYERSVILLE -- The Carmelites of Mary Ever Virgin have been serving the Diocese of Victoria through a hidden life of prayer and sacrifice in the green pastures of Meyersville since February of 2018. But the Good Shepherd has beckoned the Sisters to follow an unforeseen path, leading them to labor in another vineyard.

On July 6, Sister Maria of Divine Mercy, O.Carm., and Sister Mary Ruth of the Eucharist, O.Carm., will depart for the Diocese of Bridgeport in Connecticut where they will continue their life of "Love in the heart of the Church."

Sister Maria said a variety of circumstances have led to the decision as the best path to growing the community as agreed upon by their superiors.

Bishop Brendan Cahill, who is a longtime friend of Bishop Frank Caggiano of the Diocese of Bridgeport, said it was a "movement of the Holy Spirit." Bishop Caggiano's diocese, according to Bishop Cahill, is in need of the charism the Carmelites of Mary Ever Virgin will bring. Not only that, the Connecticut diocese is prepared to provide the kind of facilities the Sisters need to continue to grow their community.

Though the Carmelites have found great peace in surrendering their lives to follow the Lord's call, they say they cannot but feel the sadness in parting from the diocese they have come to love deeply.

Sister Maria assures all the faithful that there is no distance in Christ and that the spiritual bond will not be broken.

"Our love for the good people of this diocese and the priests will never diminish. We carry them always in our prayers with great gratitude. We especially thank Bishop Cahill and the pastors and parishioners of Sts. Peter and Paul Church for making these past four years possible."

Bishop Brendan Cahill will celebrate a Mass of Thanksgiving on the feast of the Immaculate Heart of Mary, and the Sisters will be giving thanks to God for the many graces and blessings received during their stay in the diocese. The Mass will be at 10 a.m. June 25 at Sts. Peter and Paul Church in Meyersville. Everyone is invited to attend.

"Though our time here is ending in a way that we had not intended or expected," Sister Maria said, "God does not do things for no reason. Our time in Meyersville was all in His Divine plans, for His Divine reasons, though we

could not foresee how things would develop, and perhaps still do not fully understand. His will for us in the Victoria Diocese has been accomplished, and we trustingly follow the Good Shepherd as He leads us forward, wherever that may be."

When the Sisters leave the diocese, their first step will be to stay with another community of Sisters in New England while renovations on their new monastery are completed.

You can follow their journey at [www.MaryEverVirgin.org](http://www.MaryEverVirgin.org). The Sisters will continue to welcome prayer requests from Texas, they said.

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- \*SILENT AUCTION\*
- \*COUNTRY STORE\*

**AUCTION STARTS AT 12:15 P.M. INSIDE HALL**

**SUNDAY  
MAY 22, 2022**

**Roast Beef, Gravy, Potatoes,  
& Green Beans**  
---- Tickets \$12.00 ----  
Serving from 11:00 A.M. – 1:00 P.M.  
Dining On-Site or Drive Thru for Plates To-Go



Sister Mary Ruth of the Eucharist, O.Carm., and Sister Maria of Divine Mercy, O.Carm. *(File Photo)*





## Meals • Picnics and More

## May

**Frelsburg** – Sts. Peter and Paul Festival, May 8, Featuring fried fish, bingo, silent auction, games, raffle, live auction and more.

**Victoria** – Our Lady of Lourdes will host a Healing Mission, Monday-Wednesday, May 9-11. All sessions will begin at 7 p.m. The presenter is Paul Rymniak, who will speak at the weekend Masses prior to the event. All are welcome. For information, call 361-575-3813.

**Victoria** – Inspirational Summer Reflection, St. Mary's Altar Society Retreat, Wednesday, May 10, 9 a.m. Free. For reservations, call Virginia, 361-550-3053, or Pattie, 361-894-2381. See ad on pg. 13

**Cuero** – St. Michael Annual Parish Spring Festival on May 22, on the parish grounds. A roast beef dinner with all the trimmings will be served from 11 a.m. until 1 p.m. Dining on-site or drive-thru for plates to-go. Meal tickets are \$12. See ad on pg. 18.

**Hallettsville** – Sacred Heart Parish Picnic, May 29 at the KC Hall. For more information, see ad on pg. 17.

**Shiner** – Sts. Cyril and Methodius Picnic, May 29 at the KC Park. For more information, see ad on pg. 11.

## June

**Port Lavaca** – Our Lady of the Gulf Catholic Daughters, Court 2267 Annual Games Party, June 5, 1-4:30 p.m., St. Jude's Hall, 300 W. Austin St. Admission is \$8 per person. Raffle, silent auction, door prizes and refreshments. For information or to reserve a table, call Cynthia Escalera, 361-920-2430; Nancy Thompson, 361-212-5838; or Doris Winter, 361-920-2583.

**East Bernard** – Annual Czech Kolache Klobase Festival, June 11, 10:30 a.m.-8 p.m. at Riverside Hall. Sponsored by KJT Society No. 40. Admission is \$8 per person (covers parking and all events); children 12 and under are free. Entertainment indoors and under pavilion with water fan-cooled comfort. Sausage/barbecued chicken plate lunches available for purchase beginning 11 a.m. Hamburgers/sausage sandwiches available after noon. Arts/crafts, cakewalk, kolache eating contest and silent auction. For information, go to [www.kkfest.com](http://www.kkfest.com) or call 979-335-7907.

**St. Mary** – St. Mary's Picnic June 12 at the parish hall (1648 FM 340 just outside of Hallettsville). Mass will be celebrated at 9:15 a.m. A stew and sausage dinner begins at 10:30 a.m. Auction, bingo, cake and plant walk, country store, children's games and more. Live music from 10:30 a.m. to 9 p.m.

**Schulenburg** – St. Rose of Lima Annual Parish Picnic, June 12 at the KC Hall. A fried chicken and sausage dinner will be served starting at 11 a.m. Games, music and more throughout the day.

**Ammansville** – St. John the Baptist (FM 1383) Fathers Day Picnic, June 19. A fried chicken and sausage dinner will be served. Entertainment throughout the day.

**Plum** – Sts. Peter and Paul Plum Feast, June 26. Serving sausage and fried chicken from 11 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Auction starts at 1:30 p.m.; music during the day. There will be a free dance from 6 to 9:30 p.m.

## Ministries • Ongoing Activities

**ACTS Retreats** – Anyone needing any information regarding ACTS retreats in the diocese should e-mail [dovactschapter@victoriadiocese.org](mailto:dovactschapter@victoriadiocese.org).

**Catholic Family Services** – To find Catholic organizations that focus on family, visit the Catholic Association of Catholic Family Life Ministers at <http://www.nacflm.org>.

**Courage** – Ministers to persons with same-sex attractions and their loved ones. The ministry also has an outreach, EnCourage, which ministers to relatives, spouses, and friends of persons with same-sex attractions. It is a Roman Catholic Apostolate endorsed by the Pontifical Council for the Family. For information, visit <http://www.couragerc.net>.

**Crisis Pregnancy Center of Victoria** – A sister organization to the Gabriel Project staffed by volunteers that offers help to girls and women who find themselves in a difficult situation due to an unplanned pregnancy. Office located at 1501 E. Red River, is open 1-4 p.m. on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays. Free pregnancy tests offered and medical referrals are made for prenatal care. New volunteers are welcome. For information call 361-575-6171.

## Mission Trip Planned

The next mission trip to Las Obras in Antigua, Guatemala, will take place July 10-17. The late Father Dan Morales led many mission trips to the orphanage and an endowment in his name was created to help support Las Obras. More information will be coming soon about how to register for the trip. For more information about the mission, visit <https://frdanendowment.org>.



Father Dan Morales

## Pilgrimages

**God's Embrace Ministries (GEM)** is hosting its first Marian Pilgrimage this fall from Sept. 26-Oct. 5. GEM has partnered with 206 tours for this 9 day pilgrimage to Fatima, Lourdes and Spain. Mary plays a significant role in the life of every disciple and is always pointing the faithful toward her son, Jesus. In January 2023 GEM will be making its 2nd pilgrimage to the Holy Land. Register for either of these trips by visiting [www.godsembrace.org](http://www.godsembrace.org) and clicking on the Experiences tab or calling the God's Embrace Ministries office at 979-561-883 to have a staff member help complete registration.

**Journeys of Faith with Ceci** has an upcoming pilgrimages to Rome and the Shrine of Our Lady of Pompeii Aug. 21-30 and a Marian pilgrimage to Paris, Lourdes and Fatima in October. For more information see ad on pg. 16.

Do you have any calendar of events  
for the Lighthouse?

Submit to  
[lighthouse@victoriadiocese.org](mailto:lighthouse@victoriadiocese.org)

**Emmaus Center** – Offers individual, couple, family, adolescent and children's counseling, as well as specialized support groups. Spiritual direction is also available if requested. To make an appointment, call 361-212-0830.

**Engaged Encounter** – 2022 Dates: June 3-5; Sept. 16-18; Nov. 11-13. Registration is on a first-come, first-served basis. Fee must accompany registration form. For information, call 361-573-0828 or visit <http://www.victoriadiocese.org>.

**Gabriel Project of the Crossroads** – Our mission is to protect the unborn by providing spiritual and emotional support as well as supplies for the pregnant mother and her baby. We provide housing through the Bethlehem Maternity Home. and have an outreach ministry that visits pregnant women in our community. Our services cover Victoria, Calhoun, Colorado, DeWitt, Fayette, Goliad, Jackson, Lavaca, Matagorda and Wharton. For more information, please contact our helpline at 361-576-1156.

**i.d.9:16 Ministry** – For adults in their 20s and 30s, single or married. Held at Holy Family in Victoria every first Thursday of the month. Starts with 6 p.m. Mass followed by dinner and a talk live streamed from the headquarters in Michigan and fellowship. It is open to all young adults of the diocese. For information, or to RSVP for events, e-mail [id916victoria@gmail.com](mailto:id916victoria@gmail.com).

**Incarnate Word Prayer Group** – Praise and worship 7:30-9 p.m. Mondays in the auditorium at Incarnate Word Convent, 1101 N.E. Water St. For information, contact Sister Louise Marie Jones at 361-575-7111 or e-mail [amormeus@yahoo.com](mailto:amormeus@yahoo.com).

**Mothers of Grace** – A mothers' group at the Cathedral of Our Lady of Victory. For information, contact Leslie Book at [book.leslie@gmail.com](mailto:book.leslie@gmail.com) or visit their Facebook page at [www.facebook.com/Mothersofgraceolv/](http://www.facebook.com/Mothersofgraceolv/).

**Natural Family Planning** – NFP is the only church-approved form of family planning. For the CREIGTON MODEL Fertility Care System (CrMS) featuring NaPro TECHNOLOGY™ contact Susanne Koch in Wharton at 505-710-0903 or [mailto:susannekoch614@gmail.com](mailto:mailto:susannekoch614@gmail.com). Also in the Cuero area contact, Ashley Rodriguez at 361-293-0700 or e-mail [ashleyfay09@gmail.com](mailto:ashleyfay09@gmail.com).

**Raphael's Refuge** – To build and maintain a memorial in honor of babies, born and unborn. It is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization located in Flatonia. Peer counseling and spiritual direction are available for those suffering a loss of a baby due to miscarriage, stillbirth, infant death or abortion. For information, contact Midge Elam at 361-865-3021, 361-258-1514, or visit <http://www.raphaelsrefuge.org>.

**Retrouvaille** – Retrouvaille, meaning "rediscovery," is a marriage-healing ministry offered in the diocese to couples in difficult marriages. Contact John and Jennifer Vincent at [jbvjov@sbcglobal.net](mailto:jbvjov@sbcglobal.net) or 361-580-2770; or call 800-470-2230; or visit <http://www.helpourmarriage.org>

**Strength for the Journey** – A grief ministry for parents who have lost their child meets monthly at Assumption Church parish hall, 108 6th St., in Ganado from 6:30 to 8 p.m. The upcoming meetings will be May 10, June 14, July 12, Aug. 9, Sept. 13, Nov. 8, and Dec. 13. For more information, please call Patricia Hoelscher 979-257-9984 or email [phoelscher@victoriadiocese.org](mailto:phoelscher@victoriadiocese.org).





# Eggs remarkable in nature and art

*Continued from Page 1*

Gina Pilkington of Victoria said she has been making pysanky eggs for 25 years and learned it from her sister. “My sister learned it at Texas A&M from a family who came from Eastern Europe,” she said. “We loved and it and we do it all through Lent.”

This year she taught several classes on pysanky egg making at the art room in the old Nazareth Academy building in downtown Victoria, recently purchased by St. Mary’s church. She teaches it to adults, not little ones, she said because, “You are taking hot wax and putting it on a fragile egg.”

The classes, Pilkington said, started with a prayer in front of an icon of Mary holding Jesus with their heads close to one another. The icon actually came from Odessa, Ukraine.

During the class she employed Benedictine Lenten hymns, ancient chanted hymns, that Pilkington said puts you in a prayerful state. While making the eggs, “You pray and think about who you’re making it for,” she said. Pilkington said she plans to include the younger children in a home school class by having them paint wooden eggs, which is also a form of the pysanky, but without the hot wax or real eggs.

Traditionally, the eggs are blessed at the Easter Vigil Mass and the first one gifted is given to the priest. Her daughter, Gianna, 16, began making the eggs with her this year and gave two as a gift to Bishop Brendan Cahill.

Ukrainians are not the only ones who have the tradition. Each Eastern European country, she said, has its own version. For example, the Polish eggs will have different symbols or flowers. “It’s very interesting –

all those cultures that have different versions. You can recognize where the egg comes from based on what’s written on it.”

Each color has a meaning. Pilkington has a chart that shows white is for purity; green is growth, spring and innocence; yellow is for wisdom; orange is everlasting warmth; red is happiness, love and bravery; and black is remembrance and darkest time before dawn. In another chart she uses, symbols are identified by their meaning: A fish symbolizes Christianity; triangles, the trinity; poppies are joy and beauty and “the beloved flower of Ukraine”; roses, Christ; birds, fertility. There are many more that can be included to express different intentions.

Those interested in making the pysanky eggs can order kits from places like [Ukrainiangiftshop.com](http://Ukrainiangiftshop.com) in Minnesota, where Pilkington got her supplies. There are other resources online as well, she said.



*These eggs were made by Gina Pilkington’s 16-year-old daughter, Gianna and given to Bishop Brendan Cahill. (Contributed Photo)*



*Gina Pilkington teaches the art of pysanky to the Sisters of the Incarnate Word and Blessed Sacrament. The Rev. Albert Yankey, IWBS chaplain, joined them. (Contributed Photo)*



*Bishop Cahill blessed the steer project for a Catholic school student and it won Reserve Grand Champion at the Austin Livestock Show and Rodeo. The meeting and blessing, captioned “Holy Cow,” was posted on Facebook and was shared 369 times, reaching more than 100,000 people. (Contributed Photo)*

## Chance meeting at stock show a blessing for one student

**BY MICHAEL GRESHAM**

*The Texas Catholic / Diocese of Dallas*

**WAXAHACHIE** — For Elizabeth Norwood, two passions came together at an opportune time, leading to one of the biggest moments in her young life.

Norwood, a resident of Midlothian and an eighth-grader at St. Joseph Catholic School, earned Reserve Grand Champion for her steer Casper at the Rodeo Austin Livestock Show on March 22. The award is the top prize Norwood has ever achieved.

And she’s pretty sure earning that honor came with a little help.

“There was very bad weather moving in so my dad went to move my mother’s car closer. On his way back in, he saw a whole bunch of sisters, a bishop and a priest,” said Norwood, who is the daughter of Blake and Nicole Norwood. “One time when we were at a show in Arizona, there was a priest where we were eating. We asked him to bless us, which he did, and

the next day I did really well at the stock show. So when my dad saw all these nuns, the bishop and the priest, he went up to them and said ‘Y’all need to get over here and bless us.’ And that’s what happened.”

That bishop was Bishop Brendan Cahill of the Diocese of Victoria in South Texas. The religious sisters were a group of Dominican Sisters of Mary from the Georgetown area. Norwood called the whole experience both amazing and inspiring.

“There were like 30 sisters there. They just surrounded us,” she said. “It was honestly just a really, really cool experience.”

Norwood said Bishop Cahill exclaimed that he just “knew there would be some Catholic kids here” and was more than happy to offer a blessing to the St. Joseph student and her steer.

“He was very nice,” she said. “We didn’t have too much time to talk because the storm was moving in, but it’s definitely something I’ll always remember.”