Through DSA, diocese calls on “laborers to bring in the harvest”

By Cynthia Brewer

The Diocese of Victoria kicks off its 2009 Diocesan Services Appeal (DSA) with the theme “The Harvest is Abundant, but the Laborers are Few.” The annual fund-raising campaign provides approximately fifty percent of the funds needed for the operation of the diocese.

With the state of the economy, the diocese is not increasing the DSA goal for 2009. The goal for 2009 will be $1,282,100, the same as last year. The money is used to fund the operations of the diocese.

The Catholic Lighthouse

VOL. 22, NO. 11
OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE DIOCESE OF VICTORIA IN TEXAS
March 2009
March
12 8:10 a.m., School Mass and blessing of renovations, St. Joseph Church, Schulenburg
13 8:00 a.m., School Mass, St. Michael Church, and annual golf tournament benefiting St. Michael’s School, Cuero
17 6:30 p.m., Catholic Daughters of the Americas Court 369 and Knights of Columbus, honoring Rev. Fr. John 1329, Clergy and Religious appreciation dinner, Knights of Columbus Hall, Victoria
18 3:00 p.m., Diocesan Finance Board meeting, Chancery Office
21 5:30 p.m., Girl Scouts religious recognition awards, Our Lady of Victory Cathedral
22 9:00 a.m., Mass and blessing of statues, Holy Rosary Church, Houstyn
28 5:30 p.m., Reception, candle light tour, Presidio La Bahia, Goliad
29 9:15 a.m., Confirmation Mass, St. Mary’s Church, St. Mary (Hallettsville)
6:00 p.m., Confirmation Mass, Holy Cross Church, Bay City
April
5 9:00 a.m., Mass, Palm Sunday of the Lord’s Passion, Our Lady of Victory Cathedral
10 12:00 a.m., Chrism Mass, Our Lady of Victory Cathedral
8 7:00 p.m., Confirmation Mass, St. Peter’s Church, Victoria
9 6:30 p.m., Mass of the Lord’s Supper, Our Lady of Victory Cathedral
12 12:15 p.m., Way of the Cross, Holy Trinity Chapel, Silver City (Victoria)
11 8:00 p.m., Easter Vigil, Our Lady of Victory Cathedral

Effective February 18, 2009, the Rev. George Kannath, MCBS, is appointed as Parochial Vicar at Holy Family Church; Wharton; St. Joseph Church, Boling; and Our Lady of Mount Carmel Church, Wharton.

The Catholic Lighthouse

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Subscription Price Per Year Is $7/$10 outside the diocese
Periodical postage paid at Victoria, Texas, USPS-001015 (ISSN 0894-7740)
POSTMASTER: Send address changes to
The Catholic Lighthouse • P.O. Box 4070 • Victoria, Texas 77903
Serving Masses
Serving Masses are a permanent fund used for the education of future priests for the Diocese of Victoria. The goal of each Mass is $15,000.00. The interest from this amount is applied yearly to the education of seminarians. The masses are in memory of or in honor of an individual priest or lay persons, living or deceased. Publication of the masses will appear periodically when new contributions are received.

As of February 25, 2009

— General Seminary Burse
Previously reported $94,424.00
In memory of John Acoyta by Milvia of the Immaculata, St. Anthony Village 100.00
Total $94,524.00

— Catholic Daughters Court of St. Ann #569 Seminary Burse #2
Previously reported $6,283.99
In memory of Douglas Bludau by Randy, Gina & Taylor Janak 5.00
In memory of Mary Joseph by Randy, Gina & Taylor Janak 7.00
Total $6,295.99

— Sr. M. Perpetua Hawes, IWHS
Seminary Burse
Previously reported $1,670.00
In memory of Herbert Schoemer Sr. by KC Council 1329 100.00
In memory of Joseph Lee Wier by KC Council 1329 100.00
In memory of Edwin A. Taylor by KC Council 1329 100.00
In memory of R. Koehl by KC Council 1329 100.00
Total $2,940.00

— Knights of Columbus Victoria Council #1329 Seminary Burse #3
Previously reported $7,530.00
In memory of Herbert Schoemer Sr. by KC Council 1329 100.00
In memory of Joseph Lee Wier by KC Council 1329 100.00
In memory of Edwin A. Taylor by KC Council 1329 100.00
In memory of R. Koehl by KC Council 1329 100.00
Total $8,507.50

— Knights of Columbus Holy Family
Victoria Council #988 Seminary Burse
Previously reported $550.00
Donation from KC Holy Family Council #988 200.00
Total $750.00

— Rev. Charles Kram Seminary Burse
Previously reported $2,185.00
In memory of Mary Chilk by Jim & Margaret Loos 300.00
In memory of Agnes Chilk by Jim & Margaret Loos 100.00
In memory of Johana Morisk by Jim & Margaret Loos 100.00
Total $2,685.00

— Rev. John C. Peters Seminary Burse #4
Previously reported $3,849.00
In memory of Fr. Edward Kelsy by Fr. John Peters 25.00
In memory of Mary Joseph by Mary Quinn 20.00
In memory of Leona Haase by Jimmy & Sualla Stettler 20.00
In honor of Mr. Gene Katayan’s 50th wedding anniversary by Richard & Ruth Rosse 50.00
Total $4,064.00

— Rev. Jerome J. Stryk Seminary (reprint from last month correction)
Previously reported $11,405.00
In memory of Florence Bryant by MMM Edwin Stryk 10.00
Total $11,414.00

— Rev. Theophol Okhrshuk & Rev. Vincent Vodorame Seminary Burse
Previously reported $8,782.89
In memory of Willie Hubenak by MMM Edwin Hersen 25.00
In memory of Theresa Hartl by MMM Edwin Hersen 25.00
In memory of Jesus G. Hernandez by Ben & Lydia Pena 25.00
Total $8,857.89

— Rev. Joseph A. Koebel Seminary Burse
Previously reported $6,298.00
Donation to borse by Ervin & Catherine Bauth 10.00
Total $6,308.00

— St. Mary’s Church – Praha Seminary Burse
Previously reported $6,370.00
Annual contribution by St. Mary’s Church 1,000.00
Total $7,370.00

Those wishing to begin a borse or to contribute to an existing seminary borse may do so by sending their contributions with the appropriate borse designation to:

SHENGINE BURSE
DIOCES OF VICTORIA
P. O. BOX 4070
VICTORIA, TX 77903

Dear Bishop Fellhauer,
I thank you and the people of the Diocece of Victoria for your generous gift of $9,463.00 to build the pastoral capacity of the Catholic Church in Central and Eastern Europe. The challenges facing the Church in the twenty-eight countries of Central and Eastern Europe as well as the former Soviet Union seem almost as enormous as the vast territory of the region. This past year saw military strife in Georgia, new uncertainties in war-ravaged Kosovo and deep economic hardships virtually everywhere. Signs of growth and a deep, vigorous faith mark the region as well. The national collection permits Catholics here at home to demonstrate in a wonderfully concrete way their solidarity with the Church in need. Thank you so much for your support of their generosity.

Sincerely in Christ,
Cardinal Justin Rigali
Archbishop of Philadelphia
Chairman, USCSCB Committee to Aid the Church in Central and Eastern Europe

Dear Bishop Fellhauer:
Thank you for your diocesan check for $56,506.24 which has been deposited in the Retirement Fund for Religious account. This brings your total diocesan contributions for all of the years of the collection to $451,112.49. The money has been recorded as part of Appeal XXI for 2009. Your support and the support of your Retirement Fund for Religious coordinator, pastors, parish priests and deacons are essential to the fund’s continued success. We are most grateful for all you do! You can surely rely on the prayers of the over 37,000 religious now over the age 70 and the ever increasing numbers of religious who will be retiring very soon. May God bless you as only he can!

Gratefully,
Sister Janice Bader, CPS
Executive Director
National Religious Retirement Office
P.S. Thank you so much for your support. Despite the economy, this year’s gift is nearly $4,000 higher than last year’s gift. We are deeply grateful.

Record Numbers Attend Nazareth Pre-School Open House
Nazareth Pre-School held its Open House, February 19, 2009. It was a huge success, with more that eleven families, some with multiple children, in attendance. Registration for the 3K and 4K program is scheduled for March 3 - 4. A Chicken-Barbecue Dinner Dinner-in or Drive-thru at the K of C Hall located at Hwy. 71 and Armory Road. Pre-School Open House

El Campo K of C Spring Picnic
Knights of Columbus Council 2490
Sunday, March 22
at the K of C Hall located at Hwy. 71 and Armory Road
A Chicken-Barbecue Dinner
Dine-in or Drive-thru
Serving begins at 11:00 a.m.
Food and Entertainment for the family

Music provided by
Red Ravens
1:00 to 5:00 p.m.

The Catholic Lighthouse Page 3 — March 2009

Divine Mercy Prayer Book:
An Ocean of Mercy in a World of Stormy Seas
BLOOMINGDALE, OH—In response to the Apostolate for Family Consecration presents their new book, “Drawing Down Divine Mercy.” Designed as both a consecration prayer book and an in-depth meditation book, families can be guided in the richness of God’s Mercy during these difficult times through 40 days of meditations on Pope John Paul II’s encyclical, “Rich in Mercy.” Pope John Paul II spoke often of the strength of Divine Mercy. He established the Feast of the Mercys on the Sunday after Easter, now known as Divine Mercy Sunday, in the liturgical calendar, to show the true place placed in this devotion. In 2001, John Paul II said in his Divine Mercy Sunday homily, “a simple act of abandonment is enough to overcome the barriers of distance and sorrow, of doubt and desperation. The rays of Your Divine Mercy restore hope, in a special way, to those who feel overwhelmed by the burden of sin.” Following the 40-day meditations, readers will benefit from excerpts from St. Faustina’s writings, and spiritual classics of Franscisco de Montfort’s “Friends of the Cross.” All five dimensions of the Divine Mercy devotion are explained: the image, the Chaplet, the Novena, the Feast and the spreading of the message. The prayer book also includes more than 250 pictures. For even deeper spiritual growth, accompanying video and audio commentaries by Fr. George Kosicki, CSB, are also available through the Family Apostolate. DIOCESE OF VICTORIA


Thank You Notes

The Value of Being a Serran
Dear Bishop Fellhauer,
1. Serra is the vocations’ arm of the Catholic Church
2. A vocation ministry is one of the most important
3. Comradeship with like-minded Catholics
4. Work for community improvement
5. Helping ensure the future of the church
6. Interests meeting and speakers
7. Following Christ’s word to go forth and spread the word
8. Introducing religious vocation to our young,
9. Supporting and affirming our priests and religious order members
10. Increasing our knowledge of the universal church
11. Travel opportunities to conventions in the U.S. and foreign countries
12. Working with priests and seminarians; being inspired by them
13. Joy in seeing results
14. Adding to the long history and traditions of Serra
15. Being an active member of your church; inspiring others
16. Working on the canonization of Father Serra

Reprinted from Serra Club of Victoria February newsletter
it is critical to treat the disease early to stop deterioration. Researchers discovered that people suffering from this 'relapsing-remitting' form of the disease, which makes their symptoms alternately flare up and recede. They were treated with their own bone marrow, skin, fat, etc., and have developed 73 useful therapies. ASCR is a very exciting field, but because it does not fit the secular template of killing the unborn, scarcely anyone knows it exists. Here are some recent developments:

A new study suggests that adult bone marrow (adult) stem cells can be used in the construction of artificial skin. The findings suggest that this advancement in wound healing may also be used for organ reconstruction. And speaking of organ reconstruction, you will surely be interested in viewing the following link on the Internet which describes use of adult stem cells for reconstructing fingers, heart valves, bladders, esophagi, etc.: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qxhi4Q8EDTU.

This research is in its infancy and it will be some time before we have the full potential and the limits of regenerative medicine will be known.

Scientists at City of Hope Medical Centre in Duarte, Calif., have claimed a breakthrough in the fight against AIDS using stem cells. The technique involves isolating genes which curb the spread of HIV inside the body and then introducing these cells into adult stem cells in a laboratory and, finally, transplanting the stem cells into a patient’s bone marrow. This seems to protect the immune system from the virus that causes the disease. Around 40 million people worldwide are infected with HIV and an estimated 3 million die of AIDS each year. Preventing this is, it will take up to ten years before an effective clinical treatment could be given widespread use. The hope is that in one transplant, the AIDS patient would be protected for life. This might not occur if the virus, once it has been prevented from infecting white blood cells, is able to persist elsewhere in the body.

A boy from Florida was diagnosed with myelomonocytic leukemia (MMI), a rare form of juvenile leukemia, when he was 18 months old. He was given a transplant with cord blood, which is rich in adult stem cells. Seventeen months later the boy has no signs of any leukemia. Children with this condition typically die before reaching the age of three.

The common element in all these new treatments is that they were produced by adult stem cells. Some scientists, who have been unable to produce any therapy in humans or animals from two decades of embryonic stem cell research (ESCR) and have not yet found a way to keep them from producing tumors and other anomalies, insist that ESCR is still essential. They want it supported by tax funds whether from the federal or state governments.

Oddly enough in England where ESCR and hybrid or animal-human embryos are legal, this form of research has trouble finding sponsors. Funding agencies are refusing to finance the research and are instead favoring a new technique called cell reprogramming to make stem cells. Since the legalization of hybrid embryos, scientists have developed a cheap and powerful new technique in which adult skin cells are reprogrammed to create cells that are almost identical to stem cells. They have used the new technique to make stem cells for patients with diabetes, muscular dystrophy and Down’s syndrome. Because of this development, embryonic stem cells need not be considered. The field has moved beyond embryos and the iPS cells are a more important area than hybrid cells now. The British Medical Research Council, which approves grants for research fought for legalization of hybrid research. In spite of that the Council has decided that on the merits iPS cells should get priority over applications featuring hybrid stem cells because they score higher and show more promise. Although the Council had no objections to the use of hybrid embryonic cells on moral grounds, as pro-lifers do, on practical grounds it is found that there was now no need for such research.

Although President Obama’s election was hailed as a victory against discrimination, Father Tadeusz Pacholczyk, education director of the National Catholic Bioethics Center, observes that if Obama funds research on embryonic cells he will be subjugating them to discrimination. The main objection to ESCR is that human beings at the embryonic stage of their lives are destroyed. This is a principled objection to the direct and immediate killing of noble human beings, which can never be morally justified.

The smart plan for our country’s future would be to encourage the myriad of available alternatives, rather than funding the most unethical type of research that relies on the use of diseased tissue from the entire class of human being – embryonic humans – being targeted for destruction at the hands of researchers. To object that embryos in excess of the needs for in-vitro fertilization (which is also immoral, but that is a topic for another day) are going to die in any case and we might as well use them to learn from them something that could be of benefit to others, shows a lack of civilization and humanity. It was the same argument offered by the Nazi doctor Josef Mengele who utilized Jews and others in Nazi concentration camps destined for death. He would offer treatment to one identical twin and withhold it from another to see the value of certain therapies. His excuse: both are going to be killed in any case. He exposed concentration camp prisoners made to freezing temperatures to see how long Nazi pilots might last if their aircraft were shot down over the North Sea. Again he tried to justify this barbarity with the fact that they were marked for death and would die without yielding useful information.

There are certain experiments involving human subjects that must never be done by a society that considers itself civilized. Curiously, the victorious Allies in World War II understood the need for subjecting Mengele and his ilk to trial for crimes against humanity at Nuremberg. Why do scientists of our day who abuse another class of human beings not recognize that they are equally guilty and lacking in civilization?
Meeting at Mass: ‘our need for one another’

I can count on Elise to be in the fifth pew, toward the aisle. Her white hair and purple pea coat are just as much a fixture at St. Pat’s as the altar and cross, and though she is frail, her smile is bright.

In the front pew to the far right, the handsome couple is watching their daughter serve at the altar. Her red curls as a toddler have softened into a wavy strawberry blond. In a white robe, she is the one serving at the altar.

The middle-aged mom lectors despite her raspy, damaged voice. She could have chosen another role, but she wants to pray the word of God.

There is the blond widower who sings in the choir, who, some Sundays, even claps.

The kid, a few pews behind me, shouts out every song, blissfully unaware of his volume, boyishly confident.

We also have an A.T. meteologist, who gets it right and sometimes wrong, bows his head in deference to the incalculable Creator.

And in the last pew, the older parents bring gifts for their son, killed in a snowmobiling accident. The dad can’t bear to make eye contact when I tell him, “Peace be with you.” I repeat the prayer in my head as he tearfully hugs his wife.

Inside our church walls, it is all there—the circle of life, overlapping and intersecting, the grief and pain, the funeral and baptism, tragedy and triumph. They keep coming. In spite of it all.

VILLANOVA, Pa.—Are you or a loved one experiencing same-sex attractions and looking for answers? “Courage,” an apostolate of the Roman Catholic Church, ministers to those with same-sex attractions and their loved ones. It has been endorsed by the Pontifical Council for the Family, and our beloved John Paul II said of this ministry, “COURAGE is doing the work of God!” We also have an outreach called Encourage, which ministers to relatives and friends of persons with same-sex attractions.

Persons with same-sex desires have been with us; however, until recent times, there has been little, if any, formal outreach from the Church in the way of support groups or information for such persons. Most were left to work out their own path on their own. As a result, they found themselves listening to and accepting the secular society’s perspective and opting to act on their same-sex desires.

His Eminence, the late Terence Cardinal Cooke of New York, was aware of, and troubled by, this situation. He knew that the individual dealing with same-sex attractions truly needed to experience the freedom of interior chastity and in that freedom find the steps necessary to living a fully Christian life in communion with God and others.

Church reaches out to those with same-sex attractions

This Lent we encourage all Catholic youth adults to develop a stronger spiritual life rooted in a personal relationship with Jesus Christ.

The remaining Disciples on the Journey schedule is:
- Thursday, March 12 – Father Dan Morales
- Thursday, March 19 – Father David Benitez
- Thursday, March 26 – Father Stan De Boe
- Thursday, April 2 – Passover meal, Deacon Steve Borowick

Each meeting will begin at 6:45 p.m. in the Holy Family Parish Hall, Victoria, with a casual potluck supper. Please bring a side dish to share! Discussion will begin around 7:15 p.m. and the evening will close at 8:30 p.m. Materials will be provided.

Additionally, information available in the Holy Family church chapel before or after the D.O.J. sessions. For additional information, please contact Jim Wearden at (361) 649-9157 or Judy Seiler at (361) 573-5454 or e-mail Elizabeth Corte at eacorte@hotmail.com.

Catholic Young Adults

The Catholic Young Adult group invites all diocesan young adults to join them for a special Disciples on the Journey. As part of our Lenten journey towards Christ, a priest will join the group each week to facilitate a discussion on the readings for the upcoming Sunday. The final Disciples meeting before Easter will include a Passover meal, which will deepen our understanding of the Last Supper.

The Catholic Young Adult group serves the Victoria Diocesan young adults, ages 20th to 40th, single and married. The group provides a peer community of friends who support each member’s growth in faith and share in the journey of life.

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By Cynthia Brewer

Cathecetical Office of the Diocese of Victoria has chosen to honor two Parish Catechetical Leaders (PCLs) in the month of March. They have chosen Sister Susana Isabel Gonzalez to recognize the efforts of Our Lady of Sorrows, and Mrs. Carol Lehnter of Holy Family Parish, both of Victoria. Sister has been a PCL for a total of 33 years in the dioceses of Metuchen and Trenton in New Jersey, and in the dioceses of Lubbock and Victoria in Texas, where I am currently a director of the Religious Education at Our Lady of Sorrows Parish.

“God called me to a special vocation as a Missionary Catechist to dedicate myself to the Gospel and the Catholic Church. By the time the students are finished with the eighth grade, they should have a basic knowledge of the Catholic Faith,” she said.

The high school program consists of apologetics and an in-depth study of the commandments and sacraments. She said Holy Family added “Theology of the Body” to the eleventh-grade curriculum this year. Other activities, which the catechetical program offers are the Catechism Contest, sponsored by the Knights of Columbus 9008, and the May Crowning.

What Carol finds most challenging in her catechetical ministry is making certain that what’s taught is applied to daily living, for example, fulfilling their Sunday Mass obligation and finding time for necessary religious training, the Catechism teachers in their program are some of the busiest people in the parish and in the community.

“The happy moments keep one coming back,” Carol said. Citing a couple of the uppermost is hearing compliments from the students regarding their teachers and how much they got out of class.

“One comment that I will always remember is from a senior who came from out of state to our program. She told me that she had really enjoyed that year because she wasn’t used to learning anything in C.C.D,” Carol said. “Another is seeing students who went through our program and are now active in parish life particularly in our C.C.D. program.”

Carol told us that she had been a PCL for 33 years in the Diocese of Victoria.

Mrs. Carol Lehnter, a member of Holy Family Parish, has been a PCL for 23 years and a catechist for 38. The Holy Family catechetical program serves 437 students through the aid of 72 teachers and aides. Of becoming a catechist, Carol said the Sacrament of confirmation afforded her the opportunity to become a soldier in Christ’s army. “I’m ever so thankful that as a young person my religious instruction was from the Baltimore Catechism. I considered the teachings in the Baltimore Catechism as ammunition in the Catholic Faith. All becoming a catechist was my way of passing the ammunition and sharing my faith.” At Holy Family Parish, they use the “Faith and Life Series” curriculum by Ignatius Press.

“Faith and Life Series” curriculum by Ignatius Press.
Nursing industry still short of workers even when economy is unstable

By UHV Staff

At a time when many industries are going through hiring freezes and layoffs, the nursing industry is in dire need of all the graduates the University of Houston-Victoria can produce.

“We just can’t keep up with the demand for graduates with the Baby Boomers aging and more nurses retiring,” said Kathryn Tart, founding dean of the UHV School of Nursing. “In addition, there’s a shortage of qualified nursing faculty who can teach as many students as these professionals can make work as a career because of the countervailing forces of supply and demand.”

Texas is short about 22,000 nurses right now, according to the Texas Center for Nursing Workforce Studies. That number could grow to 70,000 by 2020 unless there are major increases in funding for nursing education.

UHV has done its part to help with the shortage. The university surveyed area healthcare agencies and nurses to determine the need for a nursing program and then started one in the fall of 2006. At that time, UHV only offered a Registered Nurse to Bachelor of Science in Nursing program at both the Victoria campus and the University of Houston System at Sugar Land.

The program was so successful that the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board approved a proposal in December 2007 to create a UHV School of Nursing, which launched last spring.

The School of Nursing expanded to add a Master of Science in nursing program a year ago, along with an RN to MSN bridge program. Both programs allow students to select nurse education or nurse administration concentrations on the Victoria campus. The UHV School of Nursing believes that the nurse education concentration specifically meets the state’s need of educating more nurses to train future nurses at community colleges and universities, and to teach hospital patients and staff.

“The school is in a position to turn out qualified applicants because of the shortage of nursing faculty willing to teach at today’s salaries. We are fortunate at UHV that we have dedicated faculty and competent salaried employees,” said Tart.

The School of Nursing’s newest program is the Second Degree BSN, which started in the fall on the Sugar Land campus. It allows someone with a bachelor’s degree to go back to school and complete another degree in as little as a year. Eighteen students were registered for the program this spring. The next group of Second Degree BSN students, including those who have graduated from major universities such as the University of Houston, will be admitted in January.

Lynee Vokamp, chief nursing officer at Citizens Medical Center, which employs about 450 BNS and LVNs, said she thinks it is wonderful that UHV now has a School of Nursing. Eighty-three students have graduated from the school so far and provided valuable care in the community.

“Students have told us that it is rewarding to be able to educate nurses all the way through to the master’s level right here in Victoria,” she said.

“We have to do everything we can to help solve the nursing shortage,” Tart said. “The future of our health care depends on it.

For more information about degrees offered by the School of Nursing, go to www.uhv.edu/nursing or contact student nurse coordinator Tammy Neeley-Whiteley at (361) 370-4257 or whiteleyt@uhv.edu.

The idea of living a purpose-filled life has garnered much attention in recent years, but what does this actually mean? Some of society’s most compassionate, selfless workers choose social service careers to make the greatest impact on the individuals and their families.

The need for social workers is growing rapidly. According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, the need for social workers is expected to grow twice as fast as any other occupation, especially in gerontology, home healthcare, substance abuse, private social service agencies and school social work. A career in social work provides the perfect fit for someone who wants to help others and has an inherent desire to serve.

March is National Social Work Month, a time to celebrate the more than 600,000 social workers nationwide. This year’s theme is Social Work: Purpose & Possibility. Let us honor all those who have given so much of themselves for others. Today we thank you for making a difference.

Jeff Saltzer, CEO, Caring Senior Service

Caring Senior Service, www.caring seniorservice.com, provides nonmedical services, such as personal care, meal preparation and grocery shopping, to the elderly and those in need of temporary residence in Victoria, Lavaca, De Witt, Jackson, Refugio, Calhoun and Wharton County. By UHV Staff

Valuable way to live a life of purpose.

Less ways these professionals can make the greatest impact on the individuals and their families.

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March is National Social Work Month, a time to celebrate the more than 600,000 social workers nationwide. This year’s theme is Social Work: Purpose & Possibility. Let us honor all those who have given so much of themselves for others. Today we thank you for making a difference.

Jeff Saltzer, CEO, Caring Senior Service

Caring Senior Service, www.caring seniorservice.com, provides nonmedical services, such as personal care, meal preparation and grocery shopping, to the elderly and those in need of temporary residence in Victoria, Lavaca, De Witt, Jackson, Refugio, Calhoun and Wharton County.
The Catholic Lighthouse Page 8 — March 2009

Pictured above are the first place winners of the KC Diocesan (regional) Free Throw Contest held in Hallettsville February 22, 2009. First place winners, boys, 10 years through 14, seated in front row (l. – r.): Jacob Munoz, Cody Marquez, Cole Koeppen, Andrew Neuvar and Jacob Novosad; girls, 10 years through 14, standing back row from left: Rhyleigh Johnson, Samantha Gabler, Shelby Hoelscher, Callie Witte and Tasha Zidek.

The Victoria Bach Festival is pleased to invite you to a special performance of Handel’s Messiah in collaboration with Grammy®-nominated choral ensemble Conspirare on March 27. VBF is perpetuating the spirit of the work by performing on instruments true to Handel’s time and by honoring the original goal of the concert: to bring help and healing to people in need. This Lenten/Easter-season celebration begins at 7:30 p.m. on March 27 at Our Saviour’s Lutheran Church. Tickets are $35 for adults, $30 for seniors, and $10 for students. They may be purchased through the Victoria Bach Festival offices at 570-5788, the Cultural Council at 572-ARTS, or online at www.victoriabachfestival.org. VBF is grateful for the support of Klean Corp International and Robby and Tami Burdge, whose generosity was influential in making this concert possible.

Sts. Cyril & Methodius Church Gala

TASTE OF TEXAS “Coastal Cuisine”

Saturday, April 25, 2009
American Legion Hall, Shiner, Texas
$165/couple or $100/single
Includes: Raffle entry, Cocktails, Hor d’oeuvres, Seated Dinner, Dance

Texas Hold ‘Em $50/seat
Limited Seating

Silent Auction Over 100 great items
Donations welcome

Raffle Prizes 1st – $42 HD LCD TV
2nd – $500, 3rd – $250
10 – $100 prizes

For more information see www.shinertasteoftexas.com or call the rectory at 361-594-3836
All events/items may be purchased using PayPal on the Web site. Raffle tickets may be purchased separately for $25 each.

Table and Corporate sponsorships available. Check the Web site or call the rectory for more information.

KC Free Throw Winners go to State

HALLETTSVILLE—Eighty boys and girls, age 10 through 14, competed in the Knights of Columbus Diocesan (regional) Free Throw Contest held at Sacred Heart High School gymnasium in Hallettsville February 22, 2009. The contests were the first place winners from each of the diocese’s eight KC districts.

The five, first place winners for boys, 10 years through 14, were 10-year-old Jacob Munoz, score: 18, Victoria, Council #129; 11-year-old Cody Marquardt, score: 20, El Campo, Council 2490; 12-year-old Cole Koeppen, score: 21, East Bernard, Council 2500; 13-year-old Andrew Neuvar, score: 20, Victoria, Council 9088; and 14-year-old Jacob Novosad, score: 23, Moulton, Council 3242.

The five, first place winners for girls, 10 years through 14, were 10-year-old Rhyleigh Johnson, score: 11, Yoakum, Council 1582; 11-year-old Samantha Gabler, score: 18, Columbus, Council 2971; 13-year-old Callie Witte, score: 21, Yoakum, Council 1582; and 14-year-old Tasha Zidek, score: 15, Moulton, Council 3244.

These ten first-place regional winners will go to the state championship to be held Saturday, March 7, at Holy Cross High School in San Antonio. The state champions’ scores will be sent to the KC Supreme offices and will be compiled in a formula to determine the international winners. Second place winning girls, in order from 10 years to 14 years, were Julianna Machac of Schulenberg, Alexis Kurtz of Port Lavaca, Faith Hagan of Yoakum, Megan Mitchon of Moulton and Ashley Anderson of East Bernard. Second place boys were Bruno Castillo of Eagle Lake, Gregory De Los Santos of Victoria, Jaydon Nieto of Moulton, Luke Pflughaupt of Fayetteville and Troy Macha of Sweet Home.

Third place girls were Reagan Doplauf of Eagle Lake, Malori Mitchon of Moulton, Kate Williams of Bloomington, Danielle Galvan of Blessing and Adriana Gaitan of Port Lavaca. Third place boys were Tanner Janak of Weimar, Wesley Silva of Inez, Will Maraggia of Inez, Joshua Lustie of Danevang and Christian Wenske of Victoria.

Each contestant is given 25 free throw attempts. The contestant making the most free throws out of the 25 attempts becomes the winner. If a tie occurs among the top three places, a five-shot-shoot-off is held until a winner is determined.

The 10 and 11-year-old, boys and girls contests use a women’s regulation-size basketball and shoot from a 12-foot foul line at a 10-foot-high basket. The 12, 13 and 14-year-old contestants shoot from the regulation foul line (15 feet) from a 10-foot-high basket; girls use a regulation-size women’s basketball and boys use a men’s basketball.

The regional contest was supervised by Diocesan Deputy Alvin Kalucie of Louise. He was assisted by Assistant Diocesan Deputy Robert Stryk and district deputies from throughout the diocese.

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Table and Corporate sponsorships available. Check the Web site or call the rectory for more information.
St. Rose of Lima Parish and School in Schulenburg also participated in the Souper Bowl of Caring this year. Pictured are some 6th, 7th and 8th graders from the school with their teacher, pastor and principal. From left are Father Tim Kosler, Mrs. Phyllis Venghaus, Samantha Carter, Seamus Bennett, Jade Bujnoch, Allison Meyer, Kirsten Heger, Samantha Holub, Clayton Brossmann, Principal Rosanne Gallia and Cathy Bennett. They collected 142 pounds of food and raised $879.86 for the 2009 Souper Bowl.

**Souper Bowl of Caring**

This year several parishes in our diocese made a huge impact on their community on Super Bowl Sunday. No, they didn’t receive any trophies or “priceless” rings for their efforts, but the contributions that were made will have a lasting impact on their very neighbors for some time to come. These parishes participated in the Souper Bowl of Caring. Souper Bowl of Caring started as a simple prayer: “Lord, even as we enjoy the Super Bowl football game, help us be mindful of those who are with-out a bowl of soup to eat.” It is inspiring a youth-led movement to help hungry and hurting people around the world.

This prayer, delivered by Brad Smith, then a seminary intern serving at Spring Valley Presbyterian Church in Columbia, SC, gave birth to an idea. Why not use Super Bowl weekend, a time when people come together for football and fun, to also unify the nation for a higher good: collecting dollars and canned food for the needy? Youth could collect donations at their schools and churches in soup pots, and then send every dollar DIRECTLY to a local charity of THEIR choice.

The senior high youth of Spring Valley Presbyterian liked the idea so much they decided to invite other area churches to join the team. Twenty-two Columbia churches participated that first year, reporting their results so a total could be determined, and then sending all $5,700 they had raised to area non-profits. That was 1990. Since then, ordinary young people have generated an extraordinary $50 million for soup kitchens, food banks and other charities in communities across the country. In addition, hundreds of thousands of young people have experienced for themselves the joy and satisfaction of giving and serving, inspiring people of all ages to follow their generous example.

In the Diocese of Victoria, the following parishes have reported to date:
- Our Lady of Victory Cathedral in Victoria – 5,400 pounds of food
- Our Lady of the Gulf in Port Lavaca – 2,900 pounds of food
- St. Rose of Lima in Schulenburg – 142 pounds of food and $879.86
- St. Ann in Point Comfort – 58 pounds of food and $228
- Holy Cross in East Bernard - $518
- Queen of the Holy Rosary in Hostyn and Sts. Peter and Paul in Plum - 300 pounds of food and $242

For more information on any of these events, please contact:
Debbie Vanelli or Jose Ortega at the Office of Youth Ministry at (512) 573-0828 ext. 32 / ext. 50 or e-mail at dvanelle@victoriadiocese.org or joretega@victoriadiocese.org
Web site: www.victoriadiocese.org/youthoffice

**ST. JOSEPH BAND STUDENTS PLACE HIGH IN REGION AND STATE**

Hilary Kristynik, a junior at St. Joseph High School, has been named to the Texas Private Schools Music Educators Association (TPSMEA) All-State Band for the 2008-2009 school year. She represented St. Joseph High School at the University Laurel Auditorium. Hilary also placed 1st Chair Flute in the Association of Texas Small School Bands Region 13 All-Region Symphonic Band. Two other St. Joseph students also placed in the Symphonic Band, Eric Still (t), a junior, placed 1st Chair Trumpet, and Jonathan Garza (t), a senior, placed 5th Chair Trumpet. The Symphonic Band is the premier select band featuring the finest band musicians from Region 13 public and private schools.

**Youth Spectacular Highlights**

By Debbie Vanelli, Office of Youth and Young Adult Ministry

The Youth Spectacular really lived up to its name. It truly was a Spectacular day! The brisk morning turned into an exceptionally beautiful day, one of those days that makes us know why we choose to live in South Texas, as 350 high school-aged young people and adults gathered together to learn about deepening their relationship with God.

The day began with a moving prayer service about solidarity. Each of the parishes were then given lesson plans on the obligation as Catholics to reach out and help all people. The parishes were to take the lesson plans back to their parish communities to continue the conversation with the young people at home.

The featured keynote speaker, Tammy Evevard, spoke to the crowd in an eloquent, honest manner that had the crowd spellbound. Tammy began her journey in youth ministry as a member of the National Evangelization Team in the 80s, and since has never stopped speaking to the trials and tribulations of life here on earth. In addition to Tammy’s keynote, three men from our diocese, Froylan Silva, Carlos Longoria and Jose Ortega spoke to all the young men in the audience about what it means to be a man of God in a secular world.

Terri Busha of Holy Cross in Bay City spoke with the young people about a “Red Envelope Anti-abortion Campaign” and provided the supplies that allowed all 550 participants the opportunity to send an empty, red envelope to the president. On the back of the envelope was written, “This envelope represents one child who died in abortion. It is empty because that life was unable to offer anything to the world. Responsibility begins with conception.” The front was addressed directly to the president.

In addition to these great keynote presenters, the crowd was also treated to the wonderful praise and worship music led by the Life Teen Band of Our Lady of Sorrows.

The jam-packed day concluded with Mass, celebrated with Bishop Fellhauer. The following priests concelebrated at this liturgy: Rev. Gary Janak, Rev. Michael Petering, Rev. Tim Kosler, Rev. Tony Bouteng-Mensa, Rev. Peter Yebbeh-Amanfo, Rev. Greg Korenek, and were assisted by Deacon Doug Tromblee.

**Youth Calendar of Events**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Confirmation Retreat, St. John Nepomucene in New Tafton</td>
<td>March 15</td>
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<tr>
<td>Confirmation Retreat, Bay City at the Spiritual Renewal Center</td>
<td>March 16</td>
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<tr>
<td>Christopher West at St. Mary’s Catholic Center in College Station</td>
<td>March 18</td>
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<tr>
<td>Youth Ministry Certificate Class - Justice and Service</td>
<td>March 21</td>
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<td>Sharing Faith with Adolescents</td>
<td>March 24</td>
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<td>March 29</td>
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<tr>
<td>Confirmation Retreat, St. Joseph in Inez</td>
<td>April 5</td>
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<tr>
<td>Campus Ministry Association, Mass at 2:00 p.m., Student Center at Victoria College</td>
<td>April 8</td>
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<tr>
<td>Youth Ministry Certificate Class - Ethics and Crisis Management</td>
<td>April 18</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bishop Fellhauer Benefit Golf Tournament</td>
<td>April 24</td>
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<td>Youth Leadership Training, Chancery</td>
<td>April 26</td>
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<tr>
<td>Youth Ministry Certificate Class - Retreat Formation</td>
<td>May 2</td>
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<tr>
<td>Camp David</td>
<td>June 12-20</td>
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<tr>
<td>Discipleship Week at the Spiritual Renewal Center</td>
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<td>July 4-12</td>
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<tr>
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**Youth Spectacular 2009**

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- March 16-20: Confirmation Retreat, Bay City at the Spiritual Renewal Center
- March 18-20: Christopher West at St. Mary’s Catholic Center in College Station
- March 21-25: Youth Ministry Certificate Class - Justice and Service
- March 24-28: Sharing Faith with Adolescents
- March 29-31: Confirmation Retreat, St. Michael in Cuero
- April 5-9: Confirmation Retreat, St. Joseph in Inez
- April 8-12: Campus Ministry Association, Mass at 2:00 p.m., Student Center at Victoria College
- April 24-28: Bishop Fellhauer Benefit Golf Tournament
- April 26-30: Youth Leadership Training, Chancery
- May 2-6: Youth Ministry Certificate Class - Retreat Formation
- June 12-20: Camp David
- June 22-26: Discipleship Week at the Spiritual Renewal Center
- July 4-12: Rocky Mountain High, Pagosa Springs, Colorado
- July 19-22: Quo Vadis, Boys Vocation Camp at the Spiritual Renewal Center
- July 26-29: St. Theresa Vocation Camp at Incarnate Word Convent, Victoria
- October 23-25: Archdiocesan Conference for Catholic Youth Ministers in Houston
- November 19-22: National Catholic Youth Conference in Kansas City, Missouri
The second year of college at Texas A&M University in College Station, where she has helped her meet some of the challenges of college life. She also touched on included sharing her experiences as a college student and how her faith and JCDA was the speaker at their January 18, 2009, monthly meeting. Her presentation was the pro-life topic and how college students are often challenged to stand up for protection and a deeper reverence for the gift of life in all circumstances. The procession ended with benediction and reposition. The school enriched its understanding of what it means to be Catholic and how to truly appreciate the gift of the Eucharist as the ultimate means of prayer for life.

NATIONAL JCDA SCHOLARSHIP WINNER SPEAKS IN SHINER—The 2007 National Junior CDA Scholarship Winner, Jamie Petru of Shiner, took time during a semester break from college recently to visit the JCDA members in Shiner. She was the speaker at their January 18, 2009, monthly meeting. Her presentation included sharing her experiences as a college student and how her faith and JCDA has helped her meet some of the challenges of college life. She also touched on the pro-life topic and how college students are often challenged to stand up for life. Jamie is a graduate of St. Paul High School, Shiner, and is presently in her second year of college at Texas A&M University in College Station, where she is pursuing a degree in education with majors in math and Science.

ST. ROSE SECOND GRADERS STUDY FOSSILS—The second graders at St. Rose of Lima Catholic School studied fossils in their science class during the week of Feb. 8, 2009. The students made fossils as well as brought them for show-n-tell. They were very surprised when the father of student John Corbitt, Mr. Michael Corbitt, brought a fossil of a mastodon’s bottom jaw that he found in a gravel pit between Schulenburg and La Grange. “This was a very interesting week learning about fossils,” said Pam Wick, the second grade teacher.

And the winner is ......

On Ash Wednesday, Father John Peters and Father Michael Rother had their official weigh-in for their weight loss competition. The two priests made a vow to improve their health and to see who could lose the most weight during the 40 days of the Lenten season. They will weigh in each week at the Lavaca Family Health Clinic, where the official totals will be kept. However, the true winner of the competition will be the Sacred Heart Youth Ministry, for the community may make a per pound pledge as to which priest will lose the most weight. All money raised will go to Youth Ministry. Call the rectory, (361) 798-5888, today to make your pledge. Good Luck to Father John and Father Michael! Photo courtesy of the Hallettsville Tribune-Herald.

The Nazareth Academy competition cheerleading squad took first place in the United Cheer level 2 junior high division final January 30. The team consists of 13 members; they are, front row from left: Shayla Marshall, Ashley Kolar, Erika Garasauer and Blair Butschek; middle row from left: Madalyn Kainer, Ashley Hicks, Alyssa Bennett and Emily Buhler; back row from left: Clara Allen, Kaylee Bitterly, Katie Degand, Hannah Garza and Olivia Chapa.

SCOUT SUNDAY CELEBRATED—Yoakum’s Boy Scouts Troop 228 and Cub Scouts Pack 224 celebrated Scout Sunday at St. Joseph Catholic Church on Sunday, February 8, 2009. The scouts wore their scout uniforms to symbolize Scout Sunday. Boy Scouts and Cub Scouts served as ushers, altar servers and active participants in the Mass celebration. Pictured above from left are Michael Chomout, Ryan Gearson and Riley Chumchal; second row: Travis Beem, Reed Gearson, Clayton Wenske and Mason Talbert; third row: Kenneth Wenske, Colton Wenske, Jeff Tuttle Jr., Jeff Tuttle, Father Matthew Huehlefeld, pastor of St. Joseph, Jeremy Kelley and David Kelley.

TheNazareth Academy competition cheerleading squad traveled to Pasadena, Texas, on Saturday, January 30, 2009, to compete in the United Cheer Cheerleading Competition. They competed with cheerleaders from Beaumont, Tyler, Cypress, Houston, Garland, San Marcos, Pasadena as well as Bossier City, La. The Nazareth Academy cheerleading squad took first place in the level (2) junior high division final against Pasadena. The team of 13 girls is sponsored and coached by Kim Marshall and Calvin Parker, owners of Sonic Cheer Gym in Houston. The NA competition cheerleading squad travels to Austin to compete in the Cheer USA Nationals, to be hosted at the Travis County Expo Center on February 21-22, 2009.
By Cynthia Brewer

SHINER—On its feast day, February 14, 2009, the parish of Sts. Cyril and Methodius in Shiner celebrated the many years of service Mary Rose Barta provided as church secretary and business manager. A Mass and lunch reception were held in honor of her retirement after 34 years of dedicated service.

The presider of the Saturday morning Mass of Thanksgiving was Bishop David E. Fellhauer, who was assisted by Msgr. Thomas C. McLaughlin, chancellor; Father Bob Knippenberg, pastor of Sts. Cyril and Methodius; Msgr. Michael Harrold, Father Michael Rother, Father Gerry Cernoch, Father John Peters, and Father Tommy Chen, who played the organ and led the beautiful sounding choir.

In his homily, Father Bob referred to a story the priests’ retreat master had told them at their January priests’ retreat, that the “little-bitty dash” on the tombstone between a person’s birth date and date of death is what connects us.

“Here we are today to celebrate our connections, … the things that connect us are always persons; first and foremost we’re connected to Jesus who redeemed us,” he said.

Mary Rose was the parish’s connector. Pastors have come and gone, sisters have come and gone, but Mary Rose was the one who kept parishioners in connection with the parish … all the bulletins, baptisms, weddings, etc. … through 34 years, 52 times per year, Father Bob said.

Mary Rose provided primarily a seam-less operation, he said, “From oil in our candles to wine at the altars, Mary Rose is married to Clarence Barta, from left: Kirby Bubela, Grant Bubela, Kenna Bubela, Lisa Bubela, Greg Bubela and Grand Knight AJ Hlavaty.

“We’re extremely grateful for all she’s done.”

Mary Rose’s grandchildren presented the gifts to the altar, and the 4th Degree Knights of Columbus stood guard.

Those unable to attend were Mary Rose’s brother, Msgr. Jim Henke of the Archdiocese of San Antonio who was obliged to celebrate a Funeral Mass in San Antonio.

In his homily, Father Bob referred to the special day Father Bob, the pastoral council and the parish planned for Mary Rose’s 34 years of service to the parish. Inset: Bishop David Fellhauer blessing.

“The special day Father Bob, the pastoral council and the parish planned for me was beyond anything I ever imagined could happen to me!” Mary Rose said following her celebration.

In an interview with The Catholic Lighthouse, she said, “I consider it a very unique privilege to have worked closely with the five ‘bosses’ (pastors) I worked with over the years.

They were all very dedicated priests, each blessed with different talents and gifts with which to serve the Church and its people.”

Over the 34 years of service to the parish, the pastors for which Mary Rose worked included Rev. Patrick Fidgeon, Rev. Sean Donohue, Rev. Jerry Caponi, Rev. Gerry Cernoch and Rev. Robert Knippenberg. The bishops to whom she served under were Archbishops Francis Furey and Patrick Flores, of the archdiocese of San Antonio.

Then upon Victoria becoming a diocese, she worked under Bishop Charles Grahmann and Bishop Fellhauer.

“One of my greatest joys over the years has been to see the people really get to know their priests, to accept them as they are, to work with them, to respect them and above all to appreciate them,” she said.

“Another thought from which I have taken much enjoyment in over the years came from a visiting priest during the early years of my career,” she said. “He asked me what I liked best about my job. I don’t remember exactly what I told him, but I do remember what he told me, ‘Isn’t it great to be working for what we really believe so strongly in – our Catholic faith?’ And that really sums it up in a few words - it has been a great and rewarding career!”

Mary Rose is married to Clarence Barta, and they have two adult daughters and six grandchildren.
Bishops’ “For Your Marriage” Web site Offers Ideas For ‘Cheap’ Dates

WASHINGTON — With tough eco-
nomic conditions impacting families, The United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) “For Your Marriage” Web site offers ten suggestions for ro-
nomantic, low-cost dates. From planning an indoor “picnic” to “midnight bowling,” the ideas can inspire couples to be creative date planners.

“We came up with these low-cost ideas for time together as well as some articles that focus on family finances, which is a leading cause of marital stress,” said Sheila Garcia, associate director of the USCCB Secretariat of Laity, Marriage, Family Life and Youth, and lead staff for the project.

“The For Your Marriage” Web site, lo-
cated at www.foryourmarriage.org.

Familycatechism.com Site Unveiled at 6th World Congress of Families

BLOOMINGDALE, OH—The answer to everyday questions in the Catholic Cat-
echism is now available in English and Spanish in the first Web site of its kind in the world, according to Theresa Schmitz, the associate director for Family Consecration project spokeswoman. “But it is far more than short answers given in a sentence or two,” she said.

www.familycatechism. com, is the fruit of more than 20 years of writing, research, and filming of renowned Catholic teachers and apologists – in both the Internet and catechetical worlds, this tool is unprecedented. A generation of labor is now ready to bear fruit on the In-
ternet and catechetical world.

Bible Study


Silent Book

Bible Made Easy ~ A Book-by-Book Introduction

Rev. Scher teaches at the Athenaeum of Ohio/Mt. St. Mary’s Seminary in Cin-

Family Puzzle Contest Winners

Margaret Feehm of Holy Cross Parish in Bay City has won the February Family Puzzle Contest Drawing and will receive the book “Love is in the Little Things – Tales of Family Life.”

There were only two child contestants this month, Amanda Briscoe, 13, and Greyson Munsch, 8, both of St. Roch Parish in Mentz. Each will receive a gift from the Informed Word Gift Shop.

Many people faithfully send in their completed puzzle, month after month and even year after year, hoping to win the Family Puzzle Contest. A question has arisen from one of the contestants as to how one wins. The honest truth is that it’s a drawing. Each of the puzzles are meticulously clipped to be the same size as each other, crumpled up to the same size, and then put in a box, stirred, and one name is pulled from the box. It’s all a matter of chance. Often times if someone puts their name/information on a thicker tag-board type of paper and attaches it to the puzzle, we replace the heavy paper with the return address from the envelope, so that one contestant does not have an unfair advantage over another. This month we had over 500 contestants! Thank you so much to all those who entered!

If you have not won the puzzle contest within the past six months, please send complete puzzle, name, address, phone number and parish name by March 25 for a chance to win “The Bible Made Easy.” Send to: Family Contest, The Catholic Lighthouse, P.O. Box 4070, Victoria, TX 77903. Only youth need to include age.

Find spiritual renewal in your garden this spring!

Catholic Digest Online

NEW LONDON, Conn. – Meet Allan A. Swenson, former U.S. intelligence of-
ciencer and author of more than 60 books, including his latest from Skyhorse Publishing. In “Foods Jesus Ate and How to Grow Them,” Swenson discusses the ancient foods, including many fruits and vegetables that we still eat every day, and how cultivating them this spring will not only help our health, but the envi-
ronment, but will refresh and renew our spirit. Recipes too!

Also...

ONE CONNECTICUT FAMILY FINDS HOPE AFTER DEVASTATING LOSS: After a devastating house fire leaves them homeless, an even more un-
thinkable tragedy hits a Catholic family of seven. With the help of Ty Pennington’s ABC television show, “Extreme Make-
over: Home Edition” and thousands of local volunteers, the family is given a new chance at hope.

“A JOURNEY THAT CHANGED MY LIFE: Author Larry Levit describes an unforgettable journey with his wife’s family back to the small village hid-
during World War II. As they approach the village, dozens of people come running to greet the hero they thought had died 40 years ago.

KIDS CARE TOO! HOW THE NEXT GENERATION WILL CHANGE THE WORLD: How will children shaped in the world a better place? Take a look at some of these big ideas from America’s caring young minds.

Read these stories by visiting The Catholic Digest’s Web site: www.catholic-
digest.com.
Getting Sibling Rivalry Under Control

By the American Counseling Association

Having more than one child in your family almost guarantees disagreements, arguments and competition between the kids, at least sometimes. Your children may love one another, but disagreements between siblings still happen and still drive most parents crazy.

It’s called “sibling rivalry” and its roots are probably buried in our prehistoric ancestors when surviving often meant you had to be number one in your parents’ eyes. Today, actual survival isn’t the issue, but staying number one in the parents’ minds still is.

Young children often feel threatened when a sibling is born. They see parental love as limited and finite, but suddenly there’s someone new to love, meaning less love for the older child.

It’s not an irrational fear. A new baby is usually the center of attention and, out of necessity, takes up more of the parents’ time. The older child probably feels he or she is suddenly less important and probably starts to misbehave to win back more attention.

The cure for that problem is to demonstrate to your children that you love them all. Simply saying it has no real affect. But when you set aside some “special time,” the older child probably feels he or she is suddenly more important and probably starts to misbehave to win back more attention.

It can be hard when Lent seems like something added to your to-do list (or a lot of some- thing/s). If you’re a parent, your everyday list is long.

So what do you bump or put on hold or admit to yourself you’re never going to accomplish until the kids grow up and move away?

On the other hand, if you don’t bump, put or admit, then Lent can be like any other time of the year, and that would be a shame. Not “shame on you,” but a shame you’re not making your children miss out.

The American Counseling Association, the nation’s largest organization of counseling professionals, is an excellent source of advice on effective levels of sibling rivalry. A counseling professional specializing in children and families could also help.

While a little friendly sibling competition can sometimes be a good motivator, don’t let it destroy family peace and happiness. As a parent, if you work to be fair with your love and attention, you may find sibling rivalry can disappear.

The complete Easter readings will be in the April issue.

Ten things to do before Easter Sunday

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By Bill and Monica Dodds

Catholic News Service

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Baltimore, MD—El Mensaje de Cuaresma del Papa Benedicto XVI en el que llama a los cristianos a ayunar y "dar a los pobres lo que, gracias al ayuno, se había recogido" refleja profundamente los principios centrales de la Operación Plato de Arroz, la iniciativa anual de Cuaresma de Catholic Relief Services.

Cada Cuaresma, millones de católicos utilizan simbólicos platos de arroz como puntos focal de su oración comunitaria, ayuno y limosna —y para adoptar la actitud del "Buen Samaritano"—ayudando a la gente que ha sido afectada exponencialmente por los estrictos precios de los alimentos, y consecuentemente, del hambre.

A lo largo del pasado año, una Crisis Alimentaria Global se combinó con la crisis económica para generar un salto dramático en los precios de los alimentos en todo el mundo. Aunque los precios de las mercancías han caído, esto no necesariamente se refleja en los mercados locales, y los alimentos siguen fuera del alcance de muchos.

La Operación Plato de Arroz es para los católicos una oportunidad de marcar una diferencia. A los participantes en el programa se les anima a ayunar y hacer un pequeño sacrificio que consiste en preparar una sencilla comida cada semana y donar el dinero ahorrado a los programas de desarrollo para combatir el hambre que ejecuta Catholic Relief Services.

El pasado año, los católicos recaudaron unos 87 millones mediante la Operación Plato de Arroz, 75% de los cuales se aplicaron a financiar proyectos para combatir el hambre y la pobreza en 40 países. El restante 25% se queda en las diocesis de Estados Unidos para apoyar programas de distribución directa de comida.

El mensaje cuaresmal del Papa refleja los principios fundamentales de la Operación Plato de Arroz: "Precisamente para mantener viva esta actitud de acogida y atención hacia los hermanos, anímense a las parroquias y demás comunidades a intensificar durante la Cuaresma la práctica del ayuno personal y comunitario, cuidando asimismo la escucha de la Palabra de Dios, la oración y la limosna", exhorta el Papa.

"La Operación Plato de Arroz lleva esperanza a los habitantes de los países en desarrollo, así como la oportunidad de romper el ciclo de la pobreza y el hambre obteniendo ingresos estables, aumentando sus cosechas y conectando a los agricultores directamente a los mercados para que reciban precios adecuados por sus productos", explica el Presidente de CRS, Ken Hackett.

"Y eso le da a la gente aquí en Estados Unidos, o a muchas otras personas que se preocupan por el hambre, una oportunidad..." añade Ken. En Egipto, por ejemplo, la Operación Plato de Arroz financió programas de microfinanzas que impulsan los pequeños negocios de manera que la gente pueda tener ingresos y llevar comida a sus mesas. En las Filipinas, esta iniciativa financió programas que ayudan a los agricultores a aumentar sus cosechas y asegurar suficiente alimento para sus comunidades. En Honduras, se utilizan fondos recaudados por la Operación Plato de Arroz para asistir a pequeños agricultores en el mejoramiento de sus cultivos, y en la región de Baja California en México, se financió la distribución de semillas de maíz.

Catholic Relief Services es la agencia oficial internacional de carácter humanitario de la Iglesia católica en el mundo, y acoge donaciones de individuos y organizaciones en todo el mundo. En 2008, CRS distribuyó $30 millones en fondos recaudados por la Operación Plato de Arroz para financiar proyectos de ayuda alimentaria en 40 países.

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The Taste of Lent
(Cod meatballs and shrimp patties in tomato sauce)

By Mar Muñoz-Visoso

In thinking about Lent this year the first thing that came to mind was food: the albón-
digas de bacalao (cod meatballs) and pato-
je (garbanzo soup) of my mother, and tortas de camarón (dry shrimp patties in tomato sauce) of my mother-in-law. It can be said that Lent and Holy Week have some special flavors in the Hispanic community. That is probably true of every people and culture. It might seem strange to some that I talk about food in a time of fast and absti-
nence. Nonetheless, many of our cultural traditions, including the gastronomical, help us to remember values and customs of the liturgical seasons, precisely because they were born of them. They help us to get “in the mood.”

As with everything, however, Lent becomes a mere collection of rituals if not lived in its deepest meaning. For instance, judging by the numbers of us attending Ash Wednesday services, some people might think that for Hispanics this was the most important day in the liturgical calendar! But what is the point of receiving the ashes if later we do not make the effort to accompany the Master in his ascent to the cross or the ashes if later we do not make the effort to accompany the Master in his ascent to the cross?
Vatican says recent apologies from traditionalist bishop aren’t enough

VATICAN CITY (CNS) -- The Vatican said Bishop Richard Williamson’s statement of regret for denying the extent of the Holocaust does not meet the Vatican’s demand that he publicly recant his position. “The declaration of the bishop does not seem to respect the conditions established in the note of the Secretariat of State of Feb. 4, 2009, where it says that he must distance himself in an absolutely unequivocal and public way from his positions regarding the Shoah,” Jesuit Father Federico Lombardi, the Vatican spokesman, Feb. 27.

The Vatican had said Bishop Williamson would not be allowed to function as a bishop in the church unless he disavowed his remarks about the Holocaust and publicly apologized. He is one of four traditionalist bishops whose excommunication was lifted in January by Pope Benedict XVI.

On Feb. 26, Bishop Williamson released a statement in London saying his superior, Bishop Bernard Fellay, and the pope “have requested that I reconsider the remarks I made on Swedish television four months ago because their consequences have been so heavy.”

“Observing these consequences I can truthfully say that I regret having made such remarks, and I sincerely hope that I had known beforehand the full harm and hurt to which they would give rise, especially to the church, but also to survivors and relatives of victims of injustice under the Third Reich, I would not have made them,” he said.

Bishop Williamson said that in an interview broadcast in January by Swedish television he had offered “only the opinion ... of a nonhistorian, an opinion formed 20 years ago on the basis of evidence then available and rarely expressed in public since.”

“However, the events of recent weeks and the advice of senior members of the Society of St. Pius X have persuaded me of my responsibility for much distress caused. To all souls that took honest scan from what I said, before God I apologize,” he said. “As the Holy Father has said, every act of unjust violence against one of his brothers must be made good.”

Bishop Williamson left Argentina Feb. 24 after the government told him he must leave or face expulsion. Argentina’s Interior Ministry said Feb. 19 that Bishop Williamson “has concealed the true motive for his stay in the country” because he said he was an employee of a nongovernmental group when he was serving as rector of the seminary of the Society of St. Pius X in La Reja for the past five years. The bishop was fired as rector of the seminary in early February.

PHYSICIANS TAKE LEGAL, EDUCATIONAL STEPS TO DEFEND CONSCIENCE RIGHTS

WASHINGTON (CNS) -- The Holy See told Catholic News Service the conference will be a step toward helping interject Catholics into the discussion, but with a focus on the nature of human existence. People of faith do not have to be backed into a corner, forced to choose one or the other, leading Catholic proponents of evolution told CNS.

A Gallup Poll released Feb. 12, the 200th anniversary of Darwin’s birth, showed that 39 percent of Americans accept evolutionary theory while 25 percent do not. Another 36 percent of respondents had no opinion.

Popes Pius XII, John Paul II and Benedict XVI in particular have expressed interest in biological evolution. Pope Pius XII wrote in a 1950 encyclical that there was no conflict between evolution and faith, as long as there were certain firm points of faith where no concession can be made.

More than half a century later Pope John Paul II cited the encyclical in offering firm support for Darwin’s work, telling the Pontifical Academy of Sciences in 1996 that “new knowledge leads to recognition of the theory of evolution as more than a hypothesis.”

Despite such public support, Catholics have a shallow understanding of the issues that Darwin’s theory raises, Sloan explained in announcing the congress in September 2008.

Physicians take legal, educational steps to defend conscience rights

WASHINGTON (CNS) -- To combat what they see as threats to the conscience rights of health care professionals who oppose abortion, the Catholic Medical Association and other organizations are taking both legal and educational steps.

The Philadelphia-based Catholic Medical Association, which has some 1,100 members nationwide, has joined with the Christian Medical Association and the American Association of Pro-Life Obstetricians and Gynecologists in an effort to intervene legally against lawsuits filed by the attorneys general of eight states, Planned Parenthood of America and the National Family Planning and Reproductive Health Association.

The suits seek to overturn a Department of Health and Human Services regulation that codifies several existing federal statutes prohibiting discrimination against health professionals who decline to participate in abortions or other medical procedures because of their religious or other moral objections. Without the regulation, which took effect two days before the inaugura-
Vietnamese cardinal, known for leadership during hard times, dies

HANOI, Vietnam (CNS) — Cardinal Paul Pham Dinh Tung, known for his leadership of Catholics in northern Vietnamese dioceses during difficult times, died at the age of 89 on Feb. 22 at the archbishop’s residence in Hanoi, a local church source told the Asian church news agency UCA News. Cardinal Tung’s funeral Mass was held Feb. 26 at the cathedral square, and he was buried in the cathedral, the archdiocese announced.

During Cardinal Tung’s name-day celebration Jan. 25, 2008, Bishop Minh praised the cardinal for bravely witnessing to the Catholic faith by urging northern dioceses to remain faithful to the church during the 1960s, ’70s and ’80s, under communist rule and during the Vietnam War. The cardinal founded centers for people displaced by war.

Pope Benedict XVI expressed his sadness over the death of Cardinal Tung and said he was united in prayer with the Archdiocese of Hanoi, the bishops of Vietnam, the relatives of the cardinal and all those touched by his death. The pope called him “a distinguished pastor who, in difficult circumstances, served the church with great courage and great fidelity to the see of Peter, sacrificing himself with generosity to the announcement of the Gospel.”

Papal trip to Holy Land takes shape

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Pope Benedict XVI’s planned trip to the Holy Land was slowly taking shape in February, and the tentative schedule included a number of important pastoral and interreligious events. The proposed itinerary would take the pope to Jordan May 8-11, for a visit to the new King Hussein Mosque in Amman, meetings with Jordanian officials, a Mass for Catholics in a soccer stadium, a stop at Jesus’ baptism site at the Jordan River and a pilgrimage to Mount Nebo, where Moses once looked out at the Promised Land. The pope would travel from Jordan to Israel May 11 and visit the Yad Vashem Holocaust memorial in Jerusalem the same day. Over the next three and a half days, he would visit the Western Wall, sacred to Jews; meet with Jewish and Muslim leaders; hold talks with Israeli and Palestinian leaders; visit a Palestinian refugee camp; and celebrate Mass in Bethlehem, Nazareth and Jerusalem. Before returning to Rome May 15, the tentative schedule calls for the pope to hold a brief ecumenical encounter and visit the Church of the Holy Sepulcher. There was talk of a papal stop in war-devastated Gaza, but Vatican sources said there were no firm plans for such an event; instead, a delegation of Gaza residents was expected to attend one of the papal Masses.
Gold miners form a human chain while digging an open pit at the Chudja mine near the village of Kobu, 62 miles from Bunia in northeastern Congo, Feb. 23. Civil conflict in Congo has been driven for more than a decade by the violent struggle for control over the country's vast natural resources, including diamonds and timber, most of which is exploited using hard manual labor. (CNS photo/Finbarr O'Reilly, Reuters)

Capitol Comments:

Tell Pharaoh, King of Egypt, to Set My People Free: The Old Testament Roots of Political Advocacy

By: Jennifer Carr Allmon, Associate Director of the Texas Catholic Conference

Every week during legislative session, we send out our email newsletter, the Texas Catholic Voice, which includes a weekly report of bills that the conference is supporting or opposing in the Texas legislature. Every week, inevitably we get some version of the same question: Why do the bishops support/oppose fill-in-the-blank? If readers agree with our position, they praise the leadership and wisdom of the bishops and the Church. However, when someone does not agree with the position, we hear the refrain: “The Church has no place in politics and needs to stay out of state affairs.”

Is there a precedent for the mixing of church and state, scripturally speaking? There is. A short reflection on Scripture shows that the tradition of advocacy, of speaking out before government, goes all the way back to the Old Testament and the story of Moses. In Exodus, Chapters 3-12, the Lord commands Moses to tell Pharaoh to set his people, the Israelites, free. Moses is nervous about such an order and explains to the Lord that he cannot do this because he is a poor speaker, “slow to speak and tongue.” God, however, is persistent in his commandment and assigns Aaron to assist Moses in his task. Now, we all know that Pharaoh doesn’t immediately jump into action and free the Israelites, to do so would upset his whole system of work and power. But, Moses and Aaron model God’s persistence and after all the plagues, Pharaoh finally allows his people to leave.

Today’s injustices are numerous and, like Moses and Aaron, we are compelled by the Lord to cry out to the modern-day Pharaohs. Too often respect for the life and dignity of the human person are overlooked and basic human rights, even the right to life, are disregarded as expensive or inconvenient. The bishops, through their work in the realm of public policy, have provided guidance to us on the moral and social dimensions of today’s political questions.

Our foundational principle to protect the life and dignity of all human persons calls us to work to end abortion, euthana- sia, destruction of human embryos, cloning and assisted suicide. We recognize the historic and present-day contributions of immigrants in Texas by supporting their ability to work in a healthy environment in order to provide for their families and continue their valuable participation in the community. We recognize parents as the primary educators of their children through supporting parental choice in education. We show God’s special concern for the poor and vulnerable by supporting programs that make health care more affordable and accessible, as well as measures that provide for environmental protections and morally appropriate health research. We support fiscal and moral reform in our state’s criminal justice system with an emphasis on ending the death penalty and supporting successful rehabilitation and reintegration of those re-entering society.

So, why does the Church enter the public dialogue? Why do the bishops direct the Texas Catholic Conference to take a position on these key issues of human life and dignity? It’s simple really. The Lord speaks to us and the people of God are not yet free.

To subscribe to the Texas Catholic Voice for weekly updates on the legislative activity of the Texas Catholic Conference, or to learn more about the Conference, visit www.TXcatholic.org or the diocese’s Web site.

Unemployed or under productive?

In the current economic crisis, hundreds of thousands of people at all levels of the corporate ladder have found themselves unemployed. More will undoubtedly follow in the months ahead. Besides economic hardship, these workers are also experiencing a profound lifestyle change that, if not managed carefully, can put them at risk for developing health and emotional problems, even depression and a sense of worthlessness.

It is very natural to equate work, skill and productivity with a job. But in reality our value is much more than a paycheck. It transcends the traditional concept of the workplace.

As Christians, we know that the Lord values each of us as precious children, and our workplace is, in truth, the world.

But how can we build upon this knowledge when there is seemingly no immediate, easy solution to daily needs and stresses? By putting Christian principles into practice.

Face reality. Now is not the time to hide from the music in the world. Even if you are doing all you can to keep your life afloat financially. Apply for unemployment, determine health insurance possibilities, analyze debt expenses and cut costs where possible, put off unnecessary purchases and communicate with creditors to minimize financial stress.

Keep busy. A new job will not usually fall from the sky. Although there is no work schedule to keep an unemployed person busy, there is still plenty to do: assessing job prospects, networking with referrals given by friends and family, preparing a resume and list of references.

Make a list of things to do and try to accomplish at least three of them each day. One is to pray and assess. Perhaps you had the perfect job. Perhaps you thought you did, but you really didn’t. Being unemployed allows you unhurried time to pray for God’s guidance and wisdom. Take a sober, objective view of your talents and training. Listen for God’s whisper urging you to go one way– his way. Look upon this time as a spiritual and personal adventure, one that will contain good insight and surprises.

Maintain relationships. When we face a crisis, we need others to support us, and we need to support them too. Avoid feelings of jealousy toward those who are still employed. Focus instead on being a good friend, a strong encourager, a brother or sister in Christ.

Consider volunteering. No matter how dire your circumstances, there is always someone in greater need. Through your parish, schools, shelter or other organizations, there are opportunities for volunteering that will allow you to reach out to others and put your skills to work. Tend to health. If you’ve ever used having to work as an excuse not to exercise, now’s your chance! Set up a fitness schedule and stick to it. Prepare healthy meals. Allow your vitality to flow into other aspects of your life, especially your job search.

Seek help. The stresses stemming from being unemployed can lead to emotional and physical problems, including depression. These are nothing to be ashamed of, and they can be helped. If you sense that the stress is becoming too much, seek help through your pastor, church family, physician or a trusted family member. Problems can look darkest when we keep them bottled inside.

In Romans 8:28, St. Paul writes: “We know that all things work for good for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose.”

As scary as being unemployed can be, as I know that God is good, he calls us and we can draw strength from his purpose for our lives even in these troubled times.

(Please contact Maureen Pratt at maureenpratt@aol.com or www.maureenpratt.com)

Legal Immigrant Children, Pregnant Women Included in SCHIP

President Obama signed H.R. 2, a re-authorization of the State Children Health Insurance Program (SCHIP) on Feb. 4, which included provisions that give states the option to cover legal immigrant children and legal immigrant pregnant women. SCHIP is a federal matching-fund program that allows states to provide health insurance to children from low-income families. Since 1996, legal immigrants have had to wait five years after entering the United States to participate in the program. H.R. 2 would remove this restriction and allow states to offer SCHIP and Medicaid health coverage to children of legal permanent residents (LPR) without a waiting period provided that they meet the programs’ income eligibility requirements. The inclusion of LPR children in the Senate-passed SCHIP bill is in keeping with one central request of the USCCB.

9,125,000 people die per year from a disease and 44,000,000 die per year from another disease, and you could only prevent one of the diseases, which one should be addressed most urgently, the first one or the second?

Stupid question??

Both hunger, with 9,125,000 deaths worldwide each year, and abortion, with almost five times more deaths, with 44,000,000 worldwide each year, need to be addressed.

The first happens unintentionally or out of ignorance and apathy on the world’s part and intentionally by greedy warlords.

The second happens intentionally through fear and ignorance on the part of young men and women and intentionally through law and the greed of the abortion industry.
IRONDALE, AL. (EWTN) — They risked their lives to save Jews from the Nazis, minister to the suffering, lost their lives for the Faith, and changed the world forever. They are the heroes of Catholic Relief Services March 21 and 22, and featured on EWTN Global Catholic Network’s “Secret Agents – Meet the priests trained by the Vatican to infiltrate the Iron Curtain and risk their lives to save Jews from Confronting Nazis, Communists and Other Evils.”

For information, please call (361) 574-9530 or write to: Engaged Encounter, P.O. Box 2475, Victoria, TX 77902-2475. For more information, visit www.beginningexperience.org or www.couragerc.net.

The Catholic Lighthouse Page 19 — March 2009

Upcoming Events

Victoria—St. Mary’s Altar Society Annual Games Party will be held Tuesday, May 12. From 5:30-9:00 p.m. at St. Mary’s activity center at 401 S. Liberty Street. Lunch and refreshments will be served; admission is $5 per person. Homemade baked goods and desserts will be sold. Pay at the door. Proceeds from the sale of baked goods and desserts will benefit Community Action Committee.

Fullness of Truth 5th Annual Lenten Catholic Film Festival—“A Grave in Perm: The Father”, “Dignity That Changed the Course of History” and “Evil—Learn How Future Pope’s Encounters with Same-Sex Attractions.” The festival will be held Thursday through Sunday, March 5-8 from 1:00-9:00 p.m. at the San Antonio-Catholic Diocese Underground. Entrance fee is $8 per day for adults and $5 per day for children. For more information, call (210) 521-3377 or register online at: www.catholicoutreach.org/FullnessOfTruth.

For a registration form, contact Sister Agnes Marie Dauby or Sister Marie Joseph Hernandez of Houston; scheduled speakers will include Nancy Neuman, Houston; Lupe Schaefer, Victoria; Darla Hickman, Houston, and Susan Kristnek, Bay City. Registration is $25/person to cover insurance, lodging, meals and spaces. Meal is limited; must register prior to calling by writing palacios@charis.com.

In Victoria—Every Wednesday before the noon Mass, there is celebrated every Sunday at Sts. Cyril and Methodius Church in Victoria. Breakfast tacos and Texas barbecue lunch. To register please contact Deacon Tom Fox at (325) 295-0332 or register@mevictoria.org.

For more information, visit www.presidiolabahia.org.

For more information or to register go to: www.nfpoutreach.org.

Knights of Columbus Council 1329 chicken-barbecue and tea all for $8 p/p (all-you-can eat/dine-in); drive-thru available for $6 p/p adult and $3 p/p children. All proceeds will benefit Community Action Committee.

Catholic Daughters Court 2475 Knights of Columbus Council 4307 will sponsor a chicken-barbecue and tea all for $8 p/p (all-you-can eat/dine-in); drive-thru available for $6 p/p adult and $3 p/p children. All proceeds will benefit Community Action Committee.

Catholic Daughters Court 2475 KJZT Society 101 will have a bake sale March 14 at Holy Family Church, 704 Mallette Drive, Victoria. For information, or to register go to: www.kjztsociety101.org.

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Natural Family Planning is the only church approved method of birth control. It is a ministry of the San Antonio Catholic Diocese Family Life Office. For more information, visit www.naturalfamilyplanning.net.

To register please contact Deacon Tom Fox at (325) 295-0332 or register@mevictoria.org.

For more information, visit www.presidiolabahia.org.

For more information or to register go to: www.nfpoutreach.org.

Knights of Columbus Council 10703 Wurzbach Road, San Antonio, 78230. www.adrian.org. To register please contact Deacon Tom Fox at (325) 295-0332 or register@mevictoria.org.

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For English or bilingual sessions of “Evil — Learn How Future Pope’s Encounters with Same-Sex Attractions,” contact Deacon Tom Fox at (325) 295-0332 or register@mevictoria.org.

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John Michael Talbot
LIVE IN CONCERT

Wednesday, March 25, 2009 at 7 PM
Trinity Episcopal Church
1501 N Glass St, Victoria TX
Tickets & Information 361-573-3228

Thursday, March 26, 2009 at 7 PM
Sacred Heart Catholic Church
400 E 5th St, Hallettsville TX
Information 361-798-5888