



Inside ...

**11** Class of 2022  
Top Catholic  
High School Grads

**13** Being  
pro-life  
matters

# The Catholic Lighthouse

The Cradle of Texas Immigration

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE DIOCESE OF VICTORIA IN TEXAS

VOL. 36, NO. 2

www.victoriadiocese.org



June 2022

## The Giving Garden *Yorktown parish project provides nourishment for body and soul*

YORKTOWN – An idea took root in Teresa Foegelle’s heart about four years ago. She wanted to create some kind of community garden on a section of property of Holy Cross Catholic Church where she works as secretary and bookkeeper. That idea has come to fruition, but the fruits of this garden go beyond the produce it can yield to feed the homebound and others in need.

Partnerships have grown. And the project sparked a desire in some to get involved.

Foegelle said when she saw that the Yorktown Assistance Ministry (YAM), which provides food to those in need, received a grant from

Catholic Relief Services (CRS), she thought that they might have a chance at a grant as well, so she asked the Rev. Roger Hawes, pastor, if it was something the church could pursue. And, with his support, they did.

In March, the church started the Giving Garden with a \$3,000 CRS grant to provide fresh produce for the homebound and needy. She reached out to Sharon Metting, president of YAM and asked if they could receive from the garden if there was an abundance of vegetables, and Metting said yes.

*See The Giving Garden, pg. 20*



Sam Foegelle, left, and Sheldon Lassmann help out with the Holy Cross Catholic Church of Yorktown’s Giving Garden, which got its start this spring thanks to a grant from Catholic Relief Services, other donors and a lot of community support. (Contributed Photo)

## Pope prays for Uvalde shooting victims

By CINDY WOODEN  
*Catholic News Service*

VATICAN CITY (CNS) -- Saying his heart was broken at the news of at least 19 children and two adults being shot and killed at a Texas elementary school, Pope Francis said it was time to say “Enough!” and enact stricter laws on gun sales.

At the end of his weekly general audience May 25, with thousands of people gathered in St. Peter’s Square, the pope prayed publicly for the victims of the shooting the day before at Robb Elementary

*See Pope prays, pg. 2*

## Hispanic leaders called to be bridges to a new era

By ALDO CAMACHO  
*For The Catholic Lighthouse*

On April 26, the 6th National Catholic Congress of Hispanic Ministry with the motto “Prophetic voices: Being bridges for a new era,” was held in Washington, D.C. I had the opportunity to go and represent the Diocese of Victoria. Cathy Garcia and Bonnie Guevara from St. Robert Bellarmine Parish in El Campo attended on behalf of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul, USA.

This congress was convened and organized by the National Catholic Council for Hispanic Ministry (NCCMH) to bring to-

gether Hispanic ministry leaders, ecclesial associations and movements that work with Hispanics/Latinos. Although it was the sixth such congress, it was the first time I had attended.

It was a pleasant surprise, when I arrived, to find so many Hispanic leaders in the hotel lobby – some from the Texas region and others I knew from virtual conferences, and of course, many new people. I immediately felt at home and went to introduce myself to the heads of various church movements. It was also a pleasant surprise to meet Cathy and Bonnie Garcia there. Cathy introduced me to the team

from the Society of St. Vincent de Paul, USA. Bonnie was one of the representatives of that organization.

The conference officially opened that afternoon with Maria del Mar Muñoz-Visoso, executive director of Cultural Diversity in the Church (USCCB), in which she called on all Latino Catholics to be “architects and engineers of those bridges and roads necessary in the church and in today’s society.”

Her speech reminded us that the mission of every Catholic is

*See Hispanic leaders called,  
pg. 20*



From left are Cathy Garcia, Aldo Camacho and Bonnie Guevara. Camacho is the Hispanic Ministry coordinator for the diocese and Garcia and Guevara represent the Society of St. Vincent de Paul, USA.





# Recalling time in Ghana as I prepare to return

**BISHOP'S NOTE:** *On June 26 I will be going to Ghana with Dr. John Quarry. For this month's Lighthouse want to share with you the letter I wrote from my previous trip to Ghana in 2018.*

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

One of my favorite childhood memories involves thinking about the trips we used to take for summer vacations. My parents would get us kids ready and we would go for a road trip. I remember we usually would visit and stay with my grandparents in Brooklyn, New York. Sometimes we would go to other places like Florida or California or Galveston or South Padre Island. One of the observations one of my brothers made recently is that wherever it was it always was close to saltwater.

I just thought of that yesterday, as I'm on a summer vacation further away. Yesterday I was sitting in a restaurant on the Atlantic Ocean – in Cape Coast, Ghana, Africa. Last year Archbishop Matthias Nketsiah was visiting Victoria with the five priests from his diocese who now serve in our diocese. He invited me to come visit him in Ghana sometime. Little did he know that I would take

## A Shepherd's Message

By Bishop Brendan Cahill



him up on the offer so soon. I want to share with you some thoughts from my experience here in Ghana the past couple of days, and I think this is almost like my postcard from summer vacation for my brothers and sisters in Victoria.

Last month I wrote about looking for the similarities instead of the differences in situations. Specifically I thought about the Catholic Rural Life and the V Encuentro Movement, which at first glance may seem like very different realities. After reflecting on them, some of the similarities became apparent to me: Both are very Catholic, desiring to live our faith fully in our society, looking for connections and good ideas on how to celebrate the fullness of our Catholic faith and proclaim it in our society.

Yesterday morning I celebrated morning Mass at the Catholic Chapel of the University of Cape Coast. While the celebration of the Mass reflected African culture with beautiful, vibrant music and dance, at the same time the Mass was the same Mass as celebrated in every culture and language in the world. Let me give you a few of the similarities that I noticed. Before Mass, there was a group leading the rosary in English and Fante. Well-prepared lectors proclaimed the readings clearly and boldly. At the consecration, as I elevated the precious Body and Blood for a moment several people prayed out loud "My Lord and My God." As people came to receive the Eucharist they came with devotion for the

Real Presence of Christ in the Sacrament. For all those who fully participate in the Mass this celebration is one of great joy and peace.

Looking back, that is one of the great joys of travel and vacation for me. I was able to be the only American in a thoroughly African Church, and even though my dancing is poor at best, I could offer it all in praise of God in the sacrifice of the Mass. As I prayed in that Mass, I prayed especially for all of you in the Diocese of Victoria. My heart belongs to you, and I pray for you regularly. I also want to thank the priests who have come from Ghana to serve us in Victoria. You enrich us by your commitment and your culture each day.

May God bless you and your families. Again, I want to particularly thank each of you who have committed to pray the Rosary for the gift of peace in the world and for the family, I believe we can maintain our confidence in the power of this prayer – more than we ever know! Let's keep each other in prayer.

+Brendan

## Pope prays for Uvalde shooting victims

*Continued from pg. 1*

School in Uvalde, Texas.

"With a heart shattered over the massacre at the elementary school in Texas, I pray for the children and adults who were killed and for their families," the pope told the crowd.

"It is time to say, 'Enough!' to the indiscriminate trafficking of guns," the pope said. "Let's all work to ensure that such tragedies never happen again."

Shortly before the audience, Archbishop Gustavo García-Siller of San Antonio, an archdiocese that includes Uvalde, tweeted: "Holy Father Pope Francis, say some prayers for the souls of our little ones killed today and two teachers. Uvalde is in mourning. The families are having a very dark time. Your prayer will do good to them."

Local authorities said the children and adults were killed by an 18-year-old student from a high school nearby. He also was reported dead and at least three children were reported to have been hospitalized for injuries suffered in the attack.

The Texas Catholic Conference of Bish-

ops (TCCB) released the following statement on Wednesday, May 25: "The bishops of Texas mourn for the community of Uvalde and join Archbishop Gustavo García-Siller in asking God to have mercy on our children, families, and communities.

"We pray for those who lost loved ones, for the first responders, and for those in leadership. Archbishop García-Siller offered Mass within hours of the tragedy, a true shepherd for his people. 'Let us help one another to spark light and warmth,' Archbishop García-Siller said.

"Human beings are not created for death. The killing of defenseless children and their teachers is evil and an offense against God and human beings.

"Each one of us has a responsibility to address the root causes of this kind of evil. Our only path forward is through love, mercy, and deeper respect for God's gift of human life.

"May the Prince of Peace guide us as we work together to end gun violence."



## Donation from the KCs

Bishop Cahill was presented a check in the amount of \$53,992.20 on behalf of the Texas State Charities of the Texas Knights of Columbus. Diocese of Victoria Deputy Kenny Trochta presented it at the state convention of the Texas State Council that took place in Corpus Christi recently. *(Contributed Photo)*





## Bishop Cahill's Schedule

<b>June</b>		7:30 p.m. Eucharistic Procession at Our Lady of the Gulf; Port Lavaca
1	9 a.m. Self-Care Retreat for church personnel at the Cathedral Center; Victoria	
2-3	Catholic Rural Life Meeting; St. Paul, Minnesota	20 Noon meal with Sisters at Incarnate Word Convent; Victoria
4	Mass for Carmelites; Meyersville	21 6:30 a.m. Morning Air Relevant Radio interview
	5 p.m. Confirmation Mass for St. Michael Church; Cuero	9:30 a.m. Legion of Mary Praesidium meeting; Cathedral Center; Victoria
5	10 a.m. Confirmation Mass for St. John Bosco Church; Vanderbilt	23 3 p.m. Day of Prayer for Priestly Consecration
	2 p.m. Confirmation Mass for Our Lady of Sorrows Church; Victoria	24 6 p.m. Opening Mass for Eucharistic Congress at Corpus Christi Cathedral; Corpus Christi
6	Noon Subcommittee for African American Affairs Meeting; virtual	25 10 a.m. Mass of thanksgiving at Sts. Peter and Paul Church; Meyersville
7	9:30 a.m. Legion of Mary Praesidium meeting; Cathedral Center; Victoria	5:30 p.m. Closing of the Synod Mass at The Cathedral of Our Lady of Victory; Victoria
8	2:30 p.m. Finance Board meeting; Chancery	
11	10 a.m. Transitional Diaconate Ordination at The Cathedral of Our Lady of Victory; Victoria	26 - July 14 Trip to Ghana
12	10:30 a.m. Confirmation Mass at St. Mary Church; Victoria	
	3 p.m. Confirmation Mass at St. Anthony Church; Palacios	
12-17	United States Catholic Conference of Bishops Special Assembly; San Diego	
19	10 a.m. Confirmation Mass at Sts. Peter and Paul Church; Meyersville	



### Victoria CWV hosts state convention

VICTORIA — The Catholic War Veterans St. John's Post 1269 hosted the CWV state convention in Victoria April 22-23. The post celebrated its 75th anniversary as well. Catholic World War II veterans founded it on March 12, 1947. Bishop Brendan Cahill delivered a prayer and remarks at the joint session to formally start the convention. His remarks centered on the role of military chaplains in their ministry to meet the spiritual needs of the men and women serving in our nation's armed forces, regardless of their religious affiliation. His message resonated with the convention attendees, most of whom were veterans of various armed conflicts from all branches of the military or relatives of former and current service members. At the conclusion of his remarks, Post 1269 and its Unit Auxiliary presented Bishop Cahill a \$500 check for the Victoria Diocese Education of Seminarian Fund. Pictured, from left, are Juan Benavidez, Post 1269 Commander; Lupita Martinez, Auxiliary Past National President; Daniel Martinez, Department of Texas Commander; Bishop Cahill; and Melissa Arellano, Department of Texas Auxiliary Third Vice-President. *(Contributed Photo)*

The Chancery  
Offices  
will be closed  
Monday, July 4.  
Will reopen on  
Tuesday, July 5 at  
8:30 a.m.

The Catholic  
Lighthouse

USPS-001015 (ISSN 0894-7740)  
The Catholic Lighthouse is published monthly at 1505 E. Mesquite Lane, Victoria, TX 77901.  
Subscription rates are: \$7 per year within the diocese / \$10 outside the diocese.  
E-mail local stories, photos or festival announcements to: lighthouse@victoriadiocese.org (361) 573-0828 / (361) 573-5725 FAX • www.victoriadiocese.org  
DEADLINE IS THE 15th OF THE PRECEDING MONTH  
Periodical postage paid at Victoria, TX and additional Entry Offices  
POSTMASTER: Send address changes to P.O. Box 4070, Victoria, TX 77903  
The Catholic Lighthouse cannot be held liable, or in any way responsible for the content of any advertisement appearing within these pages. All claims, offers, guarantees, statements, etc., made by The Catholic Lighthouse advertisers are solely the responsibility of the advertiser. Deceptive or misleading advertising is never knowingly accepted. Complaints regarding advertising should be made directly to the advertiser or the Better Business Bureau.

Publisher:  
The Most Rev. Brendan J. Cahill  
Managing Editor:  
Janet Jones  
jjones@victoriadiocese.org  
Communications Assistant/Graphic Specialist:  
Regina Matus-Janak  
janakr@victoriadiocese.org

MEMBER  
cpa  
CATHOLIC PRESS ASSOCIATION

Holy Family K of C Council #9088  
Presents the  
20th  
Annual  
FISHING TOURNAMENT  
JULY 22 & 23  
PORT O'CONNOR COMMUNITY CENTER  
AND PAVILLION  
LIVE AUCTION ★ CASH PRIZES  
SILENT AUCTION  
FRIDAY & SATURDAY MEALS AVAILABLE  
FOR INFORMATION ON ENTRIES, CONTACT:  
REX MAYES AT 361-649-2475  
SISTER ANN MELETIO AT 361-485-2044  
TONIA FOJTIK AT 361-649-3317  
ALL PROCEEDS BENEFIT  
NAZARETH ACADEMY SCHOOL, VICTORIA





Education of Seminarian Fund

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

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

Lector

Kim Bongers  
Hardy & Joann McCullough  
Jerry & Mary Uptmor  
Blake Petrash  
Georgie Lee Friedel  
Dennis & Cindy Bures  
John & Debbie Hurt  
Marjorie Tasin  
Fred & Dorothy Kubesch  
Charles Hasdorff  
Leona Brzozoswki  
Kathryn Ormsby  
Deacon Michael & Bonnie Vieira  
Louise Tupa  
Donald Leopold  
Kelly Korenek  
Janet Holub  
Virginia Korenek  
Rose Wesselski  
Charles & Doris Bluntzer  
*In Memory of Bernita Korenek*

Hardy & Joann McCullough  
*In Memory of Donald Naiser*  
  
Barbara & Dan Respondek  
*In Memory of Rose Marie Knobles*

Acolyte

Betty Gold  
Kim Gold  
Jo Ann Jalufka  
Laura Lewis  
Friends & Family of Bernita Korenek  
*In Memory of Bernita Korenek*

Candidate

Ruth & Clarence Metzger  
CWV, St. John's Post #1269  
Ruth & Clarence Metzger  
St. Anne's Society, High Hill

Transitional Deacon

Priest

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

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

Seminary Endowment Fund

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

May 23, 2022

• CDA of the Americas Court Our Lady  
Queen of Peace #1374 Seminary Burse

*Lector*  
In memory of Bernita Korenek, Mother of  
Rev. Greg Korenek, by Alphonse and La  
Dell Janda  
In memory of Geraldine Trochta by CDA  
Court Our Lady Queen of Peace #1374

• CDA Court of St. Ann #369 Seminary  
Burse #2

*Acolyte*  
In memory of Margaret Kutchka, Mary Lou  
Wenske, Theresa Wearden, Sue Schaefer,  
Alice Kruppa, Patricia Wieland, Steve  
Gardner and John Schoenherr by CDA  
Court St. Ann #369

• Rev. Wayne Flagg Seminary Burse

*Acolyte*  
In memory of Sir Knight David E. Kahlich  
by K of C St Michael Assembly #1527  
In memory of Sir Knight Andrew J.  
Bockholt, Sr. by K of C St Michael  
Assembly #1527

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

*Lector*  
In memory of Kathleen and Alfred  
Schindler by Lambert and Carol Brune

• Josephat R. Janak Seminary Burse #2

*Transitional Deacon*  
Donation by Marvin and Mary Wagner

• Rev. Kristopher L. Fuchs Seminary  
Burse

*Acolyte*  
In honor of Rev. Kristopher Fuchs'  
birthday May 13 and his 7th ordination  
anniversary June 6 by his Grandparents  
Paul and Helen Flessner

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

*Lector*  
In memory of Andrea Morales by  
M/M Bernard Rother

• Rev. Msgr. John C. Peters Seminary  
Burse #8

*Lector*  
In memory of Mildred Zatopek by  
Richard and Wilma Schaefer  
In honor of Rev. Msgr. John Peters' 48th  
ordination anniversary by  
Larry and Agnes Greer

*Acolyte*  
In honor of Rev. Msgr. John Peters' 48th  
ordination anniversary by  
Bruce and Angela McConnell

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

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

In Memoriam

Andrea Morales, mother of  
Rev. Dan Morales, passes away

Andrea “Andy” Morales, 93, of Palacios passed away May 6, 2022. She was born November 30, 1928 in Ganado to Isaac and Manuela Aparicio. She worked in the cafeteria for Palacios Elementary School and was a member of St. Anthony of Padua Church. Andy loved spending time cooking, baking and sewing. Most importantly, she was happiest spending time with her beloved husband, children, grandchildren and great grandchildren. She was active in the Catholic Daughters for many years.



Andrea  
Morales

She is survived by her husband of 70 years, Paz Morales; children, Sylvia Cartier, Rose Mary Mallia, Kathy Matheny (Kevin), Paz Morales Jr. (Fina), Patty Morales, Margaret Espinosa (Roland), Jo Ann Reyes and Ted

Morales (Nina); sister, Antonia “Toni” Garcia; 17 grandchildren; numerous great-grandchildren and 2 great-great-grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by her son, Father Dan Morales; parents; sisters, Isabelle Garcia, Mary Silvas, Rose Aparicio, Janie Gonzalez, and Frances Buentello; and brothers, Pete, Homer, and Bernard Aparicio.

A funeral Mass was held May 13, 2022 followed by burial in Palacios Cemetery.

Pallbearers will be her grandsons.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to one of the following:

- Father Dan Morales Endowment Fund (<https://frdanendowment.org/>)
- St. Anthony of Padua Building Fund (P.O. Box 900, Palacios, TX 77465)

Thank you for your thoughts and prayers. May she rest in peace and may perpetual light shine upon her.

# Crisis Pregnancy Ministry

Providing help, hope & healing to pregnant women in a crisis pregnancy

THE Gabriel Project OF THE CROSSROADS

Offering:

- + Mother/Baby Services
- + Bethlehem Maternity Home

20th Anniversary & now serving 10 counties!

To learn more visit:  
[victoriagabrielproject.org](http://victoriagabrielproject.org)  
(361) 576-1156



## Faith formation is a calling, not a job

### *Two parish PCLs step down, but still passionate about ministry*

**JANET JONES**

*The Catholic Lighthouse*

After almost 35 years of heading the Our Lady of Victory parish religious education program, Betty Mitchell has decided it is time to let someone else take over.

"Things are changing so much," she said. "The trend is going away from a traditional classroom setting."

That trend was accelerated by the need for changes during the last two years of COVID concerns. But Mitchell, 68, who said, "I'm lucky if I can turn a DVD player on," hopes that catechists will work to keep the personal interaction in their work. "It's relational," she said. "If you're a catechist, you're sharing your faith."

Christella Alvarez, director of the Diocese of Victoria's Office of Catechetical Ministry, said, "When I began working in the catechetical office, Betty Mitchell was already in the position of PCL. At that time, the title was director of religious education. Betty's dedication to educating the children in the faith is proven by her countless hours of inviting, welcoming, and getting to know the families (children and parents/grandparents) and establishing lasting relationships. Her servant-leadership approach fostered dedicated catechists to help year after year."

Mitchell gained her love of working with children teaching special education in elementary school. She also was helping with RCIA at OLV when Monsignor Michael Harrold was the pastor. During a meeting about RCIA concerns, she said, Monsignor Harrold asked her, "What do you know about CCD?" She was surprised and offered him what experience she did have, but without a lot of confidence in her answer. But he handed her the keys to the religious education building and said, "See what you can do."

And she did just that, learning along the way. "I learned by making every mistake there is," she said, but the most important lesson, she said, was realizing, "There are no bad children."

She said some of the children may be stressed or in pain. "They are coming from a place of need. You have to be able to sit back and let them vent. There are kids in bad situations."

The Very Rev. Kirby Hlavaty, OLV rector/pastor, said he sees Mitchell's biggest strength as her ability to find a way to work with youth and families with physical or mental challenges who might believe they are not able to receive sacraments.

"Don't ever think the church excludes a

child because of an emotional or behavioral problem" or any disability, she said, explaining that she has helped in the formation of people with autism, multiple personality disorder, Down syndrome. She also has accommodated paraplegics, the deaf and people with all sorts of challenges.

"It is our duty to make modifications for them," Mitchell said.

Her last group of students to be confirmed included a youth with disassociative disorder (also called multiple personality disorder) who discretely carried a pet ferret with him as a means of emotional security. The youth is one who could easily have slipped through the cracks, but she worked to meet his needs because he had the desire to be confirmed. During his confirmation, he did not bring his emotional support animal, but made it through. "When he turned and came back down (after Bishop Cahill anointed him), there was such a peace there." He told her he was proud of himself.

Mitchell has shared the religious education office for many years with Patti Van-Manen and Janey Hiller and all three ladies have retired together.

Another parish catechetical leader, Stephanie Charbula of St. Joseph Catholic Church in Inez, is stepping down after coordinating the religious education since 2015. She said the church also wanted a youth minister and that job, coupled with the PCL duties, has led to a full-time position instead of part-time work, so Charbula decided to let someone else take the lead.

Alvarez said the gifts Charbula brought to the ministry were immediately seen. She not only took the required training for PCLs, but embraced all the learning opportunities offered through the catechetical office.

Charbula said her years as a PCL have taught her that religious education must continue beyond high school. "I probably gained more knowledge about my faith through the teaching," she said. And she continues to be hungry to learn more.

Charbula said she's seen how, after high school, religious education goes by the wayside and many will become distant from the church and return when they plan to marry or when they desire baptism for their children.

"I now understand more why we lose them," she said. "There is a big need for youth and young adult (religious education)."

Mitchell and Charbula, although they've

*See Faith formation, pg. 9*



*Betty Mitchell, shown here with Bishop Brendan Cahill, has spent more than three decades coordinating religious education at Our Lady of Victory Parish. She stepped down at the end of this school year, but is still passionate about being a catechist and including any person who has a desire to receive their sacraments.*

*(Contributed Photo)*

**- FULL OLD TIME PICNIC -**  
*Celebrating 134 Years*  
**ANNUAL 4<sup>TH</sup> OF JULY**  
**PICNIC**  
 ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ AT ★ ★ ★ ★ ★  
**ST. JOHN PARISH**  
 7026 FM 957 - 6 MILES SW OF SCHULENBURG, TX  
**MONDAY, JULY 4TH**

<b>9:00 AM</b>	<b>MASS AT ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST</b>
<b>10:00 AM</b>	<b>FLAG RAISING CEREMONY</b> <i>*All Veterans Are Encouraged to Attend*</i>
<b>10:30 AM</b>	<b>START SERVING LUNCH</b> <b>STEW, FRIED CHICKEN, AND ALL THE TRIMMINGS</b> DINE-IN OR TAKE HOME ★ \$12.00  <b>MUSIC BEGINS: *FREE DANCE UNDER THE PAVILION*</b> <b>The Shiner Hobo Band ★ The Dujka Brothers</b> <b>Red Ravens ★ Mark Halata &amp; Texavia</b>
<b>12:30 PM</b>	<b>AUCTION BEGINS</b>
<b>8:00 PM</b>	<b>RAFFLE DRAWING</b>
<b>9:30 PM</b>	<b>FIREWORKS</b>

Beer ★ Soda Water ★ Snow Cones ★ Hamburgers and more ★ Country Store ★  
 Cake Walk ★ Ball Throw ★ Ring Toss ★ Lil Diggers Sandpile and more Entertainment  
**EVERYBODY WELCOME - FUN FOR ALL - YOUNG AND OLD! ★ VISIT OUR 134 YEAR OLD CHURCH**

visit [www.stjohnpicnic.com](http://www.stjohnpicnic.com) & like us on Facebook - St. John 4th of July Picnic





# The Holy Spirit moves us to unity, love and life

**EDITOR'S NOTE:** The following sermon was written by Father Charles Kram for Pentecost. He titled it "The Holy Spirit, Gift of the Father."

Today we celebrate the feast of Pentecost, which marks the end of the great 50 days of the Easter season.

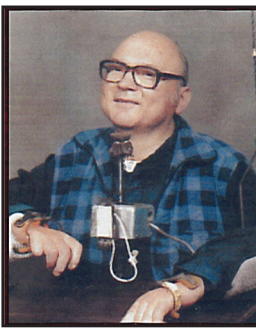
After the death of Jesus, first there was the Resurrection, by which Jesus conquered sin and death. Then there was the Ascension, by which he returned to his Father to prepare a place for us and to send the Holy Spirit. And, finally, there was Pentecost, the descent of the Holy Spirit and the birthday of the Church.

The coming of the Holy Spirit is one of our greatest blessings:

First, because the Holy Spirit is the Spirit of unity. He enlightens us and reminds us of all that the Lord Jesus has taught us. He guides us and helps us to know and to understand.

Secondly, because the Holy Spirit is the Spirit of love. He enkindles in our hearts love for God and for ourselves and for one another to help us carry out the great commandment of love and the admonition of Jesus, "Love one another as I have loved you."

Thirdly, because the Holy Spirit is the Spirit of life. Like the Spirit of God at the creation, now at the Pentecost the Holy Spirit



1929-2000

## Father Charles Kram Corner

descends to renew the face of the earth.

And lastly, because the Holy Spirit moves us – like a strong wind that fills the sails of a ship drives it ahead, He impels us to put our faith to work.

We all received the Holy Spirit at baptism and we are His living temples. Although we may never have spoken in tongues or done anything spectacular, the Spirit is in us, too, for our sanctification, and through us, for the sanctification of the world.

But we must always remember that the work of the Holy Spirit will prosper only in proportion to our cooperation. If we resist or place obstacles, little good will follow. If we allow Him to have His way, we can do great things, even in our weakness.

For example, when others argue or gossip

in your presence, do you simply join in the fun? You could promote unity and peace by helping soothe flaring tempers and, perhaps, by presenting the other side.

How often or how seldom do you do an act of kindness for someone out of love, without being asked – like running an errand for a shut-in or taking an elderly person to the clinic?

Do you ever visit the sick and give their spirit a little lift? Those who are weak or ill like someone to touch them. Have you ever

touched someone and made up a special prayer for them – a consoling experience for you and a bit of new life for them?

Do you say a brief morning prayer, offering your day to God? Do you pray at the end of the day to thank Him for the day's blessings and to express your regrets over your failures? Do you ever spend a few quiet moments listening for the inspirations of the Spirit to see where He wishes you to put your faith to work?

On this Feast of Pentecost, we rejoice over the breath of the Spirit imparted to us, and over the unity, the love, the life and the driving power He gives us on his birthday of the Church.

*Lord Jesus, thank you for sending the Holy Spirit upon us. Help us ever more faithfully to live by His inspirations. Grant that, moved by Him, we may all have a share in bringing unity and love and life to all of God's creation. Amen.*

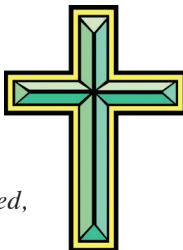
*Please remember in prayer the priests of the Diocese of Victoria, who were ordained during the month of June:*

Rev. Ty J. Bazar	06/01/2002	Immaculate Conception, Goliad
Rev. Matthew H. Huehlefeld	06/01/1996	St. Joseph, Yoakum
Rev. Roger R. Hawes	06/02/2001	Holy Cross, Yorktown
Rev. Peter Oscar Kofi-Amo	06/04/2016	St. Patrick's, Bloomington
Rev. Kristopher L. Fuchs	06/06/2015	St. Mary, Victoria
Rev. Scott J. Hill	06/06/2015	St. Rose of Lima, Schulenburg
Rev. Jacob A. Koether	06/06/2015	Our Lady of Sorrows, Victoria
Rev. Francis T. Nguyen III	06/06/2015	Holy Cross, Yorktown
Rev. Michael J. Lyons	06/08/1996	Retired
Rev. George Henninger	06/08/1985	Retired
Rev. Michael J. Rother	06/09/2007	St. Philip, El Campo
Rev. Robert E. Knippenberg	06/10/2000	Sts. Peter and Paul, Frelsburg
Rev. Gabriel D. Espinosa	06/16/2007	Our Lady of Guadalupe, Bay City
Rev. Tommy Chen	06/21/2008	Our Lady of the Gulf, Port Lavaca
Most Rev. Brendan J. Cahill	06/29/2015	Bishop Diocese of Victoria

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

Rev. Sean Donohue	06/03/1989
Rev. Msgr. James C. Brunner	06/04/2010
Rev. William Halata	06/11/2000
Rev. Msgr. A.J. Morkovsky	06/11/1990
Rev. Luke Mennella O.Ss.T.	06/23/2008
Rev. Msgr. Robert E. Schmidt	06/26/1989

*May their souls and the souls of all the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace, Amen.*



## St. Michael boys recognized by KCs

WEIMAR — On May 18, The Knights of Columbus Council 2153 continued its tradition of presenting a personalized Bible to each young gentleman graduating from the eighth grade of St. Michael Catholic School. From left are the Rev. Wayne Flagg, pastor of St. Michael; students Nicolas Vasquez, Hudson Rowland, Connor Elstner and Trey Billeck; and KCs Jack Muggli, grand knight, and Herb Ulbrich, financial secretary. (Contributed Photo)





Monsignor John Peters takes the hot seat. Next year, the Emmaus Center will roast Rev. Tommy Chen.



David Smolik tells some stories about his time working with Monsignor Peters.



A well-done roast

Sister Colette Kouba places a pair of ears on the Rev. Monsignor John Peters, pastor of Sacred Heart in Hallettsville. Monsignor Peters willingly sat as the target of a little needling, as well as a little praise, for the 2022 Roast and Toast to benefit the Emmaus Counseling Center. The annual event – put on hold in 2020 and 2021 because of COVID – turned out to be the most successful yet, raising almost \$115,000 in operating funds for the center. Others who spoke at the Roast and Toast were the Rev. Monsignor Dennis Darilek, Peggy Supak, Sheila Martinka, David Smolik and Doris Hoeinghouse, all of whom had some good stories to tell. Top sponsors included Msgr. Peters himself, K&T Construction (Larry and Kathy Tomanek and Scott Strnadel), JoAnn and Hardy McCullough and Tim and Lynn Miori. Other major sponsors were Main Street Animal Hospital, Diana and Ben Galvan, Holy Family Catholic Church in Victoria, St. Mary’s Catholic Church in Victoria, and Mary Joan Cahill. Many other businesses and individuals contributed to make the evening a special treat for everyone. On May 24, the Emmaus Center was awarded a \$140,000 grant from the Kenedy Memorial Foundation to match funds already set aside for expansion plans. The center plans make use of some shell space at the Cathedral Center building, where its offices are housed, in order to better accommodate clients. Next year, the Rev. Tommy Chen will sit in the Roast and Toast hot seat. (Janet Jones/The Catholic Lighthouse)



Congratulations,  
Sister Rosario

Sister Rosario Resendez, IWBS, executive assistant to Bishop Cahill, graduated in May with her bachelor of arts degree in psychology from the University of Houston-Victoria. She graduated summa cum laud as well. Her next step is to pursue her master’s degree in counseling through Our Lady of the Lake University in San Antonio. Because she has worked so hard, she is taking a short break and her column, “Finding Beauty in Mystery,” will return in July. (Contributed Photo)

Retirement  
Made Easy

We make saving for retirement as easy as pecan pie and the more you know, the better you can plan. Whether you’re retired, close to it, or just dreaming about it, Catholic Life Insurance will work with you one-on-one, so you can make the decision that’s right for you.

3.50%\*  
APY

\*Includes Current Yield + 1.65%  
First Year Additional Interest.

Traditional IRAs  
Roth IRAs  
Annuities  
Rollover your 401(k)  
or pension plan!

\*Interest rates are subject to change & vary by product. Minimum guaranteed rate is 1.00%. #AS 3-22

Consult with a  
Catholic Life Insurance  
agent in your area.



SHINER  
PATRICK KLOZIK, FIC  
(361) 594-8160



VICTORIA  
JAMES REHAK  
(361) 550-9537



WEIMAR  
KAREN KUTAC, FIC  
(979) 743-0088



WEIMAR  
MIKE SCARDINO, FIC  
(979) 725-8860



HALLETTSVILLE  
JENNIFER KRAATZ  
(361) 798-9181



SCHULENBURG  
ROYCE SHIMEK, FIC  
(979) 743-4313



EL CAMPO  
CALVIN PFEIL, FIC  
(979) 541-6520



HALLETTSVILLE  
WENDY JANAK, FIC  
(361) 798-4311



CUERO  
RICHARD CARBONARA JR  
(361) 277-9800



EL CAMPO/NADA  
DIANNE SHIMEK CERNY  
(979) 541-6346



VICTORIA  
ROBERT MELNAR, FIC  
(361) 550-8126





# Jesus guides us with new sign of discipleship

Years ago I received a call from my youngest daughter. Out of the noise of traffic and her own sobs, I was able to piece together that she was stranded along the interstate, miles from home in a car no longer able to move. A mechanic later informed me that the car had been driven “hot” for so long that the engine was beyond repair. When I asked if he could tell whether she had driven it when it was out of water or out of oil, he tried to hold back a chuckle as he said, “Both.”

I reminded my daughter of the many times I had stressed the importance of keeping an eye on the gauges and warning lights, to which she assured me that she had not seen any signs of danger. I discovered later that she had not seen the warning signs, because she had covered the entire instrument panel with pictures of her family and friends. She had fallen to the same temptation that we all do from time to time – covering up what we need to see with what we prefer to see.

The gospel for the fifth Sunday of Easter (C) addresses a new sign, a new gauge of discipleship from Jesus. The entire body of readings highlights newness, which is particularly appropriate given that, in May, seniors across the country are receiving diplomas; beginning new lives. It is a time of graduation ceremonies and commencement exercises, and while those two words are often used interchangeably, they are not synonymous. To “graduate” implies a completion of an old task. “Commencement” suggests a fresh

## At Your Service

By Deacon Michael Tankersley



beginning. The melody of a life shared with Christ should beat to this rhythm of graduation and commencement for, “The One who sits on the throne says: Behold, I make all things new.”

The invitation of Christ Jesus to “follow me” accents the necessity of movement and growth, as does the spirit of the Psalmist who wrote, “Deep calls to deep at the sound of Your waterfalls; All Your breakers and Your waves have rolled over me.” (42:7) These waves of divine love are not meant to be observed, but experienced. While God loves us just the way we are, he loves us too much to let us stay that way; loves us too much to leave us stranded far from home.

At the Last Supper, “after Judas had left them,” Jesus offered his final instructions while alive: “I give you a new commandment: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you also should love one another. This is how all will know that you are my disciples ... .” This new gauge of discipleship is a



call to a graduation and commencement. No longer are they to limit themselves to “love your neighbor as yourself.” They are called to graduate beyond a human-generated love and commence to a divine love and matches that of Christ. This will be the new sign of discipleship, not applicable only to those 11 at the table in the Upper Room, but for all of us. This Christ-love is not measured in feelings or flow from emotions. Our natural passions are fragile and fleeting and often offered to the degree that we can expect a return. Christian love, however, is generated by and received from God and flows freely without regard for reciprocity.

St. Thomas Aquinas described this kind of love as “willing the good of the other,” not feeling the good, but choosing the good of the other. While we often don’t choose how we feel, we can deliberately choose to will the good of the other.

To be sure, “willing the good of the other” is not foreign to us. We all have prayed and worked for the good of others; at least for some others, and therein lies the rub. For what Jesus is calling for is not a love offered to some others, but to all others, even the most foul of others.

It is telling that Jesus issued this new com-

mandment and sign of discipleship only after Judas had left on his way to betray them. Was this to be kept a secret from Judas, or exclude him from the receiving list of love? Or was it to allow the apostles to connect the words of Jesus with the treachery of Judas and understand that Judas was the very person they were called to love. As it was for them, so it is for us – to love the Judas, and the Pilate, and the Caiaphas in our own lives. This is our commandment, our sign.

This is not an additional requirement for us to enter heaven, but rather the sign that we have allowed heaven to enter us. It is not Christ placing upon us a new burden, but giving us a new freedom for transformation into true discipleship. We also can point to other signs of our discipleship and allegiance to Christ’s Church – mental pictures of the Masses attended, rosaries prayed, service and monetary contributions. All of these are valuable, all worthy of notation, but not so valuable to cover up or substitute for the sign that Christ has given. To cover up what we need to see with what we prefer to see will leave us spiritually stalled and far from home.

*Pax tibi,*  
Deacon Michael

**Subject to change due to COVID**

**Ready for some R & R**

**Alaska - August 16 - 24**

Few spaces left & Female Roommate Needed

**Fall in New England Rails & Resorts Oct. 11-17**

**2023 Trips Coming in September!**

Call or email for more details

**334 Jurek Road**  
**Port Lavaca, TX 77979**  
**(361) 552.2695 or (361) 920.3216**  
**email: zkmnt@tisd.net**  
**www.pathwayswithpatti.com**

Join in listening to Bishop Brendan Cahill every third Tuesday of the month at 6:30 a.m. on *Relevant Radio Morning Air with John Morales*. Listeners can call in with questions or comments. You can listen to past podcast online.

Relevant Radio® has been helping people bridge the gap between faith and everyday life through informative, entertaining, and interactive programming twenty-four hours per day, seven days per week. The Relevant Radio network is currently serving the Church with 127 stations reaching 39 states, with a potential listening audience of 133 million people. Programming can be heard worldwide via streaming audio at [relevantradio.com](http://relevantradio.com) and on the mobile app.

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

Contact:  
Father Tommy Chen  
Director of Vocations  
361-552-6140  
[tchenvictoriadiocese.org](mailto:tchenvictoriadiocese.org)  
OR  
Father Kristopher Fuchs  
Associate Director of Vocations  
361-573-4328  
[kfuchsvictoriadiocese.org](mailto:kfuchsvictoriadiocese.org)

**Heavenly Helpers**

**Christian Store**  
(979) 543-2850  
1603 N Mechanic  
El Campo, TX 77437  
M-F 9:30 - 5:30 Sat. 9:30 - 3:00

**First Communion, Confirmation,  
Bibles, Books, Rosaries, Medals,  
Statues, Baptism & Wedding Items  
Inspirational Gifts**



## 8 men become deacon candidates

By JANET JONES

*The Catholic Lighthouse*

When Bishop Brendan Cahill accepted eight new deacon candidates on May 14, he recalled a letter by St. Pope Leo the Great, written for the Feast of the Ascension.

“He observes that Jesus is more present to the world today than when He walked the earth. What the great St. Pope Leo understood was that Jesus poured forth his spirit into all the baptized children of God and that we now are the presence of Jesus in the world in which we live.”

The deacons of the church devote themselves to being the hands and feet of Christ to others and serving as ordained ministers under the direction of the bishop and their pastors. Deacons are able to help administer some sacraments, such as baptism, witnessing marriages, and also can proclaim the Gospel at Mass and give homilies.

In a simple ceremony, he accepted David Augustini from St. Joseph in Port O’Connor; Dwain Dungen of Sts. Peter and Paul in Frelsburg; Jimmy Gips of St. Michael in Cuero; Dennis Krennek of Holy Family in Wharton; Francisco Rosas of St. Robert in El Campo; Jose Ugarte III of Holy family in Wharton; and Mike Yeretsky of Holy Cross in Yorktown.

During the Rite of Candidacy, the men resolved to complete their preparation for the ministry in the Church and prepare themselves in mind and spirit “to give faithful service to Christ the Lord and his Body the Church.”

They each presented to Bishop Cahill recommendations from their pastors, letters from their wives (for those who are married) and a handwritten request to be accepted to the formation program.



Bishop Cahill holds the required papers of the deacon candidates after a Mass on Saturday, May 14, during which he accepted them into the formation program. From left are deacon candidates Francisco Rosas of St. Robert in El Campo; Dennis Krennek of Holy Family in Wharton; David Augustini of St. Joseph in Port O’Connor; Jimmy Gips of St. Michael in Cuero; Dwain Dungen of Sts. Peter and Paul in Frelsburg; Roger DeLaGarza of Our Lady of Victory in Victoria; Mike Yeretsky of Holy Cross in Yorktown; and Jose Ugarte III of Holy Family in Wharton. (Janet Jones/The Catholic Lighthouse)

## Faith formation is a calling, not a job

*Continued from pg. 5*

stepped aside to allow new leaders in their churches’ religious education program, will continue to be catechists and still want to be part of their respective programs as volunteers.

Both women stressed that being a catechist is a ministry and not a job.

“The role of a parish catechetical leader (PCL) is of utmost importance in the life of the parish. As the National Directory for Catechesis (NDC) states, ‘The single most critical factor in an effective catechetical program is the leadership of a professionally trained parish catechetical leader,’” Alvarez stated. “The gifts that each person brings to this ministry of catechesis and evangelization fosters ideas, concepts, and possibly change to enhance the parish faith formation program, for the good of the faith learners and parents as well as for those who volunteer in various capacities.”

Charbula said she expects the changes at St. Joseph to be good ones. “With changes comes growth,” she said. Charlotte Bethke, who is taking the job of youth minister and religious education director, will bring new gifts to the parish with a background in teaching.

Monica Flores, also a teacher, was recently hired to direct the religious education at Our Lady of Victory. She already is involved in the religious education program at OLV.

Over the years, Alvarez has trained, supported and advised the PCLs who serve in the diocese. “As director, I am there to listen and offer assistance and guidance. I always begin by thanking them for saying ‘yes’ to being a part of this vital ministry, and I gently remind them that their ‘yes’ is to God who spoke to them through the pastor who has invited them to help and be a part of the faith formation program in the parish.”

## Investing that makes the world *rejoice!*



At Rohde Financial Group, we’re guiding Christian investors to honor God and create a meaningful legacy with their hard-earned assets through Biblically Responsible and Faith-Based Investing (BRI & FBI.) Give me a call today to get started.

**Michele Rohde**  
AAMS, CCFC, NACFC  
Financial Advisor, President  
361-575-2600

5606 N Navarro, Ste 207  
Victoria, TX 77904  
michele.rohde@ampf.com



Ameriprise Financial provides financial services without regard to religious affiliation or cultural background. Investment advisory products are made available through Ameriprise Financial Services, LLC, a registered investment adviser.  
Certified Christian Financial Consultant (CCFC)  
Member of the Christian Franchise Advisor Network (CFAN)  
Member of National Association of Christian Financial Consultants (NACFC)

## Sts. Cyril & Methodius Church **FEAST**

Dubina, Texas

*Celebrates its 166th Year*

**SUNDAY, JULY 3, 2022**

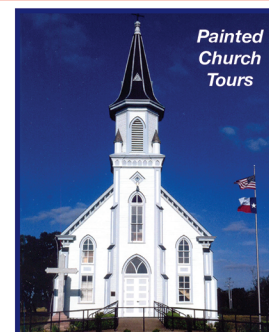
**POLKA MASS at 9:00 a.m.**  
“Dubina-Style” Fried Chicken and  
Sausage Dinner

with All the Trimmings

**ADULTS: \$12.00**

**CHILDREN Under 12: \$6.00**

Serving Begins at 11:00 a.m.  
Adult Take Home Plates  
Through Express To-Go Line



## Entertainment and Amusements All Day!

**COUNTRY AUCTION:**  
1:30 P.M.

**BINGO**

2:00-6:00 p.m.  
(License #30-006202303)

**ANTIQUe AND  
CLASSIC CARS**  
- On Site -

**WASHER PITCHING  
TOURNAMENT**  
Registration - 3:00 p.m.  
Tournament - 4:00 p.m.

**HAMBURGERS**  
will be served in the evening

**SWEEPSTAKES:  
DRAWING**  
at 7:00 p.m.

Free Dancing Under the Pavilion  
POLKA and WALTZ  
MUSIC DAY & NIGHT

**Mark Halata &  
Texavia /  
Lost Cause Band**  
Noon - 7:00 p.m.

**Dubina Cookbooks**  
For Sale at the Country Store

**EVERYONE INVITED!!!**

Dubina Church Picnic



# Fun finishes

Play days, water days, graduation celebrations and many other events have had Catholic school students in the Diocese of Victoria busy in the past few weeks. According to Ashley Novosad, administrative assistant for the Office of Catholic Schools, many principals have said this was a particularly good year. It was refreshing to return to the normal school routines after two years of scaling back events because of COVID precautions.  
*(Contributed Photos)*



## State academic contest participants

EL CAMPO — St. Philip Catholic School students advancing to state-level contest competed at TCU in Tyler on May 7. Students placing were, from left, front, Ethan Janak, second in third-grade mathematics; Luke Allen, eighth in fifth-grade number sense; Thanh Nguyen, fourth place, fifth-sixth grade music memory; middle, Itzel Gonzalez, sixth place, seventh-grade on-site drawing; Madi Kelly 10th in sixth-grade vocabulary; Cade Konarik, 10th in sixth-grade number sense; Trent Womack, third in fourth-fifth grade listening skills; and, back, Jaeden Clark, third in eighth-grade on-site drawing and ninth in seventh-eighth grades vocabulary; Abby Wallis, fifth in sixth-eighth grade dictionary skills and eighth in sixth-eighth grade listening skills; Brady Pfeil, 10th in eighth-grade science; Addisyn Merta, ninth in seventh-grade mathematics; and Tara Sladek, seventh-eighth grade impromptu speaking participant. *(Contributed Photo)*



## Education contest winners

WEIMAR — The 2022 Catholic Daughters of America Court #559 Education Contest theme was “With God All Things Are Possible” or “Where is God in my life when I am struggling?” St. Michael Catholic School winners are, from left, front row, Kole Fogleman, third place in Art Div. I; Orion Sherwood, first place in Art Div.I; Sarah Jane Berger, third in Poetry Div. I; Chloe Brandt, second in Poetry Div. I; Andie Melnar, first in Essay Div. I; Macie Davis, third in Essay Div. I; Ella Herzik, first in Essay Div. II; back row, the Rev. Wayne Flagg, pastor; Emma Koeth, first in Poetry Div. II; Tucker Janak, third, Computer Art Div. II; Hunter Shupak, second, Photography Div. II; Cullen Marek, third in Essay Div. II; Olivia Elstner, second in Art Div. I; Joseph Rowland, first in Poetry Div. I; and CDA Regent Janet Purdy. Not pictured are Brinson Huette, second in Poetry Div. II; and Kendall Jahn, second in Essay Div. II. *(Contributed Photo)*

## Office of Youth & Young Adult Ministry

[www.victoriadiocese.org/youth-young-adult-ministry](http://www.victoriadiocese.org/youth-young-adult-ministry)  
Wendy Eggert, Director • Shannon Thomas, Associate Director  
ym@victoriadiocese.org • (361) 573-0828



Class  
of 2022

# Top Grads for Catholic High Schools

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE 2022 TOP GRADUATES OF OUR CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOLS IN THE DIOCESE OF VICTORIA.



Julianna Davis, Valedictorian,  
daughter of Josie and Ryan Davis  
She plans to attend  
The University of Texas, Austin



Rebecca Wagner, Salutatorian,  
daughter of Drs. Tim and Donna Wagner  
She plans to attend  
Texas A&M University, College Station



Sarah Barecky, Historian,  
daughter of Jon and Ivette Barecky  
She plans to attend  
Texas A&M University, College Station



**28 Graduates**

*St. Paul High School*  
*Shiner*



Bailey Schindler, Valedictorian,  
daughter of Liz Schindler and  
Donald Schindler  
She plans to attend  
Victoria College, Victoria



Victoria Kraatz, Salutatorian,  
daughter of Trey and Jennifer Kraatz  
She plans to attend  
Texas Christian University, Fort Worth



Quade Henneke, Historian,  
son of Karl and Brenda Henneke  
He plans to attend  
Victoria College, Victoria



**19 Graduates**

*Sacred Heart High School*  
*Hallettsville*



Isabela Garza, Valedictorian,  
daughter of Dr. Adelaida Resendez and  
Dr. Dante Garza  
She plans to attend  
The University of Texas, Austin



Sarah Ybarra, Salutatorian,  
daughter of Charla and Joe Ybarra  
She plans to attend  
Texas A&M University, College Station



Dugan Chandler, Historian,  
son of Karlissa and Chad Chandler  
He plans to attend  
Duke University, Durham, North Carolina



**71 Graduates**

*St. Joseph High School*  
*Victoria*





# Recordando el tiempo en Ghana mientras me preparo para regresar

**NOTA DEL OBISPO:** El 26 de junio iré a Ghana con el Dr. John Quary. Para el Faro de este mes quiero compartir con ustedes la carta que escribí de mi viaje anterior a Ghana en 2018.

Uno de mis recuerdos favoritos de la infancia consiste en pensar en los viajes en que íbamos durante las vacaciones de verano. Mis padres preparaban a nosotros niños e íbamos en viaje por carretera. Recuerdo que generalmente visitaríamos y nos quedábamos con mis abuelos en Brooklyn, New York. A veces íbamos a otros lugares como Florida o California o Galveston o South Padre Island. ¡Una de las observaciones que uno de mis hermanos hizo recientemente es que siempre estubo cerca del agua salada!

Pensé en eso ayer porque estoy de vacaciones de verano mucho más lejos. Ayer estaba sentado en un restaurante en el Océano Atlántico, en Cape Coast, Ghana, África. El año pasado, el Arzobispo Matthias Nketsiah estaba visitando a Victoria y los cinco sacerdotes de su diócesis que ahora sirven en nuestra diócesis. Me invite a visitarlo en Ghana en el futuro; no sabía muy bien que lo aceptaría

## Mensaje del Pastor

By Obispo Brendan Cahill



tan pronto. Quiero compartir con ustedes algunas reflexiones de mi experiencia aquí en Ghana los últimos días, y creo que esto es casi como mi postal de vacaciones de verano para mis hermanos y hermanas en Victoria.

El mes pasado escribí sobre buscar las similitudes en lugar de las diferencias en situaciones. Específicamente, pensé en la Vida Rural Católica y el Movimiento del V Encuentro, que a primera vista pueden parecer realidades muy diferentes. Después de reflexionar sobre ellos, me aparecieron algunas similitudes: ambos somos muy católicos, deseando vivir nuestra fe plenamente en nuestra sociedad, buscando conexiones y buenas ideas sobre cómo celebrar la plenitud de nuestra fe católica y proclamarla en nuestra sociedad. Ayer por la mañana celebré la

misa de la mañana en la Capilla Católica de la Universidad de Cape Coast. Mientras que la celebración de la Misa reflejó la cultura Africana con música y baile hermosos y vibrantes, al mismo tiempo, la Misa fue la misma Misa celebrada en todas las culturas y todos los idiomas del mundo. Déjame darte algunas de las similitudes que noté. Antes de la misa había un grupo que rezaba el rosario en inglés y Fante. Las lecturas fueron proclamadas con claridad y audacia por lectores bien preparados. En la consagración mientras yo elevaba el precioso Cuerpo y Sangre por un momento, varias personas rezaron en voz alta “Mi Señor y Dios mío”. Cuando la gente vino a recibir la Eucaristía, vinieron con devoción por la presencia real de Cristo en el sacramento. Para todos aquellos que partici-

pan plenamente en la Misa, esta celebración es de gran alegría y paz.

Mirando hacia atrás, esa es una de las grandes alegrías de los viajes y las vacaciones para mí. Pude ser el único Escelebration-tadounidense en una Iglesia completamente Africana, y aunque mi baile es pobre en el mejor de los casos, podía ofrecerlo todo en alabanza a Dios en el sacrificio de la misa. Mientras rezaba en esa misa, recé especialmente por todos de usted en la Diócesis de Victoria: mi corazón le pertenece y rezo por usted regularmente. También quiero agradecer a los sacerdotes que han venido de Ghana para servirnos en Victoria; nos enriquecen con su compromiso y su cultura cada día.

Que Dios te bendiga a ti y a tus familias. Una vez más, quiero agradecer especialmente a cada uno de ustedes que se han comprometido a rezar el Rosario por el don de la paz en el mundo y para la familia. Creo que podemos mantener nuestra confianza en el poder de esta oración, ¡más de lo que nunca pensamos! Mantengamos el uno al otro en oración.

+Brendan

## Ser puentes para una nueva época

Por ALDO CAMACHO  
Para The Catholic Lighthouse

El 26 de abril se llevó a cabo en Washington, D.C., el 6to. Congreso Nacional Católico de Pastoral Hispana con el lema “Voces proféticas: Ser puentes para una nueva época” en el cuál tuve la oportunidad de participar y representar a la diócesis de Victoria. Cathy García y Bonnie Guevara de la parroquia St. Robert Bellarmine en El Campo asistieron en representación de la Sociedad de St. Vincent de Paul, USA.

Este congreso fue convocado y organizado por el Consejo Nacional Católico para el ministerio Hispano (NCCHM) para reunir líderes del Ministerio Hispano, además de varias asociaciones y movimientos eclesiales que trabajan con Hispanos/Latinos, para reflexionar sobre algunas prioridades pastorales de las cuales destacaron la familia y la pastoral juvenil hispana. Aunque este fue el 6to Congreso de Raíces y Alas, era la primera vez que yo asistía a uno de ellos.

Cuando llegue al hotel para registrarme fue una grata sorpresa encontrarme con tantos líderes Hispanos en el lobby, algunos conocidos de la región de Texas,

otros conocidos por conferencias virtuales, y claro, mucha gente nueva por conocer. Inmediatamente me sentí como que estaba en casa, y acto seguido, fui a presentarme con los encargados de varios movimientos y organizaciones eclesiales que tenían puestos de exhibición. Fue una grata sorpresa encontrarme allí con Cathy y Bonnie. Cathy me presentó al equipo que asistió de la Sociedad de St. Vicente de Paul, USA. De las cuales Bonnie era una de los representantes de esa organización.

Esa misma tarde se abrió de manera oficial la conferencia con el discurso de apertura de Mar Muñoz-Visoso, directora ejecutiva de la Diversidad Cultural en la Iglesia (USCCB), en donde llamó a todos los católicos latinos a ser puentes para una nueva época, en sus propias palabras, a ser “arquitectos e ingenieros de esos puentes y caminos necesarios en la iglesia y en la sociedad de hoy”.

Su discurso inmediatamente inspiró a todos los que estábamos presentes en ese salón de conferencia, ya que nos recordó que la misión de todo católico es ser un verdadero instrumento de sanación y rec-



La Hermana Ana Cecilia Montalvo Villanueva, FSPs, subdirectora vocacional de la Arquidiócesis de San Antonio, comparte historias de inmigrantes con Alaura Ervin y el Senador John Cornyn en el Edificio de la Oficina del Senado Hart en Washington, D.C. Los tres se reunieron recientemente para el Día de la Defensa de los Inmigrantes. (Aldo Camacho/The Catholic Lighthouse)

onciliación dentro y, sobre todo, fuera de las estructuras de la Iglesia. Fue muy alentador escuchar sus palabras, pero también fue muy impresionante ver el salón lleno con más de 400 líderes católicos, no sólo hispanos, sino de diferentes culturas, lenguajes y nacionalidades. Fue una expresión de la diversidad cultural y universal de la Iglesia Católica.

Parte de la Conferencia fue la de participar en un día de abogacía, en el cuál, nos unimos a Monseñor Mario E. Dorsonville,

presidente del Comité de Migrantes y Obispo Auxiliar de Washington en una vigilia de oración por nuestros hermanos y hermanas migrantes. Fue una gran experiencia haber participado en este día de abogacía, ya que desde que inició el día nos agrupamos por regiones. Allí tuve la oportunidad de dialogar y reflexionar con líderes que ya conocía de la región y también dialogar con otros líderes

Ver Ser puentes, en la página 16



# Being pro-life matters

With all of the controversy surrounding the leaking of the draft opinion regarding Roe v. Wade, it may be helpful to reflect upon why we are pro-life as Catholics, and how we can share those views with others. Sometimes, it may be hard to find the words when explaining to others why we are pro-life. I didn't spend much time thinking about this issue until my early 20s. After watching a video of a man convincing people in sidewalk conversations about being pro-life, I was convinced and convicted that sharing this viewpoint with other matters a great deal, not just for mothers and children at risk, but for the sake of the broader culture. A culture that doesn't celebrate life, in fact celebrates death. This issue is important for all of us.

Here are some reasons we are pro-life, that may help you in sharing this view with others:

First of all, God loves us. Each one of us. Time and time again in Scripture, God reminds us that He loves us, and this is even before we were born. Jeremiah 1:5 says, "Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, before you were born I set you apart; I appointed you as a prophet to the nations." Notice how God says He forms us in the womb, and we were in His mind even before then.

Did you know that it used to be the widely held belief among medical professionals that life began at conception? It wasn't until around the time of the birth control pill becoming legalized that the idea of life beginning sometime after conception started to take root. I am proud to be Catholic for many reasons, and one big reason is that the Church has stood as pro-life without wavering. While

## On the Table

By Justin Reyes



other belief systems have changed their view on this, our Church has not. No matter what, we believe every person from conception to natural death has the right to life.

Still, some say the Church is pro-life only for infants, and not throughout the continuity of life. But the church has strongly supported and taught on the right to life for all, including the elderly, and even in relation to the care of migrants and refugees. On the local level, we have the example of the Bethlehem Maternity Home to help women choose life and provide proper care and quality of life for them and their children. In addition to this, on the global level we can name countless charities and agencies founded by the Catholic Church to help orphans and widows, including the Knights of Columbus. The list goes on and on.

The church is pro-life for everyone, no strings attached. Why? Because God is the same way. We are merely trying to be his mouthpiece and representatives here on earth.

In fact, we believe we literally are the mystical body of Christ on earth. As St. Teresa of Avila said, "Christ has no body now but yours. No hands, no feet on earth but yours. Yours are the eyes through which he looks compassion on this world. Yours are the feet

with which he walks to do good. Yours are the hands through which he blesses all the world. Yours are the hands, yours are the feet, yours are the eyes, you are his body. Christ has no body now on earth but yours."

My friends, it's our duty and responsibility to stand for life. Please be sure to join in this important cause by prayer, word, and deed. One resource that may be helpful to you can be found at [www.usccb.org/resources/dobbs-clergy-resources](http://www.usccb.org/resources/dobbs-clergy-resources). It has many great resources to help us live out our shared calling to celebrate, support, and promote life for the sake of our culture, children, and families. God bless!

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



Pro-life demonstrators are seen outside the U.S. Supreme Court in Washington Dec. 1, 2021, the day justices heard oral arguments in Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization about a Mississippi law banning most abortions after 15 weeks. (CNS photo/Evelyn Hockstein, Reuters)

## St. Mary's Picnic June 12, 2022

Mass 9:15 am  
Meal 10:30 am  
Music 10:30-9 pm

Auction 1:00 pm  
Bingo 12-4:00 pm

St. Mary's Parish  
1648 FM 340  
Hallettsville, TX

### Serving Famous Special Recipe Meal \$12

Stew and Sausage,  
German Potatoes,  
Green Beans,  
Pickles, Sauerkraut,  
Bread & Dessert

Dine In or Drive Thru

Ice Cold Beer  
Burgers  
Kolaches  
Snow Cones  
Popcorn  
Nachos  
Ice Cream  
Cotton Candy



### Live Auction



Hand made  
Quilts

Country Store  
Canned Goods

B I N G O

Plant & Cake Walk  
Rides, Games



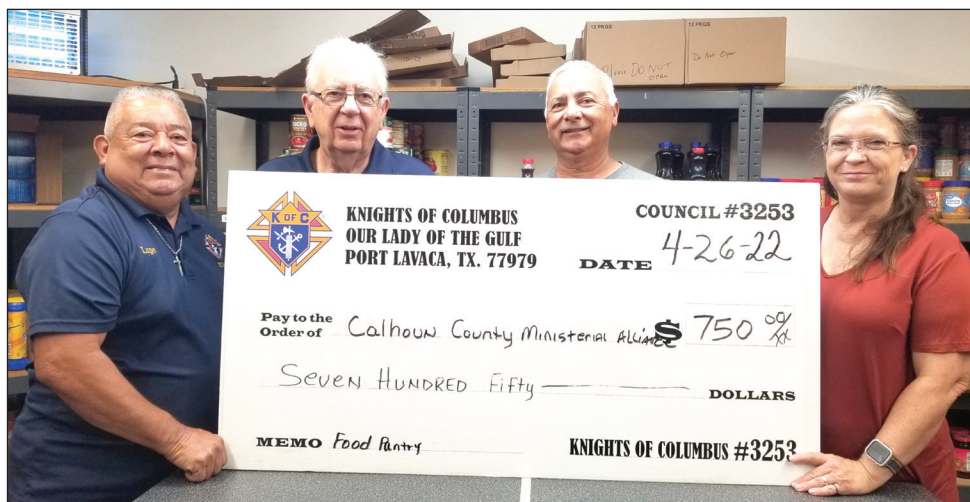
You're invited to experience the picnic celebration of this historic parish, one of the oldest rural Catholic parishes in TX, established in 1836. Located in the heart of Lavaca County, the wood framed church sits nestled among massive live oaks in the community of St. Mary's. This quiet and serene community flourishes with fun and excitement each June as visitors and friends gather under giant oaks, shaded pavilions and air conditioned halls to share food, games, music and good times. Located at 1648 FM 340, Hallettsville, TX Rectory: 361-798-2128

## Live Music

Texas Sound Check 10:30 – 2pm

J&S Playboys Polka 2—5:30 pm

The Red Ravens 5:30 – 9pm



## Feeding the hungry

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





‘Bless the work of our hands, O Lord’

VICTORIA — Bishop Brendan Cahill presides over the May 12 Blessing of the Hands for staff members at DeTar Hospital on Navarro. Staff members who wanted a blessing gathered in the small chapel. After a reading, a reflection and a litany of blessings, Bishop Cahill poured water over the hands of each staff member in the chapel and prayed that they would bring peace, comfort and healing to others. (Janet Jones/The Catholic Lighthouse)



Comforting the brokenhearted

Archbishop Gustavo García-Siller of San Antonio comforts people outside the SSGT Willie de Leon Civic Center, where students had been transported from Robb Elementary School after the shooting in Uvalde on May 24. See related story, Page 1. (CNS photo/Marco Bello, Reuters)

Are you invested properly?  
Get a second opinion.



Kenny French Sr  
Financial Advisor

1501 E Mockingbird Ln Ste 102  
Victoria, TX 77904  
361-576-0178

Edward Jones®  
MAKING SENSE OF INVESTING  
edwardjones.com

Member SIPC

Sunday Readings from June 5 - July 10

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

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

June 19 ~ The Solemnity of the Most Holy  
Body and Blood of Christ  
Genesis 14:18-20  
Psalms 110:1, 2, 3, 4  
1 Corinthians 11:23-26  
Luke 9:11b-17

June 26 ~ Thirteenth Sunday  
in Ordinary Time  
1 Kings 19:16b, 19-21  
Psalms 16:1-2, 5, 7-8, 9-10, 11  
Galatians 5:1, 13-18  
Luke 9:51-62

July 3 ~ Fourteenth Sunday  
in Ordinary Time  
Isaiah 66:10-14c  
Psalms 66:1-3, 4-5, 6-7, 16, 20  
Galatians 6:14-18  
Luke 10:1-12, 17-20

July 10 ~ Fifteenth Sunday  
in Ordinary Time  
Deuteronomy 30:10-14  
Psalms 69:14, 17, 30-31, 33-34, 36, 37  
Colossians 1:15-20  
Luke 10:25-37

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

Brought to you by: Catholic Communications Campaign



Quo Vadis? Vocation Camp to be held

The Annual Vocation Camp “Quo Vadis” plans to be held July 17 through July 20 at Camp Kubena in Ledbetter, Texas, near La Grange. Please encourage and invite the young men of your parish to attend! The registration form and fee are due by June 24

to guarantee a T-shirt. The total fee for the camp is \$75. The camp is open to all young men who are going into the eighth grade next school year through 21 years of age.

Please call Father Tommy Chen with any questions at 361-552-6140.

Safe Environment

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

Contact:

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

and

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

or

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



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



# ‘Fifth Station moment’ a life-changing encounter and blessing

BY PAUL BARRETT

*Special to the Lighthouse*

As a young Catholic schoolboy, one of my most memorable spiritual experiences came about one Lenten evening in chapel while praying the Stations of the Cross. At the Fifth Station, where Simon of Cyrene is forced to carry the cross, there arose within me a declaration of deep, heartfelt compassion: “Lord Jesus, if I had only been there, I would have pushed my way through that crowd and gladly carried your cross.” That memorable “Fifth Station spiritual moment” remained with me into my senior years.

In January of 2017, I participated in a 10-day Holy Land pilgrimage led by Bishop Brendan Cahill. Shortly before our pilgrimage concluded in Jerusalem, we gathered on the Via Dolorosa in the predawn shadows of a cold morning to walk and pray the Way of the Cross. There were two large crosses with four pilgrims carrying each one and a rotation of sharing in the blessing every second or third station.

During a rotational change, I felt hands upon my shoulders positioning me to carry a cross and a man’s voice explained, “We are placing you at the head of the cross.” The cherished memory of my decades old “Fifth Station spiritual moment” immediately came to mind. I looked above the doorway beside me and there was the “V” for the Fifth Station of the Cross.

As God in His will and kindness had blessed Simon of Cyrene, so to, in my old age, He had blessed me beyond all expectations, to carry the cross of His beloved Son. My heart wept with joy and thanksgiving at God’s generosity.

Simon of Cyrene’s interaction with Jesus on his way to be crucified is recorded in all three Synoptic Gospels. These scriptural references are short, simple, statements recognizing Simon of Cyrene as the man who carried the cross for Jesus. The simplicity of these verses has led most scriptural scholars to believe that Simon’s participation was well known within the early Christian community.

From these three short passages, we know that Simon of Cyrene, a religious Jew, accompanied by his sons Rufus and

Alexander came into Jerusalem to attend the Passover festival at the Temple. He was randomly pulled out of a crowd of Passover pilgrims by Roman soldiers and forced to carry the bloody cross beam of a man condemned to crucifixion.

Under Jewish religious law, the moment the blood of the condemned man touched his person, Simon was “defiled” and would have been prevented from entering the Temple for Passover. In time, Simon, his sons and the early Christian community would understand this humiliating, random act of forced servitude was a unique and special blessing. Simon was blessed by God, to participate in the atoning Passover sacrifice of the Lamb of God, Jesus Messiah.

For a deeper, personal perspective on this event within the crucifixion narrative, let us consider it in the manner of scriptural contemplation set forth by St. Ignatius and practiced by the Jesuits. Let us mentally place ourselves within these scriptures as witnesses to the event. Let us imagine ...

We are part of a large group of Passover pilgrims slowly making our way through the crowded streets of Jerusalem. Near Herod’s palace and the Antonia Fortress, our forward movement through the crowded street is abruptly halted by a contingent of Roman soldiers escorting three condemned prisoners for crucifixion. Each of the condemned prisoners carries across their backs, a large cross bar to be used in their crucifixion.

The soldiers are coarse and brutal in their herding of the condemned men. A Roman officer on horseback is directing activities when one of the prisoners suddenly collapses in the street. The extensive bloodstains on his ankle-length linen garment are evidence of a severe scourging. A large, woven crown of Acacia thorns has been affixed to his head. The condemned man’s face is streaked with blood, sweat and pain.

Three soldiers quickly converge upon him, cursing and prodding him with the staff butt of their lances. A verbal command from the Roman officer stops the attack. A soldier informs the officer that the condemned man has been weakened by severe blood loss and is unable to carry the cross bar. The officer issues a curt command to his soldiers, wav-



*5th Station of the Cross: Simon of Cyrene helps Christ*

*“As they led him away, they seized a man from Cyrene named Simon, who was returning from the country. They put the cross on his back and forced him to carry it behind Jesus.” (Luke 23:26) (Alois de Beule / Fifth Station of the Cross / Painted terracotta panel / 1893 / Shrine of St Augustine, Ramsgate)*

ing his arm toward those of us in the crowd creating an immediate sense of intimidation.

A man standing beside us quickly repositions his two sons behind him. A Roman soldier seizes him roughly by the clothing near his neck, curses him and throws him face down onto the filthy street with orders to pick up the cross bar. Both men are lying near each other in the street and appear to momentarily make eye contact.

The pilgrim pushes himself up into a standing position; quickly removing his cloak and prayer shawl, which are taken by his two sons. He lifts the large, heavy cross bar from the back of the condemned man and positions himself under it. Blood from the cross bar is immediately visible on the Passover pilgrim’s linen garment.

With curses and scornful contempt, two soldiers, grab the condemned man by his bloody arms and roughly yank him up from the street into a standing position. The crowd is ordered to keep moving.

As the procession of the condemned resumes, the Passover pilgrim, stooped over from the weight of the cross bar upon his back, slowly follows in the bloody footprints of the condemned man. The two sons follow close behind with their father’s outer cloak and prayer shawl. Jewish pilgrims from the port city of Cyrene identify the man as Simon and his sons as Rufus and Alexander.

In time, we learn that at the crucifixion site Simon and his sons met a group of grieving women including the condemned man’s

mother. The women identify the condemned man as Jesus of Nazareth and told of his teaching ministry and arrest in the garden. Through tears of grief, the condemned man’s mother thanked Simon for helping her son. Simon will always be remembered as the man who carried the cross for Jesus.

This spiritually contemplative perspective of Simon of Cyrene’s encounter with Jesus reveals for our consideration the following:

- Simon of Cyrene represents every soul’s personal experience in a life-changing encounter with Jesus Christ.
- As Simon of Cyrene carried the cross for Jesus, so Jesus carried the cross for fulfillment of God’s plan of salvation for all.
- Like Simon, many of the crosses we encounter and carry in our life’s journey will belong to someone else.

As a “communion of saints,” let us consider, for our own spiritual journey, bearing not only the cross of selfless service to God but also for each other.

Philippians 2:3-5: “Do nothing out of selfishness or out of vainglory; rather, humbly regard others as more important than yourselves, each looking out not for his own interests, but [also] everyone for those of others. Have among yourselves the same attitude that is also yours in Christ Jesus.”

• Paul Barrett is the RCIA director for St. Philip the Apostle Church in El Campo and a member of the Catholic Writers Guild.





## Ser puentes para una nueva época

*Continuación de la página 12*

que no conocía. Algunos de ellos compartieron sus historias personales de migración, así como historias de personas con las que trabajan. Fue una verdadera experiencia sinodal de escucha y acompañamiento.

Este día de abogacía culminó con la Celebración Eucarística en la Basílica del Santuario Nacional de la Inmaculada Concepción, en donde el nuncio Apostólico Christophe Pierre, junto a otros 13 arzobispos y obispos de los EE.UU., presidieron una misa completamente en español, una novedad en la historia de esta basílica. Lo primero que me llamó la atención cuando nos dirigíamos en los autobuses a la basílica fue el domo que sobresalía entre los edificios de alrededor. Un domo imponente, de color predominantemente azul con detalles dorados, colores marianos que transmitían belleza y paz. Una vez que llegamos a la basílica, la arquitectura se apreciaba majestuosa, era simplemente algo espectacular de observar. Uno se puede

perder en la nobleza de la arquitectura y del arte del interior de la basílica, especialmente con los mosaicos que representaban las diferentes apariciones y advocaciones de la Virgen María, un espacio para todos y todas. Fue simplemente, algo inolvidable.

Los siguientes cuatro días de la conferencia se dedicaron al diálogo y al discernimiento sobre algunas de las prioridades pastorales. Si bien la formación es parte del proceso vital de catequesis-evangelización en nuestras comunidades, se le dio prioridad al acompañamiento familiar y a la pastoral juvenil hispana.

Se recordó que la familia es la Iglesia doméstica por la gracia del Espíritu Santo a través del Bautismo, como dice Lumen Gentium: “En esta especie de Iglesia doméstica, los padres deben ser para sus hijos los primeros predicadores de la fe, con la palabra y el ejemplo, y deben promover la vocación de cada uno, pero con especial cuidado la

sagrada vocación.”

Por lo cual, se mencionó que es vital acompañar a esos mismos padres para ayudarlos a comprender su papel como primeros educadores de la fe de sus hijos. Ellos, son instrumentos a través de los cuales sus hijos conocerán el amor de Dios, amor que aumentará con la ayuda de la Iglesia y la comunidad a través de los sacramentos y las experiencias eclesiales de fe.

Esta Conferencia fue una gran experiencia de diálogo y discernimiento, experiencia llena del Espíritu Santo. Algo que me llenó de esperanza fue escuchar que, los jóvenes no son solo el futuro de la Iglesia, sino que son el presente. Esto se pudo constatar al observar una gran presencia de jóvenes líderes en esta conferencia. Muchos de ellos son parte de la Pastoral Juvenil Hispana y otros están trabajando en oficinas diocesanas creando impacto en sus comunidades locales. Fue sin lugar a dudas una experiencia eclesial

### Presidio La Bahia



**Wayback Every Wednesday in  
June & July  
10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.**

The history of Presidio La Bahia is brought to life.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

### Spiritual Renewal Center

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

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

Handicap accessible.

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

## Journeys of Faith

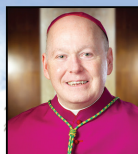
with Ceci

presents these great upcoming pilgrimages in 2022!

### ROME AND THE SHRINE OF OUR LADY OF POMPEII

with Bishop Brendan J. Cahill

10 Days  
August 21-30, 2022



#### Places You Will See

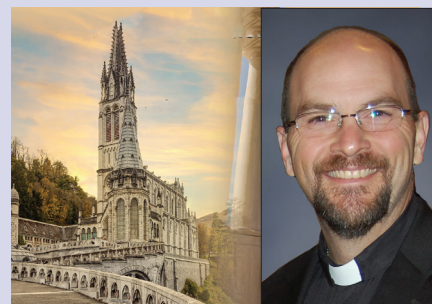
- Rome
- Sites of St. Paul
- Rome Basilicas
- Relics of Jerusalem
- Papal Audience
- Catacombs
- Ancient Rome
- Vatican Treasures
- OL of Pompeii
- Naples
- Castel Gandolfo
- Leisure in Rome

**Price: \$3,895**

*This trip is  
filling fast!*

*The price of these pilgrimages will include the flights, hotels (dbl occ.), tour bus and guides, meals as indicated on the fliers. Land only pricing is available.*

Information and online fliers are found at [www.selectinternationaltours.com](http://www.selectinternationaltours.com) or contact me at [ceci.triska@gmail.com](mailto:ceci.triska@gmail.com) and I will email it to you



October 3 - 14, 2022

**A Marian Pilgrimage to Paris, Lourdes & Fatima** with Father Michael Rother...\$3,995

We are going to France and Portugal visiting the Marian Shrines in Paris, Lourdes and Fatima! This program will have us based in Paris for 4 nights! We will visit Nevers where St. Bernadette's incorrupt body is encased in glass, St. Vincent de Paul, Miraculous Medal Shrine where Blessed Mother appeared to St. Catherine Laboure, Mass in Sacre Coeur Cathedral, and more before we board the train to Lourdes where we will spend three nights. We will visit the Shrine of Our Lady of Lourdes, bathe in the miraculous waters, and participate in the nightly Candlelight Rosary Procession. We then head to Fatima with an evening stop at Avila and visit the convent of St. Theresa of Avila. Then on to Fatima for three nights where the highlight of our pilgrimage is attending the Mass of the Miracle of the Sun, which was our Lady of Fatima's last appearance to the three children.





## Courage ministries reach out to homosexuals and their families

By JANET JONES  
*The Catholic Lighthouse*

A common theme in the listening sessions of the diocesan phase of the Synod on Synodality – what Bishop Brendan Cahill refers to as “a Church that listens” – is the need to find ways to embrace those who think the Church doesn’t want them.

One outreach that already exists, Courage, exists to specifically give people with same-sex attraction some answers about their role as Catholics and how to follow the teachings of the Church.

Bishop Brendan Cahill recently asked the Rev. Jacob Koether, pastor of Our Lady of Sorrows in Victoria, to become the chaplain of this outreach in the Diocese of Victoria.

“As the Church, we are open to all people, and I have to acknowledge that sometimes people feel we hate them,” Bishop Cahill said. “We love everybody.”

Since he began coordinating the Courage ministry in the diocese, Father Koether has discovered that it is also a ministry needed to heal families. “What I’ve experienced most is parents concerned for their children,” he said. “A lot of parents think, ‘It’s all my fault,’ and end up making it about themselves. And that makes it worse.”

Father Koether said those parents need to be reassured that they did not “break” their children and suggests they look into EnCourage, a related ministry for the loved ones of people with same-sex attraction having a

hard time accepting the reality of it. “It’s a great resource for parents,” he said. “It can be very comforting to learn that you’re not alone.”

According to Father Koether, the best mind-set to have when approaching the issue of same-sex attraction is to have people understand that everyone is a sinner and everyone is called to holiness, and freedom and virtue experienced when we follow the teachings of Christ. It is also note-

worthy that having a same-sex attraction is not a sin, nor is any temptation for that matter, Koether said.

It is important to emphasize, Koether said, that Courage is not “conversion therapy,” nor is it any type of group therapy. It is simply people with similar experiences who want to live their Catholic faith and understand the truth of the Church’s teaching. It is similar to the recently established ministry for divorced Catholics – another group of people who often are misinformed and therefore separate themselves from the Catholic Church.

“When the Bishop first asked me to do this, he presented it in terms of evangelization,” Koether said. “It’s really mission territory.”

Anyone who wants to learn more about the Courage ministry can email [courage@victoriadiocese.org](mailto:courage@victoriadiocese.org). There is also a section on the Diocese of Victoria’s website under “Resources” for the Courage ministry.



## Job opportunities throughout diocese

### Chancery Office, Victoria

- Accounting Clerk
- Safe Environment Executive Program Assistant

### St. Mary’s Catholic Church, Victoria

- Business Manager

### The Cathedral of OLV, Victoria

- Religious Education Program Assistant

### Spiritual Renewal Center, Victoria

- Cook/ Kitchen Assistant

### The Emmaus Center, Victoria

- Director of Clinical Services
- Licensed Professional Counselor (LPC)
- Licensed Professional Counselor Associate

### Presidio La Bahia, Goliad

- Presidio La Bahia Historical Interpreter - Part-Time

For job descriptions, application and requirements, go to the Diocese of Victoria web site at [www.victoriadiocese.org/current-job-postings](http://www.victoriadiocese.org/current-job-postings).



For employment opportunities in the Catholic Schools in the Diocese of Victoria go to their web site at [www.victoriadiocese.org/employment-opportunities](http://www.victoriadiocese.org/employment-opportunities)

## A Prayer for the Wheat

DEAR Lord, in many broad fields of this vast country of ours, the wheat is growing now. Some is still young and green, some is headed out, and all, before very long, will be golden ripe.

Most of it, dear Lord Jesus, will go to feed the hungry. In countless loaves of bread and in cereals, it will find its way to tables in city and country almost all over the world.

Some of it will be used at another table. It will be ground into fine flour and used to make the hosts, the altar-breads for Holy Mass. Priests will take it into their anointed hands and pronounce over it the words of consecration, and it will cease to be ordinary bread, and will become the Bread of angels. It will look as it did before, but we know and believe that it will be the Body and Blood, the Soul and Divinity of You, Lord Jesus Christ, there really present, under the appearances of bread.

O Jesus, bless the broad, rich fields of wheat in our whole land. Protect them from hail and beating rains, from blight and rust, from windstorms and drought. Let them be full and rich, so that the hungry may be fed, and may praise You and thank You as You deserve. And may all the Holy Masses that will be said with hosts made of this wheat hasten the day when at last there will be enough reapers working in Your harvest, which is ripe and ready now, waiting only to be gathered home. Amen.



## CD or IRA Maturing?

# 4.00%

for 5 Years with  
bail out option



Hollub Agency Team seated L-R: Kelly Lichnovsky, Rebecca Klima & Lupe Mata.  
Standing L-R: Case Hollub, Monica Stock & Carol Hollub

**CALL TODAY!**

**Hollub Agency  
CASE A HOLLUB**

**979-725-8459**

Credited rates effective 4/1/22 and are subject to change without notice. Early withdrawals may be subject to Surrender Charges and Market Value Adjustments. The IRS may impose penalties for early withdrawals from Company. Annuity products are not FDIC Insured. Annuity products contain charges, fees and limitations. Annuity products and/or features may not be available in all states and rates may vary by state.



Bishop Brendan Cahill, center, offers prayers during the Maritime Day Mass in the Crypt Church of the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception on May 21. He is the U.S. episcopal promoter for Stella Maris, the Catholic Church's ministry to seafarers around the world. Pictured with Bishop Cahill, who was the main celebrant and homilist, are Deacon Paul Rosenblum, left, a regional coordinator for Stella Maris and port chaplain in the Diocese of Charleston, S.C., and the Rev. Paul Hartmann, right, associate general secretary of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops. *(CNS photo/Julie Asher)*



**1890 ★ 132nd Year ★ 2022**

**PICNIC**  
St. John the Baptist Church  
**AMMANNSVILLE**

**On FM 1383**

**Mass at 5:00 p.m. Saturday**

# SUNDAY, JUNE 19

*(Father's Day)*

[illegible]

## GOLDEN FRIED CHICKEN & SAUSAGE DINNER

Served from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

**All Plates \$12.00 – Dine In or Plates To Go**



***Country Auction at 1:00 p.m.***

***Plinko ★ Cake Walk ★ Bingo ★ Ring Toss ★ Surprise Packages***

**Toy Walk ★ Country Store ★ Snow Cones ★ Duck Pond**

**Hamburgers beginning at 4 p.m.**

[illegible]

## MUSIC DURING THE DAY & NIGHT BY

[illegible]

***You are all invited to celebrate with us!***

## Diocese welcomes new accounting supervisor

Barbara Vahalik joined the Diocese of Victoria chancery staff May 2 as the accounting supervisor.

Ms. Vahalik is responsible for preparing, examining and analyzing accounting records, financial statements, and other financial reports to assess accuracy, completeness and conformance to reporting and procedural standards.

She graduated from Stroman High School and attended The Victoria College. She received her

bachelor of science in business administration from the University of Houston-Victoria. She

has a current CPA license since 1994 and is a member of St. Mary Catholic Church in Victoria.

She said she is pleased to join the Diocese of Victoria and is looking forward in starting this new chapter in her life and expanding her knowledge.

Barbara's email address is [bvahalik@victoriadio-cese.org](mailto:bvahalik@victoriadio-cese.org). Her phone number is 361-573-0828, Ext. 2223.



Barbara Vahalik



## Yorktown CDA celebrates 70 years

**YORKTOWN** – Rita Renault, who received her 70-year pin from Catholic Daughters of the Americas, is shown with CDA member Helen Mikus. The CDA Court Holy Cross Court 1598 celebrated its 70th anniversary recently, honoring the Blessed Virgin Mary with a Mass celebrated by the Rev. Roger Hawes, court chaplain, followed by a social hour and luncheon. Service awards were given and new members were installed. Deceased members, within the last five years, were remembered. The celebration was attended by 31 of our 61 members, including three new members, all court officers and District Deputy Dorothy Zabransky. The Court 1598 charity projects include: support of The Gabriel Project of the Crossroads of DeWitt County, by having an annual baby shower and making a monetary donation; promoting right to life events; honoring military and first responders; visiting the local nursing home and providing Valentine goodie bags for the residents; and taking care of the older section of our parish cemetery. They also support the youth of the community by donating to the public library, Project Graduation and Shattered Dreams. The group helps with Vacation Bible School, holds an annual education contest for students and gives high school scholarships as well as gifts for sacraments and graduation. *(Contributed Photo)*





## Meals • Picnics and More

## June

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

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

**St. Mary** – St. Mary's Picnic June 12 at the parish hall (1648 FM 340 just outside of Hallettsville). Mass will be celebrated at 9:15 a.m. A stew and sausage dinner begins at 10:30 a.m. Auction, bingo, cake and plant walk, country store, children's games and more. Live music from 10:30 a.m. to 9 p.m. See ad on pg. 13.

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

**Ammansville** – St. John the Baptist (FM 1383) Fathers Day Picnic, June 19. A fried chicken and sausage dinner will be served. Entertainment throughout the day. See ad on pg. 18.

**Plum** – Sts. Peter and Paul Plum Feast (126 Plum Church Road), June 26. Serving sausage and fried chicken from 11 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. for \$12 each plate. Auction starts at 1:30 p.m.; music from 11 a.m.-5 p.m. with Ken Brothers and Mark Halata and Texavia. Games, cakewalk, country store, bingo (2 p.m.) and hamburgers served in the evening.

## July

**Dubina** – Sts. Cyril and Methodius Church Feast July 3, Mass at 9:00 a.m. A fried-chicken and sausage dinner begins at 11:00 a.m. for \$12 p/p dine-in or take-out available. See ad on pg. 9.

**St. John** – St. John Parish Picnic, Monday, July 4, with Mass at 9:00 a.m. followed by a flag raising ceremony. A stew and fried-chicken dinner at 10:30 a.m. for \$12 p/p dine-in or take-out available. See ad on pg. 5.

**Moravia** – Ascension Parish Picnic July 18

**Ganado** – Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary Parish is hosting a Women's ACTS Retreat July 21-24. Send off will take place at the Parish Hall and the retreat will be held at the Spiritual Renewal Center in McFadden and then returning to ABVM Ganado on Sunday morning. Anyone interested should reach out to the director, Sharon Carroll at 361-648-8940.

**Port O'Connor** – Knights of Columbus #9088 and Nazareth Academy Annual Fishing Tournament July 22-23. See ad on pg. 3.

## Ministries • Ongoing Activities

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

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

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

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

## Mission Trip Planned

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



Father Dan  
Morales

## Pilgrimages

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

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

Do you have any calendar of events  
for the Lighthouse?

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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





# The Giving Garden

*Continued from pg. 1*

Foegelle also reached out to the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service and found herself another partner in the project.

The grant money was spent to run water lines to garden beds and an in-ground planting area, purchase water troughs to use as raised beds, and for fencing, hoses and soil.

In conjunction with the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Services of DeWitt County, the parish has offered a program on Growing and Nourishing Healthy Communities to the community at no cost with anywhere from 15 to 23 in attendance, according to Foegelle.

Then the AgriLife Extension Service brought in Victoria County Master Gardeners to share information about composting, raised bed gardening and beneficial companion gardening (putting plants that attract beneficial bugs near vegetables). The Master Gardeners have made themselves available to discuss questions and concerns about the garden beds the parish planted and ones started at home.

The extension service provided the materials for building of wooden beds, soil, plants and fertilizer. Volunteers of all ages came together to build the raised beds, trench the ground for in-ground water lines, till the ground for in-ground planting, install water lines out to the garden, plant vegetable plants and seeds and continue watering to produce a harvest to be shared.

Debbie Vanelli, Catholic Relief Services coordinator for the Diocese of Victoria, said the project was unique and met all of the criteria for what CRS wants to fund.

A couple of things Foegelle mentioned

in the grant just jumped off the page, Vanelli said. First of all it was a project the entire parish family could help with, and volunteers were doing all the work.

The project puts the church at the center of activity while addressing hunger. "It speaks to everything that Catholic Relief Services is about," Vanelli said.

"We pray it doesn't only provide a bountiful harvest, but also graces us with the opportunity to meet new people, strengthen bonds with new friendships developed, creates a vibrant community of participants and touches the soil of our heart on which God's Word is planted and that we allow it to grow in our heart," Foegelle said.

The parish invites anyone interested to come and see the garden. "Helpful hands are always welcome," Foegelle said.

Bishop Brendan Cahill said he got a tour of the garden from Father Hawes after presiding at the Confirmation Mass at Holy Cross on May 15. "What a wonderful way to witness our gratitude to God for the gift of creation," he said. What makes it so special to him is that it brings to life so many of the lessons Jesus taught – about feeding others, the love of family, and more.

Foegelle said the parish is now looking forward to putting a playground in the same area so little ones can play while the grownups or older youth work in the garden.

Some of the children already have been engaged in the garden and have recently planted pumpkin seeds in the raised beds. A planting day is scheduled for June 16 to start



*Holy Cross in Yorktown, as part of its Giving Garden project, has partnered with Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service and the Victoria County Master Gardeners to make it educational as well as a source to feed the homebound and needy. Pictured here is a group gathered during one of the Growing and Nourishing Healthy Communities garden classes put on by out DeWitt County Texas A&M AgriLife Extension agents at Holy Cross church. "The course is very hands on, which allowed all to partake in putting the soil in the beds, planting the plants and seeds and then watering them," according to Teresa Foegelle, church secretary/bookkeeper who had the idea for a community garden. "We gathered outside in the garden area to see how everything was growing and had the opportunity to ask questions of the Victoria County Master Gardeners that came to present. It was very beneficial." (Contributed Photo)*

in-ground planting of pumpkins. The parish will have a Fall Harvest Festival to Oct. 29 to celebrate a successful start to the Giving Garden.

Father Hawes said next year's garden will be bigger and better and he hopes it continues to increase each year. "It's been a good thing for the community. We not only have this

garden and this food, but something that the community can take part in. It can only bring about positive things."

Relationships may be the best fruit of this garden. "For me it's all about family gathering together for a purpose," Father Hawes said. "It's so important. People need relationships."

## Hispanic leaders called to be bridges to a new era

*Continued from pg. 1*

to be an instrument of healing and reconciliation within and, above all, outside the structures of the Church. It was encouraging to hear, and impressive to see the room filled with more than 400 Catholic leaders, not only Hispanic, but from different cultures, languages and nationalities. It was an expression of the cultural and universal diversity of the Catholic Church.

Part of the Conference was to participate in a day of advocacy. We joined Monsignor Mario E. Dorsonville, president of the Committee on Migrants and Auxiliary Bishop of Washington in a prayer vigil for our migrant brothers and sisters. It was a great experience. Since the beginning of the day we had been grouped by region, but there I had the opportunity to dialogue and reflect with leaders that I already knew from the region and well as others I did not know. Some of them shared their personal stories of migra-

tion or stories of people they work with. It was a true synodal experience of listening and accompaniment.

This day of advocacy culminated with the Eucharistic Celebration at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception, where the Apostolic Nuncio Christophe Pierre, along with 13 other archbishops and bishops from the U.S., presided over a Mass entirely in Spanish, a novelty in the history of this basilica. The first thing that caught my attention when we were heading to the basilica was the dome that stood out between the surrounding buildings. An imposing dome, predominantly blue in color with gold details, Marian colors that conveyed beauty and peace. The basilica's architecture was majestic. It was spectacular to observe. One can get lost in the nobility of the architecture and art inside the basilica, especially with the mosaics that represented the different

apparitions and invocations of the Virgin Mary, a space for everyone. It was simply unforgettable.

The next four days of the conference were dedicated to dialogue and discernment on some of the pastoral priorities. Although formation is part of the vital process of catechesis-evangelization in our communities, family accompaniment and Hispanic youth ministry were given top priority.

It was recalled that the family is the domestic Church by the grace of the Holy Spirit through Baptism, as Lumen Gentium says: "In this kind of domestic Church, parents must be for their children the first preachers of the faith, with the word and example, and must promote the vocation of each one, but with special care the sacred vocation."

Therefore, it was mentioned that it is vital to accompany these same parents to help them understand their role as the first

educators of their children's faith. They are instruments through which their children will know the love of God, a love that will increase with the help of the Church and the community through the sacraments and ecclesial experiences of faith.

This conference was a great experience of dialogue and discernment, an experience filled with the Holy Spirit. Something that filled me with hope was hearing that young people are not only the future of the Church, but they are the present. This was confirmed by observing a large presence of young leaders at this conference. Many of them are part of the Hispanic Youth Ministry and others are working in diocesan offices creating an impact in their local communities.

It was without a doubt an ecclesial experience full of the synodal dynamism to which Pope Francis has called us.