Church celebrates 140 years

St. Joseph Catholic Church, Inez, has grown into a flourishing parish over the past 140 years. The church picnic has been a special tradition in Inez. Funds from this year’s picnic will be used to pay off the church’s recent renovation project, including adding another 200 seats to the existing 200-seat sanctuary.

Church History
A group of Polish immigrants settled in the area in 1858. Oak trees span the prairies. At first, the community was called Gazeta, named after Garcitas Creek. Traveling priests helped serve the religious needs of the settlers. In 1873, Frank Garvel conveyed an acre of land to build a church and dedicated it to St. Theresa.

From Bay City to Blessing and Frelsburg to High Hill, God’s Embrace envelops many

God’s Embrace is a formation program that builds community, a deeper commitment and relationship with the triune God, and leads the faithful along the pathway of holiness. 3-year formation programs, spiritual direction, directed retreats, and days of prayer training in spiritual companionship to lead small groups in the 3-year program are offered through God’s Embrace.

Michael Fonseca, founder of God’s Embrace, has begun 3 new groups in the Diocese of Victoria this year. He is from India and has lived in the U.S. for the past 26 years. He has four Masters degrees in Theology, Philosophy, English Literature, and Counseling. He also holds a Doctorate in Ministry. He comes from a staunch Catholic family with 500 years of family history in being Catholic that started in a small Portuguese colony in Goa, India. Over the years, Fonseca became filled with angst and concern. He wondered why so many Catholics were leaving the church and going to other churches. He came to know and was surprised that many did not know their Catholic heritage. Although sad and distraught over this, he prayed and started to light candles seeking light and hope in wanting to help others. Rather than “curse the darkness, I wanted to evangelize and renew,” said Fonseca. During this time Michael and his team developed an organization

Installation Mass and celebration held in Meyersville
During Sunday Mass on September 1, the Most Rev. Bishop Fellhauer installed Rev. Charles E. Otsiwah of Ghana as parochial administrator of Sts. Peter and Paul, Meyersville, and St. Aloysius, Westhoff. During the ceremony, parish council members of both parishes were presented and Father Charles’s pledge to assume parish duties was a welcomed necessity. Bishop Fellhauer expressed hope that as the new pastor, Fr. Charles would be able to serve the Diocese of Victoria, Meyersville, and Westhoff for many years. Parish council president, Jeff Hartman, thanked Bishop Fellhauer for Fr. Charles and shared the same wish, “We thank you for your concern for the spiritual growth of Meyersville and Westhoff. We look forward to Fr. Charles being our spiritual father and member of our parish families for a long, long time.” Above, members of Sts. Peter and Paul and St. Aloysius welcome Fr. Charles as their newly installed parochial administrator.

See Church celebrates, p. 13

See From Bay City to Blessing, p. 5
### DIOCESE

#### Have you moved?

Address Changed?

**Call (361) 573-0828 with the change in your address.**

**Saves Money!**

### Bishop Fellhauer’s Schedule

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>October</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>10:30 a.m. Mass, Permanent Deacons’ Retreat, Spiritual Renewal Center</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Victoria</td>
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<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>10:00 a.m. Mass, Dedication of renovations at Our Lady of Lourdes Church,</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Victoria</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>10:00 a.m. Clergy Day, Spirituality of the Priesthood, Holy Family Church,</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Victoria</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>7:00 p.m. Mass, dedication and blessing of Adoration Chapel, St. Mary Church,</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Victoria</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>10:00 a.m. Mass, Adult Confirmation, St. Michael Church, Cuero</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>6:30 p.m. Catholic Daughters of the Americas and Knights of Columbus 1329</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Awards Banquet, Knights of Columbus Hall, Victoria</td>
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<tr>
<td>20</td>
<td>10:30 a.m. Mass, 100th Anniversary Celebration of St. Aloysius Church,</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Westhoff</td>
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<td></td>
<td>5:00 p.m. Sacred Heart Church Catholic Knowledge Bowl, Hallettsville</td>
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<tr>
<td>23</td>
<td>8:15 a.m. School Mass, Nazareth Academy, St. Mary’s Church, Victoria</td>
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<tr>
<td>24</td>
<td>6:00 p.m. Mass, Serra Club Deacons’ Dinner, Holy Family Church, Victoria</td>
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<tr>
<td>27</td>
<td>8:30 a.m. Mass, Stevenson Unit Prison, Cuero</td>
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<tr>
<td>November</td>
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<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>10:20 a.m. School Mass, St. Joseph High School, Victoria</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>12:00 noon Mass, All Souls Day, Resurrection Cemetery Mausoleum, Victoria</td>
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<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>5:00 p.m. Liturgy Commission meeting, Chancery Office</td>
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<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>10:00 a.m. Presbyteral Council meeting, Chancery Office</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10-14</td>
<td>United States Conference of Catholic Bishops General meeting, Baltimore, Maryland</td>
</tr>
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### DSA & Reflection of Faith Capital Campaign Updates

#### 2013 DSA

**Diocesan Goal:** $1,721,343.00  
**Parish Pledge Totals:** $726,021.94  
**Parish Contribution Totals:** $661,423.45  
**Number of Parish Families Participating:** 3,303

#### Reflection of Faith Capital Campaign

**Diocesan Goal:** $9,000,000.00  
**Parish Pledge Totals:** $12,879,942.49  
**Parish Contribution Totals:** $10,993,712.80  
**Number of Parish Families Participating:** 6,770

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Effective September 9, 2013, Deacon David G. Valdez is released from his assignment at Our Lady of Mount Carmel Church, Wharton, and is assigned to Diaconal Ministry at Holy Family Church, Wharton, and its mission, St. Joseph Church, Boling.
Thank You Note

Dear Bishop Fellhauer,

Thank you for your contribution of $47,173.28 to the 2013 Good Friday Collection for the Holy Land. I thank you in the name of the Custos, Fr. Pierbattista Pizzaballa, and the Franciscans who work in the Holy Land. The Christians who live there are also very grateful to you. They need our prayers and support.

The Good Friday Collection “remains the ordinary and indispensable means of promoting the life of Christians in the beloved Land,” declared Leonardo Cardinal Sandri, Prefect of the Congregation for Eastern Churches in his Lenten Letter. He went on to say how the Custody of the Holy Land uses the money you and your priests and people give:

+ To keep the shrines living Christian communities and places of prayer and to welcome pilgrims from around the world.
+ To run 14 schools open to all students regardless of religion or nationality. These schools build understanding and harmony between Muslims and Christians.
+ To help young Christians remain in the Holy Land, the Custody offers scholarships to different universities in Jerusalem, Bethlehem, and Amman.
+ To provide apartments for needy families rent free or proportionate to their income.
+ To staff 29 parishes in Israel, Syria, Lebanon, Cypress, and Rhodes.

Without the generosity of American Catholics, these ministries would not be possible. Please thank your priests and people for their contribution to the 2013 Good Friday Collection. May God bless you personally and in your ministry.

Sincerely and gratefully,
Bro. Joe Rogenski, O.F.M.
Commissary of the Holy Land
St. Louis Region

KJZT Society #101, Victoria, awarded two $250 scholarships to recipients, (above left) Ashley Kolar of St. Joseph, Victoria and Josh Motley of College Station (not pictured). Grandparents Joe and Marylyn Nevlund received the check on Josh’s behalf. Carolyn Nevlund, (above right) treasurer, presented the checks.

KJZT Society #101, Victoria, presented a $450 check, at a recent KJZT breakfast, to Our Lady of Lourdes St. Vincent de Paul Society. Left to right are Lori Ballard of St. Vincent de Paul Society and Lillian Berger of the KJZT.

Don’t Forget!
Change your clocks back one hour!
November 3 @ 2:00 a.m.

Our Lady of Victory Catholic Church Annual Parish Festival
Sunday, October 13
at the Victoria Community Center
Doors Open at 11:00 a.m.
Buffet Style Barbecue-Beef and Sausage Dinner
Adults • $8 Children under 12 years • $5
Plates-to-go • $8

Auction begins at 12:30 p.m.
Booths and Games for the entire family
Come Join Us!
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 seminary burses. The 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

As of September 23, 2013

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<td>Donation in memory of Romanus Stuekerjuergen by Bob and Minnie Bochat</td>
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<td>In honor of Rev. Msgr. John C. Peters by Roger and Beverly Janak</td>
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<td>In loving memory of Siegfried Golsch by Ed and Peggy Scherer</td>
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<td>In loving memory of Ervin Mendel by Willie E. Barborak</td>
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<td>Charles and Kathleen Morin</td>
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<td>James and Barbara Adams</td>
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<td>In loving memory of Ervin Mendel by Elsie Farek</td>
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<td>Georgia Kalich</td>
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<td>Lillian Besetzny</td>
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<td>$5,581.00</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**

**Reporting Abuse**

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. Fellhufer 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.
dedicated to the formation and development of Christian Disciples. God’s Embrace focused their efforts on the development and preparation of Christian disciples to serve in their parish and diocesan Catholic communities and in 2006, Fonseca incorporated the first God’s Embrace.

Currently, he is based in Schulenburg. He became connected to Texas by being involved with deacon candidate formation. For the past 16 years, he has left Michigan once a month for 10 months out of the year, to come to Texas. During these visits and throughout the process, he would hear a great deal about ACTS retreat experiences from people and how it assisted Catholics to feel restored. Thus, he held a day-long retreat on Aug. 6, 2010. “The response was overwhelming. 110 people came. I decided to offer a 3-year program and begin a God’s Embrace here. 50 or so applications were received. I sought the Most Rev. David E. Fellhauer’s approval and the journey has been remarkable ever since.”

The 3-year formation program is geared to facilitate the creation of ardent disciples who glorify God through the witness of their lives and service of the Church. 35 participants graduated earlier this year in May, in Halletsville, from that initial retreat in 2010. A 3rd-year group (from 2011) of candidates are currently meeting in El Campo. Last year’s group, in their 2nd year, hail from Blessing, Frelsburg, Schulenburg, and Victoria. They currently meet in High Hill where God’s Embrace has established a conference room in a center to hold the program. The newest group, in their 1st year, has 200 new registrants. 79 from Bay City, 79 from El Campo, and 42 from High Hill. Fonseca said, this only demonstrates “there is great hunger out there.”

God’s Embrace’s philosophy encompasses formations based on a 3-prong approach based on instruction, small group meetings, and intense experience of prayer. Per teaching, Fonseca has written a manual for each year of formation along with a workbook companion. 18 sessions are included and broken down on a day-to-day basis as the participant progresses through the years of formation.

In small group meetings, held monthly, facilitators assist the groups with the workbook companion and journals. They share experiences through spiritual prayer and reading. Groups are held accountable for what they have written. Questions and concerns are answered. In these meetings, Fonseca believes, “a wonderful experience of discipleship and community takes place.”

The intense experience of prayer is ordinarily received through a 30-day retreat. However, because people come from all walks of life it is impossible to do. To better accommodate, every month, over an 8 month period, retreats will be offered. Participants are encouraged to attend a minimum of 4 weekend retreats. The first weekend retreat was offered on the weekend of Sept. 13-15 and 42 participants were present. At the retreats, all prayer is in front of the Blessed Sacrament. Fonseca typically chooses a theme to include along with 8-12 Bible passages. With reflection and through, lectio divina, the passage is read 3 times to absorb and create a personal, intimate community with God.

When one is part of the 3-year program, each year has a specific goal. According to Fonseca, in the 1st year, the idea is to evangelize Catholics through manuals and retreats so that participants will have completed preparation through a new and everlasting covenant with Jesus. Beyond the 1st year, the goal is to not offend God by a deliberate sin, to consciously live life and be aware of God’s presence throughout the day, gearing towards a solid formation, and be aware of God’s presence throughout the day, gearing towards a solid formation, to have confidence with themselves and their relationship with God and the delicate balance of how it (relationship with God) works, how it impacts lives, and the different movements.

In the 2nd year, the foundations of discipleship of following Jesus, are the focus. Some teachings may seem impossible and might drive a wedge, as “we do not want to be asked to do all of what Jesus asks and we become a ‘cafeteria Catholic’. Our concern is to get into heaven, but with this notion a sense of being lukewarm enters, your own Jesus is created, and you live in the twilight zone.” One must realize there is a covenant union that is two-fold. One, God gives to us completely and withholds nothing and two, we are his forces; He created us in His image and likeness. To a greater extent, Fonseca says, “we are the apple of his eye.” God wants us to share in His life- in and through Jesus. I am the vine. You are the branches.

“The movement towards more contemplative prayer, as it advances becomes more simplified,” states Fonseca.

In the 3rd year, a participant should become a part of Christ in God’s covenant family. The intimate, unbreakable connection and spirituality are inherent. Through advanced stages of purification and transformation, a 3 year program requires much preparation, however one sincerely needs their whole life to do it. Regarding the program, Fonseca recalls, “graduates even start over again, every 3 years. While topics may be the same, discussions differ. It is truly astonishing.”

After all these years, he has felt the impact of God’s Embrace in two ways. He has been amazed at the profound transformation in those having experienced God and the way they live their lives. Also, he not only has lived out his discipleship by himself, but in community. “The encouragement, support, accountability, Sacraments, daily prayer, journals, small groups, the 3 prongs or legs are all necessities to grow and to obtain quality input to nourish your soul. Under direction and guidance of the Holy Spirit and trusting the process, I would not choose to live out [my] discipleship any other way. There is a tremendous amount of encouragement and support in God’s Embrace.”

For more information or a registration form, visit:

www.godsembrace.org
Junior Catholic Daughters of the Americas #206, Yoakum, welcomed and installed 8 new members last month. CDA member Dorothy Zabransky performed the installation ceremony. New members include Ruby Pesek, Arielle Bennetsen, Valery Bordovsky, Claudia Maravilla, Brynlee McCoy, Kilynn Poole, Adison Poole, and Kyleigh Powell.

25th Annual
HOLY FAMILY
CATHOLIC CHURCH
BAZAAR

Sun., Oct. 20, 2013
Join in the fun at the
Holy Family Life Center
2009 Briar Lane

WHARTON

MASSES:
SATURDAY: 5:30 P.M.
SUNDAY: 10:00 A.M.

DINNER MENU
BAR-B-QUE 1/2 CHICKEN & SAUSAGE $8.00
• Potatoes
• Green Beans
• Sauerkrut
• Ice Tea
Serving starts 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.
Seating available or plates to go

Auction Begins 12:00 noon
Handmade Quilts
Various Children’s Games

COUNTRY STORE
HOMEMADE BREAD, NOODLES, COOKIES
CRAFT ITEMS, CAKE WALK

Sister Maria Grace Dateno has authored three children’s series, Gospel Time Trekkers. Her newly published books bring together siblings who travel to the time of Jesus; encountering people who met Jesus and were present for events described in at least one of the four Gospels.

Nun authors three children’s books

ALEXANDRIA, Va. (CNS)—Sr. Dateno knows a thing or two about books. She is a Daughter of St. Paul. Her congregation’s mission is to ignite the faith through various forms of media. They model themselves after St. Paul, who spread the good news about Jesus to the early church.

A teenage Maria Grace Dateno found herself at a mother-daughter dinner at her home parish, St. Lawrence Church in Alexandria. The guest speaker, a Pauline nun, spoke about the order’s mission and shared a display of books.

“That was a key moment for me because I had occasionally thought about being a sister, but I didn’t feel called to teaching, nursing or living a contemplative life,” she recalled. “The Daughters of St. Paul were into books and that was something that caught my attention.” She joined the postulancy immediately after high school and will celebrate her silver anniversary as a religious in 2014.

Her path to writing began when she joined the Paulines.

“Writing is part of the charism of our community. The desire to communicate Christ to others is what spurs me to write and this desire increased as I realized that God has given me some ability,” she said.

The first 3 books in the series, Shepherds to the Rescue, Braving the Storm, and Danger at Sea will soon be available at www.pauline.org or through local Catholic bookstores. The 3 concluding books in the series will be released in January 2014.

In each story, the children return from their adventures, and on Sunday attend Mass. Various details of the liturgy and Fr. Joe’s homilies connect to what they have learned on their journey. Each book ends with a section called “Where is it in the Bible?” that offers the biblical foundation for the story.

“I really hope kids love my books!” said Sr. Dateno. “I’ve been praying, and will continue to pray for each reader—that these books will give them a little push in their friendship with Jesus, a little help in grasping his mind-boggling love for each of us.”

To view a related video about Sr. Dateno’s books, visit http://youtu.be/426mim7MKo0.

“We who accept Jesus as our Lord and King are invited to follow his command to love one another as he loves us.”

~ Mark 9:37
YOUTH

The Catholic Lighthouse
Page 7 — October 2013

Youth Calendar of Events

Oct. 2 – Last day for late registration for Youth Leadership Training (YLT)
Oct. 6 – YLT, Holy Family, Victoria
Oct. 10 – Foundations – Pastoral Care
Nov. 3 – YLT, St. Mary’s Church, Nada
Nov. 7 – Foundations – Leadership Development – Planning and Programming
Nov. 12-27 – NET team in Victoria Diocese
Nov. 17 – Retreat Formation/Policy and Procedures Training, St. Anthony’s Church, Columbus 1:30-3:30 p.m.
Dec. 1 – YLT, Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Church, Ganado
Dec. 5 – Foundations – Prayer and Worship

Like us on Facebook at Diocese of Victoria – Youth Ministry!
For more information contact:
The Office of Youth Ministry
Wendy Eggert
ym@victoriadiocese.org
(361) 573-0828
www.victoriadiocese.org

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Puzzle Contest Winners

The winner of the September puzzle contest and the book They Do Grow Up by Patricia M. Robertson is Victor B. Kahanek of St. Mary Parish outside Hallettsville. The winners of the children’s contest are Aubri Bernesen, 6, of Sts. Peter and Paul Parish, Plum, Kaylie Ann Olivarez, 8, of Sacred Heart Parish, Hallettsville, and Chance Anderson, 7, of St. Philip the Apostle School in El Campo (class submission). Each will receive a gift from the Incarnate Word Gift Shop.

In honor of St. Kateri Tekakwitha’s canonization last October, the winner of the October contest will win Lily of the Mohawks, The Story of St. Kateri by Emily Cavins. The book weaves historical facts with the Native American’s life story. St. Kateri was from the Mohawk Valley of the Iroquois along the Hudson River. The book offers how St. Kateri became a Christian, her impact on the Catholic Mohawk community, her path to sainthood, and special prayers.

If you have not won the puzzle contest within the past six months, please mail a completed October puzzle form by October 27, 2013 to The Catholic Lighthouse, P.O. Box 4070, Victoria, TX 77903 for a chance to win!
Catholic schools welcome new teachers

Cecilia Allison is a graduate of University of Houston-Victoria with a Bachelors degree of Science in Interdisciplinary Studies. She is an alumnus of Nazareth Academy ('72). Her teaching experience includes Nazareth Academy, Bloomington Elementary, and Bay City Head Start. She teaches kindergarten.

Yanira Perez is a graduate of University of Texas-Pan American with Bachelors of Arts degree in English. She has an Associates Applied Science degree in Child Care and Development. She has 13 years experience working with children in McAllen I.S.D. She teaches kindergarten.

Sonya Ramos is a graduate of Texas Tech University with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Spanish and a minor in English. Her 16 years of teaching experience includes Houston I.S.D., Plainview I.S.D., and Bay City I.S.D. She teaches kindergarten-6th grade Spanish.

Stephanie Roberts is a graduate of University of Houston with a Bachelor of Business Administration in Finance. She obtained her teaching certification through I Teach Texas. She began her teaching experience at Holy Cross, took a year off to be with her children, and returned to teach 1st grade.

Dawn Stewart is a graduate of University of Houston-Victoria with a Bachelor’s degree of Science in Interdisciplinary Studies. She is actively involved in Catholic Daughters of America (regent of Court #2054). She was a substitute teacher in Van Vleck I.S.D. for 5 years. She teaches 5th grade.

Kelsey Schacherl is a graduate of University of Houston-Victoria with a Bachelors degree in Mathematics. She is an alumnus of OLV ('05) and St. Joseph High School ('09). Her teaching experience includes assistant instructor, lead staff member, and director of early childhood development at Victoria AllStar Dance Academy; assistant director of the Texas Stars Competitive Dance Team, and dance coach of the Starlighters Dance & Drill Team at St. Joseph High School. She teaches math for 4th, 5th, and 8th grades.

Barbara Bludau is a graduate of Southwest Texas (now Texas State) University with a Bachelor of Science degree in Secondary Education. She earned a Masters of Education degree from University of Houston-Victoria. Her teaching experience includes Victoria I.S.D., St. Joseph High School, and Industrial I.S.D. She teaches 5th grade science and 6th grade math and science.

Brittney Brzozowski is a 2012 graduate from the University of Texas at San Antonio with a Bachelors of Arts degree in Interdisciplinary Studies (Ec-6th). She begins her first year as a teacher, teaching 2nd grade math, social studies and science. Most of her teaching experience was in San Antonio and for Victoria I.S.D. where she was a substitute for two years and a Pre-K teacher’s aide.

Teresa Childress has been an educator for 28 years. Her teaching experience includes elementary, middle school, and high school grades. She has taught reading, English, geography, and writing classes at all levels. She has been a swim coach, high school volleyball and basketball coach, and a cheerleading sponsor. She enjoys quilting and knitting. She has five children and twelve grandchildren. She teaches 8th grade.

Nancy Ives is a graduate of University of Houston-Victoria with a Bachelors degree in Elementary Education with a Speech Specialization. This is her first year at OLV and her 28th year of teaching. She taught in Victoria I.S.D. for 27 years at Stanley/Chandler Elementary. She teaches 5th grade reading and 5th and 6th grade language arts.

Luis Rodriguez earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in History and Geography from Texas A&M University and a Master of Arts in Education degree from The University of Texas-Pan Permian Basin. He has 43 years vested in education and his teaching experience includes Crain Middle School, Victoria Christian School, and Trinity Episcopal School. He also served as supervisor of special programs and as principal of North Elementary School in Lamesa I.S.D., Gross Elementary, Dudley Elementary, Shields Elementary and Mission Valley Elementary Schools in Victoria. He has been married for 37 years, is the proud father of two, and ‘professional’ grandfather of five. He teaches American history and 8th grade religion classes.

Danette Cantu teaches social studies in the junior high where graduated from the 8th grade in 1984. She earned a Bachelor’s degree and certification in English Arts and Reading from St. Mary’s University in San Antonio. Her teaching experience started in Michigan as a private home-school teacher and as well as teaching Catholic education in Corpus Christi. She also teaches Theology of the Body for Teens to middle school and high school students.
St. Michael • Cuero

Lawrence Blume begins his first year at STJ and his second year of teaching after retiring from a career in banking and government. He holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in History, a Doctorate of Jurisprudence degree, and is a candidate for a Masters of Arts degree in Theology, all from St. Mary’s University in San Antonio. He teaches 10th and 12th grade theology.

Dana Howard begins her first year at STJ and her 13th year of teaching. She earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in History from Texas A&M University. Her teaching experience includes 12 years at Nazareth Academy. She teaches world history, government, and economics.

Wendi Martinez begins her first year at STJ and her 9th year of teaching. She earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Biomedical Science from Texas A&M University. She is married to a STJ alumnus. Her teaching experience includes teaching in Victoria I.S.D. She teaches 11th grade chemistry and 12th grade anatomy and physiology.

St. Michael • Weimar

Britney Pressler begins her first year of teaching at St. Michael’s School, Cuero. She earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Biology from Texas A&M University-Kingsville. She teaches science and math for 5th and 6th grades.

Myra Schaefer begins her first year at St. Michael School, Weimar. She teaches junior high science and P.E. She is a graduate of Baylor University with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Nursing and is pursuing alternative education through Region III. She was previously president of our Home & School Association and will continue as the teacher liaison with this organization. She is also an alumnus of St. Michael and Weimar I.S.D.

St. Philip • El Campo

Erik Danna is a Summa Cum Laude graduate from the University of Houston with a Bachelor of Arts degree in History. He is a first-year teacher and is certified in Social Studies for grades 8-12. He has been a substitute teacher for the past 7 years. He is looking forward to coaching during the soccer season.

Ruth Kinder, an El Campo native, teaches Pre-K-4. Her teaching experience includes 8 years in early childhood education.

St. Rose • Schulenburg

Pat Marquis lives in Fayetteville where she is active in various civic organizations. Her 12 years of experience includes a Masters in Education, elementary and secondary certification, and certification in Dyslexia. She is a mother of three and grandmother of seven. She teaches 2nd grade.

Erin Wotipka teaches 1st grade. She is from Schulenburg. She began teaching 8 years ago at Whispering Hills Achievement Center in Flatonia. She taught students with disabilities for 2 years and served as program director for 4 years. She also worked at HATCH, a learning habitat and consulting firm in Weimar, and consulted within both public and private school classrooms across Texas. She and her husband, Ryan, have two daughters, Lilly, a Pre-K-4 student at St. Rose and 2-year-old, Elly.
United to make a difference

Back in the days when bonfires before games were part of the ritual of high school football games, I was always puzzled. Embers and sparks were flying in the air and landing on the grass in the distance. Yet the firemen, who were always present to make sure that the fire would not get out of hand, did not pay any attention to these distant embers. One day I asked one of the firemen why they weren't concerned about the embers in the distant grass. He told me you needed more hot embers to create enough heat to set the grass on fire.

I discovered this to be very true when I would be trying to light trash in an incinerator. If there was moisture in the air or if I had hard-to-light trash, I found that if I tried to light it in several places, the flame would be more likely to survive. It was then that I understood the concept of critical mass - a term coined in the middle 40s when physicists were exploring nuclear fission (the splitting of an atomic nucleus to produce energy). They discovered you had to have enough fissionable material to get results.

I think the concept of critical mass applies to us as we face Christian values being challenged in our society. If enough of us stand up for our faith, we can make a difference! We can make our voices heard; we can get results. Let us get in touch with our elected leaders and let them know where we stand. Let us vote for those who share our principles. Let us support businesses and organizations that operate out of Christian values. Let us have the courage to witness to our faith. United, we can create enough heat to get results. United, we can continue living out the God-centered principles upon which our nation was founded!

Do More...Be More...

St. Joseph High School
SAVE THE DATE!
Open House
November 14, 2013
6:30 pm
StJ Gymnasium
You' ll love the Journey®

Sister Jane Dominic Laurel, O.P., S.T.D.

Sunday Readings from Oct. 6 to Nov. 10

October 6 — Twenty-seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time
Habakkuk 1:2-3, 2:2-4
Psalms 95:1-2, 6-7, 8-9
2 Timothy 1:6-8, 13-14
Luke 17:5-10

October 13 — Twenty-eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time
2 Kings 5:14-17
Psalms 98:1, 2, 3, 3-4
2 Timothy 2:8-13
Luke 17:11-19

October 20 — Twenty-ninth Sunday in Ordinary Time
Exodus 17:8-13
Psalms 121:1-2, 3-4, 5-6, 7-8
2 Timothy 3:14 - 4:2
Luke 18:1-8

October 27 — Thirtieth Sunday in Ordinary Time
Sirach 35:12-14, 16-18
Psalms 34:2-3, 17-18, 19, 23
2 Timothy 4:6-8, 16-18
Luke 18:9-14

November 3 — Thirty-first Sunday in Ordinary Time
Wisdom 11:22 - 12:2
Psalms 145:1-2, 8-9, 10-11, 13, 14
2 Thessalonians 1:11 - 2:2
Luke 19:1-10

November 10 — Thirty-second Sunday in Ordinary Time
2 Maccabees 7:1-2, 9-14
Psalms 17:1; 5-6, 8, 15
2 Thessalonians 2:16 - 3:5

All daily and Sunday readings, as well as a daily reflection video, are available at:

www.usccb.org/bible/readings
Brought to you by the Catholic Communications Campaign. Please be generous.

Masculinity and Femininity: Difference and Gift coming to Holy Family
Holy Family, Victoria, holds Masculinity and Femininity: Difference and Gift Nov. 20 at 7:00 p.m. in the Activity Center, Bldg. D. Teens, parents, young adults welcome. Sister Jane Dominic Laurel, O.P., S.T.D. of the Nashville Dominicans will be the presenter.

California Rose Parade
Dec. 27 - Jan. 2
5 spaces left

~ Viking River Cruise ~
Aug. 15, 2014
8 days - 4 countries

~ Caliifornia Rose Parade ~
Dec. 27 - Jan. 2
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Brochures for 2014 are here call for yours today!

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Hope You Can Come & Join Us!
St. Theresa Annual Parish Picnic
in La Salle at the Parish Hall
4612 County Road 325 - 77969
Sunday, October 20

Turkey Dressing Dinner
(Catered by Robert Werner of Shiner, Texas)
Serving: 11:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m. • $8 • Dine-in or Plates-to-go

Live Auction at 12:30 p.m.
It was such a weird assignment. Then again, it was a college sociology class, so that may explain a lot.

Assignment? Deliberately do something counter to social mores, observe reactions of those around you, and write about it in your journal.

One student, a middle-aged man with a large beer belly, went to McDonalds and ordered a Happy Meal. He asked for a boy’s toy and proceeded to sit directly in front of the counter and eat the meal himself. Then, he played with the toy.

Another student entered an elevator and stood in front of the closed elevator doors, staring at the other people in the elevator rather than standing face-forward in silence like everyone over the age of five has learned to do.

I remember the assignment because it was extremely uncomfortable. I like to fit in. I care what people are thinking about me. I feel this crazy compulsion to explain myself to perfect strangers even when I merely suspect that my actions might not make sense to them.

I don’t like breaking social mores- ever. I like to blend.

But the world has changed. Catholics cannot just blend in with society at large. We stand out because we stand up for Christ and His Church, and we hold to Church Teaching.

There was a time that meant there was not much difference between Catholics and the rest of the grown-ups in the U.S. Yes, there was Mary and the Pope and no-meat Fridays, but in general, we could blend.

Today, people look at us as if we are a grown-up who purchased a Happy Meal and entertained by the toy inside. Today, people think we are as odd as the person in the elevator who faces away from the doors rather than staring at the closed doors in silence.

No college assignment required. We break social mores all of the time. It is kind of uncomfortable.

At a glance, our Catholic practices and beliefs don’t make sense to the public- but they do make sense. There is a Truth here that is so deep, so rich, so eternal that we must not sacrifice it to feel like one of the crowd.

The stakes are too high.

Now more than ever, we must be the salt of the Earth- even if the world has lost its taste for this kind of salt.

More than ever, we must be the light of the world- even if the world likes to dance in the dark and play dangerous games with their eternal souls.

The world may like us to follow along blindly. We cannot. The Shepherd is calling us to follow after Him.

So, we stand and face the people in the elevator when we stand up for the unborn, for holy maternity, for chastity, for beauty, for sacrificial living, for suffering-made-holy, for the immigrant-among-us, for peace and peaceful resolutions to conflict, for the aged-and-infirmed, for family meals and family values, for Mass attendance because Jesus IS waiting for us in the Eucharist. The crowds may say we are only playing with McDonaldland toys when we pick up our rosaries and light candles in the adoration chapel.

Get used to feeling uncomfortable under the gaze of the world. St. Paul’s prediction is upon us:

“For the time will come when people will not tolerate sound doctrine but, following their own desires and insatiable curiosity, will accumulate teachers and will stop listening to the truth and will be diverted to myths. But you, be self-possessed in all circumstances; put up with hardship; perform the work of an evangelist; fulfill your ministry. For I am already being poured out like a libation, and the time of my departure is at hand. I have competed well; I have finished the race; I have kept the faith.” (II Timothy 4:3-7)

by Betty Ellen Walter
Catholic News Service

ANNANDALE, Va. (CNS)—Catholic Distance University’s programs “reignite a passion for being Catholic,” said Mari-anne Evans Mount, president of the online university, based in Hamilton.

“Many Catholics have advanced degrees in their professional fields, but they’re operating at a third-grade level when it comes to their faith,” she said, adding that the university provides “an education that is textured, deep and transformational.”

Students from all 50 states and 60 countries have earned degrees from Catholic Distance University or taken its courses and seminars.

It was founded Aug. 22, 1983, as the Catholic Home Study Institute, educating exclusively through distance education using correspondence courses to educate the laity.

The university has evolved into a nationally accredited, U.S. Department of Education-recognized institution of higher education. It offers three degree programs: a master’s in theology, a bachelor’s degree-completion program in theology, and an associate’s degree in liberal arts with a concentration in Catholic studies.

“Our reach is worldwide,” Mount said. “For example, we are working with a religious community of sisters in Nigeria and we’ve just completed a pilot project with the Archdiocese of Dublin.”

Arlington Bishop Paul S. Loverde, chairman of the board of trustees, said the university is “committed to handing on the authentic teachings of the church, the Catholic intellectual tradition, and our rich cultural heritage as Catholics” and “reaches people at all stages of life and circumstances at their convenience.”

Close to a thousand students are enrolled in courses and seminars. Classes range from basic introductory courses in the Bible, the Catechism of the Catholic Church, canon law, church history and Catholic theology to classes that reintroduce students to the time when Jesus walked the earth.

Courses and seminars also include catechetical classes to fulfill continuing education requirements for volunteer catechists at parishes and employees of Catholic dioceses. Students include deacons as well as young men and women in formation for religious life who lack a background in fundamental theology.

Students find the school appealing because they can fit coursework into a busy lifestyle.

The school’s typical student works full time or has a life that is home-centered caring for young children or elderly parents. The average age is 45.

The common thread in the curriculum is the online campus, www.cdu.edu, and course rooms connected through the internet. Students choose the format and length of study. Online group courses are similar to what is offered at traditional universities.

Courses are interactive and the professor posts questions and answers in a discussion area that can be viewed by all. Many courses come with audio and graphics, and online materials are available 24/7.

Three-week online interactive seminars offer intense learning over a short period of time. Online on-demand independent study courses allow students to enroll at any time of the year and work at their own pace with automated testing under a course instructor’s direction.

“Our faith is under attack in the secular culture; Catholics who live their faith are sometimes portrayed as simple, uninformed or even irrational,” Mount said. “A lot of Catholics who lack a rational understanding at an adult level for the teachings of the church end up walking away from the faith.”

“Others who do not continue to nourish their faith and deepen their knowledge gradually begin to struggle with the demands of the moral teachings of the church. Rather than becoming evangelizers of the culture, as (Blessed) John Paul II challenged us, we become evangelized by the culture.”

Catholic Distance University “reignites enthusiasm for being Catholic and turns armchair Catholics into true and fearless apostles,” Mount added. “That’s something worth being excited about.”

For more information:
www.cdu.edu
The Holy Spirit truly transforms us. With our cooperation, he also wants to transform the world we live in.

~Pope Francis

Pope calls for ‘war against evil,’ including illegal arms trade

by Francis X. Rocca
Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY (CNS)—Repeating his recent calls for peace in the Middle East, Pope Francis urged Christians to wage a “deeper war” against evil, including the illegal arms trade that he said drives much of the world’s military conflict.

The pope made his remarks Sept. 8, before praying the noon Angelus with a crowd in St. Peter’s Square, where the previous evening he had led a four-hour vigil for peace in Syria, the Middle East and the world.

“This war against evil means saying no to fratricidal hatred, and to the lies that it uses; saying no to violence in all its forms; saying no to the proliferation of arms and their sale on the black market,” the pope said.

“There are so many of them!” he said of black market weapons. “And the doubt always remains: This war over there, this other war over there- because there are wars everywhere- is it really a war over problems, or is it a commercial war, to sell these arms on the black market?”

“These are the enemies we must fight, united and coherent, following no other interests but those of peace and the common good,” he said.

Following the Angelus, Pope Francis thanked those who had participated in the vigil, which drew an estimated 100,000 to the square.

The pope asked listeners to pray for an end to Syria’s civil war, and for peace in other beleaguered Middle Eastern countries: stability and continued “peaceful coexistence” in Lebanon, an end to “sectarian violence” in Iraq, and progress in the Israeli-Palestinian peace process.

“Finally, let us pray for Egypt,” the pope said, “that all Egyptians, Muslims and Christians, may commit themselves to build up together a society dedicated to the good of the whole population.”

Lord Jesus Christ, Savior and Redeemer, you are The Way, The Truth, and The Life. I pray you will send the Holy Spirit into the lives of all Clergy of every denomination so they will proclaim the message of the one true God who has revealed himself to us for all time in His Son, Our Lord Jesus Christ, that pro-life is a condition Christianity, just as John Paul II wrote in his Evangelium Vitae (The Living Gospel of Life), “to be Catholic is to be unconditionally pro-life.”

~Pro-God, Pro-Life Coalition of America
In early September, people pray during a feast honoring Our Lady of Regla in Regla, a workers’ district in Havana. (CNS photo/Desmond Boylan, Reuters)

World Mission Sunday is a day set aside for Catholics worldwide to recommit themselves to the Church’s missionary activity through prayer and sacrifice. It is celebrated on Oct. 20 this year. Offerings from Catholics in the U.S., on this day and throughout the year, are combined with offerings from Catholics around the globe and distributed to mission dioceses. Currently, there are about 1,100 dioceses whose needs include communications and transportation as well as building chapels, churches, orphanages and schools. For more information, visit www.onefamilyinmission.org.

**St. Francis of Assisi**

1181-1226

St. Francis is known as the patron saint of animals, merchants, and ecology. He is also the founder of the Franciscan Order. He was born at Assisi in Umbria.

The tomb of St. Francis of Assisi is located in the crypt of the lower church at the basilica named for him in Assisi, Italy. Pope Francis will visit the birthplace of his namesake on the saint’s feast day, Oct. 4. (CNS photo/Octavio Duran)

**St. Joseph Catholic Church Priests and Pastoral Care**

Fr. Thomas Moczygema 1890 – 1892
Fr. William B. Henderson 1892 – 1895
Fr. G.J. Hendricks 1895
Fr. L.P. Netardus 1895
Fr. William E. Heffernan 1896 – 1899
Fr. G.J. Hendricks 1899 – 1908
Fr. C.T. Vossenkuhl 1908 – 1909
Fr. William E. Heffernan 1909 – 1910
Fr. P.J. Crane 1911 – 1912
Fr. Joseph Klobouk 1912
Fr. Peter J. Schnetzer 1913
Fr. P.J. Kieffer 1913 – 1914
Fr. Vaudrey Smyth 1914
Fr. A. Wensorra 1915
Fr. Francis Havel 1916
Fr. Peter M. Baquet 1916 – 1920
Fr. P.J. Boivin 1920 – 1921
Fr. D.A. Sykora 1921
Fr. P.J. Tarradellas 1921 – 1923
Fr. J.P. Vervaekte 1923 – 1925
Fr. William Jansen 1925 – 1927
Fr. D.P. Lanigan 1927 – 1928
Fr. David Buckley 1928 – 1933
Fr. Henry F. Pensik 1933 – 1940
Fr. Edward Murski 1940 – 1948
Fr. Harold Ehlinger 1948 – 1951
Fr. Hubert Janak 1951 – 1953
Fr. Gerald Boehm 1953 – 1954
Fr. Roman Janak 1954 – 1956
Fr. Wilbert J. Leopold 1956 – 1959
Fr. Bodo N. Galle 1959 – 1962
Fr. Oswald B. Kahllich 1974 – 1976
Fr. Vaclav J. Bily 1976 – 1986
Fr. Clarence Korgie 1986
Fr. Bennett Fonck 1986
Fr. Jude Belisle 1986 – 1990
Fr. Benton Thurmond 1990 – 2003
Sr. Barbara Bacak, S.S.N.D. 2003 – 2008; Pastoral Care
Fr. Owusu-Boateng Johnson 2003 – 2008; Priest Moderator
Fr. Gabriel Bentil 2008 – Present

**Come and See Discernment Weekend** for single Catholic women 18 to 50 years of age Nov. 9-10 and Jan. 11-12, 2014 at Incarnate Word Convent. For more information, contact (361) 575-7111, iwb-svoc@yahoo.com or visit www.iwbsvictoria.org.

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Vatican’s new top diplomat ready to ramp up network for peace

by Carol Glatz
Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY (CNS)—A veteran diplomat, the Vatican’s new secretary of state, plans to put the church’s vast global diplomatic network into high gear as champions for peace.

Archbishop Pietro Parolin said Pope Francis has already injected a new impetus into the Vatican’s Secretariat of State structure and given a new push for church-led diplomacy.

The archbishop, who is currently the papal nuncio to Venezuela, will start his new role Oct. 15.

Last month, in an interview with the Venezuelan Catholic newspaper, Diario Catolico, Archbishop Parolin said, “The pope’s initiatives have given the secretary of state an impetus and have also created a new diplomatic momentum.”

When asked if he would be spearheading a new diplomatic offensive for peace, he noted that it was a complicated question but said, “Yes, I hope that we can recoup that drive.

“We have this great advantage in respect to other churches, to other religions: We can count on an international institutional presence through diplomacy,” he said.

Archbishop Parolin said the Vatican has to take advantage of its vast network of papal nuncios around the world and all the contacts it has with international organizations.

“They are precious instruments that can be used to help the world,” he said.

He emphasized, however, that the Vatican’s efforts are not always publicized, but often happen quietly behind the scenes.

“I wouldn’t like a diplomacy that is on the front pages, but a diplomacy that is more effective,” he said.

“We are not looking for, I believe, popularity. In all honesty, none of us wants it without an effect’ that is positive.

The archbishop said the whole reason for the existence of the Vatican’s diplomatic organization “is the quest for peace.”

“If the Holy See’s diplomatic efforts have had such importance and so much consensus around the world, now and in the past, it’s due to the fact that it goes above and beyond national interests” and pushes for “a vision of the well-being of all humanity,” he said.

He said the role of the Vatican’s secretary of state is to be a focal point of objectivity and universal values in a sea of relativistic self-interests.

Because the world is so much more complex, he said the secretary of state’s role “must be to re-invent” the never-changing and universal goal of peace and human rights in varying and widely diverse contexts. “One must step away from of this plague of relativism” and harmonize differences in a new way, he said.

“If there is no objective truth in which we all recognize ourselves it will be much more difficult to find things in common,” he said.

“This common ground is the dignity of the human person in all his dimensions,” including the transcendent, the spiritual, social and political, and that all people are created in the likeness and image of God.

Nowhere is this more important right now than in the Middle East, he said in an early Sept. interview with his hometown Catholic newspaper, La Voce dei Berici.

“It’s not true that the world belongs to the violent, the world is, for the most part, built by good people, and we need to give them a voice” so that dialogue, peace and harmony can reign, he said.

ST. MICHAEL’S CATHOLIC SCHOOL FALL FESTIVAL
SUNDAY, OCTOBER 27, 2013
St. Michael’s Parish Hall, 104 McLeod Street, Cuero, Texas 77954
Mass at St. Michael’s Church at 10:00 a.m.

DINNER
11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.
Home-style Chicken Fried Steak
Buttered Potatoes, Green Beans, Dessert

$8.00 per plate
Eat in and enjoy the festivities or drive-thru available

Country Music Artist
Clay Crockett
in the Hall 10:30 – 12:30
Country Store
Silent Auction
Cake Walk
Bingo Begins at Noon

Children’s Game Booths
11:30 – 3:30
Children’s Costume
Parade following the auction
(approx. 3:00)
Children’s Movie At 4:00

Raffle Drawing Prizes
given away following the auction

Bruce McComb, a member of St. Timothy Parish in Tappahannock, Virginia, is seen in late June with his pastor, Father Jonathan Goertz. The priest donated a kidney to McComb, who underwent successful transplant surgery at Johns Hopkins in Baltimore. He says he owes his life to Fr. Goertz. (CNS photo/Steve Neill, The Catholic Virginian)
Christian Warriors Retreat Oct. 24-27 at Victory RR’s mission is to build and maintain a
That Man Is You–
(361) 575-1858 or visit
Retrouvaille–
Natural Family Planning–
Marriage Encounter–
Incarnate Word Prayer Group–
Grief Group–
Gabriel Project–
Engaged Encounter–
Catholic Family Services–
Catholic Association of Catholic Family Life Ministers at
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 more information, visit www.couragencr.net
Engaged Encounter–2014 dates: Jan. 17-19, April 11-13, June 27-29 and Sept. 26-28 at the Spiritual Renewal Center. Registrations are on a first come, first serve basis. Fee must accompany registration form. For a registration form, contact your pastor. For more information, call (361) 573-0828 x2230 or visit www.victoriadiocese.org
click on the Ministries tab followed by Family Ministry.
Gabriel Project–Helps women experiencing a crisis pregnancy-an alternative to abortion. Meetings are held the 2nd Tuesday of each month at 6:30 p.m. at 101 W. Convent. Light supper included. For angel workshop/training dates, contact Barbara at (361) 649-1612 or barbararamacas@hotmail.com Holy Family, Wharton, meetings are held the 4th Tuesday of each month at 6:30 p.m. For more information, call (979) 532-3593, M-F, 9:00 a.m.-4:30 p.m. or visit www.gabrielproject.com.
Grief Group–Meetings are held the 1st and 3rd Thursday of each month at 7:00 p.m. in conference/brides’ room at Holy Family Church, Victoria. Before attending, please call Sharon at (361) 578-5772.
Incarnate Word Prayer Group–Praise and Worship on Mondays 7:30-9:00 p.m. in the auditorium at Incarnate Word Convent, 1101 N.E. Water Street. For more information, contact Sr. Louise Marie Jones at (361) 575-7111 or amorneus@yahoo.com.
Marriage Encounter–This program is no longer offered in the Diocese of Victoria. Replacing it is Retreatville (see below). To find a Marriage Encounter weekend outside of the diocese, visit www.wwme.org.
Natural Family Planning–Introductory session to the Creighton Model Fertility Care System (CrMS) featuring NaPro technology Nov. 10 at 2:00 p.m. at Holy Family Church in Wharton. For more information, contact Susanne Koch at (505) 710-0903 or susanneko614@hotmail.com.
Natural Family Planning–NFP is the only Church-approved form of family planning. Fall Sessions: Oct. 20, Nov. 17 and Dec. 15. To learn about the sympto-thermal method in the Victoria area and NFP class schedules, contact David and Annie Coffey at victorianfertilityteachers@yahoo.com.
Raphael’s Refuge–RR’s mission is to build and maintain a memorial in honor of babies, born and unborn. This ministry is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization located in Flatonia. Peer counseling and spiritual direction are also available for those suffering a loss of a baby due to miscarriage, stillbirth, infant death, or abortion. Learn more at www.raphaelssrefuge.org.
Retrouvaille–Retrouvaille, meaning rediscovery, is a marriage/healing ministry offered in the diocese to couples in difficult marriages. Visit www.retrouvaille.org. Contact John and Jennifer Vincent at jhvjoy@sbcglobal.net or (361) 580-2770; (800) 470-2230; or visit www.helpourmarriage.org.
St. Francis and St. Clare Fraternity/Secular Franciscans–For meeting dates in Victoria, contact Mary Ann LeBlanc at (361) 575-1858 or visit www.lostcompaneros-sof.org.
That Man Is You–This men’s group transforms men, families, and society as it presents the vision of man fully alive. Holy Cross, Bay City, Fri. 5:45-7:15 a.m.; Holy Family, Victoria, Wed. 5:45-7:00 a.m., St. Parish Hall; and Assumption, Ganado, Wed. 5:30-7:15 a.m.; JPII Family Center. Visit www.thatmanisyou.org.
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Sacred Heart High School, Hallettsville, held Patriots’ Day ceremonies last month. To honor the day of remembrance and lives lost, student Elizabeth Wysocki (left) read the meaning of the Flag of Honor/Flag of Heroes. The flag contains names of all the victims of Sept. 11, 2001.  Photo courtesy of Jimmy Appelt.

Our Lady of Victory showcases gym murals

Patterson Designs of League City was commissioned to paint the murals for OLV Gymnasium. The project began on a Thursday afternoon. From moving their equipment into the gym and applying the finishing touches on the following Wednesday, the murals took a week to complete. The murals have changed the whole atmosphere of our gym. Principal/Sister Laura Toman, affirmed, “the students and staff are proud of our facility. It creates a reverence that keeps us focused on what we stand for at OLV. Visitors to our gym come in and say, ‘WOW!’ We feel it is a blessed addition to our campus in honor of Our Lady of Victory, our Protector, Mother and Guide.”

For more information or to schedule a viewing of the murals, contact Principal/Sister Laura Toman at (361) 575-5391, srlaura@ourladyvictory.org, or visit www.ourladyvictory.org.

The Knights of Columbus Council #3253, Port Lavaca, recently celebrated the 100th birthday of Pete Lerma, born August 20, 1913. Lerma joined the council June 1, 1957 receiving his first, second and third degrees (56 years). He joined the fourth degree knights on April 27, 1985 (28 years) and was the Council #3253’s Knight of the Year in 1978 and 1989. He lived in Point Comfort until recently moving to Yoakum. Pictured left to right: Bob Bryarly, Victor Keele, Andrew Vasquez, Nick Tijerina, grand knight; and Chris Heysguierdo. Seated is centenarian, Pete Lerma.