Pope Francis recently announced the canonization of Blessed John XXIII and Blessed John Paul II. John XXIII is depicted in a painting from a museum in his Italian birthplace. John Paul II is shown in a composite featuring an image of him by Polish photographer Grzegorz Galazka. (CNS)

Canonizations of John XXIII and John Paul II

by Cindy Wooden
Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY (CNS) – A few weeks before the canonizations of Blesseds John XXIII and John Paul II, Rome hotels were reporting they were almost fully booked and the Vatican confirmed the Mass would take place in St. Peter's Square, despite knowing hundreds of thousands of people would have to watch the ceremony on large video screens.

Pope Francis announced in late Sept. 2013 he would proclaim the two popes saints in a single ceremony April 27, 2014, Divine Mercy Sunday.

More than 1 million people were expected to try to attend the liturgy.

Blessed John Paul, known as a globetrotter who made 104 trips outside Italy, served as pope 1978-2005 and was beatified by Pope Benedict XVI on Divine Mercy Sunday, May 1, 2011. Blessed John

See Canonizations, pg. 10

40th anniversary ordination of Rev. Msgr. John C. Peters

On March 30, 2014, a special Mass of Thanksgiving was held to honor Msgr. John Peters’ 40th anniversary of ordination as a priest at Sacred Heart Catholic Church, Hallettsville.

Concelebrants included Bishop David Fellhauer, Diocese of Victoria; Bishop Charles Grahmann, Hallettsville native, retired; and priests of the Diocese of Victoria and priest friends

Fr. Tommy Chen served as the master of ceremonies. Deacon Joey Targac was deacon

See 40th anniversary, pg 10

“Be shepherds of the flock of God that is entrusted to you; watch over it not simply as a duty, but gladly.”

~1 Peter 5:2
Bishop Fellhauer’s Schedule

May
9  8:30 a.m. School Mass, St. Philip the Apostle Church, El Campo
11 10:00 a.m. Confirmation Mass, St. Rose of Lima Church, Schulenburg
12  6:00 p.m. Confirmation Mass, St. Philip the Apostle Church, El Campo
17  5:00 p.m. Diocesan Liturgy Commission, Chancery Office
18 10:00 a.m. Confirmation Mass, Sacred Heart Church, Hallettsville
21  6:30 p.m. Confirmation Mass, Sacred Heart Church, Hallettsville
24 10:00 a.m. Ordination to the Priesthood of Deacon Philip Brune and Deacon Jasper Liggio; Ordination to Transitional Diaconate of Kristopher Fuchs, Scott Hill, Jacob Koether, and Francis Nguyen, Our Lady of Victory Cathedral
25  8:00 a.m. Confirmation Mass, St. Mary’s Church, Praha
28  4:00 p.m. Diocesan Building Board meeting, Chancery Office
31  6:30 p.m. Confirmation Mass, St. Peter Church, Blessing

June
1  9:00 a.m. Confirmation Mass, St. Mary Church, St. Mary (Hallettsville)
4  9:00 a.m. Mass celebrating 10th Anniversary of Safe Environment Program, Our Lady of Victory Cathedral
7  6:00 p.m. Confirmation Mass, St. Patrick’s Church, Bloomington

DSA & Reflection of Faith
Capital Campaign Updates

2014 DSA
Diocesan Goal:  $1,824,625.00
Parish Pledge Totals:  $502,665.41
Parish Contribution Totals:  $388,116.07
Number of Parish Families Participating:  2,294

For young, Catholic men
Knights of Columbus Squires Youth Organization

Applications are currently being accepted for membership into The Columbian Squires®. It is the official youth organization sponsored by the Knights of Columbus for young Catholic men ages 10-18. Being a member enables one to better serve your parish, help those in need, grow in faith and have fun in some of the most successful youth programs. Membership is $11. For more information, contact Donald Shellenbarger at (361) 649-9556 or donny@stec.org.

Grand Canyon, Balloon Festival with Sedona and Tombstone Oct. 6-15
Pathways ~with Patti 334 Jurek Road Port Lavaca, TX 77979 (361) 552.2695 or (361) 920.3216
Seminary Burses

Seminary burses are a permanent fund used for the education of future priests for the Diocese of Victoria. The goal of each burse is $15,000. The interest from this amount is applied yearly to the education of seminarians. The burses are in memory of or in honor of an individual priest or lay persons, living or deceased. Publication of the burses will appear periodically when new contributions are received.

As of April 29, 2014

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<td>Rev. Marcus Valenta</td>
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Those wishing to begin a burse or to contribute to an existing seminary burse may do so by sending their contributions with the appropriate burse designation to:

DIOCESE OF VICTORIA
SEMINARY BURSES
P.O. BOX 4070
VICTORIA, TX 77903

Happy birthday to our seminarians

Kristopher Fuchs is in Theology II at Pontifical College Josephinum in Columbus, Ohio. His home parish is St. Michael the Archangel, Needville. His birthday is May 13. Please show your support for this seminarian by writing to: Kristopher Fuchs, Pontifical College Josephinum, 7625 North High Street, Columbus, OH 43235.

Blayne Jemelka is in Pre-Theology I at St. Joseph Seminary in Saint Benedict, Louisiana. His home parish is St. Michael, Cuero. His birthday is May 13. Please show your support for this seminarian by writing to: Blayne Jemelka, St. Joseph Seminary, 75376 River Road, Saint Bernard, LA 70457.

Dominic Schaefer is in College I at St. Joseph Seminary in Saint Benedict, Louisiana. His home parish is St. Mary, Victoria. His birthday is May 30. Please show your support for this seminarian by writing to: Dominic Schaefer, St. Joseph Seminary, 75377 River Road, Saint Bernard, LA 70457.
June 1st marks the 48th World Communications Day and first message from Pope Francis. This year’s theme is Communication at the Service of an Authentic Culture of Encounter. To view the pope’s full message, visit www.w2.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/messages/communications/index.html.

Save the date!
The Knights of St. Gregory the Great’s annual charity banquet will be held July 17th at 6:30 p.m. at the Victoria Country Club. Benefits several Bishop Fellhauer charities. For more information, call (361) 575-5884 or (361) 649-5750.

The Catholic Lighthouse
Page 4 — May 2014

Live faith in daily life and join over 50 million Catholics praying in unity for the good of the world, the church, and one another. Visit the pope’s prayer group at www.apostleshipofprayer.org.

A dedication ceremony of an official Texas historical marker and blessing of the pavilion was recently held at St. Joseph Cemetery, Yoakum. The ceremony presider was Fr. Matthew Huehlefeld, pastor of St. Joseph Church. (Inset) 6th grade St. Joseph school students sang songs. Roger Raney, representative of the Lavaca County Historical Commission; Vera Kaiser and Thomas Wenzel assisted in unveiling the historical marker.

The Praha Altar Society recently donated $3,000 for the restoration of the church bells at St. Mary’s, Praha. Extensive restorations will be occurring in the coming year. Kathleen Svatek (2nd from right) presents a check to Fr. Gabriel Maison (3rd from right), parochial administrator of Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary Church. Seated is Julia Stryk. Standing, left to right: Georgia Cerny, Stacy Hajek, Ellene Vrazel, Liz Janak, Leona Herzik, Pat Masek, and Virginia Olsovsky (right). St. Mary’s School- Praha Alumni also recently made a donation towards the restoration of St. Mary’s Church.

May is Older Americans month. Take a moment to appreciate the elderly. Offer love and support. Help them stay healthy and active. For more information, visit www.acl.gov.

The Knights of Columbus Council #9088 of Holy Family Catholic Church, Victoria would like to thank the patrons and volunteers that helped make the recent Fat Tuesday Fundraiser successful. Proceeds totaling $7,000 were given to local charities committed to the pro-life cause in aiding new and expectant mothers. Both organizations were presented checks by Clyde Svetlik, grand knight.

(above) Barbara Respondek of the Crisis Pregnancy Center accepts the donation from KC Council #9088.

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(right) Cathy Rojas receives a check on behalf of the Gabriel Project.

If you or someone you know has been sexually abused by a member of the clergy or other church personnel, you can register a complaint.

- Call the bishop or the chancellor at the Chancery at (361) 573-0828; or
- Call Rev. Gary Janak (361) 575-4741 or Sr. Emilie Eilers (361) 575-7111, Coordinators of Pastoral Care and Outreach; or
- Write to: Most Rev. David E. Fellhauer
  Diocese of Victoria, P.O. Box 4070, Victoria, TX 77903
  Mark your letter “Personal and Confidential”

We will also help you bring your concerns to Church officials outside the diocese if the abuse occurred elsewhere and you now reside in the Diocese of Victoria.

If you are unsure about bringing forth a complaint or need more information, please contact: Rev. Gary Janak at (361) 575-4741.
Did you know?

The Diocese of Victoria offers several ministry programs including:
- Catechetical Ministry
- Family Ministries
- Library and Media Center
- Pastoral Institute
- Prison Ministry
- Youth and Young Adult Ministry

The Diocese of Victoria also provides many services from:
- Business Office
- Catholic Cemeteries Office
- Catholic Schools Office
- Safe Environment Office
- Spiritual Renewal Center
- Office of Vocations...
  and more!

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

Bishop’s secretary retires

Minnie Bochat, executive secretary to Bishop David E. Fellhauer, has worked for the Diocese of Victoria for 32 years since its inception in May 1982. She first served as secretary to Msgr. Thomas C. McLaughlin in the vicar general, chancellor, and judicial vicar offices. She became secretary to Bishop Fellhauer when he was installed as bishop of the Diocese of Victoria in May 1990. She was the bishop’s secretary for 24 years. Minnie, much happiness and good health upon your retirement!

St. Mary’s Parish Picnic

Food:
Beer • Popcorn • Soda
Snow cones • Hamburgers
Ice Cream • Kolaches
  and more!

Games:
Bingo • Ball Throw
Ring Toss • Cake &
Plant Walk • Train Ride
Fish Pond • Country Store
w/Arts & Crafts, Canned
Goods, etc.

Music: 10:30 a.m.-9:00 p.m.
Texas Sound Czech (10:30 a.m.-2:00 p.m.)
Tony Janak (2:00-5:30 p.m.)
Red Ravens (5:30-9:00 p.m.)

Auction @ 1:00 p.m.

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Red Ravens (5:30-9:00 p.m.)

Auction @ 1:00 p.m.
2014 CKB winners

The Diocese of Victoria 7th Annual Catholic Knowledge Bowl (CKB) was held this recent March at Our Lady of Victory, Victoria. Two family teams competed as well as 99 year-old, Catherine Palmer (below). Her team was Our Lady of Lourdes Golden Girls. She has not missed a competition since CKB’s inception.


1st place family- Mary’s Team/Harper Family, Sacred Heart, Hallettsville. Left to right: Renae Harper, Dorothy Harper, Ella Harper, and Dorothea Harper. Also pictured with the team is Fr. Patrick Knippenberg, parochial vicar, OLV.

1st place adult- Explorers on the Journey, St. Michael, Cuero. Left to right: Virginia Ruschhaupt, Margaret Dixon, Diane Cowey, and Pat Koranek. Also pictured with the team is Fr. Patrick Knippenberg, parochial vicar, OLV.

1st place teen- Brainy Bunch, St. Joseph, High School, Victoria. Left to right: Luke Wenske, James Heath, Connally Krueger, and Ben Adams. Also pictured with the team is Fr. Gary Janak, pastor, OLV.

Puzzle contest winners

The winner of the April puzzle contest and the book, Stories of Jesus by Joseph F. Girzone is Nicole Belicek of Sacred Heart Parish, Hallettsville. The winner of the children’s contest are 11-year-old, Myles Svatek, St. Philip School, El Campo 11-year-old, and Ethan Sanchez, Our Lady of Sorrows Parish, Victoria. They will receive a gift from the Incarnate Word Gift Shop.

The winner of the May contest will win Change Our Hearts, Daily Meditations for Lent by Rory Cooney. The book provides daily lectionary citations, reflections, and prayers. Prepare for next Easter with daily reflections centered on baptismal calls to renounce sin, renew your faith in God, and follow the Gospel. The author is a liturgical songwriter with more than 15 collections of music. His work is represented in several hymnals and worship aids in the U.S.

If you have not won the puzzle contest within the past six months, please mail a completed May puzzle form by May 30, 2014 to The Catholic Lighthouse, P.O. Box 4070, Victoria, TX 77903 for a chance to win!
Finding Mary in May

It is May- that means Catholic schools and parishes will be having May Crowning.

About two years after my conversion, the whole Mary-and-the-month-of-May thing hit my radar. “So what’s with Mary and the month of May?” I asked my cradle Catholic friend. She explained the church has set aside the month of May to honor the Blessed Mother- hence, May Crowning. She also said it is a time to pray the rosary and present the Blessed Mother with flowers and a crown.

Try explaining that to your Protestant family and friends. You do what? We pray the rosary... (You have already lost them, and you have not even gotten to the part about the crown.)

Have you ever read the children’s book, If You Give a Mouse a Cookie, by Laura Joffe Numeroff? It is kind of like that.

If you mention Mary and the Blessed Mother, you have to mention May Crowning. If you mention May Crowning, you have to explain how Mary is the Queen of Heaven and Earth. If you mention Mary is the Queen of Heaven and Earth, you have to talk about the Assumption, the Immaculate Conception, the Ark of the Covenant, the New Eve and why that is all scriptural. You will have to crack open the Bible and look at the Book of Revelations and the ‘women clothed with the sun’ and explain how Mary was prefigured by Hannah, Ruth, Queen Esther, and Judith.

If you make it to Judith, you are going to have to explain why Judith is not in their Protestant Bibles, but they do not know what they are missing because Judith is the most amazing widow in salvation history.

If you find yourself back to the Bible, you are going to have to talk about the rosary again and how those prayers come right out of the Bible because Jesus prayed the Our Father, and the Hail Mary is a combination of the words of Archangel Gabriel and Saint Elizabeth.

If you manage to explain why Catholics pray memorized prayers, you will have to explain we pray in many different ways and it all comes together in the Mass and the Mass fits into the liturgical calendar and the liturgical calendar takes us from Advent to Christmas to Ordinary Time, to Lent to Easter to Pentecost, and then to... May...to the Blessed Mother.

If you mention the month of May and the Blessed Mother, you had better put on another pot of coffee because you are about to cover the same ground all over again.

Our faith is organic. It all fits together. It cannot be reduced to one sound bite. It lives and breathes and has a complexity and beauty that is as mysterious and glorious as the body of Christ.

The month of May is connected to that living, breathing intricacy.

Let’s face it, the best way to experience Mary’s month is to become a little child. Don’t try to figure it all out at once like someone cramming for a final exam. Just go cut some flowers and lay them at her feet. Pick up your rosary and pray the Glorious Mysteries, or simply plan to learn the Hail Mary if you have never tried.

For you see, it all comes down to this: Sometimes, the best way to find Christ is to let yourself find Mary. Embrace the simple elegance of it and the organic complexity will fall into place.

Holy Family Knights of Columbus Council #9088, Victoria, and B&B Metal Buildings unloaded 4,000 pounds of rice delivered by Ricebelt Elevator of El Campo. The rice was bagged into 2 pound bags by 14 KC members and donated to Victoria Christian Assistance Ministry (VCAM) for distribution to those in need.


Our Lady of Guadalupe Festival Meal

Sunday, June 8

Bay City
Parish Hall (12th Street and Ave. D)
Brisket dinner
11:00 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. • $8 p/p.
Dine-in / Pick-up / Drive-thru
Auction begins at 11:30 a.m.

Thank you from IWBS

We, the Sisters of the Incarnate Word and Blessed Sacrament, gratefully acknowledge and thank families, friends, and contractors whose major contributions of time, talent, and funds made it possible to provide the rosary path, Stations of the Cross, and garden of Gethsemane as outdoor spaces for prayer. We also thank the countless unnamed donors who continue to support the ministry of Amor Meus Spirituality Center.

Amor Meus
(361) 575-7111
amormeus@yahoo.com
www.amormeusspiritualitycenter.org
Come, discover God’s love with us!

Construction-phase of the path.

“ And the Word was made flesh and dwell among us.”
~John 1:14

Center of the path.
Chrism Mass held at OLV

Last month’s Chrism Mass at Our Lady of Victory Cathedral, Victoria, signified a renewal of priestly promises and consecration of the Holy Chrism. Bishop David E. Fellhauer served as celebrant. Assisting at chair was Msgr. John Peters. Deacons of the Mass were Philip Brune and Dennis Kutach. Masters of ceremonies were Fr. Tommy Chen and Fr. Gary Janak. Seated in the Sanctuary were Fr. Dominic Antwi-Boasiako, Fr. Timothy Kosler, Fr. Matthew Huehlefeld, Fr. Charles Dwomoh, Fr. Greg Korenek, and Fr. Roger Hawes. Altar servers included diocesan seminarians and students from Our Lady of the Gulf, Port Lavaca. Lectors were Johanna Irians and students from Our Lady of the Altar servers included diocesan seminarians and students from Our Lady of the Gulf, Port Lavaca. Lectors were Johanna Irians and students from Our Lady of the Gulf, Port Lavaca. Lectors were Johanna Irians and students from Our Lady of the Gulf, Port Lavaca. Lectors were Johanna Irians and students from Our Lady of the Gulf, Port Lavaca. Lectors were Johanna Irians and students from Our Lady of the

Bishop Fellhauer blesses the oil at the Chrism Mass.

Oils used in sacramental celebrations were blessed and included consecration of the Holy Chrism to be used for service to anoint those receiving the sacraments of baptism, confirmation, and holy orders; oil for the sick to be used for those in need of healing and oil for catechumens to be used in anointing those preparing for baptism. Also, during Mass, priests renewed promises made at their ordinations. Those in attendance celebrated the Liturgy of the Word and the Holy Eucharist.

Marriage Encounter can develop communication skills and more

by Msgr. Casey Jarzombek

Worldwide Marriage Encounter (WWME) for a married couple is a weekend away from your family; a weekend to expand and deepen your marriage relationship. A Marriage Encounter (ME) is not a retreat, a marriage clinic or a sensitivity group. It’s aim is to help participants develop very special communication skills. Feelings and thoughts flow more freely, resulting in a greater love, renewed and continuing dedication, and more joy in living one’s married life. Priests and religious are invited to make a ME weekend. For a priest or religious, a ME weekend is a time to develop relationships with parishioners, fellow priests, and religious community.

A series of presentations is given by a team of Catholic couples and a priest allowing one to look at oneself as an individual and look at their relationship with a spouse. Or, for a priest, to look at their relationship with parishioners, with brother priests, with the church as a whole, and the world. Married couples view all of these relationships in terms of their own vocation, but the principles are freely applicable to the priesthood and religious life as well.

As a priest, I have promoted WWME among parishioners at Holy Cross, Bay City, and in other parishes of the Diocese of Victoria. I have been involved and presented ME weekends since Sept. 1979 in Victoria and in other areas of Texas, Oklahoma, New Mexico, and Arkansas for 30 years. I am currently involved in presenting WWME weekends.

I used to see the people as simply members of the church, but after my ME weekend they became like family to me. This kind of love brings real renewal to the entire church.

I am on fire for doing what I do because I believe in the institution of marriage between a man and a woman and the holy orders. I believe WWME has much to offer priests as well. I have grown stronger relationships with people and other couples. People have often told me that I am an expert in marriage. I say, “absolutely not! Each day is a gift from God to grow stronger in my love and relationships with others. It is a lifetime journey.”

WWME’s vision

“Love one another as I have loved you.”

WWME’s mission

To proclaim the values of marriage and holy orders in the church and in the world.

ME weekends and important dates:

- May 23-25 • Houston
- June 20-22 • Houston
- June 27-29 • Corpus Christi
- July 25 • Priests’ Day • Marriott Hotel near the Hobby Airport • Houston. This is open to all priests.
- July 25-27 • WWME National Convention • Pasadena
- Aug. 8-10 • San Antonio

All couples are invited to participate. To register for a ME weekend, for more dates or for more information, visit www.wwme.org. To learn about ME opportunities in your parish, e-mail parishwwme@dfwme.org.

Please pray for and support our priests!
This past summer, I walked El Camino de Santiago, a centuries old pilgrimage walked by countless Christian believers. It was and will be one of the most memorable experiences of my life! At the time of the walk, I was a shy 20 year-old. The first time I left the state of Texas was to visit St. Joseph Seminary in Louisiana at the age of 17 for a discernment retreat. When I was invited to participate in this pilgrimage, I was in my second year of collegiate-seminary. Considering the numerous time commitments of seminary life, I thought it would be best to use the summer as a time of rest and relaxation back home with my family and friends. Even though I was excited about the opportunity, I was still fairly nervous. I had never been to Europe and I had never walked 500 miles. I knew this would be an excellent tool to help discern my vocation. I had no idea the experience would be more than I ever expected.

The pilgrimage resembled a self-led retreat. There were no confinements or restrictions. It was my responsibility to be the beginning agent of my prayer while on the walk. However, the journey seemed to steer the pilgrim wherever they needed to go, both physically and spiritually. Along the way, I acquired countless insights through the many hours of prayer, silence, reflection, and interactions with others.

Along the Camino, my group encountered pilgrims from all over the world. No two people had the same experience or the same reason for making the trek. It truly brought about a sense of the universal and pilgrim church: we are all here as pilgrims walking along our way to the eternal Kingdom of our Lord in the manner in which God calls us.

It has been over 6 months since we walked the Camino, but the effects from it remain with me. I have a much greater respect and understanding for the importance of prayer in daily life. The pilgrimage helped me better grasp the foundational obligation to foster a healthy prayer life in order to maintain a personal and intimate relationship with God. Through this newly found self-awareness and reflection, I have built my prayer life with what works best for me while at the same time avoiding what hinders such an important relationship.

El Camino de Santiago pilgrimage was a wonderful blessing and a great experience. Looking back, it was a most unexpectedly transformative walk with God. I can say the Camino truly enriched my person, outlook, and discernment through the blessing of spending intimate time with God. I pray I am able to live up to this experience for the rest of my earthly pilgrimage until we all reach the heavenly home we walk toward.
of the Liturgy. Deacon Linard Harper was deacon of the Word. Michael Johnson and Dr. Warren Migura were lectors. Representatives of Msgr.’s four parishes made the presentation of the gifts. Sr. Emiliana Grafe and Sr. Colette Koubra presented flowers to the Blessed Virgin Mary. Candy Hines was choir director and Denise Drozd was the accompanist. Choirs included Sacred Heart Adult Choir, Sacred Heart Children’s Choir, and St. Mary’s Czech Choir. Director of the Czech Choir was Richard Rouse. A catered meal was served at the KC Hall. Entertainment was provided by the Spanish Choir and Men’s ACTS.

Many guests attended and spoke words of congratulation: Chuck Grafe served as emcee. Mayor Pro-Tem, Stephen in San Antonio; St. Joseph in Yoakum; Our Lady of Lourdes in Victoria; the Chancery staff from the beginning of the Diocese of Victoria; St. Mary’s Seminary in Houston; Assumption Seminary in San Antonio; Sacred Heart and St. Mary’s in Hallettsville for the last 20 years and additionally St. John the Baptist in St. John and Ascension of Our Lord Parish. Msgr. Peters was ordained a priest on April 26, 1974 by Archbishop Francis J. Furey in Weimar at St. Michael’s Catholic Church. Several parishes and ministries have been influential in his life over the past 40 years. They include: St. Mary Magdalen, St. Matthew, and St. Pius in San Antonio; St. Joseph in Yoakum; Our Lady of Lourdes in Victoria; the Chancery staff from the beginning of the Diocese of Victoria; St. Mary’s Seminary in Houston; Assumption Seminary in San Antonio; Sacred Heart and St. Mary’s in Hallettsville for the last 20 years and additionally St. John the Baptist in St. John and Ascension of Our Lord in Moravia for the last 12 years. He currently serves as vicar general for the Diocese of Victoria and has been active in the KJT, Knights of Columbus, JCDA, and Serra Club. Msgr. Peters thanked everyone in attendance and said, “I am grateful to all of you who have blessed me with your presence today and with your support over the past 40 years. I thank everyone who had a part in organizing this celebration. May God continue to bless you and guide you on your journeys.” In lieu of gifts, donations may be made to Sacred Heart School Capital Campaign or Msgr. John C. Peters Seminary Burse.

Canonizations of John XXIII and John Paul II

Continued from page 1

XXIII, known particularly for convoking the Second Vatican Council, was pope 1958-1963; Pope John Paul beatified him in 2000.

Asked by reporters last July to describe the two late popes, Pope Francis said Blessed John was “a bit of the ‘country priest,’ a priest who loves each of the faithful and knows how to care for them; he did this as a bishop and as a nuncio” in Bulgaria, Turkey, Greece, and France before becoming a cardinal and patriarch of Venice.

He was holy, patient, had a good sense of humor and, especially by calling the Second Vatican Council, was a man of courage, Pope Francis said. "He was a man who let himself be guided by the Lord."

As for Blessed John Paul, Pope Francis told the reporters on the plane, “I think of him as ‘the great missionary of the church,’ because he was a man who proclaimed the Gospel everywhere.”

Pope Francis met with cardinals at the Vatican last Sept. during the consistory in which he announced the date for the canonization of Blessed John XIII and John Paul II. The Polish pontiff who led the Catholic Church for 27 years and witnessed the fall of communism and Pope John XXIII, who called the Second Vatican Council, were declared saints in a single ceremony on Divine Mercy Sunday. (CNS photo/L’Osservatore Romano via Reuters)

Interested in learning more about Pope John Paul II and Pope John XXIII who recently became saints? The Library and Media Center of the Diocese of Victoria has several DVDs, VHS tapes, and books on the saints’ lives and accomplishments.

DVDs: A Man Who Became Pope (Pope John Paul II)
Legacy: The 10 Greatest Achievements of Pope John Paul II
VHS: Pope John Paul II: The Movie

Books: Pope John XXII: Journal of a Soul and Pope John XXII Comes to the Vatican

For additional canonization coverage, visit www.usccb.org.
Last month, Bishop David Fellhauer presented the Catholic Schools Bishop’s 8th Grade Awards. He was assisted by John Quary, school superintendent and Janie Carrales. Awards were given to 10 Catholic schools in the diocese. Above, Our Lady of the Gulf 8th graders received their awards with Bishop Fellhauer. Additional award recipients are listed on page 14.
St. Joseph Catholic School, Yoakum, first graders completed reading points for the year and were awarded with a trip to Splashway. The students were motivated and excited about accomplishing their reading goals.

As a Valentine’s Day project, members of JCDA Court St. Paul #1604, Shiner, baked cookies for residents of the local nursing home. Pictured with JCDA members is resident, Viola Darilek.

JCDA #206, Yoakum, recently held an action-packed meeting at Warrior Defensive Arts (WDA). Members learned about the inspiring life of St. Joan of Arc, patron saint of soldiers and France. Members also learned self defense moves by Ed Kimes, WDA instructor and owner.

The following JCDA Juniors/Juniorettes from Court St. Paul #1604, Shiner, recently received religious recognition medals. Left to right: Fr. Kirby Hlavathy, court chaplain; Samantha Siegel and Emily Pokluda (Spirit Alive); Delynn Pesek (Mary, the First Disciple); Taylor Wenske (I Live My Faith) and Stefany Pokluda, Avery Pesek, Brooke Pesek and Dallyn Pesek (Family of God).

The Nazareth Academy Band, Victoria, attended the Band Solo and Ensemble Contest, held at Pattie Welder Magnet School last month. They won a total of 23 first division medals.

A team of four St. Joseph High School, Victoria, students recently won 1st place in the Game Show Competition at the University of Houston-Victoria College Math and Computer Science Contest. Left to right: David Du, Johanna Hoang, Hira Malik, and Olivia Creager. Their final score was 840 points. The 2nd place team scored 390 points. David Du also won 1st place in the senior division of the math contest. There were more than 200 students, from 15 high schools, in the Coastal Bend Region that participated in the contest.
St. Joseph High School, Victoria, sophomores Taylor Darst, (left), and Alexandra Marlow, (right), have been selected to attend the Hugh O’Brian Youth (HOBY) Leadership Conference at the Texas A&M University-Galveston campus in June. Founded in 1958, Hoby's mission is to inspire and develop our global community of youth and volunteers to a life dedicated to leadership, service and innovation. HOBY programs provide students the opportunity to participate in unique leadership training, service-learning and motivation-building experiences.

St. Joseph High School, Victoria, juniors Elliot Hughes (left), Nicholas Vallejo (center), and Brendon Sparkman (right) have been selected to attend American Legion’s Texas Boys State this June. They will have the unique opportunity to learn about government, civics and patriotism in a ‘learn by doing’ environment. The one-week program will take place at the University of Texas in Austin and will culminate when delegates get to be seated in the chambers of the Texas Capitol to craft, debate, and vote on mock legislation.

Front row, left to right: Brooklyn Dixon, Carter Hlavinka, and Carissa Kocian. Back row, left to right: Janiece Holub, CDA education contest chairperson; Amber Kocian, Taylor Watz, and Amber Sutton.

CDA Court Our Lady Queen of Peace #1374, El Campo, held their annual education contest last month. Themes were ‘Jesus Loves Us. How do We Spread that Love?’ and ‘How do I promote Peace in the World?’ Contest winners and their parents were invited for awards and pizza. 1st place winners advance to the state level competition. Each contestant received a certificate, cash prize, and several gift cards. Winners were: Art division 1: Carissa Kocian, 1st place; Brooklyn Dixon, 2nd place, and tied Carter Hlavinka and Anne Marie Matula, 3rd place. Poetry division 2: Sarah Grace Singleton, 1st place and Amber Sutton, 2nd place. Poetry division 3: Amber Kocian, 1st place. Essay division 1: Taylor Watz, 1st place and Joshua Fowler, 2nd place. CDA scholarships were given to selected El Campo High School students: Morgan Rae Eggemeyer, Kacey Knesek, Shelby Lynn Stary, Kari Wilkins, and Robin Eggemeyer.

Teacher, Joe Cash (far right), and AP Biology students participate in the Sea Grass Parade.

The Sacred Heart Catholic High School AP Biology Class, Hallettsville, was invited by Richard Gonzalez of the Dia Del Rio project to present data and information from their winning project. Presentations were made to over 150 fifth and sixth grade students. CDA scholarships were given to selected El Campo High School students: Morgan Rae Eggemeyer, Kacey Knesek, Shelby Lynn Stary, Kari Wilkins, and Robin Eggemeyer.

For more information contact:
The Office of Youth Ministry
Wendy Eggert, director
ym@victoriadiocese.org
(361) 573-0828
www.victoriadiocese.org
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**Events • Picnics**

**May**

**Brenham**—100 Days of Summer Festival May 18 at St. Mary Parish. 9:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m. silent auction. 12:30 p.m. live auction. There will be a cake, plant, and grocery walk; a waterslide for children and more. For more information, call (979) 836-4441.

**Cuerò**—St. Michael Festival May 18 at the Parish Hall. Roast beef dinner 11:00 a.m. $8 p/p. 12:45 p.m. live auction. Games, silent auction and other activities during the day. See ad on pg. 5.

**Hallettsville**—Sacred Heart Parish Spring Festival May 25 at the KC Hall. A fried-chicken and stew dinner will be served from 10:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m. in the hall with plates-to-go available. $8.50 p/p. There will be music, free polka dance under pavilion, auction, games, entertainment and more all afternoon.

**Shiner**—Spring Picnic May 25 at the KC Hall. Meal, free music, auction, games and much more. Entertainment day and evening. For more information, visit www.sscmsshiner.org. See ad on pg. 11.

**Victoria**—KJZT Society #101 hosts KJZT District 9 gathering May 18 at OLV Cafeteria. 11:00 a.m. registration. Noon lunch. For more information, call Irene Brosch at (361) 573-2669.

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**June**

**Bay City**—Our Lady of Guadalupe Festival Meal June 8 at the parish hall located on 12th Street and Avenue D. Brisket dinner. $8 p/p. See ad on pg. 7.

**East Bernard**—KJZT St. Wenceslaus Society #40 sponsors 24th Annual Czech Kolache Klobase Festival June 14 at Riversides Hall. For more information, contact Jason Hlavinka at (979) 533-1536, Ed Marik at (979) 335-9602, or visit www.kkfest.com.

**Flatonia**—Sacred Heart Spring Picnic June 1. Fried chicken and stew. $9 p/p. 11:00 a.m. Music by The Incredible Music Makers and Krazy Kirb DJ. Auction, horseshoes, country store, games, and more.

**Helotes**—Padua Place Retirement Home for Priests June Jamboree: Living the Holy Spirit June 6 at Pedrottí’s North Wind Ranch. Honoree is Bishop Thomas Flanagan. $60 p/p. There will be live and silent auctions. Entertainment by Cactus Country Band. For more information, Betty Cronin at (210) 820-3211 or Rita Hannan (210) 658-1276.

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**Safe Environment Office**

10th anniversary celebration

The 10th anniversary of the Safe Environment Office and workshop will be held June 4th. Mass will be at 9:00 a.m. at Our Lady of Victory. Due to several items on special order, registration deadline is May 9th. To register, visit www.victoriadiocese.org, scroll over safe environment, click on For Trainers Only, click on For Trainers Only Secure Site, and submit registration.

Please note, due to the number of changes regarding trainings, handbooks, policies and procedures, the workshop is mandatory for all safe environment trainers, site admins, and transportation facilitators. Individuals with scheduling conflicts or for more information, contact Melissa Perales at (361) 573-0828 x2249.

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**Port Lavaca**—Our Lady of the Gulf Court #2267 CDA Annual Games Party June 8 from 1:00 to 5:00 p.m. at St. Jude’s Hall. $7/p. Enjoy any game you choose to bring as well as refreshments and door prizes. There will also be a raffle and silent auction. For table reservations, call Doris Winter (361) 987-2387, or Georgia Mikosh (361) 552-6844, or Margaret Hilscher (361) 552-3233.

**Schulenburg**—Rose of Lima Parish Picnic June 8 at the KC Hall. Fried-chicken and sausage dinner 11:00 a.m. $8/p.

**St. Mary**—St. Mary’s Church Picnic June 8. Mass 9:15 a.m. Stew and sausage dinner 10:30 a.m. Auction 1:00 p.m. Games, country store, and music. See ad on pg. 5.

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**July**


**St. John**—St. John 4th of July Picnic on the parish grounds (7026 FM 957 - 6 miles SW of Schulenburg). Mass 9:00 a.m. Flag-raising ceremonies 10:00 a.m. Stew and fried-chicken dinner 10:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m. $8.50 p/p.

**Conferences • Masses • Retreats**

**ACTS Retreats**—For information, visit www.actmissions.org.

**Bastrop**—Ascension Parish celebrates 150th anniversary on June 1. Mass celebrated by Bishop Joe Vasquez. For more information, call (512) 332-0404.


**Beaumont**—Honoring the Joys of Mary 22nd Annual Third Age Day Celebration May 20 at St. Anthony Cathedral Basilica and Basilica Center. For more information, call (409) 924-4410.

**Corpus Christi**—Vocation Awareness Retreat June 20-23 at the Pax Christi Liturgical Retreat Center. It is for Catholic men and women between the ages of 18-35. For more information, call (361) 882-6191 or visit www.ccppriest.org/retrait.

**Dallas**—Project Joseph one-day retreat for men May 31. It is a confidential outreach to men for abortion after-care healing. For more information, call (972) 679-4760 or e-mail healing@racheldallas.org.

**East Bernard**—Holy Cross Church Polka Mass May 17 at 5:00 p.m.

**Georgetown**—Annunciation Maternity Home annual banquet May 8 at 6:00 p.m. at St. Helen Church. For more information, visit www.thematernityhome.org.


**Houston**—The Diocese of Beaumont Youth Convention June 25-28 at Hyatt Regency. For more information, visit www.dioceoseofbmt.org.

**Irving**—Walking Together in Faith 8th Annual University of Dallas Ministry Conference Oct. 23-25 at the Irving Convention Center. For more information, visit www.txcatholic.org or www.udallas.edu/udmc.
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