By Cynthia Brewer


The four men have completed the six-year spiritual and academic formation program required of permanent deacons. They have been under the direction of Rev. Gabriel Maison, director of permanent diaconate formation for the Diocese of Victoria and pastor of St. Joseph Church in Moulton. This brings the total number of deacons in the service of the diocese to 34.

To the gathering hymn, Sing Out, Earth and Skies, the deacon candidates processed into the cathedral one at a time, followed by 13 of their soon-to-be brother deacons and 11 concelebrating priests and Bishop Fellhauer.

The four ordained deacons sat in the first row of pews with their wives, Marian Kram, Rebecca Kubala, Mary Machacek and Letisia Ramos, close by in the pew behind them. Following the Liturgy of the Word, in which two of the candidates, Letisia and Mary Machacek, proclaimed the Scriptures, the candidates were called forward by the assisting deacon, Reverend Mr. Leo Sharron of St. Michael Parish in Cuero, and presented to the bishop by Father Maison, who testified to the readiness of their perseverance, preparation and faithfulness in following God’s call.

“Who a sign, a proof, that God is indeed in our midst working in his people,” the bishop said. “We celebrate the nearness of God in our lives. This is proof that the Word, the voice of God, is heard and obeyed — we see it in the lives of these four men.”

Bishop Fellhauer explained that the deacon is a minister of charity who serves at the altar and administers the sacrament of baptism and proclaims and preaches the Word of God.

He also expressed his gratitude for Father Maison's instructions and guidance of the permanent deacons. “Because of Father Maison, this is just as fine a program as can be,” he said.

Following the homily, Bishop Fellhauer examined the candidates asking them a number of questions. Each in turn gave his promise of obedience and respect to the bishop and his successors, kneeling before him and placing their hands, folded flat together, inside the bishop's hands.

The elect then prostrated themselves before the bishop while the litany of supplication to the saints was sung by the choir, made up from choir members from each of the candidates’ parishes and led by cantor and music director Janice Cox, and organist Cynthia Goering.

Following the litany, each of the newly ordained deacons share their thoughts they had during their ordination:

Deacon Patrick Kubala of St. John Nepomucene, New Taft: “My personal thoughts as I was being ordained was, ‘Why me?’ God truly knew me before I was born. He knew this time would happen and he shepherded me through my life to reach this point. I did not decide to become a deacon,” said Deacon Patrick Kubala. “God chose this path for me and I choose Yes.”

“During the Liturgy of the Saints, as I lay prostrate, I became very emotional and left tears on the cold marble floor. I was awestruck at the sacramental grace that God had given me.”

“When we stood up after the litany was complete, I felt that I had died to my old life and had been risen to a new life, that life of service. I truly realized that my life must be given to the Church.”

The Kiss of Peace, “was overwhelming and worthiness of each candidate.

Bishop Fellhauer then chose the candidates for ordination as deacons and invited the consent of the assembly, which responded with great applause.

In the homily the bishop welcomed the candidates and their wives, congratulating them for their six years of preparation. He expressed his gratitude and admiration for the perseverance, preparation and faithfulness in following God’s call.

“Each of the newly ordained deacons then invested their spouse with solemn and dutiful, the outer vestment similar to the chasuble worn by the bishop. The bishop then prayed the prayer of consecration over each of the elect, thus affecting the ordination of the deacons.

Each of the newly ordained deacons, one by one, knelt before the bishop who handed them the Placque of Gifts of which they are now heralds.

Lastly they approached the bishop who gave each of the newly ordained the fraternal kiss of peace. All of the diocesan deacons present at the Mass proceeded to the lower sanctuary to offer the kiss of peace to each new deacon as a sign of their being joined in the order of deacons.

The ceremony continued with the liturgy of the Eucharist with Deacon Joe Ramos and Deacon Patrick Kubala assisting the bishop. Marian Kram and Rebecca Kubala presented the gifts to the altar. All four new deacons were the ministers of the Blood of Christ during Holy Communion.

Following Mass, a reception was held for the newly ordained at Holy Family Church activity center in Victoria. The permanent deacons have been assigned to their home parishes.

The newly ordained deacons share some of the thoughts they had during their ordination:

At a ceremony at Our Lady of Victory Cathedral December 19, 2009, the Diocese of Victoria received four newly ordained deacons. The newly ordained are pictured with their wives and the bishop of Victoria. From left, Joe and Letisia Ramos of Our Lady of Guadalupe in Bay City, Milburn and Marian Kram of St. Joseph Parish in Moulton, Bishop David Fellhauer, Patrick and Rebecca Kubala of St. John Nepomucene in New Taiton, and Joe and Mary Machacek of Sts. Cyril & Methodius in Shiner.
Local hermit becomes “Brother Bernard”
By Cynthia Brewer

After much soul searching and prayer, Jeff Keele, a young man who many parishioners in Victoria know from his attendance at daily Mass in various parishes, took his monastic vows this past year as a Benedictine Brother at the Olivetan Benedictine Abbey in Pecos, Texas, taking the name, Dom, or Brother, Bernard. Brother Bernard started by the chan

cery to say “He” to me while he was visiting his sister in Victoria this past October. Jeff and I became friends when we both attended daily Mass at Our Lady of Sorrows in late 1990s. Jeff was raised in Dallas, but due to life circumstances, he moved to Victoria to live with his uncle, Dr. James R. Haver, his mother’s brother, in 1982. He attended St. Joseph High School and graduated in 1983.

At the time, Jeff was not Catholic, but through the influence of Sister Ernestine Vollmire, IFWS, his theology and English teacher, he grew to love Christ through the Church.

“She was my saint,” he said of Sister Ernestine. “Every person needs a saint in their life. She was mine. I became Catholic because of her.”

Sister Ernestine died in December 1985. “She gave me new friends to know her and love her. With her passing, there was a need to answer with my life – to answer for the love of her life.”

“Sr. Ernestine’s death, that loss, opened an opportunity to see the divinity behind the person, to see God behind his creation,” Brother Bernard said. “I was so blinded by her love; by God taking that away, I was able to see him – his love. I was moved from human beings to divine love through the painful loss of a beloved.”

“Tears are a gift. Through the gift of tears we are better to know our dependency on God, to better know our love for him and his love for us.”

From December 1985 to 1987, Jeff spent his time searching, asking, “Who am I? Where am I going?” That brought him to the sacraments. Father Don Ruppert was pastor of Holy Family Church in Victoria at the time and gave Jeff private instructions. On April 18, 1987, he entered the Catholic Church by receiving the sacraments of initiation.

“That was the happiest day of my life and it still is.”

“I’ve never had a sad or boring day since,” he continued. “I made my solemn profession on May 31, 2009, with the Benedictines; it was a close second, but

See Local hermit, p. 6

Cindy Brewer, Editor

The Lighthouse

I am writing this letter because of the plethora of e-mails containing prayers accompanied by granting of wishes, chances at fortune, and promises of good luck. Example: “If you send and receive 5 responses, you are loved, while if you do not send on or respond, you are ashamed.” Often these “prayer e-mails” are followed by or even accompanied by political e-mails which express hate. We reach and are reached by God so personally, not through e-mails. I would rather receive one personal e-mail with a prayerful note or thought from the sender than 1000 impersonal mass-produced e-mails couched in prayer but including nuances of chain letter fortune. This is a topic that needs attention on the pulpit or in the Lighthouse as participation in these e-mails is sinful.

Cindy Brewer, Editor

Letter to the Editor

Dear Editor,

Many of these e-mails look so sweet, but then they end telling you to forward to a certain number of people, and if you don’t, you won’t receive a surprise from God or it means you’re ashamed of Jesus. They question your faith. I feel this type of e-mail is quite vindictive.

Don’t feel like you have to respond or forward any e-mail to receive a surprise from God. We receive surprises from Our Lord everyday, and it’s not because we forward an e-mail chain letter.

I say, if it is really a nice e-mail message and you want to forward it, edit it by cutting the negative, superstitious part and the requests to forward it on to so many people, and then send it on, thus it’s no longer a chain letter. To make it better, add a personal note from yourself.

Cindy Brewer, Editor

Chancery welcomes new employee

The Diocese of Victoria chancery office welcomes new staff member, Mr. Rene Garcia, to its business office. Rene began working for the diocese in November 2009 and will replace Sue Ellen Galvan who will be leaving the chancery staff this spring. Rene brings sixteen-plus years of accounting and bookkeeping experience to the business office staff. His prior job experiences have been in banking and for a non-profit agency. He will be serving as a staff accountant overseeing the Priest and Lay Employee Pension Plan as well as the DSA and Capital Campaign funds.

“I look forward to working with the staff of the diocese,” said Rene, “and feel very blessed and thank God to be given the opportunity to work for my faith.”

Rene and his wife of 12 years, Dena, have a son, Ryan, who is in the second grade at Our Lady of Victory School.

2009 DSA Updates

2009 DSA

Diocesan Goal: $1,292,100.00
Parish Pledge Totals: $683,239.52
Parish Contribution Totals: $670,306.22
Number of Parish Families Participating: 3,942

You have Moved? Address Changed?
Call 361-573-0828 with the change in your address.
Saves Money!
Reflection of Faith
Capital Campaign Update

To date, the Diocese of Victoria has collected $6,827,000.00 (50%) of the $13,684,519.00 pledged. The work of the Capital Campaign has already begun. In the past 18 months the Diocese of Victoria has been able to distribute the following:

- **Catholic Education** — $580,659.45 — to provide need-based tuition assistance and funds for teacher salaries
- **Religious Education** — $197,167.24 — to provide funds to form, train and assist catechetical leaders and provide opportunities for continuing adult faith enrichment
- **Priest Pension** — $70,337.12 — to provide for those priests who are currently drawing a pension and provide for those priests who are approaching retirement
- **Spiritual Renewal Center** — $3,462,860.44 — to renovate and expand the existing Father Marcel Hall, the new multi-purpose building. The chapel’s renovation was completed in December 2008 and the Hermes Hall construction project was completed in November 2009.
- **Diocesan Parishes & Missions** — Built into the Capital Campaign is a financial rebate for each parish. Parishes receive a 20% rebate for contributions up to their parish goal. Once contributions exceed their parish goal, parishes receive a 50% rebate for all contributions received. To date, $1,272,480.31 has been rebated back to the parishes for their needs.

Renè García, Coordinator
Reflection of Faith Capital Campaign

Year for Priests
A Good and Faithful Servant

Special columns from women of renowned faith for the Year for Priests as requested by the USCCB Committee on Clergy, Consecrated Life and Vocations

By Mary Beth Bonacci

Her name was Father Marcel Salinas. I knew him only briefly, but he taught me one of life’s greatest lessons. He taught me how to die.

Father Marcel was in residence at my parish. He was in his early 60’s, while I was in my early 30’s and caught between what the Lord wanted of me and what the world wanted of me. I very much wanted to serve the Lord. I also wanted the American dream – the white picket fence, the pho-
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Seminary Burses

Seminary burses are a permanent fund used for the education of future priests for the Diocese of Victoria. The goal of each burse is $15,000. The interest from this amount is applied yearly to Seminary burses.

### General Seminary Burses

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### ACOLYTE INSTITUTED AT ST. PHILIP CHURCH

During the Sunday morning Mass, December 6, 2009, at St. Philip the Apostle Church in El Campo, Larry Hoelscher was instituted an acolyte, the last liturgical step before being ordained to the diaconate as a permanent deacon, for the Diocese of Victoria. Pictured with Bishop David Fellhauer are Larry and his wife, Pat.

### THREE MEN INSTITUTED AS ACOLYTES IN Moulton

Three men from throughout the Diocese of Victoria were instituted acolytes at the Sunday morning Mass, December 12, 2009, at St. Joseph Church in Moulton by Bishop David E. Fellhauer. The men who were instituted are pictured with their wives and Bishop Fellhauer. Pictured from left are Bill and Patricia Briscoe of St. Michael in Weimar, Kenneth and Kathy Fishbeck of St. Joseph in Moulton, and Larry and Lynn Koether of Holy Cross in Bay City. The term acolyte comes from the Greek “akolouthos” (to follow); it denotes the ministry of one who assists at the altar and performs other liturgical functions. The acolytes will continue with formation and academics until their scheduled ordination in 2011.

### In Memory of...

Brother Richard Joseph Micka, O.S.S.T., 58, of Victoria, died to this life and was born to eternal life, after a brief struggle with cancer, on Dec. 13, 2009, at Regina Manor South in Victoria.

Bro. Richard was born on Oct. 27, 1951, in Chester, Pa., to the late Marion and Jean Jakubowska Micka. He was baptized on Nov. 25, 1951, received his First Communion on May 10, 1959, and was confirmed on April 5, 1960, all at St. Hedwig Catholic Church in Chester, Pa.


Because of his deep commitment to the poor and forgotten in our midst, he was a capable writer, using his talents to create interesting newsletters and insightful poetry.

Bro. Richard is survived by the brothers and priests of the Order of the Most Holy Trinity.

He was preceded in death by his parents, and a brother, Edward Micka.

Funeral Mass was held on Wednesday, Dec. 16, 2009, at Our Lady of Sorrows Church in Victoria. The Fourth Degree Knights of Columbus did the honors as the Color Guard and also served as pall bearers.

A funeral Mass also was celebrated at Holy Trinity Monastery Chapel in Bal timore, Md., on Friday, Dec. 18, 2009. Interment followed in the monastery cenotaph.

Memorials may be sent to the Order of the Holy Trinity, P.O. Box 5719, Baltimore, MD 21282.
Bishop Forest High School Class of 1959 marks 50 years 50

SCHULENBURG — The Bishop Forest High School Class of 1959 celebrated the 50th anniversary of their high school graduation with a reunion on November 14, 2009, at the Oakridge Smokehouse Restaurant in Schulenburg. Classmates and guests in attendance came from Houston, Lake Jackson, El Campo, San Antonio, Rosenberg, Rockport, La Grange, Hallettsville, Weimar, Georgetown, Rosenberg and Victoria to attend the event.

The celebration began with the arrival of classmates and registration. The registration table was decorated with a flower arrangement, a 1959 school annual and school colors of green and white. Ben Friedel greeted arriving classmates and invited all to sign the guest book.

Eager to renew old acquaintances and reminisce about their high school days, classmates visited in small groups, enjoyed snacks, took personal photos and shared experiences since their last class reunion. Sixteen of the 24-member 1959 graduating class attended the reunion. They included Barbara Fietsam Wick and husband, Leo; Isabella Kainer Responddek and her husband, John, Ted Herfert; and Jeannette Walla, wife of Ken Walla. classmates and faculty then spent some time sharing their recollections of Bishop Forest High School in 1959. Vignettes of the past school days were given by several classmates and faculty that highlighted key events that made high school so special.

The entire group was then treated to a special video presentation titled “Bishop Forest Class of 1959, 2009 50 Year Reunion.” The video featured a “Walk Down Memory Lane” that highlighted 1959 world and national news events as well as sports, music and movies of the time. A section of the video, titled “The Way We Were in 1959,” brought back classic photographs and focused on memories of the school days at Bishop Forest High School. Attendees also enjoyed photo images from the 20-year reunion held in 1979. The video ended with a look at “2009, Our World Today” and “Where Are We Going?” as a class that continues to make an impact on the world.

As a keepsake, classmates each received a CD containing the video. Each member of the group received a rolled paper scroll that contained a special poem, titled “If the BFH Walls Could Speak.” Classmate Isabella Kainer Responddek read the poem for the group to enjoy. The poem highlighted student moments from the past and challenged everyone to learn and pave the way to the future.

Msgr. Eustace Hermes offered the prayer before the meal. All in attendance were treated to a delicious buffet dinner. The reunion meal was highlighted by a special Class of 1959,50-year reunion cake. Ben Friedel did the honor of cutting the reunion anniversary cake for all to enjoy.

All classmates in attendance agreed that the 50-year class reunion marked a very special time in life and that everyone was proud to be part of this milestone event. It was a very special day with many happy and poignant memories of the past shared and many new memories made. The class members agreed to look forward to celebrating their next class reunion in 2014.
I t just coincides that whichever secularism is the guiding ideology that there are anti-human campaigns against growth of human population or is the Culture of Death an essential component of secularism? No matter what the topic of birthrate and aging population, changed demographics present the problem of overpopulating the planet. A demographic time bomb is just the industrialized world. China, the world's most populous country, is facing a demographic time bomb. According to the United Nations, the world population will reach 9.7 billion by 2050. This growth will place a large strain on resources and the environment. However, the Chinese government is implementing policies to control population growth. One such policy is the one-child policy, which was introduced in 1979. Under this policy, couples were limited to having only one child, with some exceptions such as families where both parents are only children. By 2010, the policy had resulted in a significant reduction in the growth rate of the Chinese population. However, the policy has faced criticism for its negative effects, such as gender imbalance and low birth rates. In 2015, the Chinese government announced the easing of the one-child policy, allowing couples to have two children if either parent is an only child. In 2016, the policy was further relaxed to allow all couples to have two children. Despite these changes, the policy has not been fully effective, and the Chinese government continues to face challenges in managing its population growth.

Another negative outcome of the Chinese government's population control policies is the gender imbalance that has resulted. As a result of the one-child policy, there are significantly more boys than girls in China. This imbalance is due to the practice of sex-selective abortion, where parents terminate pregnancies of female fetuses. This practice is illegal, but it has persisted due to cultural preferences for boys and the belief that boys provide better economic security for families. The gender imbalance has led to a shortage of suitable partners for women, particularly in rural areas. The Chinese government has implemented policies to address this issue, such as encouraging couples to have more children and providing incentives for families to have girls. However, these efforts have not been fully effective, and the gender imbalance remains a significant problem.

In addition to the gender imbalance, the Chinese government's population control policies have also been criticized for their impact on education and social development. The one-child policy has led to a significant decrease in the number of children in Chinese families, which has had a negative effect on educational outcomes. Children from one-child families may receive less attention and support from parents, leading to lower academic performance. Furthermore, the one-child policy has been criticized for its impact on social development, as it has reduced the number of children who can contribute to the workforce and support their elderly parents.

The Chinese government's population control policies have also faced criticism for their impact on the environment. The large population of China has put a significant strain on natural resources and the environment. The government has implemented policies to address this issue, such as promoting renewable energy sources and implementing stricter environmental regulations. However, these efforts have not been fully effective, and the Chinese government continues to face challenges in managing its population growth.

The Chinese government's population control policies have been criticized for their impact on human rights. The one-child policy has been criticized for its human rights violations, such as forced sterilization and coercion in contraceptive use. The Chinese government has denied these accusations, arguing that the policy is necessary to control population growth and preserve natural resources.

In conclusion, the Chinese government's population control policies have had significant impact on the country's social, economic, and environmental development. While the policies have been effective in reducing population growth, they have also faced criticism for their negative impact on gender balance, education, social development, and the environment. The Chinese government continues to face challenges in managing its population growth, and it will be important to carefully consider the trade-offs of different policy options.
The Office of Catechetical Ministry, in conjunction with the Organization of Catechetical Leadership (OCL), is sponsoring a one-day workshop, “Connect ing Catholic Families with the Bible,” to be held at St. Mary’s Parish Activity Center in Victoria on February 18, 2010, from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Picture the “Family Bible” being moved from a dusty corner of a remote family dining table where meals are served, from a place of enshrinement to the family bookshelf to the living room coffee table. The Bible is being picked up and carried from one room to another as family members wrestle with the challenges of their day and the joys and struggles of living together, while the Word of God comforts and guides them.

This workshop offers practical strategies for making the Bible a vital part of the everyday lives of families. Both the presentation and the hand-out packet will provide resources, which can be used in numerous settings to equip families to share the Word of God at home.

The workshop is designed for clergy, PCLs and assistants, catechists, and others interested in this topic. The cost of the workshop is $49, which includes lunch and a handout packet rich in practical ideas and resources. The Office of Catechetical Ministry will underwrite one-half of the cost ($25) for all clergy, parish catechetical leaders and assistants. For more information call the catechetical office (361) 573-0828, go to www.cmdnet.org or e-mail joanweber@cmdnet.org.

Save the Date!

Third Annual Catholic Knowledge Bowl
Holy Family Catholic Church, Victoria
Sunday, February 28, 2010
1:30 – 4:30 p.m.

All persons interested in forming a team are invited to do so. Adult teams may be made up of catechists, members of the Knights of Columbus, Catholic Daughters, or ACTS participants, or anyone who wants to compete.

Teen teams can be made up of any group of high school students such as CCD/ Catholic School students or youth group members. Family teams can be made up of parents, children, grandparents, aunts, etc. (Family teams must include one or more children.)

Registration is $20 per team of four persons. Forms will be available on the Diocesan Web site www.victoriadiocese.org or at the catechetical office. Early registration is encouraged due to limited space.

KJZT PRESENTS PERPETUAL ENDOWMENT—Della Greive, who is a society member of the KJZT – Catholic Family Fraternal in Texas, No. 4, Praha, was presented a perpetual endowment recently after Mass at Oak Manor Nursing Center. Perpetual endowments are presented to society members who are at or about the age of 100. Mrs. Greive is 104 years young. Society members from three local societies, No. 4 Praha, No. 20 Cistern and No. 83 Flatonia, were present and included, I-r: Grace Vinklarek, state director of Districts IV and V and secretary of Society No. 20 Cistern; Florence Williams, Society No. 20; Loretta Freytag, daughter of Della Greive; Della Greive, holding her endowment card; Leontia Robinson, Society No. 83 Vlasta Pekar; Society No. 4, back row; I-t: Eugene Viniklarek, Society No. 20; Father Joe Hybnyr, state KJZT chaplain and pastor of Sacred Heart Church in Flatonia; Julie Styrl, Society No. 20 treasurer; Georgia Curry, Society No. 4 parishioner; Nancy Jasek, Society No. 4 secretary; Della Brosch, Society No. 20; Ann Bratton Society No. 83 treasurer; Anna Wibenbaker, Society No. 4; and Jeannette Zouzalik, Society No. 83 secretary. Not pictured is Mark Kocian, Society No. 4.

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

• Call the Chancery at (361) 573-0828 and ask to speak with the bishop or the chancellor;
• Call Rev. Gary Janak (979) 543-3770 or Sr. Emilie Eilers (361) 575-7111, Coordinators of Pastoral Care and Outreach;
• Write to: Most Rev. David E. Fellhauer
Dioecese of Victoria
P.O. Box 4070
Victoria, TX 77903
Mark your letter “Personal and Confidential”

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

If you are unsure about bringing a complaint or would like further information, please contact Rev. Gary Janak at (979) 543-3770.

The role of extraordinary eucharistic ministers

Q. The following have been hot topics among us, especially as we look forward to next year’s liturgies. May extraordinary eucharistic ministers assist in the blessing of ashes on the feast of St. Blaise, using the same formula as the priest but without making the sign of the cross. (Official Book of Blessings, No. 1634)

A. You really aim at long-range liturgical planning, don’t you? Regarding ashes, a response to the American bishops from the Vatican Congregation for Divine Worship and the Sacraments (Jan. 30, 1975) stated that extraordinary eucharistic ministers may not bless ashes but may assist the celebrant in distributing them or impose ashes already blessed if no priest is present. The response would provide also for other lay persons to distribute ashes if there is a pastoral need.

Some pastors are reluctant to ask extraordinary eucharistic ministers to assist with the ashes, partly I suppose out of concern for the sensibilities of some parishioners who may find it startling. But it is permitted.

Lay persons may assist in blessing the ashes on the feast of St. Blaise, using the same formula as the priest but without making the sign of the cross.

Q. We read your interesting column about the three kings, explaining that we don’t know how many “kings” there were and cannot even be sure the whole story is not legendary, intended to call attention to the prophecies referred to by Matthew. I remember reading somewhere that Joseph sold the gifts given to the Holy Family by the Magi to finance the flight into Egypt. As usual, our loving Father provided a way for them to keep from struggling. Is that true? (Florida)

A. I must admit I’ve never heard that one before. You may be right.

Reporting Abuse
KJZT NEW CAUSE: FEEDING FAMILIES ACROSS TEXAS—The Catholic Family Fraternal of Texas (KJZT) adopted a statewide fraternal cause called Feeding Families Across Texas. The purpose behind the fraternal cause is to extend KJZT’s charitable work throughout Texas and reach those in need. Recently, Society No. 111, St. Agnes Parish in Edna donated $400 to Helping Hands of Jackson County Food Bank. Pictured, l-r, are local officers Mary Sheblak, vice president; Maryella Ramsbacher, Helping Hands representative; Georgiea Orsal, treasurer; Doris Andel, president.

Pro-life event to be held in Edna, Jan. 20

EDNA — The Catholic Daughters of the Americas Court 1350, St. Agnes Parish is sponsoring “A Celebration of Life, A Pro-Life Event,” on Wednesday, Jan. 20, 2010, from 7:00-8:00 p.m. at the Jackson County Services Building, 411 N. Wells St., in Edna.

The program will focus on the importance of life from conception until natural death. All church ministers, youth, parents, grandparents and adults from Jackson County are invited to attend. No admission will be charged and refreshments will be served.

A participant from Hostyn had this to say about the meeting, “I have really learned what our parish is to do for our kids and even the parents. I appreciated that I didn’t have to travel far. I can go back to class and do more, too, and give them what I learned tonight.” An attendee from Wharton made the following comment, “I am glad the meeting was close to home.” From the group at the chancery, one person commented, “It was an interesting format. Although it was a little hard to share with other centers, overall it was a good experience and got more people involved because travel was not such an issue. It was certainly worth the trip.”

Dan Mulhull, from his home in Lau, rel, Maryland, gave a presentation on the sacraments of initiation. He talked about being signs of life to ourselves and those about us. May the hope of new life sustain each of us.

For the first time, on November 23, 2009, the Diocese of Victoria held a meet- ing of the Organization of Catechetical Leadership (OCL) using distance technol- ogy. Parish Catechetical Leaders (PCLs) and catechists met at three sites: Our Lady of Mt. Carmel in Wharton, Holy Trinity in Rockport, and the chancery in Vic- toria. The price of gasoline, the meeting topic, travel time, and an evening meeting were important factors that prompted this innovative and resourceful undertaking.

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Overcoming Winter

A we look about us, we see all of nature lying in wait for signs of move- ment. The short days are minimizing the length and intensity of the life-promoting rays of the sun. The bare trees are silently building up strength for a future surge of new life. The fields are tilled and prepared and are soaking up moisture for next year’s anticipated harvest. The dry grass on the meadows mask any growth that may be occurring. Yes, we are in the dead of winter which is part of the created cycle of life.

Fortunately, we Christians are gifted with understanding and deep insight into the natural and supernatural realms of existence. For example, as we delve more deeply into the new liturgical year, we see signs and movements of God’s life. This year, Cycle C, we have St. Luke as our Sunday Gospel correspondent, portraying his view of Jesus. (We’ll talk more about his perspective of Jesus in the future.) Today we’ll focus on two of his narratives and the significance they have for us.

The first narrative is that of the Baptism of Jesus. It is in the belief that after the time was baptized, the Holy Spirit descended on Jesus and a voice (of God the Father) came from heaven, “You are my beloved Son; with you I am well pleased.”

Now I like to believe that as each of us was baptized in the Name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, in addition to our receiving the Holy Spirit, God the Father looked down on each of us and said, “You are my beloved Son (or Daughter); with you I am well pleased.” Just imagine what a privilege it is to be a Beloved Son or Daughter of God? That thought should sustain us in the winters of our lives.

The second narrative that I would like to refer to is the one for the Third Sunday of Ordinary Time. Luke lets us know of the compassionate Jesus as he tells us of Jesus in the synagogue reading a passage from the Prophet Isaiah: “The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to bring glad tidings to the poor, to proclaim liberty to captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go free, and to proclaim a year acceptable to the Lord.”

How can we tap into this insight of Jesus whenever we are faced with the trials of life? The story of the feeding of the five thousand is often referred to as a miracle of Jesus. We’ll talk more about this later.

But let’s begin by making this passage a description of our own Christian mission. Thus we can help bring signs of life to ourselves and those about us. May the hope of new life sustain each of us.

Sons of Texas present book awards

AUSTIN — The Sons of the Republic of Texas named Galen Greaser, Spanish translator for the Texas General Land Office Archives, the runner-up for this year’s El Presidio La Bahia Award. Joined by Texas Land Commissioner Jerry Patterson, Greaser accepted the award Saturday in Goliad.

“A history buff, I’m especially hon- ored to see one of our employees recog- nized for his dedication to Texas history,” Patterson said. “This carefully researched book offers a rich narrative about early land settlement in South Texas, an intriguing subject for landowners, history students, attorneys and genealogists.”

The Presidio La Bahia award was established in 1968 and recognizes excel- lence in preserving historical antiquities and research into Texas’ heritage, with special emphasis on the Spanish Colonial period. The first place book award went to “Silent Witness to Texas History: Archeology and Artifacts of Goliad’s Presidio La Bahia” by Anne A. Fox, Samuel P. Nesmith and Daniel E. Fox.


The book presents insight into the his- torical context of the Spanish and Mexican land grants in the Texas portion and the process that resulted in their integration into the land system of Texas after the Mexican-American War ended in 1848. The narrative explores how these grants fit in the big picture of colonization, settlement and development of the region. Readers will also learn about Spanish and Mexican property law, the intricacies of the land granting process, and mineral rights as they relate to these grants. It is a must for those interested in Texas history. The book is available through www.abcatstravel.com.

If you suspect a child has been abused or neglected, you are required to report it to the Texas Department of Protective and Regu- latory Services or to a law enforce- ment official. As a rule of thumb, if the time you suspect the child had been or may be abused or neglected.

URGENT Adorers and Substitutes Needed

St. Mary’s Adoration Chapel in Victoria is in need of adorers of the eucharistic Jesus and in need of substitute. Please call Cleo Boldt at 573-6161 or St. Mary Rectory at 573-4328.

History Was Made with OCL Distance Technology Meeting

Innovative and resourceful undertaking. It will take time to change the culture that seems to say that all parents have to do is drop off their children for religious instruction.

Father Charles Sonnier, pastor of the parishes in Sweet Home, said Krocet was in attendance and, said that the Catholic Church is responsible for the situation we find ourselves in today. He said that in the recent past we have given parents the impression that we (catechetical per- sons, pastors, sisters, etc.) are the ones to teach and prepare the students for first sacraments. “This needs to change,” Father Sonnier said. He also said that students must practice the faith with their families.

Sister Digna Vela, the director of the Diocesan Catechetical Office, said that using modern technology to teach the faith gelize and catechize is essential. Even Pope Benedict XVI uses modern media to reach young people. “You can use it” is how he used by the Pastoral Institute Extended classes and in some of the Short-Term classes, as well.

Reporting Child Abuse • Hotline 1-800-252-5400

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**Youth Calendar of Events**

**January 9 — Foundations • A Certificate Program in Youth Ministry Studies**

The Catholic Diocese of Victoria offers a Certificate Program in Youth Ministry Studies at the Diocese of Victoria, Chancery. This session is “Prayer and Worship.”

**January 16 — Youth Leader Retreat**

February 14 — Confirmation Retreat - St. Michael in Cuero

February 20 — Foundations • A Certificate Program in Youth Ministry Studies

The Catholic Diocese of Victoria, Chancery. This session is “Justice and Service.”

**March 7 — High School Spectacular**

**March 13 — Confirmation Retreat - location to be announced**

**March 27 — Foundations • A Certificate Program in Youth Ministry Studies**

At the Diocese of Victoria, Chancery - This session is “Ethics and Crisis Management.”

**April 17 — Foundations • A Certificate Program in Youth Ministry Studies**

At the Diocese of Victoria, Chancery - This session is “Retreat Formation.”

**April 18 — Camp David Planning • Youth Leaders/Staff at the Chancery in Victoria**

**June 13-15 • 1st Session • Camp David Junior HighCamp**

**June 16-18 • 2nd Session • Camp David Junior HighCamp**

**June 28 • July 1 • Discipleship Week**

**July 3-11 • Rocky Mountain High, Colorado**

**Junior High Fiesta - Jan. 31**

Youth in the 6th through 8th grades are invited to this year’s Jr. High Fiesta, which will be held Sunday, January 31, at the Knights of Columbus Hall in Hallettsville.

**ApeX Ministries (Gene and Brad)**

ApeX Ministries (Gene and Brad) is a nationally known comedy duo based in Baltimore, Md., and near Denver, Co. ApEx uses a style they define as Christian Vaudeville. This includes (but is not limited to) death defying juggling, humor, characterizations (skits), storytelling, audience participation and personal testimony. Over the last six years ApeX has worked with youth and adults alike in over 40 states at the national, diocesan and parish levels.

**Gene and Brad were born in Casper, Wyoming, where they grew up in the same parish. Brad now loves to share his antics with the world. He has experienced working in youth ministry in different parts of the country. He absolutely loves the Lord and wants to share the joy he's found with as many people as he can. Gene graduated from the Catholic University of America in 1996. Gene was a nerd (and would contest this statement) in love and loved being on the Math team. When he grew up, he would like to be a teacher. The Jr. High Fiesta will be held at the K.C. Hall at 321 S. Highway 77 S., Hallettsville. Doors open at 11 a.m. and concludes with Liturgy beginning at 5:00 p.m. Lunch is provided and a snack bar will be available throughout the day.**

**Deadline for early registration is Thursday, January 28. Early rates are $15 per person, $12 pp group rate of eight or more, adults $7. All fees must be mailed to the office before the event. NO REFUNDS AFTER January 28. Rate for the door is $20, with no exceptions.**

**For more information contact your parish coordinator or Debbie Vanelli at the Office of Youth & Young Adult Ministry (361) 573-0828 ext. 32 / ext. 50 or e-mail at dvanelu@victoriasdiocese.org or jorgeva@victoriasdiocese.org**

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**St. Joseph-Yoakum Youth CRU program**

by Chris Pham, CatholicTV, a television network based near Boston, Mass.

**Youth Leaders/Staff at the Chancery in Victoria (http://www.catholictv.com/), the collection with another $250 reaching $500. Society #13 collected and donated $150. Society #13 presented the CRU, St. Joseph Youth organization with a donation of $500. Society #13 collected and donated $250 and the KJT home office matched the collection with another $250 reaching a total of $500 to be donated to the youth organization for much needed supplies.**

Presenting the check was KJT President Theresa Borkowski; Vice President Henry Zabransky; Secretary Dorothy Zabransky; and Treasurer John Kengle. Receiving the check on behalf of CRU were youth directors, Annette Hull and Juanita Mendez. Receiving the check on behalf of CRU were youth directors, Annette Hull and Juanita Mendez.

**Youth members decorated the door to look like a red and white striped candy cane. The park was lit on November 30 and remained lit throughout the Christmas season. Many members present for the lighting were McKenzie Heller, Lauren Villa, DeLisa Darilek, Danielle Darilek and Regan Renken.**

**The St. Joseph-Yoakum youth organization also baked pastries with volunteers from the parish, Annette Hall and Juanita Rainsiek, to donate to the Meals on Wheels program for Thanksgiving day.**

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**Jason Evert Says ‘Teen Sex Rates Are Dropping’**

By Chris Pham, CatholicTV, a television network based near Boston, Mass.

**“Chastity is not the elimination of sexual desire, it’s the perfection of it.” ~ Jason Evert**

“People say the culture glorifies sex. I don’t think the kids are throwing tomatoes at you, but ‘after speaking for 10 years to over a million kids, we haven’t had one disruptive audience, and we’ve been to correctional facilities and inner city schools.”

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March 7 — High School Spectacular

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July 3-11 • Rocky Mountain High, Colorado
Four men ordained to the diaconate for Diocese of Victoria

Continued from p. 1

for me, to be accepted by the bishop, priests and deacons of the diocese. . . I became emotional when Deacon Jared Noahvitz, my uncle and God-parent, and I embraced. I cannot forget Deacon Edward Wenda, a relative of mine and with whom I am working at St. John’s in New Tafton.”

Deacon Milburn Kram
St. Joseph, Moulton

“You spend many years of preparation for this very special day, but when the Rite of Ordination takes place, you are caught up in awe of the beauty and deep meaning of the ritual of our Church.”

“When called forward and the question of worthiness is asked, I feel it is difficult to believe that I was worthy of this gift of this order. As I lay prostrate before the majesty of God’s altar and listen to the beauty of the cantors’ Litany of the Saints, I was overcome by a joy that brought tears to my eyes. When the bishop, in silence laid his hands on my head, I recalled the thought of how Christ’s chosen apostles had passed on this responsibility in the same manner at the beginning of our precious Church. At the end of the rite, when the bishop handed the Book of Gospels to me and stated, ‘Receive the Book of the Gospels, whose herald you have become. Believe what you read, teach what you believe, and practice what you teach,’ I prayed for the Lord’s strength and guidance to carry out this way of life to the best of my ability. This site will be an event that will remain in my heart and mind for the rest of my life.”

Deacon Joe Ramos
Our Lady of Guadalupe, Bay City

“I had many mixed emotions on this day of my ordination,” said Deacon Joe Ramos. “I had a feeling of disbelief that this journey, which started six years ago was coming to an end.”

“As I lay prostrate at the altar, I was overwhelmed thinking and knowing that all of our heavenly saints were listening to our prayers. Reality set in when I was first addressed as ‘Deacon.’ Now a new chapter has begun as I continue my spiritual journey as a true servant of our Lord Jesus Christ and with the people of our Church community.”

Deacon Joe A. Machacek
Sts. Cyril & Methodius, Shiner

“As I lay prostrate during the Prayer of Consecration and the Litany of the Saints was being chanted, a flood of emotions came over me. Our last semester course was a study of Christian eschatology, the end time, Christ’s second coming, the heavenly kingdom and how we can experience it here on earth to some extent. As the saints in the liturgy were being chanted, I realized how God’s kingdom includes all our ancestors, from Abraham till today. I was so aware of the heavenly abode and knowing my family, friends, fellow deacons and priests were all present, I truly felt a part of the heavenly kingdom. Words feel so inadequate in giving a description of the emotions I experienced.”

“Gratitude, love, a humble pride, a spiritual responsibility, healing and a special grace that I can call on in my ministry as a deacon in the Roman Catholic Church – these were some of the many emotions running through my mind. Today as I write this it might compare to the experience that Peter, James and John had at the Transfiguration and Peter said to Jesus, ‘Let us build a tent for you, Moses and Elijah,’ I, just as Peter, longed to be in that heavenly realm, but I realize that my ministry has just begun, and I must come down and be a laborer in God’s vineyard.”

“All the newly ordained deacons expressed thanks to their spouses and family members who had supported them through their years of preparation. Included in their family were their parishioners, pastors, priests, fellow deacons and Bishop Fellhauer. They also mentioned their gratefulness to Father Gabriel Mons, their director of formation, and Michael Fonseca, their spiritual director, for their guidance. Also mentioned in thanksgiving was the choir who participated in the Mass and the Serrans, who put on a nice and warm reception for the deacons.

Shiner JCDA brings joy to many — On Sunday, December 6, 2009, Shiner JCDA Court St. Paul #1604 met for their regular monthly meeting at 6 p.m. and went for a hayride and Christmas caroling. There were approximately 35 girls in attendance and they sang various Christmas tunes at the nursing home, the assisted living home, the Catholic priests’ rectory and the convent. Afterwards, the girls were treated to a social at the parish activity center and brought gifts to the elderly at the Stoneridge rest home as well as to the guests at the Christmas Card Luncheon. The girls ended their meeting with the traditional Christmas caroling.”

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The Confraternity of Catholic Mothers, St. Elizabeth’s Society, of Nada, recently received 10 new members during their 110th anniversary. They are pictured with St. Elizabeth’s vice president and the pastor, from l to r, front row: Shelly Thompson, Amy Puck, Sandra Wishert and Lana Weid; middle row: Vice President Betty Leopold, Annie Gold, Vicki Nelson, Tammy Till and Janice Waddle; and back row: Jessica Baker, Betty Janish and Father Joe Vrana, pastor.

**Christian Mothers of Nada receive 10 new members**

NADA, Texas — The Confraternity of Catholic Mothers, St. Elizabeth’s Society, of Nada celebrated 110 years of service to the parish community with the reception of 10 new members at Mass November 1, 2009. Each new member was given a Mother Love prayer book and Christian Mother medal.

The St. Elizabeth Society was organized by Tharasia Schneider with 35 charter members on November 1, 1899. The main concern of the society is the spiritual welfare of the family, and it also serves as the Altar society. They furnish the needs of St Mary’s Church sanctuary, such as vestments, linens, hosts, wine, candles, etc.

The society meets the fourth Thursday of each month after the 8:00 a.m. Mass in St. Mary’s Parish Hall. A Mass is celebrated on the First Friday of each month for the intentions of the members and their families. The daily prayer for children is to be said every day and it is said aloud after the rosary before the Masses in Nada.

The current officers are: President Rose Staff, Vice President Betty Leopold, Secretary Virginia Korenek, Treasurer Ernestine Schneider and Financial Secretary Edith Drlik.

The Christian Mothers accept married women as members and unmarried women as associate members. If you are a Catholic, you must be practicing your faith and receiving the sacraments. Also non-Catholic mothers rearing children in the Catholic faith may be associate members.

In 1850 in the little village of Lille, France, a group of Catholic mothers agreed to meet in one another’s homes to discuss ways in which they could combat the moral decline that was taking place in their community. They wanted to go over ways that they could improve family life and protect their children. First they prayed and then they discussed.

Soon these little groups organized into a parish group and the idea spread. But it took the Holy Father, Pope Leo the 13th, to make the Confraternity an indelible canonical society and to signify that the Immaculate Mother of God under the title of Sorrowsful Mother was to be its Patroness. Another Holy Father, Pope Pius IX, heard of the confraternities and their common purpose (the early Christian education of children by mothers in the home) and exclaimed: “Give me truly Christian mothers and I will renew the face of the earth!”

On January 16, 1881, the Archconfraternity of Christian Mothers was established in the United States at St. Augustine’s Church, Pittsburgh, Pa., under the direction of the Capuchin Franciscan Friars.

In November 2009, students of St. John Nepomucene of New Tafton CCD classes, along with Father Gabriel Odano Tawiah, pastor, participated in a food drive to benefit the Blessing Cup. The students brought cans of food to CCD class. The Blessing Cup is an organization that helps those in need by offering free food and clothing. The CCD classes held a birthday party for Jesus in December.

**St. Rose Cardinals win Volleyball Championship**

SCHULENBURG — The St. Rose Cardinals captured their first Diocese of Victoria Athletic League (DVAL) district volleyball championship with an exciting win over St. Ludmila of Shiner. The Cardinals made up for last year’s championship game loss to Shiner with a 25-22 and 25-19 victory to bring the championship trophy to St. Rose School.

The Cardinals got off to a slow start falling behind by the score of 4-12 and then 10-19. After the nervousness wore off, the girls played an excellent game by scoring 15 of the last 18 points, including a run of nine consecutive points that put St. Rose in the lead for good. In the second set the Cardinals again started slow, trailing by a score of 8-13 before slowly climbing in to the lead at 16-15, after a run of 6 points. The girls never looked back, believing in their teammates and their abilities to take the second set and bring the championship trophy to honor St. Rose.

The Cardinal A-team finished the year with an 18-1 overall record and a perfect 8-0 record in the north zone of the DVAL. They also captured first place titles in the Trinity tournament and the Nazareth tournament.
The Bead by Bead Rosary Prayer Book, Joyful Mysteries” puzzle prize

The “Bead by Bead Rosary Prayer Book, Joyful Mysteries” puzzle prize is for orders of 25 or more from your Catholic school principal.

For orders of 25 or more from your families, we will donate 10% of the proceeds back to your church or school!

For more information or to order, please visit: http://www.beadbybeadrosarybooks.com. To purchase or for more information about educational programs, please call (612) 802-6355; e-mail: inquiries@beadbybeadrosarybooks.com; or write: Bead by Bead Rosary Books, P.O. Box 754, Long Lake, MN 55356. Orders will be shipped when the on-line payment or check has processed. All purchases are final. Make checks payable to: Bead by Bead Rosary Books.

By Father Peter Ciuciulla, MCCJ

Christmas is a time when we reflect on the great reality of Jesus. “Who, being in the very nature of God, did not consider equality with God something to be grasped, but made himself nothing, taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness” (Phil 2:6-7).

Isn’t this good news for everybody on earth? At Christmas, everybody wants to be a better person as a way of connecting with God. You may need to be far away, high up in the sky. This God walks our own paths, sharing life with us. Emmanuel — a “free of charge” act of love from God. “Free of charge,” a word that we do not use very often in our world today.

If this is good news for us here in the United States, imagine what good news it is for the poorest and most abandoned people on earth. Imagine what good news it is for those who are neglected, for those who have nothing but the most extreme poverty, hunger, illness and loss. Imagine what good news the birth of Christ is for my friend Mathieu, a young adult of Moissala in Chad, Africa. He has a wife and children to brighten his life and to work for, a field of farmland, a chicken to procure food for his family. If you go to visit him, you will find the smile of Veronique, his wife, and the laughter of his children. Anna the last one of his daughters, just four years old, will come to sit by you and ask all kinds of questions. You will hear a rooster in the yard, and before long one of the children has caught a chicken so you, the guest, will have a special meal. At this moment, it is the only chicken they have, but they will cook it for you with no regret.

Isn’t this the spirit of Christmas? Give a gift, change a life, not only the life of those who receive it, but also those who give. And Christmas, holiness, is the time for “rev up” for the whole of the coming year, a year filled with giving of ourselves in Jesus’ name.

Father Peter Ciuciulla, MCCJ, is Mission Director of the North American Province of the Comboni Missionaries, a worldwide religious institute founded by St. Daniel Comboni to carry the Gospel to the world’s poorest and most abandoned people.” www.combonimissionaries.org

Family Puzzle Contest

The Family Puzzle Contest Winner will win “Bead by Bead Rosary Prayer Book, Joyful Mysteries” by Sandra Rosseter and Stacey LeNeave in next month’s contest. See book review on this page.

The winner of the December Family Puzzle Contest and “The Tap” by Frank McKinney, NY Times best-selling author, is Mary Silvas of Our Lady of Sorrows in Victoria. We had many contestants for this prize; thank you to all those who participated. The book may be purchased online. Proceeds from the purchase of either of these books will go to the author’s non-profit Caring House Project Foundation (CHP) that provides a self-sustaining existence for desperately poor and homeless families around the world. Please go to his Web site for more information: http://www.frank-mckinney.com/

Mr. McKinney donated 12 copies of his children’s book, “Dead Fred, Flying Lunchboxes, and the Good Luck Circle,” to The Catholic Lighthouse to be given away as gifts for the “12 Days of Christmas.” As we had only three youth eligible (10-17 years of age) for the gift, we will give three of those books away this month to each of the winners:


The winner of the under-10 age group is Kenedy Couvillion (8), of St. Philip in El Campo. Kenedy will receive a gift from the Incarnate Word Gift Shop.

If you have not won the puzzle contest within the past six months, please send completed puzzle and contest form to The Catholic Lighthouse, P. O. Box 4070, Victoria, TX 77903, by January 25 for a chance to win “Bead by Bead Rosary Prayer Book, Joyful Mysteries.” Beginning this month, youth 18 years and under will have the opportunity to receive a gift from the Incarnate Word Gift Shop or another gift from The Catholic Lighthouse (youth, please state age).

Prayer for Vocations

Loving Father, through the intercession of our Blessed Mother, Queen of Vocations, may our youth joyfully respond to your call to follow Jesus in the priestly and religious life. Amen.

From Serra International
Seize your second chance in this second decade

It is nearly impossible to recognize Danny Cahill, the Oklahoma land surveyor, in Nome, Alaska. “Lost Biker” is the name given to him if you look closely, you can see him in the corners of his smile and the familiar glimmer in his blue eyes — hints of the former man, eight months and 239 pounds ago.

Today the 40-year-old dad is a real estate agent, surfing an eponymous Web site and a hit single. “What I love about ideas like PETs is the pure, practical ‘just do it’ approach to a problem. Think tanks might ponder the lexicographers might discuss the phrase: things that have never been.”

What I love about ideas like PETs is the pure, practical “just do it” approach they present to a problem. Think tanks might ponder the lexicographers might discuss the

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**Simple ideas that use our excesses to benefit others**

Walt Hays burst into the parish office where I work just as the excess of the holidays was ending. A few leftover cookies called for me to staff the mezzanine lounge and an unopened box of candy tempted. But fortunately, when I met the lean, loquacious retired Methodist pastor, I was well into my post-holiday resolve to be a good, sacrificial citizen of January.

This was the appropriate frame of mind, because just listening to Walt and his wonderful projects made me aware of how much — how very much — I have, and what a world of need lies beyond the parish office.

Walt is the Alaska coordinator for something called PET International, a charity that sends “personal energy transport” devices to people in Third World countries who have been crippled by land mines, poverty, disease, or the want — just give thanks that it is nearly over.”

The magazine’s dramatic claim is laced with the promise, a subtitle, that the next decade will be better.

As Catholics, we have cause for great hope — and a myriad of turnaround tales. The lives of the saints are full of contradictions and second chances: heretics and henchmen, embezzlers and inventors, who assemble the PETs “go anywhere” PET. Since then, over 18,000 PETs have gone to more than 40 countries, only two paid employees, but operates 16 workshops full of volunteers around the United States. It also has smaller operations like the one in Nome, Alaska. He calls the

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**Sunday Readings from Jan. 10 to Feb. 7**

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Reading</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>January 10</td>
<td>The Baptism of the Lord</td>
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<td>January 17</td>
<td>Second Sunday in Ordinary Time</td>
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<tr>
<td>January 24</td>
<td>Third Sunday in Ordinary Time</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nehemiah 8:2-4a, 5-6, 8-10</td>
<td>Psalms 198:9, 10, 15</td>
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<tr>
<td>January 31</td>
<td>Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time</td>
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<td>February 7</td>
<td>Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time</td>
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<tr>
<td>Isaiah 63:2a, 3-8</td>
<td>Psalms 138:1-2, 3-4, 4-5, 7-8</td>
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All daily and Sunday readings, as well as a reflection video, are available in text or audio at: www.usccb.org/nab/
Septimana Edición de “Discípulos en la Jornada” Cuaresma 2010

Nueva: ¡Formato, precio, y contenido!...

Buscando Vida

Por Moises Sandoval

Servicio Noticiero Católico

Español

Hay compasión y dureza de corazón en nuestros tiempos

Por Víctor Hugo sobre misericordia y dureza de corazón. En nuestras vidas, abogamos por la misericordia...
These heroes have been “so sanitized by
were even eyewitnesses of the triumph of
to hear the actual Sermon on the Mount,
Mark (10:35-45), we are reminded of how
apostles James and John. In the Gospel of
ing a New Year’s resolution, consider the
Siam,” we hear the king repeat the phrase
The Lord knew that even the great he
These brothers who had been allowed
with great side dishes
with great side dishes
Serving 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.
Adults — $7 • Children (12 and under) — $4
Curb Service — Adult plates only
Happy New Year!

Sunday, February 14, 2010 • 10:30 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.
Victoria Community Center

Barbeque Brisket & Sausage
with great side dishes
Serving 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.
Adults — $7 • Children (12 and under) — $4
Curb Service — Adult plates only
Bid Auction at 1:00 p.m.
Quilts • Antiques • Collectibles • Jewelry
Beer Garden • Cake Wheel • Concessions
Bingo • Silent Auction • Games for Children
Jewelry • Plants • Country Store

Happy New Year!

By Cindy Wooden
Catholic News Service
VATICAN CITY, CNS — Having
respect for every human being and for all of
creation as God’s handwork and having
God’s keys to peace and to a better future, Pope
Benedict XVI said.
Marking the new year with the celebra-
Jan. 1 of the feast of Mary Mother of
God and of World Peace Day and with
Angelus recitations Jan. 1 and 3, Pope
Benedict reminded Christians that God’s
promises require a response.
“The divine plan is not accomplished
automatically, because it is a plan of love
and love generates freedom and asks for
freedom,” he said during his Angelus ad-
ress Jan. 3.
While God’s kingdom of peace and
justice already is being realized on earth,
he said, “every man and woman is respon-
sible for welcoming it, and his or her own
life day by day. So 2010 will be better or
worse to the extent that people, accepting
their own responsibility, learn to collabo-
rate with the grace of God.”
“There are problems in the church and
in the world, as well as in the daily lives of
believers, but thanks to God our hope does
not depend on improbable prognostica-
tions and even less on economic forecasts.
Our hope is in God,” he said.
The pope also spoke about personal
responsibility Jan. 1 when he was com-
menting on the theme he chose for World
Peace Day 2010: “If You Want to Cultivate
Peace, Protect Creation.”
The resources of the earth must be used
justly and with wisdom, he said during his
Angelus address Jan. 3.
“I want to underline the importance
that the choices of individuals, families and
local administrations have in protect-
ing the environment,” he said.
In educating people to respect creation,
the pope said, they must be helped to rec-
ognize that the human beings God created
in his own image and likeness require special respect and protection.

Pope Benedict XVI’s 2010 Monthly
Prayer Intentions — January

A suggested “Morning Offering/Daily Offering” for the Apostleship of Prayer reads:
O Jesus, through the Immaculate Heart of Mary,
I offer you my prayers, works, joys and sufferings of this day
in union with the holy Sacrifice of the Mass
throughout the world.
I offer them for the intentions of our bishops
for the salvation of souls, reparation for sin,
the reunion of all Christians.
I offer them for the intentions of our bishops
and of all apostles of prayer -- in particular, for those recommended by our Holy
Father this month:
General: Young People and Media. That young people may learn to use social com-
munication media for their personal growth and in preparation to serve society.
Mission: Christian Unity. That every believer in Christ may understand that unity among
Christians is necessary for effective proclamation of the Gospel.
The mission of the Apostleship of Prayer is to encourage you to pray daily for the
Church and the world, as well as for Pope Benedict XVI. Since 1844, millions of members
of the Apostleship of Prayer throughout the world have
offered themselves to God for the good of others. In offering ourselves we imitate
Jesus Christ, who offered himself in love for the salvation of all. To learn more about the
Apostleship of Prayer and the pope’s monthly intention, please go to:
http://apostleshipofprayer.org/reflections/Monthly.html
The Catholic Lighthouse  
Page 16 — January 2010

Pope names Detroit Auxiliary Bishop 
Daniel Flores to succeed Bishop Raymundo Peña in Brownsville

WASHINGTON — Pope Benedict XVI has named Bishop Daniel Flores, auxiliary bishop of Detroit, as bishop of Brownsville, Texas, and accepted the resignation of Bishop Raymundo Peña, 75, from the pastoral governance of that diocese.

The appointment and resignation were published in Washington, December 9, by Archbishop Pietro Sambi, apostolic nuncio to the United States.

Daniel Ernest Flores was born in Palacios, Texas, August 28, 1961. He studied for the seminary at Holy Trinity Seminary at the University of Dallas, where he earned a bachelor of arts degree in philosophy and a master of divinity degree with a specialty in theology. He was ordained for the Diocese of Corpus Christi, Texas, in 1988.

Assignments after ordination included vice chancellor of the diocese, 1988-1992; episcopal vicar for priestly formation, 1992-1997; chancellor of the diocese, 2000-2001; vice-rector of St. Mary’s Seminary [1], Houston 2002-2006, and assistant professor of theology at the University of St. Thomas School of Theology in Houston (2001-2006).

Flores was named an auxiliary bishop of Detroit in 2006. In addition to degrees earned before ordination, Bishop Flores also holds licentiate and doctoral degrees in theology from the University of St. Thomas in Angelicum in Rome.

At the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB), Bishop Flores has served on the Task Force for Faith Formation and Sacramental Practice.

Bishop Peña was ordained a priest for the Diocese of Corpus Christi in 1957, and named an auxiliary bishop of San Antonio in 1976, bishop of El Paso, Texas, in 1980; and bishop of Brownsville in 1995. As a member of the USCCB, he has served as chair of the Committee on Hispanic Affairs, chair of the Committee on the Church in Latin America and a member of the pre-synodal council and a synod father for the Special Assembly of the Synod of Bishops for America.

The Diocese of Brownsville has 4,226 square miles. It has a population of 1,170,776 people, with 995,160, or 85 percent, of them Catholic. The Diocese of Brownsville has 97 parishes, 122 Catholic schools in the archdiocese, and 21 Catholic nursing homes.

U.S. Postal Service to honor Mother Teresa with stamp in 2010

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Blessed Mother Teresa of Calcutta will be among the subjects depicted on U.S. stamps debuting in 2010, the U.S. Postal Service announced Dec. 30. The 44-cent stamp, featuring a portrait of Mother Teresa painted by artist Thomas Blackshear II of Colorado Springs, Colo., will go on sale on what would have been her 100th birthday, Aug. 26. “Her humility and compassion, as well as her respect for the innate worth and dignity of human kind, inspired people of all ages and backgrounds to work on behalf of the world’s poorest populations,” said the Postal Service news release on its 2010 commemorative stamp program. The release also noted that Mother Teresa received honorary U.S. citizenship in 1996 from the U.S. Congress and President Bill Clinton.
Vatican agency says at least 37 church workers killed in 2009

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — An uptick of violence against Catholic Church workers in the Americas contributed to almost doubling the number of missionaries and clergy who were murdered in 2009 compared to the previous year, the Vatican’s Fides agency said.

The agency said 37 people working for the church were killed in 2009, up from 20 people in 2008. It is also the highest number of deaths in the last 10 years, it added. The 2009 list released Dec. 30 includes two priests and one nun from the United States: Oblate Father Lawrence Rosebaugh, a 74-year-old U.S. priest, killed in a highway robbery in Guatemala in May; Father Edward Hinds stabbed 32 times in a brutal murder in the rectory of St. Patrick Church, in Chatham, N.J., in October. Prosecutors said the parish junta confessed to the crime; and Blessed Sacrament Sister Marguerite Bartt, found dead in her Navajo, N.M., home, in November. An 18-year-old man found driving the car the nun used was charged in connection with her death. Fides also highlighted the nun used was charged in connection with the nun’s death. Fides also highlighted the case of a Mexican priest and two seminarists who were killed in the southern state of Guerrero as they were traveling to a religious retreat. Father Hubacu Hernandez, Eduardo Oregen Benitez and Silvestre Gomera were shot dead by gunmen while they traveled through a violence-plagued area where drug-cartel activities have been on the increase.

Terror, war, politics dominate headlines over decade

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Terrorist actions that left physical scars on many world cities and psychological scars on those affected dominated much of the headlines over the first decade of the third millennium, as did the wars fought in the name of quashing terrorism. Fratious U.S. politics also had a hand to play in shaping headlines over much of the decade. In the Catholic Church, the clergy sexual abuse scandals that had simmered in decades past exploded into public consciousness in 2002, with its repercussions still felt as the decade neared its end. The death of Pope John Paul II and the election of Pope Benedict XVI in 2005 resonated in the world’s consciousness throughout that April as a dying pope breathed his last and a conclave, the first in more than 26 years, fascinated Catholics and others across the globe. Popes have reliably been top newsmakers year in and year out, and regularly make most lists of most admired men in the world. The 2000s were no different, as a world watched in fascination as Pope John Paul gave a lesson in how to die a happy death and Pope Benedict ascended to the chair of Peter, seeking during his pontificate to mend fences with those who have not been in full communion with the Catholic Church. Both popes confronted a world of leaders, but all too often in vain. After the Sept. 11, 2001, terror attacks, the United States first led a multinational effort in Afghanistan to capture al-Qaeda leader Osama bin Laden, the mastermind of the terror plot.

Synd, saints, shroud all on papal calendar for 2010

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — As Pope Benedict XVI says goodbye to 2009, his 2010 calendar is already being filled. On the horizon for the next 12 months are four papal trips; a Middle East Synod of Bishops; the expected publication of a document on the Bible and the second volume of “Jesus of Nazareth;” a major gathering of the world’s priests; a pilgrimage to the Shroud of Turin; a probable consistory and several likely canonizations and beatifications — including that of Pope John Paul II. In April Pope Benedict marks five years in office, and the event will not doubt be marked by modest festivities and lots of analysis on the accomplishments and priorities of the German pontiff, who has now been on the throne of St. Peter’s for five years. The government had argued that the use of the word “Allah” in Christian publications was likely to confuse Muslims and draw them to Christianity.

For Christmas, Jerusalem’s Latin patriarch speaks of ‘signs of hope’

JERUSALEM (CNS) — Although politicians have failed to reach a solution to the ongoing Israeli-Palestinian conflict and Palestinians still face occupation, house demolitions and separated families, hope is still alive in the Holy Land, said Latin Patriarch Fouad Twal of Jerusalem. “In the Holy Land, everything is not desperate. There are a few signs of hope,” he told journalists at a Dec. 22 press conference to present his Christmas message. As signs of hope, he mentioned the partial freeze on the construction of Israeli settlements in Palestinian territory and the removal of more than 50 checkpoints within the West Bank, which has “markedly improved the freedom of movement” for Palestinians and improved the economic situation. However, he said, although “it is a step forward, it is not enough,” and all illegal settlements are an “obstacle to peace. Patriarch Twal said a “courageous gesture” needed to be taken in order to establish a peaceful resolution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. He said Palestinians are beginning to express their resistance in more nonviolent ways. He also said the financial support of the international community is a sign of hope and greatly appreciated.

Report says Chaldean churches in Kirkuk cancel Christmas Masses

WASHINGTON (CNS) — The Chaldean Catholic Archdiocese of Kirkuk, Iraq, has canceled Christmas Masses because of insecurity and attacks against Christians, the Washington Post reported Dec. 23. “This is the first time we have had to cancel our celebrations,” the Post quoted Kirkuk Archbishop Louis Sako as saying. The Post also reported that a sign on the Kirkuk cathedral read, in part: “We apologize to all the brothers for not conducting celebrations or accepting greetings or guests, but we pray for peace and security in Iraq. We cannot celebrate because of our grief over the victims of the bombings in Mosul and Baghdad.” In Mosul, less than 100 miles from Kirkuk, Christian churches were targeted in late November and early December. On Dec. 23, two people were killed in a bomb attack on the Syrian Orthodox Church of St. Thomas. A hospital official in Mosul told Agence France-Presse that the two people who were killed were Muslims. In late November, a Chaldean Catholic church, rectory and convent in Mosul were bombed in two separate incidents, but no one was injured.
Rev. Tommy Chen's students know what it means to be Catholic

SHINERS—Father Tommy Chen, parochial vicar at Sts. Cyril & Methodius, teaches 11th and 12th grade Religion at St. Paul High School. His homocent government requested his students to write about the response by Bishop Thomas J. Tobin of the Diocese of Rhode Island to Rep. Patrick Kennedy’s Oct. 29 (D-RI) comment: “The fact that I disagree with the hierarchy of the church on some issues does not make me any less of a Catholic.”

This sample provides a hint of the quality education provided by Catholic schools.

Brandon Pesek
“Bishop Tobin publicly calls Rep. Kennedy to ‘conversion and repentance.’” November 10, 2009 REFLECTION: In this public address to Representative Kennedy, Chen finds one of the most prevalent problems the Catholic Church faces in the public eye; a person who declares themselves to be Catholic but does not publicly live out the life of a Catholic.

The dilemma in Kennedy’s statement should be evident to any person who observes it. Kennedy proclaims himself a Catholic, yet he has agreed with those who support abortion that the government should fund abortion. It is evident that Kennedy does not agree with the Catholic Church’s teaching of abortion should be considered a sin. Bishop Tobin points out that the fact that Kennedy disagrees with the Church on some issues does not make him any less of a Catholic.

The most evident problem with this statement is that it is untrue and his actions lead to scandal. If American Catholics believe Bishop Tobin and see him as a true Catholic and observe his vote for abortion bills, and Kennedy receives no comment from the Church, his actions lead to scandal. If American Catholics believe Bishop Tobin and see him as a true Catholic and observe his vote for abortion bills, and Kennedy receives no comment from the Church, his actions lead to scandal.

In order to clarify exactly how Kennedy’s statement is that it is untrue and his actions lead to scandal. If American Catholics believe Bishop Tobin and see him as a true Catholic and observe his vote for abortion bills, and Kennedy receives no comment from the Church, his actions lead to scandal.

Kennedy also attempts to blame his vote against the bill on an “imperfect humanity.” Kennedy’s exact comment was, “I embrace my faith which acknowledges the existence of an imperfect humanity.” If Representative Kennedy were to say that he voted against the bill because of his imperfect humanity, and that his faith will embrace him no matter what his actions are, then he is not fulfilling this requirement. In saying, “Hey, I know winning is wrong, but I’ll just do whatever I want now and go to confession later,” Tobin points out that Kennedy deliberately voted against the bill and completely fulfilled the requirements for and action to be a sin; the sin is grave, Kennedy knows the Church’s teaching on abortion, and Kennedy used his free will to choose how to vote.

Simply and conclusively, the problem displayed by Kennedy is that he does not believe what the Church believes, but still wishes to be a Catholic. A person cannot be a Catholic if they do not agree with the Church’s teachings. Kennedy’s choices consist of finding a different Christian denomination that coincides with his beliefs, or more preferably, to repent and choose the true, Catholic Church.

Derek Chunha
November 20, 2009 “Bishop Tobin Publicly Calls Rep. Kennedy to ‘Conversion and Repentance.’” In his article Bishop Tobin challenges Rep. Kennedy on why he thinks it means to be a Catholic. It seems that to Kennedy being Catholic is something you’re born into but are allowed to believe what you want. This idea is clearly demonstrated in Tobin’s statement, “the fact that I disagree with the hierarchy on some issues does not make me any less of a Catholic.”

North American Catholics, however, do not have to agree with the Church’s teachings on matters on faith and morals. If Kennedy believes in an immaculate heart of Mary, or another saint in the Church, this is correct and does not make him any less of a Catholic.

The fifth requirement stated by Tobin is that he must accept and observe the Church’s teachings on faith and morals. This is where Bishop Tobin calls Kennedy to “conversion and repentance.” It is no secret that the Catholic Church is pro-life and consequently, teaches that abortion is an intrinsically evil act. IfRep. Kennedy fulfills the second requirement stated by Tobin, he must accept and believe this teaching. But by voting against the Stupak amendment, he displayed otherwise. The third requirement is that he belong to a local Catholic parish. The fourth requirement stated by Tobin is that he attend Mass and receive the Sacraments on a regular basis. One of the sacraments that must be received regularly would be the Eucharist.

Looking at the requirements stated by the Church for receiving the Eucharist, also known as communion, is that the person receiving is in communion with the Church. One can be in communion with the Church until he or she no longer receives the Eucharist. But this does not mean that the Church accepts everything the Church teaches in terms of faith and morals, including the Church’s teaching on abortion.

The fifth and final requirement stated by Tobin is that Kennedy supports the Church publicly, spiritually, personally, and financially. Support of the Church includes helping fund the Church’s prayer, publicly through politics and other public events, financially through monetary means, and personally through giving time to the Church. In the end, an American Catholic must be able to believe what the Church believes, or more preferably, repent and choose the Church based on the hierarchy of the Church.

Sarah’s Choice” - heartwarming pro-life film

NASHVILLE—Sarah’s Choice (Pure Flix Entertainment) is more than a show-case film for Grammy winning Christian singer Rebecca St. James to make her debut as a lead actress in a movie with a strong pro-life message. It’s proved to be a heartwarming addition to the film fan this past Christmas season.

Film critic, Greg Wright, in his November 24 review for the popular online review site, “Past The Popcom,” stated, “Sarah’s Choice does not play like a gimmicky flick — in fact when the film concluded, I told my wife, ‘This is a movie I think I could look forward to seeing every holiday season.’ A Christmas classic about abortion? Well…”

CBN.org movie critic, Beth Patch in her online review, said, “It’s proved to be the CNSB site: “Sarah’s Choice carries a clear pro-life message. The film also includes the message of redemption and forgiveness… the value of including this element cannot be understated.”

But most heartwarming to Rebecca is the news that recently reached her in which one young woman who viewed Sarah’s Choice optioned for the decision of ‘life’ for her unborn baby.

“We prayed that the film will touch hearts and be used as a real tool for ministry to encourage the choice of ‘life’ for those facing the very realities that the film portrays,” noted St. James in a recent interview. “That was my intent and the intent of everyone involved in the making of this movie.”

By special arrangement with Care Net, and their broad alliance of 1,180 North American Care Net pregnancy centers, local special market viewing events of Sarah’s Choice are being encouraged to reach those most in need of the film’s message. A study guide has also been prepared by Pure Flix to correspond with the movie as a ministry assist tool. Kristin Hamas, vice-president of Customer Care for Care Net noted, “We are encouraging screenings of Sarah’s Choice in conjunction with the January 22nd Roe v. Wade anniversary and the corresponding ‘Sanctity of Human Life Sunday,’ which falls on January 24th.”

Rebecca is adding her personal voice and presence to many of the screenings with a special series of coordinatet screenings of this movie and events being set throughout 2010. Her recent guest appearance on “Fox & Friends Weekend” hit mainstream audiences with news on the film. Watch Rebecca on “Fox & Friends Weekend” at www.youtube.com/watch?v=PyCfDcFVM. Learn more about Sarah’s Choice online at www.pureflicks.com/sarah, and for further information on the work of Care Net, please go to www.care-net.org.
Choose Life! Be There!
Continued from p. 18

Michael Church (104 McLeod) in Cuero at approximately 9:30 a.m. to pick up groups – then continue on to Austin. After the rally, they will leave Austin at approximately 2:15 p.m. – arriving back in Cuero at approximately 7:00 p.m. and the chancery in Victoria at 7:45 p.m.

Church in Latin America - Jan. 24

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Bishop David E. Fellhauer and the Chancery Office Staff Wish You a Blessed New Year!

Happy New Year from (seated l-r) Msgr. Eustace Hermes, Sue Ellen Galvan, Regina Janak, Minnie Bochat; Sharon Jones, John Quary, Cindy Brewer; Ray Beth Sils; Janie Carrales, Sister Digna Vela, IWBS; Jen Joseph, Barbara Parker, Melissa Peralta; Chris Alvarez, Martha Pearson-Vela, Rene Garcia, Debbie Vanelly, Mike Brown; Gary Rangnow, Mariah Ray, Bishop David E. Fellhauer and Jose Ortega.

The Mystery of Simon Shepherd—St. Philip School in El Campo had their annual Christmas pageant, “The Mystery of Simon Shepherd,” on December 16. The 8th-grade class performed in the pageant while the student body sang the theme songs. The play was about a shepherd named Simon (Koy Kresta) who took the wrong path while searching for the Baby Jesus and was thought by friends and family to be lost. In the search for Simon, several, including Caesar Augustus (Nick Jasek) and the innkeeper (Hunter Tupa), were questioned in the courtroom of Judge Trudy Justice (Katelyn Baros). After finding Baby Jesus, Simon Shepherd returned home to his sheep. All welcomed him home with open arms and learned that we all are traveling on a path like Simon searching for Jesus in our lives. Like Simon we may take a wrong turn, but our friends and family are there to help guide us along the way. After the pageant, the eighth graders presented the directors, Courtney Kulcak, Lauren Havinka, and music director Janice Cox, with a gift to show appreciation for their hard work and dedication. Actors were, from l. to r., front row: Brandon Naiser, Kari Wilkins, Taylor Fuechec, Kacey Knesek, Hunter Winklemann and Austin Kelly; middle row: Shelby Stary, Michaela Thornton with baby Weid, Nick Jasek, Alexis Crowell, Brooke Wallace, Jordan Limmer and Hunter Tupa; and back row: Katelyn Baros, Koy Kresta and Matthew Graff.

Sacred Heart Church in Hallettsville is the first place winner in the “religious” category of the Festival of Lights Christmas Commercial Outdoor Decorating Contest. The rectory received Honorable Mention in the Most Elaborate Lighting category of the Festival of Lights Christmas Residential Outdoor Decorating Contest. Pictured above is the church and in the inset is Father John Peters, pastor of Sacred Heart, with the first place award.

Merry Christmas to Seminarians and Sisters—The Serra Club of the Diocese of Victoria held a Christmas dinner in honor of the seminarians and temporary professed sisters of the diocese December 29, 2009, at Holy Family Church in Victoria. Pictured with Bishop David E. Fellhauer are seminarians (back row, l. to r.): Matthew Soto of Sts. Cyril & Methodius in Shiner, Kris Fuchs of St. Michael in Needville, Patrick Knippenberg of Sts. Cyril & Methodius in Shiner, Philip Brune of Sts. Peter & Paul in Freiburg, Sean Breeden of Holy Cross, Bay City, and Scott Hill of St. Roch in Mentriz; seminarians and religious sister, front row: E.J. Gutierrez of Our Lady of Mount Carmel in Wharton, Junior Sister Louise Marie Jones, IWBS and Jacob Koether of Holy Cross in Bay City. Words of encouragement as they continue their religious journey may be sent to seminarians and Sister Louise Marie at the following addresses: Sister Louise Marie Jones: Incarnate Word and Blessed Sacrament Convent, 1101 N. E. Water Street, Victoria, TX 77901; E. J. Gutierrez: St. Joseph Seminary, 75576 River Rd., Saint Benedict, LA 70447; Philip Brune: St. Mary’s Seminary, 9845 Memorial Drive, Houston, TX 77024; Kristopher Fuchs and Matthew Soto: Holy Trinity Seminary, 140309, Irving, TX 75044-3089; Patrick Knippenberg: Holy Family Parish, 704 Mallette Drive, Victoria, TX 77904; Sean Breeden, Scott Hill and Jacob Koether: Franciscan University, 1235 University Blvd., Steubenville, OH 43952

A drive for new or used warm blankets, coats, gloves, hats, etc. will run through January in Victoria. To donate to those in need of such items, please contact Janet Chachula at Coldwell Banker The Ron Brown at 361-575-1446 for drop-off locations. Adults and children in need of items listed above, contact Kid’s Connection at 361-788-9909. God bless you.