By Cynthia Brewer

In a meeting, learning about how to utilize Twitter for The Catholic Lighthouse at the Catholic Press Association Conference in New Orleans on June 4, 2010, I noticed my cell phone had received a couple of messages from fellow parishioners of St. Mary’s Parish in Victoria.

The first was short, just saying to call her back because she needed to talk with me regarding Monsignor Brunner; the second caller, who knew I was out of town, only said to please give her a call.

It was suspicious that something was wrong with Msgr. Brunner. I returned the calls and found out that he had died, unexpectedly and alone, while he was preparing for his day, the first Friday of June, the month dedicated to the Sacred Heart of Jesus. By Saturday I learned the wake service would be Sunday evening and the funeral was happening all too fast.

Msgr. James C. Brunner had been the pastor at St. Mary’s Parish in Victoria (my parish) since 1998, replacing Father Joe Hytner. Many people were very sad to see Father Joe leave because he was so warm, always ready for a celebration, and very “down to earth.” On the other hand, we thought Msgr. Brunner was quieter, more of a scholar and intellect, and what appeared to be more “down to business.”

Even my husband and I had different preferences. He liked an easygoing, warm homily at Mass; whereas, I enjoyed Msgr. Brunner’s historical and theological explanations of the meaning of the Sunday’s Scriptures. I would say it’s hard for a pastor to please all of his parishioners.

Around the age of 12, Jim Brunner attended St. John’s Seminary in San Antonio, more than 100 miles from his small, hometown of Weimar. He stayed there through college and major seminary, being ordained to the priesthood in 1954. He continued his studies obtaining a master’s degree in education and a PhD in educational administration. He was superintendent of Catholic Schools in the Archdiocese of San Antonio from 1980 – 69, leading the San Antonio Archdiocesan school system into state accreditation. He was also director of vocations for two years.

Words that described Msgr. Brunner during his wake service and funeral included: remarkable, intellectual and genius. During the vigil, Bishop David Fellhauer stated that Msgr. Brunner had accomplished many achievements. Before choosing Msgr. Brunner as diocesan Vicar General in 1990, the bishop asked others of their opinions of Msgr. Brunner. He was told that he was a Churchman, a person who

See A surprise I never wanted, p. 6

A surprise I never wanted to receive

Death of a Pastor

Msgr. Brunner and his ever-present laugh are caught amongst guests at the Hermes Hall dedication ceremony at the Spiritual Renewal Center November 4, 2009.


Msgr. Arnold Andrews Celebrates
60 Years of Priesthood

~A Family Affair~

By Adelle Anders

DEBINA—On a beautiful Sunday, May 23, 2010, the family and friends of Monsignor Arnold Andrews gathered to celebrate the 60th anniversary of his priesthood. He is a native son of the parish of Sts. Cyril and Methodius in Dubina.

The 11:30 a.m. Mass was celebrated in the beautiful church, which is on the Painted Churches tour. With Msgr. Andrews as the celebrant, other concelebrants were his classmates: Msgr. Albert Hubertus, homilist, and Msgr. Joseph Petch, both of San Antonio, and Msgr. Michael Harrold of Victoria, and Fathers John Peters of Hallettsville, Tim Kosler of Schullenburg, and John Bily of Weimar. Deacon Edward Wendell of Hilje proclaimed the Gospel.

Altar servers were great niece Lillie Kucherka and great nephews Jacob and Nathan Kucherka, and Msgr. Andrews’ children.

Lectors for their uncle’s Mass were
Effective June 26, 2010:
The Rev. George Henninger is appointed Parochial Vicar at Holy Family Church, Victoria.

Effective June 30, 2010:
The resignation of the Rev. Frank B. Lenz as pastor of Sts. Peter & Paul Church, Meyersville, and its mission, St. Aloysius Church, Westhoff, is accepted, as well as his retirement from full-time ministry.

Effective July 14, 2010:
The Rev. Edward J. Winkler is appointed Parochial Vicar at Sts. Cyril & Methodius Church, Shiner.
The Rev. Dan Morales is relieved of his office as pastor of Our Lady of the Gulf Church, Port Lavaca (and its missions), and appointed pastor of St. Mary Church, Victoria.
The Rev. Ty J. Bazur is relieved of his office as pastor of St. Patrick Church, Bloomington, and appointed pastor of Our Lady of the Gulf Church, Port Lavaca, and its mission churches in Point Comfort, Port O’Connor and Seadrift.
The Rev. Samuel Appiasi is appointed Parochial Vicar at Holy Family Church, Bloomington.
The Rev. Peter Yebah-Amano is relieved of his duties at St. Rose of Lima Church, Schulenburg, and its missions, and is appointed pastor of St. Peter Church, Blessing, together with its mission church, St. Robert, Markham.

Effective July 31, 2010:
The resignation of the Rev. Henry Rachunek as pastor of St. John the Baptist Church, Huffman, is accepted.

Effective August 2, 2010:
The Rev. Charles Dwohoh is relieved of his office as pastor of St. Anthony Church, Palacios, and appointed pastor of St. John the Baptist Church, Huffman.
The Rev. Bryan Heyer is relieved of his duties at Our Lady of the Gulf Church, Port Lavaca, and its mission churches, and appointed pastor at St. Anthony Church, Palacios.

Missionary Catechists choose leadership team
While holding their Fifth Provincial Chapter June 23 – 28, the Missionary Catechists of the Sacred Hearts of Jesus and Mary chose their Leadership Team for 2010 – 2013. The team consists of Provincial Superior Sister Miriam Perez; Vice provincial Sister Susan Iolas; Councillors Sister Antonieta Salazar, Sister Id_WORD 1; Sisters Midory Wu and Sister Silvia Serrano. The Province of the Immaculate Heart of Mary would like to express their profound gratitude for the prayers, for the presence of the Spirit was enthusiastically experienced.

CORPUS CHRISTI—At the annual convention of the Texas State Council Knights of Columbus held in Corpus Christi in May 2010, Lt. Col. Douglas Oldmixon of Austin, a retired United States Air Force officer and current State Advocate for the over 95,000 Knights in Texas, was awarded the State Deputy’s prestigious Patriotism Award for over 26 years of military service to our country. He is a member of the Father Gene Dore Council 10131 in Austin.

In 2003 he was named the Commander of the Intelligence Section of 115 Fighter Wing, capping his distinguished career. Duty highlights include serving in Turkey during Operation Desert Storm and in 2006 and 2008 two tours in Iraq.

Doug currently serves as the administrator of the Real Estate Commission for the state of Texas. He is an accomplished attorney, patriot, public servant and a faithful Catholic. As a devoted husband and father, Doug exemplifies the principles of the Knights of Columbus.

Also at the 2010 Texas State Council Knights of Columbus annual convention, his mother, Mrs. Mary Oldmixon of Goliad, was presented as a Cardinal Medeiros Fellow. The Cardinal Medeiros Trust Fund was created in May 1981 as part of State Council Charities. Cardinal Humberto Medeiros was a former bishop of the Brownsville Diocese and State Chaplain of the Texas State Council from 1969 to 1970.
KJZT SUPPORTS MISSIONS—KJZT Society #101 recently presented a check to the Sisters of the Incarnate Word and Blessed Sacrament at their convent in Victoria on behalf of Sister Rebecca Janacek, IWBS, who is in Nairobi, Kenya. The funds have been donated to help build wells and provide medicines for the sick. Sister Rebecca is also a member of KJZT #101. Pictured from left: Irene Brosch; Evelyn Dierfarn, presenting a check to Sister Evelyn Korenek, general superior; Wendy Hrinic, Rosie Olesovsk, Dolores Styrik and Carolyn Nevhud.

The tour nament, which was held at
Golf tournament director, Monroe Rieger, along with committee members, pres
Helen is survived by: five sons, Leroy anit, Anthony, and wife, Doroth
Anthony, Anthony and wife, Anna, Leon and wife, Nancy, and Wilbert and wife, Carol; four daughters, Sr. Lois Marie Etzler, Irene Fishbeck, and Marilyn Kovalcik and husband, John, and Linda Shimk and husband, Tim; 19 grandchildren; 28 great-grandchildren; and sister, Annie Henke Etzler. Helen was preceded in death by: her parents; her husband, Joe; son-in-law, Frank Fishbeck; grandchildren, Jeffrey Fishbeck and Douglas Etzler; great-grandchildren, Riley and Reese Manning; sister, Angela Henke; and brothers, Charlie Henke, George Henke, Leo Henke, Hilbert Henke, Frank Henke, and Bill Henke. Funeral Mass was held Saturday, May 22, 2010, at Sacred Heart Catholic Church in Hallettsville, with Rev. David Berger and Rev. John Peters officiating. Instru ment followed at Sacred Heart Catholic Cemetery.

Helen was preceded in death by: her grandparents: Le roy Etzler Jr., Travis Etzler, Joseph C. Etzler, Kevin Etzler, Aaron Etzler, Chad Fishbeck, Noel Etzler, Nathan Etzler, Neal Etzler, Darren Shimek and Derek Kovalcik. Honorary pallbearers were her grand daughters: Gail Zambie, and Molly Raines. Msgr. Etzler was a member of the Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre of Jerusalem and KJF. Msgr. Brunner was an author, having published: Encountering Christ Today, a 916-page, new and freshly written catechism for adults. He was also an award-winning columnist who had written over 100 articles for the Victoria diocesan newspaper, The Catholic Lighthouse. Msgr. Brunner had always been interested in adult Christian education. He played classical music and frequently attended concerts of the Houston Symphony and operas by Houston Grand Opera. He was also interested in flying, sailing, travel and photography. He is survived by his brother, Leroy P. Brunner and wife, Betty, of Richardson; sister, Elaine Drozd and husband, Robert, of Brazoria; nieces and nephews, Michele Worrel and husband, Dr. Richard Worrel, of Austin; Paul Brunner of Dallas; Mary Morvan and husband, Arnel, of Austin; Bethina Loukil and husband, Ahmed, of North Carolina; James J. Drozd of Houston; and Eugene James Drozd of Billings, Montana; and great-nieces and nephews, Wyatt and Anna, Lilly and Alexander, and Andrew, Raquel, Kirstin and Tristan. His parents preceded him in death.

In Memory of... Helen Etzler, mother of Sr. Lois Marie, IWBS

Msgr. James C. Brunner Monsignor James C. Brunner, age 79, of Victoria, passed away Friday, June 4, 2010. He was born Oct. 8, 1930, in La Grange, to the late Paul and Helen Brunner. He attended Holy Family e
demy school at St. Michael in Weimar. His high school education took place at St. John's Seminary in San Antonio. At the same sem
inary, he studied philosophy and two years of theology. His last two years of theology took place at Assumption Seminary in San Antonio.

James Brunner was ordained to the priesthood by Archbishop Robert E. Lu
ney in the San Fernando Cathedral May 29, 1954.

After ordination, he accepted as

He attended Catholic University of America in Washington, D.C., from 1959 -1960, where he earned a master's degree in educational administration. He became superintendent of Catholic Schools for the Archdiocese of San Antonio in 1960 and held that post for nine years. For two of those years, he doubled as the archdiocesan director of vocations. During his tenure as superintendent, he led San Antonio Archdiocesan School System into state accreditation.

From 1969 to 1976, he served as pastor of Holy Name Parish in San Antonio. While there, he completed work on a doctorate in educational administration at the University of Texas at Austin on May 15, 1971.

In 1976, he transferred to St. Philip the Apostle Parish and School in El Campo, where he served as pastor for 12 years. On March 17, 1985, Pope John Paul II elevated him to the rank of Prelate of Honor, giv
hing him the title of Monsignor. His next assignment was to Holy Cross Parish and School in Bay City, where he served for nearly 10 years. On Aug. 10, 1990, Bishop David Fellhauer appointed him as Vicar General of the Diocese of Victoria, a post that he held until his death. In 1997, he was made the director of pro-life activities in the Diocese of Victoria. On Jan. 14, 1999, he became pastor of St. Mary's Catholic Church in Victoria. He was a member of the Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre of Jerusalem and KJF.

Vocation and Youth Ministries benefit from K.C.'s help

The 13th annual Bishop David Fellhauer Charity Golf Tournament, held for the Victoria Diocese youth and vocation offices, was one of the most successful ever, thanks to the generosity of the people of the diocese.

The tournament, which was held at the Colony Creek Country Club Friday, April 23, 2010, served a luncheon by the Knights of Columbus Holy Family Council 9088 of Victoria.

This year's tournament brought in over $28,000 thanks to many generous sponsors and the participation of 31 teams. The pro
ceeds were split between the diocesan of
fices of Vocations, directed by Father Dan Morales, and the Youth and Young Adult Ministry, directed by Mrs. Debbie Vanelli. These proceeds will benefit numerous new and existing vocations and youth programs throughout the diocese.

parents; his husband, Joe; son-in-law, Frank Fishbeck; grandchildren, Jeffrey Fishbeck and Douglas Etzler; great-grandchildren, Riley and Reese Manning; sister, Angela Henke; and brothers, Charlie Henke, George Henke, Leo Henke, Hilbert Henke, Frank Henke, and Bill Henke. Funeral Mass was held Saturday, May 22, 2010, at Sacred Heart Catholic Church in Hallettsville, with Rev. David Berger and Rev. John Peters officiating. Instrument followed at Sacred Heart Catholic Cemetery.

Honorary pallbearers were her grandparents: Le roy Etzler Jr., Travis Etzler, Joseph C. Etzler, Kevin Etzler, Aaron Etzler, Chad Fishbeck, Noel Etzler, Nathan Etzler, Neal Etzler, Darren Shimek and Derek Kovalcik. Honorary pallbearers were her granddaughters: Gail Zambie, and Molly Raines. Msgr. Etzler was a member of the Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre of Jerusalem and KJF. Msgr. Brunner was an author, having published: Encountering Christ Today, a 916-page, new and freshly written catechism for adults. He was also an award-winning columnist who had written over 100 articles for the Victoria diocesan newspaper, The Catholic Lighthouse. Msgr. Brunner had always been interested in adult Christian education. He played classical music and frequently attended concerts of the Houston Symphony and operas by Houston Grand Opera. He was also interested in flying, sailing, travel and photography. He is survived by his brother, Leroy P. Brunner and wife, Betty, of Richardson; sister, Elaine Drozd and husband, Robert, of Brazoria; nieces and nephews, Michele Worrel and husband, Dr. Richard Worrel, of Austin; Paul Brunner of Dallas; Mary Morvan and husband, Arnel, of Austin; Bethina Loukil and husband, Ahmed, of North Carolina; James J. Drozd of Houston; and Eugene James Drozd of Billings, Montana; and great-nieces and nephews, Wyatt and Anna, Lilly and Alexander, and Andrew, Raquel, Kirstin and Tristan. His parents preceded him in death.

A vigil service was held Sunday, June 6, 2010, at St. Mary's Catholic Church. Mass of the Christian Burial was celebrated June 7, 2010, at St. Mary's Catholic Church with the Most Reverend David Fellhauer officiating. Entombment followed at Resurrec
tion Cemetery.

Honorary pallbearers were members of the Fourth Degree Knights of Columbus. Honorary pallbearers were the staff of St. Mary's Catholic Church.

May the souls of the faithful departed rest in Peace!
**Father Casey celebrates 50 years as a priest**

**Continued from p. 1**

Father Casey became the administrator of St. Mary’s until October when he was assigned to Holy Cross Parish in Yorktown and its two mission churches, St. Louis, and St. Ann in Nordheim. From 1988-89 he was chaplain and instructor at Corpus Christi Priory in Corpus Christi. He continued further theological studies at Conception Abbey in Conception, Mo., during the summer of 1981 and 1982. From 1962-63 he was sent to Loyola University in Chicago, Ill., for further studies.

He taught at Corpus Christi Academy High School during the school years of 1961 – 66. In 1966, the abbot and bishop appointed Father Casey to be campus chaplain at Texas A & I University in Kingsville. He also was assistant pastor at St. Martin Catholic Church in Kingsville.

In 1970, Father Casey left the Benedictine Order and went to search for a bishop who would give him to return to the Archdiocese of San Antonio. He was appointed to the campus ministry at Adams State College in Alamosa. He also was assigned to the campus ministry at Adams State College in Alamosa.

Father Theohar Janyak, his pastor at Holy Trinity in Falls City, strongly encouraged him to return to the Archdiocese of San Antonio. Some time later he had a meeting with Archbishop Fiebrich and was accepted as a priest in the Archdiocese of San Antonio in the summer of 1974.

In June 1974, he was assigned associate pastor at St. Mary’s Church in Victoria. When the Diocese of Victoria was established in 1982, Father Casey became the

Pope says life of hermit pope shows silence still important

SULMONA, Italy (CNS) — The life of a 13th-century man who became pope should be an inspiration for contemporary people living in a society affected by the April 2009 earthquake in the Marche region of Italy.

The German pope honored the birth 800 years ago of St. Celestine V in his hometown of Sulmona, Italy, in a Mass and meetings with local residents and young people July 4. St. Celestine, who lived 1209-1269, is known for being the last pope known to have given up the

Throne of Peter. He abdicated in 1294 after only four months in office and has been known through history as a holy man who rejected the political machinations of the medieval papacy. Pope Benedict chose not to emphasize St. Celestine’s short tenure as pontiff, but rather the importance of both the inner and outward silence that allowed him “to perceive the voice of God, which guided his life.”

The pope acknowledged the difficulties faced by residents of the small city of Sulmona, which was seriously affected by the April 2009 earthquake in nearby L’Aquila. He encouraged them to take heart and example from St. Celestine in gathering strength and recognizing the needs of others. “We live today in a society in which every space, every moment must be filled with initiatives, activities and sound,” so that there is no time for listening and dialogue, the pope said.
after a master plan for the entire school and parish began in 1987. In this way the Sisters of IWBS and pastors of Sts. Cyril & Methodius Church would be able to provide safer and more adequate building facilities for both the Shiner Catholic School students and the CCD students and also honor the Sisters of IWBS who were instrumental in creating the Shiner Catholic School over 113 years ago. Mother Saint Claire, foundress of the IWBS Congregation in the Americas, was asked by Bishop Anthony Forest in 1897 for a sixth IWBS foundation to be built in Texas. On February 18 she accompanied four other sisters to Shiner where the 1916 convent was ordered on February 24, 1897. The new Incarnate Word Academy later became known as St. Ludmila Academy. The first school erected was a primitive two-story frame structure that consisted of both the sisters’ living quarters and classrooms for the students. In 1916, an attractive three-story building was erected but with the hard work of the Sisters and generosity of the pastor, Father Francis Machan. For the past 94 years, this building has served as one of the primary educational facilities for the students attending Shiner Catholic School and the parish’s CCD program. In 1987, the Sisters of the IWBS lovingly gifted the 1916 convent to Sts. Cyril & Methodius Parish. The 94-year-old four-story school has, through normal deterioration, numerous areas that need to be addressed with regard to safety and comfort. Several areas required attention due to the safety of this historic building with the need to renovate the historic 1916 convent building on the church campus and in this way to be able to provide safe and adequate building facilities for all students and teachers. Capital campaign, the campaign went from May 2009 through August 2009. To date, due to many generous donors, there has been $650,000 pledged to the campaign to help restore the 1916 convent building, rewire the church and rework the bell tower of the church. With the funds raised through the capital campaign, the challenge grant was met and thus, another $500,000 was realized from the Stephen and Mary Birch Foundation. Upon completion of raising $1.5 million, the project was then turned over to the Sts. Cyril & Methodius Building Committee, who hired an architect and contractor and made many necessary decisions regarding the project. A dedication ceremony organized by Devin and Blue was held on May 26, 2010, on the steps of the 1916 building. Blue Hybner opened the ceremony with announcements of the dignitaries and future Eagle Scouts Dream of Restoring 1916 Convent

Feeding the multitude (also known as the miracle of the loaves and fish)
A surprise I never wanted to receive

Continued from p. 1

with a sense for the Church – “To think as does the Church.”

“I could rely on his judgment for sensi
tive advice and counsel,” the bishop said.

On a 1990 priest information form, he
listed his hobbies: “music, photography, travel, sailing, flying, water
skiing and computers.”

Although he received the papal digni
dy of Domestic Prelate, with the title of monsi
gino, from Pope John Paul II in 1995, he
never displayed any pretensions to fame.

As editor of The Catholic Lighthouse,
he had known Msgr. Brunner to be a mem
ber of the clergy or other church personnel, you can
register a complaint.

• Call the Chancery at (361) 573-0288 and ask to speak with the bishop or the chancellor;
• Call Rev. Gary Janak (790) 543-3770 or Sr. Emilie Eilers (361) 575-7111, Coordinators of Pastoral Care and Outreach;
• Write to: Most Rev. David E. Fellhuaer, Diocese of Victoria, P.O. Box 4070 Victoria, TX 77903
Mark your letter “Personal and Confidential”

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

If you are unsure about bringing a complaint or would like further information, please contact Rev. Gary Janak at (790) 543-3770.

Reporting Abuse

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Reporting Abuse
Sister Digna Vela, IWBS, and director of the Office of Catechetical Ministry for the Diocese of Victoria, is currently in a three-year program at Creighton University in Omaha, Nebraska, for a graduate certificate in Spiritual Direction and Directed Retreats. Sister spent the month of July last summer studying at Creighton and will return again this summer for her second year of studies.

In an interview with Cindy Brewer, editor of The Catholic Lighthouse, Sister Digna explained the details of her new ministry.

Cindy: What prompted you to work toward this graduate certificate at Creighton?

Sister Digna: I have always wanted to go to Creighton to study spirituality. When my community, the Sisters of the Incarnate Word and Blessed Sacrament, opened Amor Meus, a spirituality center, at Incarnate Word Convent last year, I decided that this was the time to prepare myself to help with this new ministry of spiritual direction and directed retreats.

Cindy: What is spiritual direction? What does it entail?

Sister Digna: First of all, let me say what spiritual direction is not. It is not counseling, giving advice, or psychotherapy. Spiritual direction is the process of accompanying people on a spiritual journey in a context that emphasizes growing closer to God. Spiritual direction most often refers to a relationship that is more like spiritual companionship or friendship where the director is present as a spiritual friend who listens with the intent of helping the directee recognize how the Holy Spirit is leading and working in one’s life.

The emphasis is on helping the directee develop a good prayer life and relationship with God. Cindy: Could you go into depth as far as what one can expect if they are receiving spiritual direction? How often would you meet, and for how long? How does this “spiritual journey” work—does the director suggest forms of prayer, readings or writings for the person?

Sister Digna: People who go for spiritual direction usually meet with their director once a month for an hour. The director does not tell the directee what to do in a way that requires obedience. The director has the final decision as to what to do in his/her spiritual life. Questions are asked to get to know the directee’s present life circumstances and spiritual life. The goal is to help the directee discern how the Holy Spirit is personally leading, recognizing that God has a special and distinct plan for each person’s life and everyone is not called exactly the same way. Sometimes a director may suggest forms of prayer and readings that might help the person on their spiritual journey.

If a person wanted to go for spiritual direction, what should I do and what would it involve?

Sister Digna: First, I would encourage you to find a person who has studied and been trained in spiritual direction from a credible Catholic institute. After obtaining a spiritual director, it usually entails meeting with this person for an hour each month. After three sessions with the director, the two may work out how often meetings would occur.

What is the purpose of a directed retreat?

Sister Digna: A directed retreat is for a person who is interested in exploring the spiritual dimensions of her/his life in the presence of a director.

Cindy: How long are directed retreats? How often do they meet?

Sister Digna: Directed retreats usually last four to five days, with sessions lasting for about two hours each morning. There is also time set aside for personal prayer and reflection.

Cindy: How can one develop the capacity for a deeper prayer life?

Sister Digna: Developing a good prayer life requires time, discipline, and attentiveness to the guidance of the Holy Spirit. It is a process of listening, of being open to the movements of God in one’s life.

Cindy: How does the director assist the directee in discerning how the Holy Spirit is working in one’s life?

Sister Digna: The director helps the directee recognize how the Holy Spirit is leading and working in one’s life. The director listens to the directee, helps the directee develop a good prayer life, and offers guidance and support.

Cindy: What skills are necessary for a person to be a spiritual director?

Sister Digna: A spiritual director needs to have a deep understanding of spiritual disciplines and practices, to be able to listen attentively, to be open to the guidance of the Holy Spirit, and to be able to offer support and encouragement to the directee.

Conference coordinator Christella Al-\vare is pleased to announce that the Most Reverend David E. Fellhauer and Monsignor Thomas C. McLaughlin will each offer a workshop at this year’s cat- echetical conference. Chris- tella hopes that everyone will make the commitment to attend the twenty-third annual conference, which will be held at Holy Family Parish in Victoria, September 25, 2010.

The day-long event provides an opportunity for people to hear local and national speakers present workshops on various Catholic topics. “It is engaging, exciting, and informative event for all the people of the diocese,” stated Christella.

Monsignor McLaughlin’s work- shop will give pertinent information about the new English translation of the Rosary. If you have been the bish- op stated in the June issue of The Catholic Lighthouse, “There is much to be said about the revised English translation.”

Monsignor McLaughlin, Vicar General and Chancellor of the Victoria Diocese, will offer a workshop on the 2010-2011 catechetical theme, “Marriage: Sacra- ment of Enduring Love.”

The day-long conference will provide workshops on catechetical, liturgical, sacramental, family, prayer/spirituality, and Scripture topics. The August issue of The Catholic Lighthouse will feature other local workshop presenters. Call 361-573-0828 for more information, or visit www. victoriadiocese.org.

If you suspect a child has been abused or mistreated, you are required to report it to the Texas Department of Protective and Regulatory Services or to a law enforcement agency within 48 hours of the time you suspect the child had been or may be abused or neglected.

Host Families Needed

HOST FAMILIES—with or without children—are needed to host international high school exchange students for the upcoming 2010/2011 fall semester or academic year. Students speak English and have spending money, and medical insurance. Families will provide a bed, meals, and a caring environment and may review applications and select the student they feel best matches their family. The students, from over 30 different countries, are hoping to arrive in AUGUST for enrollment in their new American high school. For more information please phone Vnette Coffman at the SHARE! Southwest Office at 800-941-3738 or visit sharesouthwest.org.

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Fred Kubesch

The Catholic Lighthouse Page 7 — July 2010

CATECHESIS

What is Spiritual Direction and Directed Retreats?

Conference coordinator Christella Al-

The Catholic Lighthouse

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Pro-Life Catholics, Then and Now

Sisterly Thoughts

By Sister Mildred Trachard, IWBS

Pro-Life Catholics, Then and Now

Someday pro-life believers seemed more plausible when I was growing up; abortion had not yet been legalized. I had not heard of euthanasia; and, like many folks around me, I had never given capital punishment a second thought.

Then abortion was legalized in the Supreme Court decision Roe vs. Wade; capital punishment was legalized; and euthanasia was officially called for a development of a “Culture of Life” and bemoaned the pivoting “Culture of Death” that prevailed in many parts of the world. End-of-life issues, including euthanasia and capital punishment were addressed; however, somehow somehow of us may not always have heard or heeded the messages. So let us review some of them.

On December 12, 1999, and other occasions Pope John Paul II said, “I therefore renew my appeal to all leaders to reach an international consensus on the abolition of the death penalty, since “cases in which the execution of the offender is an absolute necessity are very rare, if not practically non-existent.”

The United States Conference of Catholics Bishops say, “We renew our common conviction that it is time for our nation to abandon the illusion that we can protect life by taking life. Ending the use of the death penalty would be one important step away from a culture of death and toward building a culture of life.

Our witness to respect for life shines most brightly when we demand respect for each and every human life, including the lives of those who fail to show that respect for others. The attitude to violence is love, not more violence.

The Catechism of the Catholic Church, no. 2258 states: “Human life is sacred for others. The antidote to violence is love, lives of those who fail to show that respect for each and every human life, including the lives of those who fail to show that respect for others. The attitude to violence is love, not more violence.

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Two students win gold medals — Two instrumental music students from St. Joseph High School of Victoria were awarded State Gold Medals for superior performances at the Texas State Solo & Ensemble Contest on Saturday, May 29, sponsored by the Texas Private School Music Educators. Sophomore, Sofia Chinea-Alvarado, (Flute), and senior, Hilary Kristynik, (Alto Saxophone), were each presented a State Gold Medal for their solo performance.

Hallettsville — Sacred Heart Catholic High School won the 2010 Texas Association of Private and Parochial Schools (TAPPS) 2A Boys’ Track & Field Championship in Waco. This is the first Boys’ State Track & Field Championship ever won by Sacred Heart.

These athletes were guided in their achievements by Coach Joe Cash. Coach Cash took over the Boys’ Track & Field program in 2007. Blessed with fifteen young men, none with any previous formal experience in track and field. His athlete’s goals for the season were to learn beginning techniques, how to train, and to be competitive at the district meet.

Coach Cash expects his athletes to rise to high levels of achievement through working hard in a constructive and organized program along with demonstrating a dignified character and exhibiting respect for others.

Former Nazareth Academy day-care director and Pre-K instructor vies for spot with Oprah’s Network in children.

On the opening Friday evening of the 2010 University Interscholastic League State Track and Field Meet in Austin, Sacred Heart’s Coach Joe Cash took the field, prior to the beginning of the A and AA sessions, with a group of men who started his history twenty-nine years ago. These men were the athletes, coached by Coach Cash in his three years at Refugio High School, who won the first three state and field championships for Refugio High School.

The traditions, work ethics, and confidence established by the teams of 1981, 1982 and 1983, as the Class AAAA State Champions, began an astonishment sequence of UIL state track champions for Refugio High School, which went on to win one more state track and field championships: ten by the boys and six by the girls, for which the school was being honored as one of the top three schools in the history of the UIL-State Track and Field Meet.

Congratulations to Coach Joe Cash, Refugio High School and the Sacred Heart Indian Track & Field Team.

HALLETTSVILLE— Sacred Heart Catholic High School won the 2010 Texas Association of Private and Parochial Schools (TAPPS) 2A Boys’ Track & Field Championship in Waco. This is the first Boys’ State Track & Field Championship ever won by Sacred Heart.

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Coach Joe Cash

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Coach Cash expects his athletes to rise to high levels of achievement through working hard in a constructive and organized program along with demonstrating a dignified character and exhibiting respect for others.
St. Philip’s One ACT Play brings awards to the El Campo school and actors. Above is the cast of “The Diviners,” the play the school performed at the PSAI state meet, the Bay City Junior High Dungeneers Festival and at El Campo High School.

St. Philip performs One ACT Play, honors director of eight years

EL CAMPO, Texas—The culmination of another successful year was the public performance of the One Act Play June 2 at the El Campo High School auditorium. The award winning play, “The Diviners,” was well attended. At the performance, a special presentation was made to Keri Graff who started the St. Philip One Act Play (OAP) eight years ago; this was her last year working with the program. “The Diviners” by Jim Leonard Jr. tells the story of a disturbed young man (Matthew Graff) and his friend with a disen- chanted preacher (Isaac Kreesta) in Southern Indiana in the 1930’s. When the boy was young he almost drowned, and this trauma and the loss of his mother in the accident has left him afraid of water. The preacher who has left his calling, works in the boy’s father’s (Audrey Anderson) garage, but the women of the town try to persuade him to return to preaching. All these factors culminate in tragic results.

The cast competed twice this year. At the Private Schools Interscholastic Association (PSIA) state meet in San Antonio, the play placed third, with Matthew Graff named Best Actor; Isaac Kreesta and Rose- mary Krenek earned All-Star Cast honors; and Audrey Anderson and Katelyn Baros earned Honorable Mention All Star Cast.

At the Bay City Junior High Dung- eneers Festival, the play earned Superior Rating, with nine cast members earning individual honors: Best Actor—Matthew Graff; All Star Cast—Isaac Kreesta, Jennie Ritter and Katelyn Baros; Honorable Mention All Star Cast—Rosemary Krenek, Elise Raun, Megan Faas, Lindsey Jones and Hannah Tupa.

The cast was also awarded Most Professional Company and Best Set.

The cast was made up of: Rosie Krenke (Basil Bennet), Elise Raun (Dewy Maple), Matthew Graff (Buddy Layman), Jessica Graff (Luella Bennet), Megan Faas (Melvin), Isaac Kreesta (C.C. Show- ers), Jennie Ritter (Jennie Mae Layman), Audrey Anderson (Ferris Layman), Katelyn Baros (Nemus Henshaw), Lindsey Jones (Darlene Henshaw), Hannah Tupa (Goldie) and Miranda Hollingsworth (Violinist). On the technical crew were Morgan Sparks (Lights) and Kaetlyn Davlin (Sound). The show was directed by parent volunteers (Lights) and Kaitlyn Davlin (Sound). The technical crew were Morgan Sparks (Lights) and Kaetlyn Davlin (Sound). The show was directed by parent volunteers (Lights) and Kaitlyn Davlin (Sound). The technical crew were Morgan Sparks (Lights) and Kaetlyn Davlin (Sound). The show was directed by parent volunteers (Lights) and Kaetlyn Davlin (Sound). The show was directed by parent volunteers (Lights) and Kaitlyn Davlin (Sound).

For more information contact: Sister Louise Marie Jones at bhwbvc2@yahoo.com or jortega@victoriadiocese.org
Presidio Initiates Student Education Program; Re-opens Renovated Museum

By Preston F. Kirk

GOLIAD — A bronze cannon blasting, a bishop’s blessing and a BBQ-and-beans buffet marked the grand re-opening of the historic Presidio La Bahia (Fort of the Bay) Museum http://www.presidiolabahia.org in Goliad on June 8, 2010. Yet, the celebration was practically upstaged by an ambitious, new project.

Through a generous grant from the Mary Hobbs Griffith Foundation, the 289-year-old National Historic Landmark is offering free admission in March, April and May of 2011 to 10,000 Texas students in 4th and 7th-grade social studies, as well as funds to help underwrite transportation costs.

“Education is what Presidio La Bahia is all about,” said Newton M. Warzecha, director of the Presidio since 1991. “We’ve been concerned that students were not learning about the rich Spanish, Mexican and Texas history here at the Presidio and Goliad. School field trips have declined from 5,000 students five years ago to 2,200 this spring.”

David Vickers, a seventh-grade social studies teacher in Brenville, Texas, is developing a lesson plan that will enable the Presidio to show schools: “that we are going to teach the students what the curriculum indicates they should know about our history,” Newton emphasized.

“This program is on a first come-first servetheus,” he said. “To qualify, reservations have to be made in advance. We will even have historic re-enactors here to add to the student’s Presidio experience.”

The transportation grants to the schools will be based on the student miles traveled and will typically cover about one-half of the transportation cost, to a maximum of $5 per student.

~ Blessing and Blasting ~

About 170 politicians, historians, archeologists, re-enactors, news media, Friends of the Fort (FOF) members and astonished tourists witnessed the museum re-opening, ribbon cutting and formal blessing. The museum was fully renovated at a cost of more than $500,000 during the past three and half years.

In addition to its colonial periods, the Presidio was central to the Texas Revolution of 1836. East and west and within its three-foot-thick walls, 342 Texans were massacred under orders from Mexican Gen. Santa Anna.

Bishop David E. Fellhauer of the Diocese of Victoria explained how the diocese came to own such a sacred pantheon of Texas, Mexican, Spanish and Catholic history.

After years of negotiation, the crumbling Our Lady of Loreto Chapel and the block of the fort were purchased from the City of Goliad in 1853 for $1,000. The first full restoration of the fortress occurred in the 1960s with extensive funds from the Kathryn Stoner O’Connor Foundation.

In his blessing, Bishop Fellhauer proclaimed, “God is the Lord of history. History is a form of truth. We proclaim his majesty in many and varied ways.

“May all who come to the museum in pursuit of knowledge and understanding always be docile to the wisdom of Your word . . . and will strive to create a more civilized world,” he prayed.

The bishop was assisted in the ribbon cutting by Louise O’Connor of Austin and grand-daughter of Kathryn O’Connor, and Suzi Warzecha, coordinator of the Friends of the Fort.

The hilltop bastion is located one mile south of Goliad on U.S. Hwy. 183 (77A), a few hundred yards from the San Antonio River. It features eight-foot tall stone walls, parapets, cannons, a bell tower containing two bells, a religious statue estimated at 300 years old, a charming Texas-version fresco of the Annunciation and more than 150 artifacts on display from among more than 4,694 collected from the grounds.

“The Quarters,” previously used by officers and later priests, can accommodate four persons for overnight stays in one of the most historic – and eerie – lodging accommodations in America.

The most recent improvements to the complex were completed with funds provided by members of The Presidio La Bahia Foundation, its advisory board, FOF members, and numerous individuals and area foundations.

Re-enactors in period costumes from around South Texas were on hand for the museum tours and to salute the occasion by firing a recently acquired, 250-year-old bronze cannon.

Lunch was served on the Quadrangle grounds compliments of Sally and David Johnson of Goliad, directors of the foundation. The Johnson’s barbecue team, the Farm Industrial Good Guys, prepared the food, which was served by members of the Goliad County Historical Commission.

~ Museum Now First-Class ~

Museum designer Drew Patterson of Drew Patterson Studios in Austin believes “This program is the only presidio on what was the Northern Frontier of New Spain that is totally intact. The museum now accommodates a high quality look into Spanish Colonial life and the later Mexican culture, as well as Texas’ quest for independence,” said the physical anthropologist.

“The exhibits have been re-designed with new, museum-quality cases and lighting, and all interiors have been repaired; murals and decorations refreshed; the floors repaired and re-sealed and the gift shop expanded,” Patterson stated. “The soldiers’ barracks have been upgraded and the entry and museum are now more wheelchair accessible.”

“Our daily admission prices for the Presidio offer real family value and real educational opportunities,” Warzecha insisted. “Many fans of the Texas Independence (tourist) Trail have seen the Alamo in San Antonio, the San Jacinto Battleground and Monument, even Gonzales or Independence, Texas.

“But if they have not visited the Presidio and Goliad, they are missing one of the bloodiest, enlightening and educational chapters of the Texas revolution and our great state’s history.”

Admissions are $4 (ages 12-59); $3.50 (60 and older and military personnel), and $1 (children ages 6-11). Children age five and younger are admitted free. Group rates are available with advance reservations. The Presidio’s Facebook Fan Page is at: http://www.facebook.com/PresidioLaBahia?ref=ts&fref=20.

2011 WORLD YOUTH DAY—A games party will be held August 8 at Sacred Heart Family Center in Hallettsville to help raise funds for WYD. Round up a group of friends together, bring your cards, dominos or board games and join in the fun. The fun runs from 2:00 until 6:00 p.m. at just $5 p/p (total included) along with door prizes, 50/50 and a silent auction. Pictured above, trying to decide what to play is (1-r): Jordan Fries, Cory Bena and Father David Berger. Proceeds benefit the area youth attending 2011 World Youth Day in Madrid, Spain. Reservations may be made by contacting Leona Sedlar at (361) 575-3160; Donna Masey at (361) 576-2670; or Wendy Eggert at (361) 655-0531 by August 5.

Presidio Museum contains the kitchen as well as Spanish Colonial, Mexican Colonial and Texas artifacts spanning more than 250 years.

Bishop David E. Fellhauer of Victoria was assisted in the ribbon cutting by Louise O’Connor of Austin and grand-daughter of Kathryn O’Connor who funded the restoration of the National Historic Landmark more than 50 years ago, and Suzi Warzecha (l), coordinator of the Friends of the Fort.
By Erica Rodrigue
The Victoria Advocate

YORKTOWN—Like walking into heaven is how long-time church members describe the restored Holy Cross Catholic Church.

After six months and more than $350,000 of work, the church, known for its architectural beauty and history born of fire, looks like something out of a glossy-paged historic tourism magazine.

Holy Cross Church is on a quiet corner of Yorktown between fields of grazing cattle and ranch land. Sunday morning, the parking lot is as snug as the pew.

The church building, a terra cotta brick structure built by Polish and German immigrants in 1915, echoes a design of many rural Catholic churches, but the inside is what changes the experience.

“It was so beautiful when I first walked in, I didn’t think that the church could be restored to its beauty as it is now,” said Eleanor Sturm, a 92-year-old churchgoer.

Sturm has attended church there for a lifetime - 71 years to be exact - and remembers changes to the structure over the years. This has been the biggest.

“It’s like walking into heaven,” she said.

The church is stately. The 42-foot ceiling arches high above the praying congregation. The Romanesque design echoes centuries-old European churches. Tall, stained-glass windows portray devout saints; at the bottom of the panes are looking churches, like Holy Cross, dot DeWitt County, said Peggy Ledbetter, treasurer of the DeWitt County Historical Commission. Restorations like the church’s are something she believes can provide an economic boost to the area through tourism.

A stained-glass window of St. Hedwig can be found at the church. Hedwig, born in 1371, became queen of Poland in 1382, was beatified in 1978, and canonized in 1997 by Pope John Paul II. Photos by FRANK TILLEY/ftilley@vicad.com

The church pastor, Rev. Father Roger Hawes, hopes the church will leave a legacy not just for his generation of parishioners, but for many to come.

“I think it’s putting an accent on the church of tomorrow,” he said. “I think everything we did there really accomplishes that, plus the people who’ve been here all their lives seem to be pleased with it. It’s a wonderful sacred worship place for the people.”

Holy Cross Catholic Church is located at 1214 Zorn Road in Yorktown. For more information, call 361-564-2893.

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Peggy Ledbetter, treasurer of the DeWitt County Historical Commission.

By Eric Rodrigue

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More than one billion people throughout the world proudly call themselves Catholic. However, understanding the length, complexity, and rich history of the Church can sometimes seem a daunting task. Author and historian Scott Paul Frush wants to shed light on the Catholic Church by examining its extraordinary history, traditions, and contributions in the book, *Ultimate Catholic Trivia: 1001 Fun and Fascinating Facts* (Marshall Rand Publishing).

My singular aim is to show the best of the Catholic Church in a way that is entertaining, educational, and of course spiritual, says author Scott Paul Frush. If you desire to learn more about the Catholic Church or simply want to test your knowledge, this is the perfect book for you.

*Ultimate Catholic Trivia* reveals facts that cover many diverse topics, such as Jesus Christ, the Holy Bible, saints, the Vatican, origins, liturgical seasons, Jesus Christ, the Holy Bible, saints, popes, and so much more. The book includes an alphabetical index beginning with A and ending with Z spanning every aspect of Jesus Christ’s life, message, mission, and work. What a delight to open the pages of this Top 10 lists, a chronological timeline of Church history, detailed accounts of key events in Catholic history, inspirational quotes from pioneering Catholics, and a list of all popes and when each one reigned. Photos and illustrations are included to bring the trivia to life. Consider this book part history, part entertainment book, and part spiritual guide all combined into one.

*Ultimate Catholic Trivia* is available for purchase online at www.amazon.com, by calling 1-800-431-1579, or by mailing $9.95 plus $2.50 postage to Marshall Rand Publishing, P.O. Box 149, Royal Oak, MI 48068-1849. Customers who order by mail will receive author signed copies.

Quantity discounts of this book are available on bulk purchases for educational purposes; contact publisher for more information.

**About the Author:** Author Scott Paul Frush, an accomplished financial advisor by trade, holds a masters degree from the University of Notre Dame and a bachelors degree from Eastern Michigan University. He is a self-proclaimed history buff, trivia aficionado, avid writer, and of course a proud Catholic. Scott is the author of seven other books, including *Ultimate Italian Trivia* and *Ultimate Republican Trivia*. He is a true genius, received a com...
Off the grid, out of the grind

"Are you tweeting from Palestine?" it was a harmless question popping up in my inbox, and I had already begun typing my Twitter handle in an effort to pick up a few more followers, when I paused to consider the offer I was about to make. Did I really want to chronicle my Holy Land trip via Twitter? Did the fact that I could access an iPhone mean I should? Did I actually see myself tweeting "at Church of the Holy Sepulchre, reflecting on Jesus’ crucifixion"? I stopped mid-sentence.

Something about tweeting on a pilgrimage feels wrong, contrary to the purpose in which I tune in, I must let go. To open my eyes, I must still my fingers.

I’ll have ample opportunity to relay the experience when I return. I might as well give myself the 15-hour flight home to the purpose. To tune in, we must let go of expectations.

Smartphone social networks like Twitter and Facebook are challenging as a buffer between seeing and perceiving and publishing. I’m seeing things differently because of how often I interrupt a thought or a prayer.

A tweet may be just 140 characters, but it’s long enough to interrupt a thought or a prayer. And those are the little moments that allow for the big ones that bring us to our knees.

I’m saying yes to silence, to eminence, to the absence of it all – a mode that doesn’t come naturally to wired young adults. I’m going to the Holy Land to see the bigger picture and the higher ground. I’m hoping to capture sights and smells that linger, lending new meaning throughout the year to old readings.

I’m planning to turn off my phone so I can experience the spiritual joy St. Therese of Lisieux once described. "For me prayer is a surge of the heart," she said. "It is a simple look towards heaven. It is a wave of recognition and of love."

I’m proud to take a break from a habit that shortens, if not eliminates, the line of perceiving and publishing. I’m pleased to give a little less to a force that keeps demanding more. This spring Twitter unveiled a tracking tool that pins an exact location to each tweet. When I was invited to activate it, I didn’t have to think twice. Thanks but no thanks.

Many others, evidently, feel differently. Location-based applications like Foursquare are growing in popularity.

"I’d rather off the grid, as they say. I’m not keen on that kind of accessibility. There’s value in traveling lightly – no overhead, no feet on the ground. I’m seeking the kind of discovery that comes with disappear- ing. After all, Jesus needed 40 days (in a desert I’ll soon see!). So I’m packing my suitcase and preparing an out-of-office message. Do you know how good that feels? Do you know how rarely I use that feature?"

I’m inspired by my uncle Mike, who went off the grid for two weeks last fall to serve as the keeper of a historic lighthouse. He watched birds soar across sunsets, playing his flugelhorn into the glassy water. Sans electricity and Internet, he attuned his body to nature’s rhythms.

Uncle Mike is going back again this fall, and he’s planning to pack even lighter. He knows how to keep the light burning.

Smartphone applications integrate prayer life with daily technology

By Gretchen R. Crowe

Catholic News Service
Arlington, VA. (CNS) — Praying is now so 21st century.

Instead of a paperback mis- salette, there’s (Missal. Instead of prayer cards, there’s a touchscreen.

Instead of randomly jotting down prayer requests, there’s a digitally orga- nized list in PrayerSteward.

"These daily devotional applications are inspired by Scripture, using God’s uplifting message as a guide to make prayer relevant to your circumstances," the website reads.

"The applications are inspired by Scripture, using God’s uplifting message as a guide to make prayer relevant to your circumstances," the website reads.

Also approved by the Vatican is iMissal, available on iPhone and iPod devices, with a full calendar displaying liturgical seasons, all Mass readings for every liturgi- cal cycle, audio readings, a daily Bible verse and a list of popular prayers.

"It really is meant to become the source of everything Catholic that Catholics turn to for prayer and devotion and faith," Sister Kathryn said. "It’s this very simple thing. You can have the readings right in your hand along with everything else that organizes your life."

Through the Rosary Miracle Prayer app, available in June, users can pray the rosary in their own "sacred space." Audio tracks feature the Daughters of St. Paul, with a voice that "speaks into the glassy water."

"Sister Kathryn has been inspired by my uncle Mike, who went off the grid for two weeks last fall to serve as the keeper of a historic lighthouse. He watched birds soar across sunsets, playing his flugelhorn into the glassy water. Sans electricity and Internet, he attuned his body to nature’s rhythms."

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Smartphone writer from St. Paul, Minnesota. She can be reached at http://www.uscscb.org/nab/

All things in moderation, particularly the Internet

According to Saint Benedict, whose feast day is July 11, all things – eating, drinking, sleeping, reading, working, and praying – should be done in moderation. From the Online Guide to Saint Benedict at http://www.e-benedictine.com/about_his_life_2/

Editor’s Note: I’m including both of these Internet stories along with St. Benedict’s wisdom, to remind each of us to use moderation in all things, including or especially, the Internet.

(134): Saint Matthew
A mission of hope in Ciudad Juárez

“Another year of grace! Yes, we face crises like never before, but crises stimulate hope, and in hope, there is the sense of truth, justice and peace. That effort broadens optimism and even joy. Some saints say that Jesus is always on the cross, the Good Shepherd out in desperation, experienced a deep interior joy at a work accomplished.”

Words from Sister of Mercy Betty Campbell and Carmelinite Father Peter Hinde, founders of a community of contemplation and political action called Tabor House in Ciudad Juarez, since the Rio Grande from El Paso, are good advice for all of us.

Betty and Father Hinde live in a bleak neighborhood that I visited early in the 2000s. Nothing seemed to grow there. The yards, front and back, were hard-packed desert soil.

But though Tabor House was just as drab as neighboring dwellings, its yard was full of flowering flowers and shrubs. Every spare drop of water used for cooking and washing was recycled to water the flourishing plants...

Father Hinde says: “Is this not the kingdom of God?”

“...everything, even a person, a salable commodity? And therefore disposable?”

North of the border, such logic is apparent in the campaign to deport so-called “illegal immigrants.”

The work of Tabor House goes on.

Emilia Renteria Garcia, 60, serves for 24 years and a resident of Juarez for 29 years, works in the women’s movement and helps children with their schoolwork two days a week.

“Sister Betty, 76, is “as active as ever with women in the surrounding parishes...and recently with chickens in our back yard.”


Those of us at Tabor intend to hang in here with our friends as long as life permits,” Father Hinde said.

Hispánicos Católicos de todo el país se reunirán en Chicago

Cientos de líderes católicos y docenas de asociaciones nacionales que sirven a los hispanos de los estados Unidos se reunirán en Chicago para celebrar el Congreso Nacional del Ministerio Hispánico “Raíces y Alas 2010”, el cuarto encuentro de este tipo en los Estados Unidos.

La inmigración y el alto porcentaje de abandonos escolares entre los hispanos son dos de los temas de actualidad, que abordará el Congreso Nacional “Raíces y Alas 2010”. El Congreso Nacional del Ministerio Hispánico “Raíces y Alas 2010” será un encuentro abierto de organizaciones, líderes e individuos católicos involucrados en el ministerio hispánico procedentes de todos los Estados y Puerto Rico. Este congreso ofrecerá la oportunidad de reflexionar sobre la realidad actual del servicio a los hispanos por parte de la Iglesia Católica en los Estados Unidos, realizar reflexión teológica y dirigirse al futuro con acciones concretas para responder a las necesidades de la comunidad hispánica.

El Congreso Nacional “Raíces y Alas 2010” ha sido organizado por el Consejo Nacional Católico para el Ministerio Hispánico (NCCMH, por sus siglas en inglés), una asociación independiente que agrupa a organizaciones de carácter nacional que trabajan con hispanos en los Estados Unidos.

Los grupos y asociaciones que participarán incluyen a la Asociación de Docentes de la Iglesia Católica, la American Catholic University, la National Catholic Legal Immigration Network, la Congregación de Hermanas de la Caridad, el Centro de Investigación de la Comunidad, el Centro de Estudios de la Comunidad, entre otros.

Los asistentes al Congreso Nacional “Raíces y Alas 2010” son algunos de los obispos que dirigen la Archidiócesis de Chicago.

El Congreso Nacional del Ministerio Hispánico “Raíces y Alas 2010” se celebrará en el área metropolitana de Chicago, en el hotel Hyatt Regency O’Hare en Rosemont, IL. Los líderes, organizaciones nacionales y locales, y sus miembros, dedicados al ministerio hispánico; oficinas diocesanas y regionales; organizaciones y movimientos laicos hispánicos y sus miembros; parroquias y sus feligreses; grupos que sirven con y a hispanos; y todos aquellos comprometidos con el ministerio hispánico.

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The Catholic Lighthouse Page 14 – July 2010
Spirit Wind Ministry is pleased to present a weekend retreat led by lecturer, column-ist and author Father Ronald Rolheiser October 15-17, 2010, at the Spiritual Renewal Center in the Diocese of Victoria. The theme will be “Enterprising the soul through Stories – Spirituality and Self-understanding through the Biblical, the Analogical, the Metaphor, the Archetypal and the Poietic.”

Nothing breaks open our self-understanding and shows us the inner workings of the soul as clearly as a good story. Some of the stories that help us understand ourselves most deeply come from our own lives, others from Scripture, others from ancient wells of mythology, and still others from great writers and poets, past and present. This retreat will use stories, sacred and profane, old and new, to try to provide tools for us to shine a beam of light into our souls to see more clearly what happens there.

Father Rolheiser is currently serving as president of the Oblate School of Theology in San Antonio. His books, including “The Shattered Lantern,” “The Holy Longing” and “The Restless Heart,” are popular throughout the English-speaking world, and his weekly column is carried by more than 60 newspapers worldwide. For additional information on Father Rolheiser, visit his Web site at wwwロン-rolheiser.com. The retreat cost is $170 per person for double occupancy. There may be a limited amount of single rooms ($190) available depending on the size of the retreat but there is no guarantee. You may request a single and if one should become available the extra $20 can be paid upon arrival.

The retreat meets Friday evening and ends with lunch on Sunday. Space is limited and will be reserved in the order of deposits ($50 non-refundable). Bal- ance due September 1. Retreat fees (less deposit) refundable until Sept. 1, but no refund after that date.

Make checks payable to Spirit Wind Ministry and mail to: Susan Oakley, 103 Woodmore, Victoria, TX 77904. Please include your name, address, tele- phone number and e-mail address with your deposit. For additional information contact Susan Oakley at (361) 576-1551 (361) 649-6391 or e-mail: smoak534@msn.com.

The retreat featuring Father Rolheiser will be held Oct. 15-17.
Elizabeth Disho-Shearer (l), associate national executive director of the South Central Region of the National Council of the United States Society of St. Vincent de Paul, Inc., assists Angela Smoker and her son, Willie Samuels. (below) Society of St. Vincent de Paul members help deliver hurricane relief supplies to 55 families still suffering from Hurricane Ike damage.

Hurricane Ike assistance continues nearly two years later

The East Texas Catholic – Diocese of Beaumont

BEAUMONT, Texas—The Society of St. Vincent de Paul delivered furniture and appliances to 55 families still in need of assistance due to Hurricane Ike damage in Jefferson andHardin counties June 12-13, 2010, as part of a Celebration of Vincentians in Action.

The organization began helping victims immediately after the storm hit Southeast Texas in September 2008 and has continued ever since. SVDP members from throughout Texas gathered at Our Mother of Mercy, Beaumont, each morning to load up and deliver, person to person, service to those still in need.

Angela Smoker’s family was among the 55 families to receive furniture over the weekend. She said she couldn’t believe the organization was helping so much.

Smoker continues to struggle nearly two years after Ike. Her roof continues to leak and up until the furniture was delivered her children were sleeping on borrowed beds.

“Yes!” was heard from Smoker’s daughter Jakala Samuels as her mattress and uppers were moved into their home.

New website highlights Catholic Church’s significant role in immigration

WASHINGTON—The United States Conference of Catholic Bishops’ Migration and Refugee Services (USCCB/MRS) has partnered with The Catholic University of America to develop an educational Web site that highlights the significant role that the U.S. Catholic bishops and the institutional Church in the United States have played on immigration related issues, especially since the early twentieth century.

The Web site, “U.S. Catholic Bishops and Immigration,” can be found at http://libraries.cua.edu/arch/cua/ packets.html.

For more than 80 years the Catholic Church in the United States, through the successive variations of what today is the USCCB, has provided a strong, institutional presence in support of immigrants and in favor of more just immigration laws.

“This story has not been widely shared in the past but it is important to do so now,” said Todd Scribner, education outreach coordinator at MRS. “The bishops have long been committed to helping immigrant communities, both through the provision of services and through tireless advocacy on their behalf.”

This Web site will facilitate access to primary documents that help to highlight these efforts and an expansive narrative that will provide the historical context necessary to understand the importance of these documents. In addition, there will be a number of other educational tools that students, faculty and researchers can use. Diocesan and parish directors of religious education and social concerns may also find this Web site to be a useful resource when highlighting immigration and the role of the U.S. Catholic Church in this issue in recent decades.
Pope becomes first person to register for 2011 World Youth Day

VATICAN CITY (CNS) -- Pope Benedict XVI became the first person to register for the international World Youth Day gathering in Spain next year. The pope kicked off the registration process at a meeting July 2 with Cardinal Antonio Rouco Varela of Madrid and other organizers of the event. In a talk to the group, the pope said the gathering offers young people a great opportunity to know Jesus Christ and learn to trust his guidance in their lives. They will also be able to share their values and aspirations with others from around the world, united by the desire to build a better world inspired by Gospel values, he said.

The World Youth Day international gathering is to be held in the Spanish capital Aug. 16-21, 2011. Pope Benedict will join the young people for a vigil Aug. 20 and Mass Aug. 21. The pope told the Spanish cardinal the congresses and days of prayer are “not just a mass gathering but a privileged occasion for the young of your country and of the entire world to allow themselves to be conquered by the love of Christ Jesus, the Son of God and of Mary, the faithful friend, the victor over sin and death.”

Pope to visit England

VATICAN CITY (CNS) -- The Vatican confirmed Pope Benedict XVI’s visit to the United Kingdom Aug. 16-21, where he will meet Queen Elizabeth II and beatify Cardinal John Henry Newman during his four-day visit Sept. 16-19.

Italy appeals European court ban on crucifixes in classrooms

VATICAN CITY (CNS) -- Italy defended the display of the crucifix in public schools before Europe’s human rights court, arguing that it is a symbol of the country’s cultural heritage and not an imposition of religious belief on students. In a hearing June 30 before the appeals body of the European Court of Human Rights in Strasbourg, France, a representative for the Italian government urged the court to overturn a November 2009 ruling that banned the crucifix as a violation of the right to freedom of religion. The issue has potentially enormous consequences as Europe grapples with increasing secularism and a significant influx of other religions such as Islam through immigration. Nicola Lettieri, a magistrate, argued that the crucifix was a symbol of Italian cultural heritage and history and should not be considered a religious imposition when displayed in classrooms. The case challenging the display was brought before the European court by a Finnish-born Italian citizen who said that her two children’s religious and educational freedom in a school in northern Italy was compromised by the presence of crucifixes. Her attempts to have them removed from the classroom through the Italian judicial system were unsuccessful.

Women’s economic empowerment key to family and society, nuncio says

UNITED NATIONS (CNS) -- Women’s economic empowerment is essential for the economic development of families and society, Archbishop Celestino Migliore told the United Nations Sept. 20-22. Archbishop Migliore delivered the statement to the U.N. Economic and Social Council during a session about implementing international goals for women’s equality and empowerment. He said it was particularly important to discuss women’s empowerment before the World Summit on the Millennium Development Goals -- targets set by the world’s nations for reducing poverty and improving the standard of living of the world’s poorest people. The summit will be at the United Nations Sept. 20-22. Archbishop Migliore noted that ever since world leaders committed their governments to the development goals, “some remarkable progress has been achieved in mainstreaming women’s perspectives in development both in multilateral and national policies.”

Catholic high school graduates likely to attend college, says report

The recently published book “The Death and Life of the Great American School System” by Diane Ravitch, also credits Catholic schools for their successful graduation and college attendance rates. In an article about her book in The New York Times, Ravitch said that Catholic schools serve as a model because they “never gave over to the obsession with standardized tests” and “never conceded their curriculum to progressive trends like whole language, constructivist math and relativistic history.”

As a result,” she added, “black and Hispanic students in Catholic schools did not necessarily score higher than those in public schools on standardized tests like the SAT, but they were far more likely to take rigorous classes, graduate on time and attend college.”

Vatican prepares revisions to 2001 sex abuse norms

By John Thavis

Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY (CNS) -- The Vatican is preparing to update the 2001 norms that deal with priestly sex abuse by minors, in effect codifying practices that have been in place for several years. While the changes are not “earthshaking,” they will ultimately strengthen the church’s efforts to identify and discipline priests who abuse minors, the sources said. The revisions were expected to extend the church law’s statute of limitations on accusations of sexual abuse from 10 years after the alleged victim’s 18th birthday to 20 years. For several years, Vatican officials have been routinely granting exceptions to the 10-year statute of limitations. The revisions also make it clear that use of child pornography would fall under the category of clerical sexual abuse of minors. In 2009, the Vatican determined that any instance of a priest downloading child pornography from the Internet would be a form of serious abuse that a bishop must report to the doctrinal congregation, which oversees cases of sexual abuse.

The revised norms modify the procedures for priestly sex abuse cases that were promulgated by Pope John Paul II in 2001, when he classified sexual abuse of a minor by a priest as one of the “most grave crimes” and giving the doctrinal congregation the power, in some “very grave and clear cases,” to laicize without an ecclesiastical trial priests who have sexually abused their congregations. The sources said the Vatican was not preparing to publish other documents on priestly sex abuse. Although some have argued that some of the strict sex abuse norms adopted by U.S. bishops in 2002 should be universalized, the sources said there was no imminent plan to do that.

Are you ready for Hurricane Season?

June 1 - Nov. 30, 2010

Victoria officials urge you to be prepared. Portions of Victoria County may be required to evacuate during severe hurricane threats.

If you or someone you know needs aid to evacuate prior to a hurricane, Dial 2-1-1 to register for a ride. Pets welcome! For more information log on to: victoriatriact.org/sem/index.asp
SOCIAL ISSUES

Capital Comments
By Maria Huemer
Public Relations and Outreach Coordinator
Texas Catholic conference

A Government of the People, for the People, by the People

During July we celebrate Independence Day and the inception of the United States. Religion and faith influenced our Founding Fathers when the ink dried on the Declaration of Independence, and that influence still continues today. There is a common misconception that the US Constitution requires a separation of church and state. The Constitution actually protects the freedom of religion by providing the state the ability to establish a specific religion or prevent the people from practicing their religion. As Catholics we have a right and a responsibility to act as Faithful Citizens, and we are blessed to live in a country where we can do so publicly. But what does our faith teach about the rights to establish a family, and so on. Furthermore, the political community is a duty to honor the family by ensuring the protection of the freedom to raise children according to one’s moral and religious convictions, the right to private property, free enterprise, work and housing, medical care, assistance, over the aged, family benefits, and the protection of security and health (paraphrased from CCC 221). It is not the sole responsibility of the individual or the Church to act charitably toward the poor and vulnerable in our midst. The Church, individuals, businesses, nonprofits, other organizations, and government must all work to promote the common good in our society.

The president of the Pontifical Council for the Pastoral Care of Migrants and Itinerant People made this point at a regional conference on migration in Washington, D.C., earlier this month. The effects of the Exxon Valdez oil spill in 1989 still linger in the coastal habitat two decades later along the Alaskan shoreline. Our petroleum economy with its drilling, shipping, refining and burning oil is killing the planet locally with poisoned water and air and globally with accelerated climate change. We model God as we perceive God to be, he said. Jesus acted with compassion and mercy in his earthly ministry, for that is how he perceived God. One reason some Christians might not be liked is that they are seen as not being models of Christ.

The Christian response to migration goes beyond the boundaries of minimally permissive laws, not breaking up families. It requires, not seeking amnesty nor open borders but a generosity of time and resources,” said Archbishop Veglio. “We model God as we perceive God to be. Jesus acted with compassion and mercy in his earthly ministry, for that is how he perceived God. One reason some Christians might not be liked is that they are seen as not being models of Christ. That homily came to mind when reflecting on the current immigration issue. As Christians we should be offering hospitality, not just acceptance. We are called to high things, to excel.

The president of the Pontifical Council for the Pastoral Care of Migrants and Itinerant People made this point at a regional conference on migration in Washington, D.C., earlier this month. "On My Holy Mountain," asks: “Why is it safer to travel in space than to work in a mine? Or is it safer to travel in space than to work in an oil rig?”Michael Bransfield of the Wheeling-Charleston Diocese in his pastoral letter, “On My Holy Mountain,” asks: “Why is it safer to travel in space than to work in a West Virginia mine?”

Extractive industries, now virtually controlled by giant corporations, operate for the enrichment of their stockholders. With a “least cost” incentive, frequently their methods reduce the rural area to a sacrificial resource colony. In the Gulf those whose livelihoods revolve around fishing or tourism just got sacrificed. In Appalachian communities people whose lives and well-being depend on their well water and forests just lost to mountaintop removal.

Care of creation comes directly from the Book of Genesis when God put humanity in the garden “to care and cultivate” it (Gen. 2:15). God’s garden, i.e., creation, needs attention so that it possesses inherent worth. God found it “very good” (Gen. 1:31), and not just “useful”.

The NCRLC statement recommends that we reflect about our own lifestyles, our consumption and our own economies that make undue demands on nature.” The U.S. with 4.5 percent of the world’s population, consumes 25 percent of the world’s electricity generated each year and consumes 42 percent of gasoline refined. How many vacate homes being lost all night, and how many computers are on “sleep mode” all weekend? “In these days of anxiety, we encourage one another to reflect on your own lifestyles and sharing,” says the NCRLC statement. The Gulf folks need one another’s support, but we must reflect about the stranger but to welcome. Crossing a border illegally or remaining in this country illegally does not eliminate a person’s human dignity. Advocating for change in laws to protect human dignity is the minimal requirement, not seeking amnesty or open borders but reasonable immigration policies that serve the common good.

The best method of massive immigration is to reduce the reason for emigration by reducing the economic disparity between Mexico and the United States. But that solution will not happen soon. Spending a billion dollars for a militarized, walled border is not the long-term solution. Walls—whether in Berlin, the Great Wall of China, the Maginot Line and others—have proven their ineffectiveness in keeping enemy army units from crossing.

There can be differences of opinion about methods. But honoring the dignity of the human person and protecting basic human rights is not a matter of opinion. (966): True

Cradle of Life
By Father John S. Rauch

Gulf Oil Spill

The pictures of oil encrusted seagulls and cranes from the Gulf of Mexico glimpse only the surface of the death and destruction beneath the sea from the Deepwater Horizon/BP oil spill. Marine biologists fear for shrimp, oysters, crabs and untold varieties of fish endangered by the oil spill. The wetlands of Louisiana, a critical spawning ground for many species, presents an environmental disaster.

Our addiction to oil keeps 7,000 oil workers to risk their lives to supply our lifestyle of security and health (paraphrased from CCC 232). Moving from tolerating to welcoming the stranger but to welcome. Crossing a border illegally or remaining in this country illegally does not eliminate a person’s human dignity. Advocating for change in laws to protect human dignity is the minimal requirement, not seeking amnesty or open borders but reasonable immigration policies that serve the common good.

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St. Joseph Parish Picnic
Yoakum Community Center
Sunday, August 1

Picnic Stew, Sausage & Trimmings
- Americas
- Pork/Beef Rolls
- Arts & Crafts Quilt
• Livestock
• Many more items

Horseshoe Tournament • Country Store • Cakewalk • Games • Pantry Wheel and More!
Mexican Food available in the afternoon.

Auction 12:30 p.m. • Poppyseed Rolls • Soft Drinks & Refreshments Available
Register for Raffle Prizes — Total Value $12,439.95 to be Drawn
Top Prize: 100 silver dollars with a value of $1,000

Call the rectory for tickets at (941) 293-3518

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The Catholic Lighthouse
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**Upcoming Events**

**Boling**—St. Joseph Museum will hold its 42nd Annual Bazaar July 14, at the Boling Civic Center. The park will be open 9 a.m.-2 p.m. with dine-in or drive-through plates available at $5. Picnic baskets, hamburgers, and hot dogs are available to eat on-site or go home. The auction begins at 11 a.m. at $1 and $2 for children.

**Fredericksburg**—St. Peter and Paul Annual Festival Aug. 1 beginning with Mass at 8:15 a.m. (located at 1031 Church Lane, FM 19 Road). A fried fish dinner will be served starting at 11:00 a.m. at $8 for a large plate and plates-to-go at $5 for a small plate (hamburgers, nachos and snacks available after 3:00 p.m.). The auction begins at 11:00 a.m. at $1 and $2 for children. Also there will be a country store, children’s games, cakewalk and more. Music during the day and the evening. See p. 8 for more information.

**Yukon**—St. Joseph Parish Picnic Aug. 1 at the community center starting at 10:00 a.m.-2 p.m. Serving picnics, hamburgers, and sausage dinner with dine-in or plates-to-go available at $5 per person. The auction begins at 12:30 p.m. with many items. There will also be a horse shoe toss for fun.

**Palacios**—St. Anthony Shriners Aug. 1. At the Veteran’s Memorial Park. A fried chicken and stew dinner begins at 11:00 a.m. at $4 for adults and plates-to-go and $4 for children aged 12 and under. There will be entertainment for all; train ride, country store, cakewalk, ring toss and more. Auction starts at 11:00 a.m. with a silent auction and food throughout the day. Music by CatholicCholas 11:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.; The Red Ravens 3:00-7:00 p.m.; and Southbound 7:00-11:00 p.m. For more information contact the Rev. Steve A. Moore at (361) 573-2669.

**Hidalgo**—St. Andrew Summer Festival Aug. 15 at the parish hall. A prime-beef barbecue, homemade sausage dinner will be served starting at 11:00 a.m. at $5 per person or plates-to-go available at $7 per person. Baked goods, beverages, raffle, and games will be offered. There will be an indoor auction beginning at 12:30 p.m. Also, a country store, bake sale, cakewalk, music, games and more.

**Praha**—St. Mary Parish Picnic Aug. 1 at the parish grounds. The day will start with Mass at 10:00 a.m. celebrated by Bishop Fellhauer as celebrant. Following dinner Praha stew and fried chicken at $5 with dine-in or plate-to-go available at 11:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m. There will be a country store, cakewalk, cakewalk, children’s games, homemade ice cream and much more. The auction begins at 1:00 p.m. Music throughout the day with Fritz deekr & the Funkbox Sin (11:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.) and 3:00-5:00 p.m.; Donnie Waave Band (1:00-3:00 p.m. and 7:00-9:00 p.m.). Incredible Music Makers (7:00-10:00 p.m.). Hamburgers will be served after 4:00 p.m. For more information contact Charlie Barton, chairman, at (361) 865-2167 or www.hidalgo-sa.org.

**Cistern**—St. Cyril & Methodius Parish Annual Homecoming Picnic, Aug. 22 with dine-in or drive-through plates available. Serving V & V Sausage and fried-chicken with all the fixings, cakewalk, music, auction, bingo and games throughout the day. Something for everyone.

**Victoria**—Our Lady of Victory Boy Scout Troop 364 Annual Barbecue Chicken Dinner Aug. 22 at OLV Caterers from 10:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. with dine-in or plates-to-go available. Plates will be half-chicken and the trimmings for $3 per plate. There will also be a bake sale.

**Gulf**—St. Mary High School Parish Quinceanera Picnic—150th Anniversary 1860-2010 held to be held on Sept. 5, 2010 with Mass at 12 noon, with Bishop David F. O'Connell as celebrant, at Our Lady of the Gulf Church with Father Alberto Lilo-Luemba, CICM, from Diocese of Brownsville. The theme will be “Ven, Espiritu Santo, llena los corazones de tus fieles.” Music will be by the St. Mary Gulf Choir.

**Halletsville**—“Living in God’s Embrace,” a day of spiritual renewal, will be held on Sunday, Aug. 7, 2010, at Sacred Heart Church, 3700 E. Frelsburg Street. The theme of the day is “Rediscovering the Word of God.” The Catholic Diocese of Victoria will sponsor a day of retreat for couples, youth and singles. The day will conclude with a dinner and Mass at Sacred Heart Church with Father Alberto Lilo-Luemba, CICM, from Diocese of Brownsville. The theme will be “Ven, Espiritu Santo, llena los corazones de tus fieles.” Music will be by the Sacred Heart Choir.

**San Benito**—Our Lady of Guadalupe Church invites you to a healing Mass on Saturday, Aug. 21, 2010 at 7:00 p.m. Mass is followed by praise and worship/adoration, healing prayers, praying over, etc. Counseling available. For more information, please contact Rev. Gabriel P. Corrolo at (361) 286-3349.

**Harlingen**—Upcoming Events for the Diocese of Victoria for the past 11 years. Missions are $5 p/p - under 15 free. More information at www.desf.org.

**Memorial**—On the 50th anniversary of the apparitions, a novena will be held from July 23-28, 2010. The novena will begin at 7:00 p.m. Saturday, July 24. Also, a pilgrimage to the Shrine of Guadalupe in Mexico will be held on Thursday, July 29, 2010. Details at www.coj.org.

**Plano**—The Catholic Diocese of Dallas will celebrate its 50th anniversary in 2010. A celebration will be held on Sunday, Aug. 29, 2010. Details at www.catholicdallas.org.

**Rotunda**—Enjoy special Masses, workshops, and more during the first week of October. Details at www.ourladyofrotunda.org.
Triplet brothers top three graduates from St. Paul High

By Cynthia Brewer

Triplet brothers, Justin, Brandon and Michael Pesek, of St. Paul High, Sts. Cyril & Methodius Parish school in Shiner, Texas, graduated at the top of their class with 4.0, 3.97, and 3.97 GPAs respectively on May 22. They are the first set of triplets to do so at St. Paul. According to a news search on the Web, they may be the first male triplets to accomplish this feat.

The triplets were born to Anthony Pesek, of Shiner, and Donna Sussman-Pesek, originally from Maryland, on January 16, 1992, in Charleston, South Carolina.

The sons of an officer in the United States Coast Guard, the boys had lived in various places throughout their lives, including New Orleans, LA.; Miami, FL.; Pennsylvania; California; League City, Texas; and then settling in Shiner for their high school years.

Justin Price Pesek was the Valedictorian of the 2010 graduating class at St. Paul High School. He graduated high school with fifteen college hours and maintained a 4.0 GPA throughout high school. Beginning the fall of 2010, he will attend Texas A&M University, majoring in biomedical sciences. From there he hopes to enter medical school to achieve his ultimate goal of becoming an anesthesiologist.

Brandon Scott Pesek earned the title of Salutatorian of St. Paul High School. Brandon is a light-hearted individual who enjoys spending time at school and with friends. Upon graduating from high school, he plans to study education and human development at Texas A&M University, where he expects to graduate as a science and mathematics teacher.

Michael Pesek was named the Historian of St. Paul’s Class of 2010. Besides his exceptional academic activities, an opportunity to travel to an abortion clinic in Houston during the “40 Days for Life,” he was motivated to seek an end to abortion. His young life experience of living in seven cities in six states has helped develop his acceptance of all ethnicities without stereotyping them, to not judge people before he meets them, and to respect those in authority. Michael plans to attend Texas A&M University in College Station where he will pursue a career in chemical engineering.

The boys have been very active in their parish, community, and school, becoming third degree Knights of Columbus members, volunteering throughout their neighborhood, and having won numerous academic, sports and school organization awards.

By Catholic News Service

Catholic high school graduates likely to attend college, says report

WASHINGTON (CNS) — In brochures and online materials, Catholic high schools often boast of the high percentage of their students who graduate and attend college — often in the 90-100 percent range. According to a new study, this is not just happening at some Catholic high schools but is part of a nationwide trend.

The report by the National Catholic Educational Association shows that students who attend Catholic high schools are more likely to graduate and attend college than students attending other schools.

Catholic secondary schools report a graduation rate of 96.1 percent, higher than rates reported by other religious schools (97.9 percent), nonsectarian schools (99.7 percent) and public schools (73.2 percent).

Students graduating from Catholic high schools are also more likely to attend four-year colleges (84.7 percent) than students graduating from other religious (63.7 percent) and nonsectarian (56.2 percent) schools. Catholic school graduates are twice as likely to attend four-year colleges as graduates of public schools (44.1 percent).

The figures are from the Annual Statistical Report on Schools, Enrollment and Staffing, United States Catholic Elementary and Secondary Schools, 2009-2010, recently released by the NCEA. Data for this analysis came from several publications of the U.S. Department of Education’s National Center for Education Statistics, as well as information collected by the NCEA.

“This report illustrates the ongoing excellence of Catholic schools,” said Marie A. Powell, executive director of the Secretariat of Catholic Education of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops.

“Catholic high schools have a remarkable record of graduating their students and preparing them well for post-secondary education,” she said. “Their effectiveness in educating students, even from disadvantaged backgrounds, has been cited consistently in research published over the last 25 years. The Catholic community can be very proud of their support for such schools.”

See Catholic high school graduates, p. 17

Catholic high school graduates likely to attend college, says report.

Congratulations to all our Graduates!