VOL. 23, NO. 6 OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE DIOCESE OF VICTORIA IN TEXAS

October 2009

SRC Hermes Hall blessing November 4, 2009

The blessing and dedication of Hermes Hall multipurpose building at the Spiritual Renewal Center will be held Wednesday, Nov. 4. Tours of the facility will follow.

Everyone is welcome to attend.



Two St. John's Post 1269 Auxiliary, Victoria, members were elected to serve on the CWVA national level at the 61st annual convention, and one Victoria Catholic War Veteran was elected to the national level at the CWV's 74th annual convention held together in Las Vegas, Nevada, August 16 – 21. Mrs. Lupita Martinez was elected National President. From left to right are National Historian Cecilia Garcia, Department of Texas President Selina Driscoll, elected in April 2009; and National President Lupita Martinez. Not pictured is Daniel Martinez who was elected as National Welfare Officer on the CWV National Board.

Local women elected to national CWVA level

Mrs. Lupita Martinez of St. John's Post 1269 Catholic War Veterans Auxiliary of Victoria was elected the National CWV Auxiliary president at the 61st National Annual Convention for Catholic War Veterans Auxiliary, USA, in Las Vegas, Nevada, held August 16 – 21, 2009. The Catholic War Veterans, USA, also held its 74th national convention at the same time.

The following members of St. John's Post 1269 Catholic War Veterans and Auxiliary of Victoria attended the National CWV/CWVA Convention in Las Vegas,

See Local women elected, p. 8

Pope John Paul II Exhibit Field trip – Houston – Oct. 17



Call *The Catholic Lighthouse* to reserve your spot on the Pope John Paul II Holocaust Museum Houston Exhibit field trip. Above, Pope John Paul II's lifelong friend Jerzy Kluger, right, and Rabbi Abie Ingber look at an exhibit on "A Blessing to One Another: Pope John Paul II and the Jewish People," in New York. The same exhibit opened in Houston August 28, 2009, and will continue to Jan. 3, 2010. *The Catholic Lighthouse* will host a field trip Saturday, October 17, to view the exhibit. Transportation to Houston will be via an air-conditioned St. Joseph High School bus, which allows for 50 passengers. Cost: \$18 with a boxed Jason's Deli lunch or \$13 with no lunch (pack your own). To register, please call *The Catholic Lighthouse* at (361) 573-0828 ext. 31 or 30 by Monday, Oct. 12. (CNS photo/Todd Plitt)

"Fool for Christ" departs from us In Memory of Rev. Donald Hayden, O.SS.T.

By Cynthia Brewer

Trinitarian priest Father Donald Hayden, O.SS.T, chaplain at the motherhouse of the Incarnate Word and Blessed Sacrament Sisters in Victoria, died suddenly of a heart attack Saturday, Sept. 19, 2009, at the age of 55. He was born July 27, 1954, in Bayshore, N.Y., to the late John Hayden and Cecile P. Molberg.

Father Hayden was a gifted poet, writer and preacher. Through the years, his ministry experience has been rich and varied from being a teacher to a coordinating priest of Engaged Encounter. According to his obituary, he served as prison chaplain, teacher, social worker ministering to the homeless and recovering alcoholics and parochial vicar in various parishes located in Texas, New Jersey and New York.

Recent assignments in the Diocese of Victoria included parochial vicar at Sts. Cyril & Methodius in Shiner, parochial administrator at Holy Cross Church in Yorktown, and parochial vicar at Our Lady of the Gulf Church in Port Lavaca. At the time of his death he was serving as resident chaplain at the IWBS motherhouse in Victoria.

His obituary stated that those who knew Father Hayden can attest to his great compassion for the sick and suffering. He had a special love for the elderly and for victims of social injustice. For these, he was always willing to follow the Gospel mandate to go the extra mile. He loved gardening and music. In his online preaching apostolate he demonstrated a keen ability to crystallize the Gospel message through the use of illustrations drawn from his own rich lifeexperience. Hundreds of servicemen and women in Iraq and Afghanistan received spiritual nourishment daily through his well-crafted sermons and homilies sent via e-mail. An equal number of friends, relatives and former parishioners also benefited from his online ministry.

Father Hayden entered the Order of the Most Holy Trinity Aug. 13, 1976, in Pikesville, Md. He completed novitiate and professed first vows Aug. 13, 1977. He graduated with a Bachelor of Arts degree in English from State University College, Geneseo, N.Y., and was awarded a Master of Divinity degree from Washington Theological Union, Washington, D.C.

He made solemn vows, that is, his lifelong commitment as a Trinitarian, April 4, 1981, in Hyattsville, Md., and was ordained a priest, by Most Rev. Eugene Marino, S.S.J., on Oct. 8, 1981, at Holy Trinity Monastery, Pikesville, Md.

A Mass was held For Father Hayden at Our Lady of Sorrows Parish in Victoria September 23 and was concelebrated by the Most Reverend David E. Fellhauer, bishop of Victoria; Very Reverend Victor Scocco, O.SS.T., minister provincial; Rev. Damon Geiger, O.SS.T., who gave the homily; Rev. Stan De Boe, O.SS.T., pastor of OLS and master of ceremonies; and more than 20 diocesan and Triniarian priests.

In his homily, Father Geiger said it was a strange and unique privilege to be preach-

ing at Father Hayden's funeral Mass since he had also preached at his first Mass upon his ordination to the priesthood.

From the Common of Saints in the Sacramentary, Father Geiger said there



Rev. Donald Hayden, O.SS.T.

are prayers that express a special characteristic of holiness from categories such as pastors, martyrs, virgins, and holy men and women.

"In the Eastern churches," from which Father Geiger comes, he said, "there is one more category of saints ... Fools for Christ."

"Fools for Christ are so intense, simplistic and idealistic, that they drive you crazy. Father Hayden was one of these," he said.

St. Paul writes in 1 Cor. 4:9-15, which was read at the funeral, "We are fools on Christ's account ...".

"St. Paul insisted on basics; St. Francis of Assisi was another," Father Geiger said.

"Father Donald was a gift God gives us as a community ... to challenge us, irritate us, call us to repentance, even though we don't want to hear him," he continued.

"I think his greatest gift was his warmth, compassion, sincerity; he drew people in and made them feel loved and cared for; these are greater than those things that drove us crazy," he said.

"Father Donald always tried to show the impracticalness of the Gospel, so great was his love for people," Father Geiger said. "He could see the beauty of God's image in each person who came into his life. The Gospel says 'feed the poor;' he wanted to bring them home to the monastery," he said, evoking laughter in the congregation.

Two of Father Hayden's brothers attended the funeral in Victoria, Christopher and Nicholas. Following the Mass, Christopher spoke to the congregation about his brother, telling family stories.

Father Hayden was preceded in death by his parents and brothers, Peter and Dennis. He is survived by his brothers, John of Baltimore, M.D., Christopher of Phoenix, N.Y., Nicholas of Villages, Fla., Michael of Port Jefferson, N.Y., Thomas of Phoenix, Md., and Matthew of Nashville, Tenn. He

See Rev. Donald Hayden, p. 3

Bishop Fellhauer's Schedule

October

- 6 Clergy Fraternity Day, Yoakum; dinner, Knights of Columbus Hall, Shiner
- 9 7:00 p.m., Reconciliation service, Spiritual Renewal Center
- **12-15** Canon Law Society of America Convention, Louisville, Kentucky
- 7:00 p.m., Reconciliation service, Spiritual Renewal Center
- 20 6:30 p.m., Catholic Daughters of the Americas and Knights of Columbus Council 1329 Awards Banquet, Knights of Columbus Hall,
- 21 4:30 p.m., Diocesan Building Board meeting, Chancery Office
- 30 7:00 p.m., Reconciliation service, Spiritual Renewal Center

November

- 4 10:30 a.m., Presbyteral Council meeting, Spiritual Renewal Center
 - 1:45 p.m., Blessing of the new Hermes Hall, Spiritual Renewal Center, all invited
- 6:00 p.m., Mass and meal, 50th anniversary of Serra Club of Victoria, Holy Family Church, Victoria
- **8** 9:30 a.m., Veterans' Day Mass, St. Mary Church, Praha
 - 11:00 a.m., Invocation and Benediction, Veterans' celebration, St. Mary parish hall, Praha
- 9 5:00 p.m., Diocesan Liturgical Commission meeting, Chancery Office
 - 7:00 p.m., Presentation on *Teaching Authority of the Catholic Church*, R.C.I.A., Our Lady of Victory Cathedral
- 9:30 a.m., Laity and Priests' Pension Boards meeting, Chancery Office

Job opening

The Diocese of Victoria is looking for a full-time staff accountant to handle the accounting for the Priests' and Lay Employees' Pension Plans and the collection and accounting for the Capital Campaign Pledges and the Annual Diocesan Services Appeal. Experience as a full-charge bookkeeper or equivalent education is required. Must be proficient in Excel and Quick Books. Prefer a practicing Catholic. Send your resume to Diocese of Victoria, P. O. Box 4070, Victoria, TX 77903; or call 361-573-0828.



Don't Forget To Change Your Clocks Back One Hour

November 1 @ 2:00 a.m.

2. Publication Number	uester Publications)
	September 17, 2009
	6. Annual Subscription Price \$7.00 within Diocese
**	\$10.00 outside Dioces
rinter) (Street, city, county, state, and ZIP+4®)	Contact Person
77901	Cindy Brewer Telephone (Include area code)
	361-573-0828
Office of Publisher (Not printer)	
and Managing Editor (Do not leave blank)	
Mesquite Lane, Victoria, TX 77	7901
Victoria, TX 77901	
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1505 E. Mesquite Lane.	Victoria, TX 77901
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3. Publication Title 14. Issue Date for Circulation Data Below		elow		
The Ca	Catholic Lighthouse September 2009			
5. Extent and Nature of Circulation		ure of Circulation	Average No. Copies Each Issue During Preceding 12 Months	No. Copies of Single Issue Published Nearest to Filing Date
. Total Numbe	r of C	copies (Net press run)	19,750	19,600
2	(1)	Mailed Outside-County Paid Subscriptions Stated on PS Form 3541(Include paid distribution above nomi- nal rate, advertiser's proof copies, and exchange copies)	19,152	19,307
b. Paid Circulation (By Mail and Outside the Mail)	(2)	Mailed In-County Paid Subscriptions Stated on PS Form 3541 (Include paid distribution above nominal rate, advertiser's proof copies, and exchange copies)		
	(3)	Paid Distribution Outside the Mails Including Sales Through Dealers and Carriers, Street Vendors, Counter Sales, and Other Paid Distribution Outside USPS®		
	(4)	Paid Distribution by Other Classes of Mail Through the USPS (e.g. First-Class Mail®)		
. Total Paid Di	stribu	stion (Sum of 15b (1), (2), (3), and (4))	19152	19,307
	(1)	Free or Nominal Rate Outside-County Copies included on PS Form 3541		
d. Free or Nominal Rate Distribution	(2)	Free or Nominal Rate In-County Copies Included on PS Form 3541		
(By Mail and Outside the Mail)	(3)	Free or Nominal Rate Copies Mailed at Other Classes Through the USPS (e.g. First-Class Mail)		
the Many	(4)	Free or Nominal Rate Distribution Outside the Mall (Carriers or other means)	200	200
e. Total Free	or No	minal Rate Distribution (Sum of 15d (1), (2), (3) and (4))	200	200
. Total Distri	bution	n (Sum of 15c and 15e)	19,352	19,507
Gopies not	Distr	ibuted (See Instructions to Publishers #4 (page #3))	398	93
n. Total (Sum	of 15	∀ and g) ▶	19,750	19,600
Percent Pa (15c divide		15/ times 100)	98.96	98.97
If the	ublic	atement of Ownership ation is a general publication, publication of this statement is req tober 2009 issue of this publication.	uired. Will be printed	Publication not required.
17. Signature a	ind T	itle of Editor, Publisher, Business Manager, or Owner		Date
Cipi	1	hia E. Brewer		September 22, 200
form or who	omits	ormation furnished on this form is true and complete, I understan material or information requested on the form may be subject to ng civil penalties).	d that anyone who furnishes false or mis criminal sanctions (including fines and i	leading information on this mprisonment) and/or civil
PS Form 352	3. Se	otember 2007 (Page 2 of 3)		

2009 DSA & Reflection of Faith Capital Campaign Updates

2009 DSA

Diocesan Goal: \$1,282,100.00 Parish Pledge Totals: \$617,617.14 Parish Contribution Totals: \$573,712.41 Number of Parish Families Participating: 3,692

Reflection of Faith Capital Campaign

Diocesan Goal: \$9,000,000.00
Parish Pledge Totals: \$13,444,692.49
Parish Contribution Totals: \$6,308,798.36
Number of Parish Families Participating: 6,950

Bishop's team places in St. Joseph's - Yoakum PTC golf tournament

YOAKUM—The 10th annual PTC golf tournament for St. Joseph's - Yoakum was held Monday, September 7, 2009, at the Yoakum Municipal Golf Course. Special guest at the tournament was the Most Reverend David Fellhauer, bishop of the Victoria Diocese.

Bishop Fellhauer teamed with Deacon Dennis Kutach and Deacon Kutach's daughter, Amanda Maughan, and her husband, Matt Maughan, to finish third in the tournament.

"I really enjoyed playing in the tournament. It could not have been for a better cause" Bishop Fellhauer stated, noting that all the proceeds from the tournament benefit St. Joseph's School in Yoakum.

The bishop enjoyed the day socializing with the local golfers. "It was a fine group of people to spend the day with" he said. First place in the tournament went to the team of Walter Elizondo, Ernest Elizondo, Brian Kurtz, and James Putska, with a net score of 51. The second place team of Pat Matusek, David Berkovsky, Jimmy Berkovsky, and Scott Moehlman, had a net score of 53. Bishop Fellhauer's team was one stroke back at 54 to capture the third place prize. Two teams were one shot behind the third place winners in a tie for fourth with a net 55. St. Joseph PTC hosts the tournament every year on Labor Day afternoon. The local-hole sponsors play a vital role in the success of the tournament, which has raised over \$30,000 for St. Joseph's School in Yoakum in the 10-year history of the tournament. All golfers interested in playing next year should mark their calendar for September 6, 2010, and plan to join us for a fun afternoon of golf, good food, and fellowship.

Thank You

Your Excellency,

The Holy Father has asked me to acknowledge the offering of \$10,000, which you sent through the Apostolic Nunciature as a contribution from the Diocese of Victoria for the support of the Holy See in accordance with Canon 1271 for the year 2009.

His Holiness is grateful for this donation and for the devoted sentiments that inspired it. He very much appreciates the support, which you and your people have given to him in his service to the universal Church.

I am pleased to assure you of the Holy Father's prayers for you and for those entrusted to your pastoral care. Invoking upon all of you joy and peace in our Lord Jesus Christ, he cordially imparts his Apostolic Blessing.

With personal good wishes, I am Yours sincerely in Christ, Tarcisio Cardinal Bertone

Dear Cynthia,

I have enjoyed reading The Catholic Lighthouse for many years. I have happy memories of the Diocese of Victoria. After my ordination in 1948, I spent my early priesthood in such places as Weimar, Hallettsville, Nada and Our Lady of Lourdes in Victoria. It was a pleasure to work with those wonderful people.

May God bless you and the Church of Victoria.

With Gratitude, Msgr. Alois J. Goertz Casa de Padres, San Antonio

Thanks to Msgr. Goertz who included with his letter a nice donation for *The Catholic Lighthouse*.



OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE DIOCESE OF VICTORIA IN TEXAS

Published monthly at 1505 E. Mesquite Lane — Victoria, TX 77901 (361) 573-0828 — FAX (361) 573-5725 — www.victoriadiocese.org

Publisher

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Editor
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Production/Advertising
Regina Matus-Janak — e-mail: janakr@victoriadiocese.org

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

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DEADLINE IS THE THIRD TUESDAY OF THE PRECEDING MONTH.



VICTORIA SERRA CLUB OFFICERS INSTALLED—District Governor JoAnn Bleier recently installed officers of the Victoria Serra Club at their regular meeting at Colony Creek Country Club. Officers include, standing from left: President-elect John McQuillen, VP Communications Jo Ann and Hardy McCullough, Trustee Andrew Vasquez, Trustee Joe Morris, VP Membership Tim Michalski, Trustee Gilbert Melnar, Secretary Charles Bluntzer, VP Programs Gary Rangnow, District Governor JoAnn Bleier. Sitting: President David Wearden, Chaplain Msgr. Eustace Hermes, VP Programs Sharon Rangnow and Asst. Secretary Jo Chanek. Officers not pictured: Treasurer Chris Krejci and VP Vocations Mike Brown.



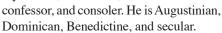
The Priest

By Paula Brock, San Diego, Calif.

Editor's note: The USCCB Committee on Clergy, Consecrated Life and Vocations has asked renowned women of faith to write reflections on their appreciation of the priesthood during this Year for Priests.

Alter Christus ... the Priest, another Christ. In his love and wisdom, God did not leave us alone on this earth but gave us the priest. During my pilgrimage here on earth,

the priest has accompanied me, helping me to navigate and stay on the path that will lead me to my eternal home. He has come in many forms, ages, races, and manners; and he has always been there, in the happy times, in the sad times, and in the ordinary times. He has been my friend, counselor,



When I was first born, he was there to bring me to a precious and nobler birth through the sacrament of baptism. I have seen him baptizing my children and grand-children as infants, and my husband as an adult. What joy for me to see my family being freed from their sins, entering the Church and being made sharers in her mission!

When I was a child, the priest was there to reconcile me to God. I received my first Sacrament of Penance as an innocent seven-year-old ... little did I know of sin. But as time passed and I offended the Lord, it was the priest who showed me God's great mercy and encouraged me in the knowledge that my sins were forgiven.

How vividly I remember my First Holy Communion Day, wearing my beautiful white dress and veil and missing my front tooth. The priest was there again, to give me the life-giving food that is Christ come down from Heaven. I did not think I could ever be happier than I was on that day. Although I little understood the depths of this mystery at the time, through the years the continual reception of the most Holy

Eucharist, made available to me through the priest, has shaped my life and my very being.

As a nine-year-old, I remember wearing a red gown and receiving the light slap on the face from the bishop that was a customary sacrament of confirmation symbol at the time. I was told I was now a Soldier of Christ, and I proclaimed with great certainty that I would be willing to die for the Lord! However, as I progressed through my early adult years I was anything but

a soldier. Though the priest is often scorned and condemned for defending the divine and enduring things of God, it was his example that brought me back to my senses.

As a young bride, my husband and I exchanged our vows witnessed by the priest; there he was with us as

we made the public decision to cooperate with God in the founding of our family. The multitude of joys throughout our years together clearly demonstrates God's presence in our marriage. The birth of our children, seeing them grow into loving adults with children of their own, and spending simple time together in the lovely quietness of family life are all gifts beyond compare.

The priest was with me again on one sad September day, as he gave my husband the Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick. My husband was dying and I had to let him go. What a comfort it is to know that my husband was re-consecrated before he presented himself to the Divine and Merciful Judge. Through my conversations with the priest, I was able to have peace in making the decision to turn off artificial life support. It brings me solace today to reflect on the sound wisdom of the Church made known to me through those conversations.

As I look back over these years, I realize how integrally and essentially related to my life the priest is. His humility, sacrifice, and holiness have been and continue to be model and inspiration.

Ms. Brock is the CFO of the Zoological Society of San Diego.

Priesthood Sunday, October 25

On Sunday, Oct. 25, Catholic parishes throughout the United States will show support for their priests with prayer, celebration and dialogue. The last Sunday of October is designated as Priesthood Sunday, a one-day celebration of the priesthood organized by parish lay leaders and coordinated by the USA Council of Serra International.

The lay faithful of each parish and school are asked to develop their own special way of marking the day and honoring both priesthood and their own priests. Special liturgies, Priesthood Sunday celebrations and the opening of a dialogue between priests and parishioners are encouraged.

Lay parish leaders are invited to visit **www.priestsunday.org** for suggested liturgies, social celebrations, reflections and downloadable graphics, guides and posters.

Parishes may submit their Priesthood Sunday event photos to jcozzens@msn. com for possible posting on the Serra Web site – www.serraus.org.



In Memory of ...

Elizabeth Eilers, mother of Sr. Emilie

FREDERICKSBURG — Elizabeth A. Eilers, 93, of Fredericksburg, formerly of Hallettsville, passed away on Tuesday, Sept. 15, 2009, at her residence. She was born Oct. 7, 1915, to Franz and Elizabeth Henke Grafe in Hallettsville. She married Joseph Elbert Eilers on Sept. 26, 1933, in Hallettsville.

Elizabeth is survived by: four daughters; five sons and spouses, Sister Emilie Eilers, IWBS of Victoria; Shirley and Warren Jennings of San Antonio, Buddy and Barbara Eilers of Fredericksburg, Paul and Kathy Eilers of Utah, Tim and Lori Eilers of Idaho, Tom and Lori Eilers of Fredericksburg, Mike and Judy Eilers of Fredericksburg, Mary and Johnny Lindig

of Johnson City, and Cindy Weaver of Austin; 30 grandchildren; 38 great-grandchildren; and one great-great-grandchild.

Elizabeth was preceded in death by: her husband; daughter, Betty Jean Eilers; parents; five sisters, Mary Grafe, Agnes Leopold, Annie Grahmann, Clara Grafe, and Angeia Janacek; and five brothers, Victor, Frank, Joe, Freddy and Charles.

Funeral Mass was Saturday, Sept. 19, at Sacred Heart Catholic Church in Hallettsville, the Rev. John Peters officiating. Burial was at Sacred Heart Catholic Cemetery.

Words of comfort may be shared with the family at **www.kubenafuneralhome. com**.

Rev. Donald Hayden, O.SS.T.

Continued from p. 1

is also survived by his sisters, Margaret Hayden of Livingston, Mont., and Maureen Furlong of Loudenville, N.Y., as well as his brother-in-law, sisters-in-law, and numerous nieces and nephews.

A rosary was recited Tuesday, Sept. 22, at Incarnate Word Convent. Visitation was held at Our Lady of Sorrows Church in Victoria Sept. 23 and a Mass of the Resurrection was celebrated in the evening. The Fourth Degree Knights of Columbus provided honors as the Color Guard, and Our Lady of Sorrows Knights of Columbus

No. 8388 served as pallbearers.

Father Hayden's body was transferred to Holy Trinity Monastery in Pikesville, Md. On Sept. 25 a Mass of the Resurrection was celebrated in Holy Trinity Monastery. Burial followed at the monastery cemetery. Father Hayden's fellow Trinitarians, family and friends gathered at a luncheon to celebrate his life, ministry, faithful friendship and love.

In lieu of flowers donations may be made to Holy Trinity Fathers, P.O. Box 5719 Baltimore, MD 21282.

Zigmund Cernoch, father of Sr. Mary Beth

WEIMAR - Zigmund James Cernoch, of Weimar, passed away at St. David Hospital in Austin on his 87th birthday, Sept. 7, 2009, after a sudden brief illness.

Funeral services were held at St. Michael Catholic Church on Sept. 10. The Mass of Resurrection was celebrated by his nephew and godson, Rev. Gerard Cernoch, of Bay City, along with concelebrant Rev. John Bily, of Weimar. Interment followed at St. Michael Cemetery.

Zigmund was born on Sept.7, 1922, in Dubina, to Karel and Emilie (Krecmer) Cernoch. He attended Dubina schools.

Zigmund entered the U.S. Army on Nov. 14, 1942, and was honorably discharged on Feb. 14, 1946. He spent four years in the Army and fought on various islands in the Pacific theater.

On Aug. 14, 1944, while on furlough, Zigmund married Georgia Margaret Heger at St. Michael Church in Weimar. He lived his entire life in Weimar.

Zigmund worked as a mechanic with Loessin Implement Co., retiring after many years of service. He continued to work on lawn mowers and small engines at his home for a good number of years enjoying the fellowship that came with each repair.

He enjoyed reading, fishing, barbecuing, and old cars. He was proud of his Czech heritage in that he could read, write

and speak it fluently. He also enjoyed polka music and dancing.

In his later years, he designed and built numerous birdhouses, many of which he donated to various local organizations.

He was a member of the Veterans of Foreign Wars, and the KJT.

He was preceded in death by his parents, five brothers, and five sisters.

Survivors include his wife, Georgia,

of 65 years; four daughters; four sons and spouses, Sister Mary Beth, IWBS of Corpus Christi; Clare Coleman and Gary, of Lake Jackson, Rita Srubar and Bob, of Weimar, and Janell Ellison and Bill, of Orange; Donald and Marie, of Holman, David and Nancy, of Ellinger, Charles and Barbara, of High Hill, and Marvin and Catherine, of Weimar. He is survived by 10 grandchildren, two great-grandchildren, two step-grandchildren, and five step-grandchildren.

Pallbearers were grandsons, John Ellison and Matt Srubar; sons-in-law, Bill Ellison, Bob Srubar, and Gary Coleman; and nephew, James Dusek.

Carlton Cernoch, grandson, and Bonnie Winkler were altar servers.

Memorials may be made to St. Michael Catholic Church, Parkview Manor, or charity of choice.

Stanley B. Machala, father of Sr. Charlene

Stanley B. Machala, 90, of Crosby, Texas, died Sept. 11, 2009, in Houston. He was born on Nov. 12, 1918, in Crosby, Texas, to the late Charles and Marie Machala. He married Clara L. Gregory on Feb. 9, 1943, at Sacred Heart Church in Crosby. Stanley was an active member of Sacred Heart Parish and Knights of Columbus. He worked in the welding and pipe fabrication industry prior to retirement in 1980 from Texas Pipe Bending Company in Houston. He was also a World War II veteran and enjoyed hunting, fishing and gardening in his retirement years.

Survivors include children, Sister Charlene, IWBS of Victoria; Tom and wife Suzanne of Baytown, Bernadine and husband N.C. Morehead of Angleton, Michael of Houston, Elizabeth of Baytown, Matthew

of Crosby, Andrew and wife Vickie of Houston, Allen of San Felipe and Karen of Crosby; grandson, Jared and wife Laura of Houston; sister-in-law, Catherine of Highlands; brothers-in-law, Brother Duane Gregory of Covington, La., and Herman Gregory of Baytown, and numerous nieces and nephews.

Stanley was preceded in death by his beloved wife, Clara; sisters, Helen Kubin, Rosie Kubin, Adeline Burianek and Henrietta Hinckley and brothers, Charlie, Rudolph, Bill and Joe.

Funeral services were held Sept. 14 at Sacred Heart Church. Burial followed at Sacred Heart Cemetery.

Please visit **www.earthmanfunerals. com** to view the online obituary and post a tribute for the family.



Seminary Burses

Seminary burses are a permanent fund used for the education of future priests for the Diocese of Victoria. The goal of each burse is \$15,000. The interest from this amount is applied yearly to the education of seminarians. The burses are in memory of or in honor of an individual priest or lay persons, living or deceased. Publication of the burses will appear periodically when new contributions are received.

TOTALS

\$1,800.00

15.00

15.00

25.00

\$1,855.00

\$8,214.00

\$8,239.00

\$7,769.00

100.00

20.00

25.00

15.00

\$7,929.00

\$300.00

25.00

As of September 25, 2009

Seminary Burse

Previously reported

Previously reported

Previously reported

Mary Luchak

In memory of Mary Luhrs by

James and Barbara Janak M/M Raymond Miller

M/M Billy Strunk

Father John Peters

- Rev. Msgr. Edward C. Bartsch

In memory of Ernest Bartek by

In memory of Adolph C. Jasek by

Gary and Denise Greive

Gary and Denise Greive

In honor of Father Bartsch by

Louis and Georgiann Barta

- Rev. John C. Peters Seminary Burse #4

Total

Total

In memory of John Jr. and Tillie Peters by

- Rev. John C. Bily Seminary Burse

In memory of Zigmund Cernoch by:

In memory of Mr. Harris Ulrich by

In memory of Father Jerry Caponi by

John and Lillian Marek

Rev. Theophil Okruhlik & Rev. Verdarame Seminary Burse	Vincent
•	\$9,427.89
In memory of Henry Jedlicka by:	
M/M Elroy A. Brogger	25.00
M/M Kenneth Anderle	10.00
Georgia Jedlicka Family	100.00
Gift by St. Ann Church, Pt. Comfort	197.55
•	59,760.44

Rev. Msgr. Benton A. Thurmond Seminary Burse

Semming Burse	
Previously reported	\$1,175.00
Gift by CDA Court #2475, Inez	100.00
Total	\$1,275.00

Rev. Celestino Say Seminary Burse (Catholic Life Ins.)

(Cuthone Ene ms.)	
Previously reported	\$2,675.00
In memory of Annie Ruppert by	
M/M Robert Bochat	25.00
In honor of Sr. Sylvia's 60th jubilee	e
celebration by:	
Frank and Rita Zaruba	100.00
Fred and Anita Spangler	100.00
In memory of Aaron Wieland by:	
M/M Robert Bochat	25.00
OLL Altar Society	25.00
Mary A. Bianchi	25.00
M/M Harrison Raska	10.00
Jimmy and Loretta Hobbs	10.00
Roxann Salziger	10.00
In memory of Elroyce Schroller by	
M/M Robert Bochat	25.00
Gift by M/M Kevin Walker & Fam:	ily 100.00
In thanksgiving of 60 years of	

Knights of Columbus Fourth Degree Yoakum Assembly #1128 Seminary Burse #2

- Rev. Jerome "Jerry" Caponi Seminary

#1329 Seminary Burse #3		
- Knights of Columbus Victoria Council		
Total \$1,0	70.84	
KC Fourth Degree #1128	150.00	
In memory of Rev. Jerry Caponi by		
Previously reported \$5	20.84	

"102) Schilling Daise "0	
Previously reported	\$9,007.50
In memory of Clinton Klare by	
Imogene Klare	50.00
Total	\$9,057.50

- Rev. Jerome J. Stryk Seminary

ite Jerome J. Stryk Semm	iui y
Previously reported	\$11,504.50
In memory of Frank and Stazie	Stryk by
Andy and Pauline Stryk	150.00
In memory of Adolph Jasek by	
Lad and Helen Muras	<u>10.00</u>
Total	\$11,664.50

Additional Burses for donations:

marriage for Evelyn and Phillip Bujnoch

Total

60.00

\$3,190.00

Rev. Joe Levya Rev. Marcus Valenta Rev. Godfrey F. Kuratko Rev. Msgr. John Hanacek

by their family

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

SEMINARY BURSES DIOCESE OF VICTORIA P. O. BOX 4070 VICTORIA, TX 77903

Seminarian Patrick Knippenberg to spend Pastoral Year in Victoria

By Cynthia Brewer

Seminarian Patrick Knippenberg of Sts. Cyril & Methodius Parish in Shiner arrived at Holy Family Parish in Victoria

on Sept. 14, 2009, to begin his pastoral year, his final discernment before being ordained a transitional deacon. He will be stationed there until June 2010.

This year of discernment is spent learning the life of the priesthood and the parish. He will be involved in all parish ministries, such as baptismal classes for parents, altar society, ACTS retreat committee, instructing the lectors on how to

proclaim the Word, Bible study, CCD and RCIA.

This past summer, Patrick spent 10 weeks in Clinical Pastoral Education, a chaplaincy program, at Covenant Health Systems in Lubbock. The hospital is run by the Sisters of St. Joseph of Orange

County, Calif. He worked full-time, including taking 24-hour call, providing spiritual and pastoral guidance to the sick and dying and their family members. The

education program is not so much to teach men to be chaplains in a hospital setting as it is an opportunity for the seminarians to learn empathetic listening skills, comfort the sick and be a Godly presence during one's time of need, Patrick said.

After Patrick finishes his pastoral year in June 2010, he will participate in Spanish immersion for the summer, and then return to St. Mary's Seminary in Houston for his

3rd year of theology.

"At the end of the third year, I will be ordained to the transitional diaconate, God willing, and upon the completion of my 4th year of theology in June of 2012, I'm hoping to be ordained to the priesthood," Patrick said.

Pray for Vocations!

OLV has a deacon after nearly a 27-year absence

Deacon Lawrence F. Rossow

Our Lady of Victory Cathedral has not had a deacon at its service since Deacon Bill Long transferred to Our Lady of Lourdes in Victoria December 16, 1982. That barren time is over with the relocation of Deacon Lawrence F. Rossow and his wife Dr.

Nancy D. Rossow from Norman, Oklahoma. His first ministerial duty as a deacon at Our Lady of Victory was introducing himself and speaking to the RCIA class on September 14, 2009.

After serving for over two decades as professor of education and law at the University of Oklahoma, Deacon Larry came to Victoria and began serving as the dean of the school of education and human development at the University of Houston-Victoria on August 3, 2009.

Deacon Larry was ordained in 2000 in the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City. He was assigned to St. Joseph Parish in Norman, Okla., where he served in a wide range of parish ministries including RCIA director; coordinator for RENEW, altar servers and extraordinary ministers of Holy Communion. Deacon Larry has also served the parishes of St. Mark and St. Thomas More where he had been the coordinator for lectors and ushers, and RCIA director. Assisting in the life of the parishes, he has directed marriage preparation, baptismal

seminars and presided over the rite of marriage and funeral vigils.

Deacon Larry has had archdiocesan ministries serving as campus minister for Mount St. Mary High School and assistant chaplain at All Saints Catholic Elementary

School. As a Catholic educator, he has taught religion in Catholic elementary schools and high schools. He was school principal at Maternity B.V.M. School and headmaster of Sacred Heart Academy, both in the Archdiocese of Chicago, Ill. He is a native of Chicago.

Holding a degree in theology, he is on the theology faculty at Newman University in Wichita, Kansas. He has taught courses in the Theology of Ministry, Evangelization, Early

Church Fathers and Vatican II documents. Deacon Larry was on the religious studies faculty of the University of Oklahoma, teaching Modern Catholicism and Legal Issues in Church/State Relations.

While in the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City, he was a radio talk show host on Catholic Radio. He has two daughters, Mara and Marie. Mara is a fashion consultant in Chicago. Marie is a junior drama major at OU. Deacon Larry and his wife Nancy, a school psychologist, have been married 34 years.

Please welcome them.



PERPETUAL COMMITMENT ASSOCIATES—Five women made their perpetual commitments as associates of the Congregation of the Incarnate Word and Blessed Sacrament Sisters Sunday, September 13, 2009. Pictured, back row, left to right: Sister Evelyn Korenek, superior; Sister Emiliana Grafe, director of associates; Barbara Respondek and Claudia Schoener, Victoria; Bishop David Fellhauer; front row: Ofelia Gutierrez, Victoria; and Angeline Grigar and Janelle Barta, East Bernard.



NEWLY CONSECRATED ASSOCIATES—Six women were received into the Congregation of the Incarnate Word and Blessed Sacrament Sisters as newly consecrated associates Sunday, September 13, 2009. Pictured, back row left to right: Sister Evelyn Korenek, superior; Susana Moya, Victoria; Pat Kromka, Edna; Katherine Pennington, Victoria; Bishop David Fellhauer; and Sister Emiliana Grafe, director of associates; front row: Lilia Vianes, Victoria; Geraldine Jahn, Yoakum; and Evangeline Flores, Victoria.

YOUNGADULT



Native of East Bernard finds joy and fulfillment in 'knightly' service of Christ's Eucharistic Presence

Steven Vacek of East Bernard

HANCEVILLE, Ala. — In medieval days, knights were men who were elevated by their king and consecrated to a position of trust. These noble and faithful men would pledge to give their very lives to the service and protection of their lord and his kingdom.

Today, members of the Knights of

the Holy Eucharist, a vibrant community of consecrated young men deeply committed to the Catholic faith, provide that very service for their Lord and King, Jesus Christ, through their work at the magnificent Shrine of the Most Blessed Sacrament and Our Lady of Angels Monastery in rural Hanceville, Ala.

Steven Vacek, 23, of Holy Cross Parish in East Bernard is a member of this community based in Alabama. He joined in June 2006 and received the religious

name Brother Fidelis. He attended East Bernard High School and Wharton Junior College before entering the community.

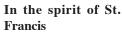
His parents are Thomas and Donna Vacek of East Bernard. His father is a Fourth Degree Knight of Columbus, and his mother is a member of the Catholic Daughters of the Americas; they are also Knight and Lady of the Holy Sepulcher. Thomas owns Vacek Hardware in East Bernard.

The mission of the Knights of the Holy Eucharist is to enhance devotion to the Eucharist through their service to the pilgrims who visit the Shrine of the Most Blessed Sacrament and the cloistered nuns of Our Lady of the Angels Monastery.

What is remarkable about this small community is that it is drawing relatively young men, such as Brother Fidelis, into consecrated life. Founded by Mother Angelica, foundress of the Eternal Word Television Network (EWTN), the Knights are a vibrant community of young men deeply committed to the Catholic faith. They represent part of the resurgence of vocations in the Catholic Church developing from the "new evangelization" promoted by Pope John Paul II and continued by Pope Benedict XVI.

The Shrine and monastery, home to a cloistered community of Poor Clares of Perpetual Adoration, were founded by Mother Angelica, the beloved nun who entered religious broadcasting in 1981 on little more than a prayer and developed the Eternal Word Television Network (EWTN), the largest and most popular re-

ligious media network in the world. EWTN is headquartered some 50 miles to the south in the Birmingham suburb of Irondale, where the nuns resided in the original monastery until their relocation to the present site in 1999.



The Knights of the Holy Eucharist have as their primary focus the fostering of reverence for the Blessed Sacrament as well as the assistance and protection of the nuns of

the monastery. Along with maintaining the grounds and facilities, the Knights host clergy, brothers, and seminarians on retreat; serve as acolytes at Shrine liturgies; and provide assistance for pilgrims.

Situated on 400 acres of lush farmland along a remote country road some 45 miles north of Birmingham, the Shrine receives thousands of pilgrims each year who seek to nourish their faith amid this sacred and peaceful environment.

Community members live the evangelical counsels of poverty, chastity, and obedience but do not profess public vows. In their daily work and personal contact with pilgrims, the Knights also seek opportunities to evangelize by performing works of charity and providing instruction and comfort when necessary. Putting aside the things of this world, they live by the motto of their patron, St. Francis of Assisi: "My God and my All."

For more information on the order, contact: Knights of the Holy Eucharist; Attn.: Brother David; 3222 County Road 548; Hanceville, AL 35077; knightsinfo@gmail.com; or www.knightsoftheholyeucharist.com



Religious and laity around the world celebrate the Feast of the Holy Cross in what Pope Benedict XVI has called the "Year for Priests." It is also the exciting launch of VOCATIONBOOM. COM, a Web site dedicated to increasing and supporting the call to priestly life. Founded by Jerry Usher, creator and former host of Catholic Answers live, Vocation Boom is intent on creating a culture that's open to the priesthood, clearing the path to discovery, and unlocking minds and hearts to God's special call. Made up of a group of passionate advocates dedicated to supporting the priesthood as a life's vocation and mission, Vocation Boom is a global support community.

It's a place where youth and young men can find answers, encouragement, mentors and friends to aid in the discernment process and beyond. Vocation directors, priests and educators will also find an online community that provides the tools they need to cultivate those called

to priestly life. Candidates can determine their specific path - diocesan or religious priesthood and, within religious priesthood, to which charism they are best suited. Even family and friends of men with a calling can find the resources that they need to support their loved ones' choice to become a priest. VOCATIONBOOM.COM is dedicated to fostering a positive perception of the priesthood and culture of priestly vocations. In this "Year for Priests," the theme is, the priesthood is the love of the heart of Jesus. But the Holy Father himself has quoted the wisdom of St. John Vianney, patron saint of priests, saying, "The great misfortune for us parish priests is that our souls grow tepid." VOCATIONBOOM. COM is a new source of inspiration for this spiritual numbness as it simultaneously helps young men answer the call and let their voices be heard. Log on to discover the first step in a leap of faith! Please go to: http://www.vocationboom.com/!

Twenty Something

By Christina Capecchi E-mail: Christina@ReadChristina.com



Reminding each other what God can do

Oprah imagined the comeback long before Whitney Houston stepped on her stage and delivered it.

She sang, "Oprah said, 'Girl, do you know you're loved?' Now I know my own strength." Oprah blinked away a tear and the audience screamed, and in that moment, Whitney's triumph over addictive drugs became Oprah's triumph over sagging ratings.

It was a classic Harpo exchange, one that managed to feel both commercial and spiritual. As the two women hugged, I thought about the transformations we cheer into being, clapping and whistling, waving brightly-colored poster boards that broadcast our confidence.

In my twenty-some years, I've been blessed with many cheerleaders, and lately, I've been more attuned to their impact, the way they spur along my pursuit of big dreams and small to-dos.

The other day, for instance, I told my dad that a National Public Radio editor



Theology at the Well schedule

Theology at the Well, the highly successful Catholic program geared toward young adults, married or single, continues. The exciting and informative meetings take place every other Thursday evening at 7 p.m. at Chili's Restaurant. Those attending will hear interesting discussions on current issues in the Church and have the opportunity to meet other Catholics while enjoying good food and drinks.

Topics for the upcoming meetings will be:

- Oct. 15 "Jesus of Nazareth", part 1 We've known Him for so long, and yet who really is this Jesus, the carpenter from Nazareth? Pope Benedict's personal search "for the face of the Lord" is recorded in his book "Jesus of Nazareth." Father David Berger introduces us to the Holy Father's Jesus.
- Oct. 29 "Jesus of Nazareth", part 2 – Using Pope Benedict's book "Jesus of Nazareth" as a guide, Father David Berger continues to lead our exploration of who Jesus was and is.
- Nov. 12 Going to the Movies ... or not? Movies are big entertainment in America. We go to shows to laugh, cry and escape for a bit. But movies are often full of violence and gratuitous sex. Sometimes, they are openly anti-Catholic. Father Bryan Heyer leads a discussion of how Catholics should approach Hollywood.

For more information, please contact: Debbie Vanelli at the Office of Youth Ministry at (361) 573-0828 ext. 32 or at dvanelli@victoriadiocese.org/José Ortega at ext. 50 or at jortega@victoriadiocese.org or Jim Wearden at (361) 649-9157.

is considering an essay of mine and has requested audio samples – something I'm a tad short on. Dad didn't miss a beat, recalling a few 10-minute segments I did five years ago. "You've got radio experience! Did you tell him about those Relevant Radio interviews?"

His confidence gave me the strength to press send on the email I'd pieced together, to take the risk and make the leap.

Dad is also there to classify failures as flukes. "You just had an off day," he said last month, after a softball game filled with strike-outs.

He pulled me out of my rut with batting practice. "You were watching the ball," he said between pitches, "but you weren't focusing on it." After a few more whiffs, I put bat on ball. Then I made smoother strokes. The next game, I was back.

My mom also has cheered me along. She was there to listen to every story I wrote as a girl. Where there were heavy adverbs and too many participial phrases, Mom heard a burgeoning vocabulary and a creative mind. She listened to my clarinet, sipping her tea and trusting that "Three Blind Mice" would one day turn into Mozart. She believed scales would be followed by symphonies and flat notes would slide into tune, that Dr. Seuss would lead to Shakespeare, Little League to varsity, and tantrums to temperance.

She knew what practice could do, what braces could do, what a good night's sleep could do, what time could do, and ultimately, what God could do.

This month's readings illustrate the transformative power of God's love, a God who counted each hair on our heads, the God who restored vision to the blind man, the God for whom "all things are possible."

We never really outgrow the desire for gold stars and blue ribbons. The rallying cries of our cheerleaders mean even more in young adulthood, when doubts can be darker and more persistent. It is a novel juncture: We are old enough to recognize and appreciate their support, and we're old enough to become cheerleaders to others, including our parents, blossoming into vibrant grandparents and active retirees.

When we demonstrate our belief in friends and relatives, classmates and colleagues, we invite them into a clearer sense of self, a picture that is closer to the way God sees them: cherished, resilient,

How blessed we are by the ones who love us as sinners and believe in us as saints.

Christina Capecchi is a freelance writer from Inver Grove Heights, Minn. E-mail her at Christina@readchristina.com.

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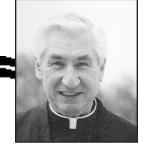
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FAITH POINT

By Rev. Msgr. James C. Brunner Vicar General, Diocese of Victoria For past articles: www.stmaryvic.com/desk.htm



Does contraception minimize the incidence of abortion?

If there are validly married

couples who read this and

would like to explore such a

ministry, I ask them to contact

me at (361) 573-4328, or

stmaryvic@suddenlinkmail.

com, or write to me at P.O. Box

2448, Victoria, TX 77902-2448.

n the 1960s "free love" or sex without consequences groups advocated contraception. This did not lower the abortion rate. Instead it increased premarital and extramarital sex, sexually transmitted disease, out of wedlock childbearing. It also failed to provide a context for welcoming new life, and abortions increased. Abortion became the backup to contraceptive failure.

Contraception itself causes abortions. Contraceptives were originally intended to prevent ovulation but pill makers found it necessary to lessen key ingredients to lessen side effects for women such as stroke and even death. The first principle of Marketing 101 is "Don't kill your customers."

With the mini-pill, often ovulation still occurs and sperm is joined to the egg in the formation of a new human being. The union of sperm and ovum used to be called conception, but proponents of contraception started a new and successful campaign

to identify conception with implantation. That would remove the IUD and the new mini-pill from the stigma of abortion because, according to the new definition of conception, created purely for public relations

and not scientific purposes, conception had not yet occurred. It had, of course, but users of the contraceptive pill were lulled into believing that they were not responsible for the death of a new human being who, according to the new definition did not exist because he/she had not yet been "conceived." Users of the IUD or the contraceptive pill and, most assuredly, the Emergency Contraception (EC) or "morning after" pill cannot with consistency be opposed to abortion. They intensely desire an early stage abortion if sperm and egg have actually been united. They desperately seek to prevent implantation of the new human being. It is fatuous to argue that we can minimize abortions by making certain that they occur early in the life of the fetus.

The Allen Guttmacher Institute, the research arm of Planned Parenthood, claimed that thousands of abortions have been "prevented" by contraception in any given year. If their mathematical model is correct it is hard to explain some stubborn facts occurring in the real world. In 2006 the Institute issued a report card grading the fifty states according to the aggressiveness with which they promoted contraception. The states receiving the highest grades, New York and California, also had the highest abortion rates in the country. States that the Institute ranked near the bottom on aggressiveness in contraception promotion, like Kansas and the Dakotas, had the lowest abortion rates. A simple person like me could easily come to the conclusion that the more contraception there is the more abortions. If contraception is supposed to eliminate abortions, why do they seem to multiply in precisely the places that have the most contraception?

When ECs became available, experts predicted that the clinical abortion rate would be cut in half. The reason is that ECs were a backup to unprotected sex or contraceptive failure. They required no previous planning and could be taken after intercourse. Other experts surveyed 23 studies gauging the effects of EC programs and they discovered that not one of them produced a reduction in unintended pregnancies or abortions.

By one account, 89 percent of U.S. women of reproductive age who are sexually active use contraception, and 98% have done so in their lifetime. If contraceptive practice is so widespread why has there been mainly negligible reduction in abortions?

The pill does not work as well in real life as claimed. Half the women seeking abortion had been on contraception during the previous month. Contraception expert James Trussel of Princeton maintains that the contraceptive pill is an outdated

method because it does not work well enough. A dose delayed by as much as three hours can lead to a danger of pregnancy. There seems to be a higher contraceptive failure rate among teens. Also women who feel protected

by technology may engage in riskier behaviors and have sex more frequently. This magnifies the small portion of protection not provided for by the pill. Researcher K. Edgardh found that, in spite of free counseling, over-the-counter availability of cheap condoms and contraceptive pills, as well as EC, the teen abortion rate in Sweden rose from 17 per thousand in 1951 to 22.5 per thousand in 2001.

Something that does lower abortion is sexual abstinence. The Journal of Adolescent Health reported that 67% of the decline in non-marital pregnancies among teens during 1991 to 1995 was due to the lower number of teens having sexual intercourse. As the saying goes, "Abstinence works every time."

Contraception undercuts the entire biblical discipline on sex. The biblical view on sex is that it is for procreation ("increase and multiply") and for union ("the two become one body"). Put another way sex is for procreation and recreation. In contraception everything possible is done to eliminate procreation and so only recreation is left. To justify this activity one must defend the notion that sex for recreation alone is morally permissible. If one denies that principle, then logically he must deny that contraception is morally good. But if sex for recreation alone is all right, what is the matter with fornication, adultery, or bestiality if that is the way you want to recreate? All of these are fun, but condemned by the Scriptures. Will parents who contracept encourage their 13-year-old daughter to have sex so that she can enjoy herself, so long as she is careful with her contraception? If not, why would they deny the daughter a pleasure that they arrogate to themselves and claim is morally permissible and may be a positive good? In condemning every form of sexual expression outside of marriage, the Bible is instructing us that sex is not just for pleasure alone but must always remain open to life in a context where new life can be nourished and protected by two parents, that is to say, in marriage.

Contraception sets one up psychologically to accept abortion. The potential mother already accepts the abortifacient effects of the pill. If a pregnancy occurs after taking the trouble to prevent it, the new human is not welcomed as a blessing and gift from God but as a spoiler and enemy.

There are bills before Congress to increase funding for contraception. The rationale for this is that this will cut down on the need for abortion. This is supposedly an area where abortionists and prolifers can agree. Agreement is not possible even setting aside morality because of the abortifacient effects of various methods of contraception and also because, in actual practice, contraception does not seem to lower the abortion rate.

Rather than resorting to contraception, couples should learn natural family planning (NFP), which is morally permissible for married couples if there are sufficient reasons for delaying pregnancies or avoiding them altogether. NFP does not cause an early abortion and leaves the act open to life in accordance with the scriptural standard. NFP can be learned from books, but ideally it is learned from a couple that practices NFP and is trained to give instruction on the subject. Indeed, this would be a worthy ministry for couples to undertake-to assist couples in exercising their sexuality in a moral fashion. Such training would remove marital love from the culture of death represented by contraception and abortion as a backup for contraception.

If there are validly married couples who read this and would like to explore such a ministry, I ask them to contact me at (361) 573-4328, or stmaryvic@sudden-linkmail.com, or write to me at P.O. Box 2448, Victoria, TX 77902-2448.

Have you ever thought about becoming a Dominican Priest or Brother?

If you would like to explore a vocation as a Dominican (Order of Preachers) priest or brother, we invite you to join us for a Dominican Experience Weekend [DEW]. This weekend of prayer, community and information sharing (held in English) is designed to help men like yourself explore the possibility of a vocation to Dominican life. College-age and older men are invited to join us the weekend of October

College Masses to resume

October 7, 2009 - Mass at Victoria College/ University of Houston Campus will be held at 2:00 p.m. in the Student Center. Father David Berger will be the celebrant.

November 12, 2009 - Mass at Victoria College/ University of Houston Campus at 2:00 p.m. will be held in the Sports Center. Father Bryan Heyer will be the celebrant.

16-18, 2009, at the Dominican Novitiate in Irving, Texas. For more information, visit our Web site at **www.dominicanvocations.com** or e-mail our Vocation Promoter at frcharlie@dominicanvocations. com (504-837-2129 ext. 10).

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.

Reporting Child Abuse

Hotline 1-800-252-5400



CATECHESIS

Parish to host mission featuring Michael Cumbie

Holy Family Church in Victoria invites everyone to their parish mission featuring Michael Cumbie Oct. 18 – 21.

From the heart of the Deep South, steeped in Southern Baptist tradition, Michael Cumbie's call from God to preach the Gospel came at age 14. At age 19, while attending college and working on a degree in music education,



Michael Cumbie

Michael experienced a life-changing charismatic encounter with the Holy Spirit. Increasingly dissatisfied with fundamentalist, evangelical preaching of the Gospel, he began to understand just exactly how the early Church had worshiped with its signs and symbols - and its focus on the Eucharist.

Although a Protestant Pastor for 23 years, Michael ultimately realized that to be truly Catholic means to be in union with Rome, and continued his studies and research. Eventually he realized that the two faiths would not become one any time soon, and he discovered that this quest for the fullness of Faith could only be realized in the Roman Catholic Church.

In 2001, Michael and his three children were received into the Catholic Church. Michael's wife Sherry came back to the Catholic Church that day as well, after a 28-year absence. Michael Cumbie's conversion story is titled "No Bread on the Table, No Crumbs on the Floor" because of his great love of, and respect for, the Most Holy Eucharist.

Michael Cumbie is an experienced speaker, musician, and worship leader and will inspire any audience with his knowledge, wit and incredible sense of humor. Michael will have everyone rolling with laughter while appreciating their Catholic Faith in a way that no other speaker can!

Holy Family Parish welcomes everyone to this parish mission, which will begin each evening October 18 – 21 at 7:00 p.m. For more information call Holy Family Church at (361) 573-5304.

12th Annual Catholic Schools Conference raises questions about Social Justice

By Cynthia Brewer

"We Must Be Just" was the Sept. 4, 2009, Catholic School Seminar title reflecting its social justice theme. The 12th annual seminar was held at Holy Family Church in Victoria for the

faculty and staff of the 15

Clockwise: Teachers learn different ways of praying from Sister Digna Vela, IWBS. Keynote speaker, Father Stan De Boe, challenges faculty to raise the awareness of Catholic Social teaching and action in our Catholic schools. Mr. David Smolik teaches coaches to "Praise direction not perfection!" An interested crowd learns about the positive and negative effects of the Internet and technology.

we've got to ask, 'What am I going to do about it?'

"We have to learn to ask the right questions, be prepared for the answers and not be afraid when students ask us questions,"

"Some of your students will get it and some won't, but some will change the

Other presentations included "Prayer: A primary Key to Evangelizing Youth"



Catholic schools within the Diocese of

The keynote speaker was Father Stan De Boe, O.SS.T., pastor of Our Lady of Sorrows in Victoria. With his extensive experience (20+ years) in social justice ministry, Father De Boe taught the teachers that Catholic education can provide a unique opportunity to open the minds and hearts of young people to be attentive to the poverty and injustice that surrounds them, if only they ask the right questions.

"Jesus' presence made people ask him questions," Fr. De Boe said. "And Jesus taught in creative ways through parables, images, and asking them questions."

When we see/hear about the injustices being committed throughout the world,

he encouraged.

The people Jesus challenged were the ones who made a difference in the world. Let them in; let them ask the questions; and let them challenge you.

"Teachers, you've chosen a noble vocation," Father Stan said. "May you be blessed with a curious mind always open to ask the questions, invite others to do the same, and we can change the face of the world."

by Sister Digna Vela, IWBS; "Source and Summit of Christian Life" by Father David Berger; "Social Justice in the Classroom" by Mr. Ron Friedel; "Coaching as a Ministry" by Mr. David Smolik; and "Cyberbullying, Twittering and Texting, Oh My!" by Cheryl Shamburger and Linda Dueser from Region III of the Victoria Independent School District.

Pauline Writings & New Testament Letters October 12 – November 17, 2009

9:15 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. and 7:00 p.m. - 9:15 p.m. Chancery, Victoria or Holy Rosary, Hostyn Sr. Digna Vela, IWBS - Instructor

Pope Benedict XVI said, "Paul was the Apostle of the Gentiles, who dedicated himself to the spreading of the good news to all peoples...for the unity and harmony of all Christians.'

What does it mean in 1 Corinthians 14:34 when Paul says, "Women should keep silent in churches..."? How do we read the New Testament Letters and apply them to our lives in the 21st century?

All adults are encouraged to attend this six-week class to learn more about the richness of the Scriptures. Cost is \$15 for the six-week class. Call 361-573-0828, e-mail calvarez@victoriadiocese.org, or visit www.victoriadocese.org to register or for more information.

Holy Trinity Chapel

November 1

Victoria Community Center



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RAIL Hope You Can Come & Join Us!

St. Theresa Annual Parish Picnic

in La Salle at the Parish Hall County Road 325 & Hwy 616 Sunday, October 18

County Store **Turkey Dressing Dinner** (Catered by Robert Werner of Shiner, Texas) Serving: 11:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m. • \$7 • Dine-in or Plates-to-go

Auction at 12:30 p.m.

Hige Panisale

Jamaica 2009 Turkey Dinner @ \$7 per plate from 11:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.

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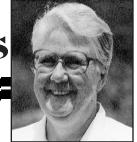
Question Corner

By Father John Dietzen Catholic News Service



SISTERLY THOUGHTS

By Sister Mildred Truchard, IWBS



Salvation outside of the Catholic Church?

Q. Everyone in my men's prayer group (we are all in our 60s and 70s) claim they were taught in their Catholic schools that you have to be Catholic to get to heaven. I remember our teachers (School Sisters of Notre Dame) saying that you can live in Africa and never hear of Jesus Christ and still go to heaven.

Did the Catholic Church ever teach that a person had to be Catholic to be saved? I sure hope not. (Ohio)

A. Let's first be clear about Catholic teaching today. The Catechism of the Catholic Church includes a critical and significant sentence: "Hence they could not be saved who, knowing that the Catholic Church was founded as necessary by God through Christ, would refuse either to enter it or remain in it" (No. 846, quoting the Second Vatican Council Dogmatic Constitution on the Church).

If you read carefully that second clause ("knowing ... through Christ"), you can see that the obligation to be Catholic, or even to be baptized for that matter, would not apply to billions of people on earth.

The teaching is made more explicit in the next catechism paragraph, also quoting the Dogmatic Constitution on the Church: "Those who, through no fault of their own, do not know the Gospel of Christ or his church, but who nevertheless seek God with a sincere heart, and, moved by grace, try in their actions to do his will as they know it through the dictates of their conscience — those too may achieve eternal salvation."

The catechism notes what should be obvious. While God has bound salvation to the sacrament of baptism, "he himself is not bound by his sacraments." He is totally free to fulfill his desire for everyone's salvation in other ways (No. 1257).

In his hopeful and moving book "Crossing the Threshold of Hope," Pope John Paul II notes the many common elements of belief between Christianity and what we usually call "pagan" religions. "The Catholic Church rejects nothing that is true in these religions," he says, because we are "guided by the faith that God the Creator wants to

save all humankind in Jesus Christ.'

We don't know how God does all this, the pope continues, but we do know that "Christ redeemed them all and has his own ways of reaching each of them" (pgs. 80, 83).

This is and has been for many decades now the Catholic Church's official understanding of God's saving plan. For reasons it is impossible to discuss here, however, that has not always been the case, particularly during the last several centuries.

In 1441, for example, Pope Eugene IV solemnly declared, in a decree held for centuries to be defined faith: "The Most Holy Roman Catholic Church firmly believes, professes and preaches that none of those existing outside the Catholic Church, not only pagans, but also Jews and heretics and schismatics, can have a share in life eternal; but ... will go into the eternal fire."

As late as 1830, Pope Pius VIII could speak of "that most steadfast dogma of our religion, that outside the Catholic faith no one can be saved."

Interestingly, just 33 years later, in 1863, Pope Pius IX repeated that "Catholic dogma" but added a remarkable sentence. Those "who are in invincible ignorance of our most holy religion," he wrote, "but who carefully observe the natural law and its precepts which God has written in the hearts of men, who are ready to obey God and to lead an honest and upright life, can through the power of divine light and grace attain eternal life."

It is that last stream of thought that theologians and the church's magisterium developed and honed through the first half of the 20th century that brought us as Catholic Christians to the wider understanding of God's providential desire and care for the salvation of all people which we embrace today.

(A free brochure on ecumenism, including questions on intercommunion and other ways of sharing worship, is available by sending a stamped, self-addressed envelope to Father John Dietzen, Box 3315, Peoria, IL 61612.)

"Wolves in Sheep's Clothing" Erroneous Internet Information

here is so much information at our fingertips. Traditional libraries, modern media, and internet sources supply an unfathomable amount of information. Often, when I want to find some information, I search for it on the internet. Usually I get a great number of results. However, I know that I need to verify the validity of the resources. If it is a religious topic, I have to check the source. If it comes from the Vatican Library, the US Conference of Catholic Bishops, or another trusted source, then I feel secure in its teaching. Sometimes I think I have a good source, only to find that the information is incomplete, out of date, untrue, or written by someone who doesn't know what they're talking about. Anyone can put information on to the internet, even if they don't know what they're talking about. In many cases, there's no one to check the accuracy of their statements. For example, if I decided to write an article supporting the rapture before tribulation, which is not a teaching of the Catholic Church, readers might take my thesis as being comprised of validly approved facts. These readers might pass my erroneous information on to others who accept it as the truth and use it as the basis for their thinking.

Not only is some information errone-

tion is out of date. I got caught in that trap. Once when I was searching for information, someone told me about the Catholic Encyclopedia that is on the internet. I was overjoyed because I didn't have access to the latest printed version of the Catholic Encyclopedia. I began to use the internet version, but soon the information didn't match what I had learned. There was nothing about Vatican II or the doctrine about the Assumption of Our Blessed Mother. So I looked up some of the footnotes in the text and discovered that the references were from the 1800's. Then I looked for the copyright date and discovered that it was 1908. Oops! No wonder Our Blessed Mother and the official literature of the Church were being short-changed! That taught me to be more careful to check the sources I use. I have also learned to check the accuracy of the cute e-mails that I receive before I forward them to others. Often I discover that the e-mail messages include inaccurate or distorted versions of the truth. So, this is a reminder that I must always check out what I'm e-mailing (or saying in a speech conversation) with the following criteria: "Is it true? Is it kind? Is it helpful?" If I can say yes to these questions, I'm ready to share!

ous or incomplete, sometimes the informa-

All Souls Day – Monday, November 2

An All Souls Day Mass will be held at 12 p.m. Monday, November 2, at Resurrection Cemetery Mausoleum on the corner of Laurent St. and Mockingbird Lane in Victoria. Msgr. Eustace Hermes will celebrate the Mass; light refreshments will follow.

Catholic cemeteries give a powerful and enduring witness that our community of faith transcends our earthly existence and that the bonds we share are unbroken by time or earthly death. All Souls Day is a day set aside to pray for the deceased and to visit the graves of loved ones and friends in a show of respect to those who have gone before us and who now dwell in the next life.

Outside of Victoria, please check with local parishes for locations and times of All Souls Day Masses.

Local women elected National CWV level

Continued from p. 1

Nevada: Commander Albert Garcia, Jim Driscoll, Isidore Ozuna, Daniel Martinez, Pablo Narvaiz, Pete Moralez, President Lupita Martinez, Department of Texas President Selina Driscoll, representing Texas on the national board; National Historian Cecilia Garcia, Toney Aguilar, Carmen Magana, Estella Dominguez and Noelia Pardo. The convention was held at the Palace Station Hotel and Casino in Las Vegas, Nevada.

This convention was a historic one for St. John's Post 1269 as Lupita Martinez, who has served on the national CWV Auxiliary board since 2003, was elected National CWV Auxiliary President. She is the first member from St. John's Post 1269 Auxiliary to serve on the national board. Also at this convention, Past Department of Texas President Cecilia Garcia was elected to serve as National Historian, and Daniel Martinez was elected as National Welfare Officer on the CWV National Board. He has been serving on the CWV National Board since 2005.

The convention was filled with many activities. It included Holy Mass at the beginning of each day. The state of Texas was well represented by fellow Catholic War Veterans and Auxiliary members. A Memorial Service was held honoring all the deceased Catholic War Veterans and

Auxiliary members from all posts and units throughout the United States. Lupita Martinez, national first vice-president was responsible for organizing and leading the Memorial Service. It was a beautiful service, which included prayers, patriotic songs and hymns of praise by the Nevada Opera Theater Chorus, Myron Heaton Chorale and the placing of flowers and flags by department commanders, presidents and/or representatives from each state in memory of their deceased members.

St. John's Post 1269 Auxiliary, Victoria, received the following awards for their work during the year of 2008 – 2009 for units with 31-75 members. Toney Aguilar received a first place award as first vice-president in Catholic Action. Cecilia Garcia received a first place award as third vice-president in Youth Activities. Rosalia Cisneros received a second place citation for ritual officer. Several Auxiliary members received citation awards for their volunteer hours at the VA Clinic. On the Department of Texas level, Cecilia Garcia received first place award as Americanism and Civics chairlady.

To finalize convention activities, a Convention Memorial Mass was held on August 21, 2009. The main celebrant was Most Reverend Bishop Protector Richard B. Higgins. After the Mass, the most presti-

gious CWV Award, Saint Sebastian Award and Medal was presented to three veterans and the most prestigious award of CWV Auxiliary, Award of Saint Agnes and Medal was presented to two Auxiliary members.

The Mass was followed by a banquet. Prior to introduction of guest speakers, Past National Auxiliary President Anna Rose Muzika, from Pennsylvania, presented the national president pin to Lupita Martinez. President Martinez presented the past national president pin to Anna Rose Muzika.

One of the guest speakers at the banquet was Shoshana Johnson of El Paso, Texas. Army officials identify Shoshana Johnson as the first female POW of Operation Iraqi Freedom and the first black female POW in U.S. War History. Johnson was a specialist assigned to the 507th Maintenance Company out of Ft. Bliss, Texas. In February 2003, Johnson received orders to deploy to Iraq. On March 23, 2003, during Operation Iraqi Freedom, Johnson was in a convoy that was ambushed by insurgents in Iraq. She was injured by gunfire, captured and taken Prisoner of War. On April 13, 2003, house raids conducted by U.S. Marines resulted in the successful rescue of seven POWs including Shoshana Johnson. Ms. Johnson is a member of the Catholic War Veterans Greater El Paso Post 1939 in El Paso, Texas.



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PORT LAVACA FORMS COLUMBIAN SQUIRES CIRCLE—The Knights of Columbus Council 3253 of Port Lavaca had its first Columbian Squires Circle installation Sunday, August 23, 2009. The council installed 16 members. The new Columbian Squires are bottom row, left to right: Christopher, Adrian, Luey and Sebastian; middle row: Juan, Jeroydha, Elijah and Patrick; top row: Pedro, Nathan, Drew, Phillip, Marcus, Anthony, Jonathan and Juan.



OLG 8TH GRADE CLASS ATTENDS RETREAT—Our Lady of the Gulf Catholic School 8th Grade Class from Port Lavaca attended their first Leadership Retreat of the school year on Thursday, August 20. Students traveled to the Victoria Diocesan Spiritual Renewal Center where the director, Mr. Ron Friedel, conducted a full-day retreat focusing on being "Servant Leaders." Toward the end of the retreat students got hands-on practice by putting together Vegetarian Black Bean Chili meal bags to be donated to the Calhoun County Food Pantry for area families in need.



OLG MARINERS ROCK & ROW! — Our Lady of the Gulf Catholic School's 8th grade class mixed science, social studies and physical education with fun by taking a kayaking trip on Friday, August 28, at the LaSalle Loop in Calhoun County. The trip was coordinated through Rhonda Cummins, Calhoun County's Extension Agent, through the Texas Sea Grant Extension. And yes - that is Father Dan Morales in a kayak.



ST. ROSE STUDENTS LEARN TOWN'S HISTORY—Mr. Ben Sustr came to St. Rose School, Schulenburg, September 1, 2009, for the 6th and 7th grade history classes. He spoke to the classes about the history of Schulenburg. The students were very enlightened by his knowledge and are now very educated with the history of their town.

Youth Calendar of Events

October 7—Mass at Victoria College/ University of Houston Campus at 2:00 p.m. in the Student Center. Rev. David Berger is the celebrant.

October 8—Foundations - A Certificate Program in Youth Ministry Studies -at Our Lady of Mount Carmel in Wharton - This session is "Ethics and Crisis Management" - 6:00 -9:00 p.m..

October 13—National Catholic Youth Conference Parent Meeting

October 15—Foundations - A Certificate Program in Youth Ministry Studies -at Our Lady of Mount Carmel in Wharton - This session is "Retreat Formation" - 6:00-9:00 p.m..

October 15—Theology at the Well - at Chili's in Victoria - 6:45-8:30 p.m. - tonight's topic is "Jesus of Nazareth" presented by Rev. David Berger.

October 18—Youth Leadership Training

October 19—National Catholic Youth Conference Chaperone Meeting

October 20—National Catholic Youth Conference Parent Meeting

October 23-25—Archdiocesan Conference for Catholic Youth Ministers in Houston

October 29—Theology at the Well - at Chili's in Victoria - 6:45-8:30 p.m. - to-night's topic is "Jesus of Nazareth part 2" presented by Rev. David Berger

November 1—NET Team at Our Lady of Victory in Victoria

November 3—NET Team at St. Joseph Mission in Boling

November 4—NET Team at Sts. Cyril and Methodius in Shiner

November 5—NET Team at Sts. Cyril and Methodius in Shiner

November 6—NET Team available for retreats in the diocese

November 7—NET Team at St. Joseph in Moulton

November 7—Foundations - A Certificate Program in Youth Ministry Studies - at the Diocese of Victoria, Chancery - This session is "Leadership Development and Program Planning" - 9:00 a.m.-12 noon

November 8—NET Team at St. Roch in Mentz

November 9—NET Team at St. Rose of Lima in Schulenburg

November 10—NET Team at Our Lady of Sorrows in Victoria

November 12—Mass at Victoria College / University of Houston Campus at 2:00 p.m. in the Sports Center. Rev. Bryan Heyer is the celebrant.

November 12—Theology at the Well - at Chili's in Victoria - 6:45-8:30 p.m. - tonight's topic is "Going to the Movies... or not?" presented by Rev. Bryan Heyer

November 15—Youth Leadership Training

For more information on any of these events, please contact:

Debbie Vanelli or José Ortega at the Office of Youth Ministry at (361) 573-0828 ext. 32 / ext. 50 or e-mail at dvanelli@victoriadiocese.org or jortega@victoriadiocese.org

Web site: www.victoriadiocese.org/youthoffice

ST. MICHAEL'S CATHOLIC SCHOOL FALL FESTIVAL SUNDAY, OCTOBER 25, 2009

St. Michael's Parish Hall, 104 McLeod Street, Cuero, Texas 77954



1st Annual Bake-Off Sponsored by C.D.A. Court #347

Judging on Saturday, October 24th Winners Announced Sunday

Visit our website for details



DINNER 11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Home-style Chicken Fried Steak Buttered Potatoes, Green Beans, Dessert

\$7.00 per plate
Eat in and enjoy the festivities
or drive-thru available

LIVE AUCTION
Begins at 12:30
Furniture, Trips,
Food items.

and much, much more

Shiner Hobo Band in the Hall 10:30 – 12:30

Raffle Drawing Prizes given away following the auction "Legends" from the Grand Ole Opry will perform throughout the Auction



Children's Game Booths & Petting Zoo Noon - 3:00 p.m.



Children's Costume Contest at 3:00 p.m.

Performance by Dot the Clown 3:15 p.m.

Children's Movie

Food Vendors all afternoon

Street Dance with DJ Boogie Shoes 3:00 – 6:00



Bingo Begins at Noon

Country Store

Silent Auction

Cake Walk



Tournaments

Volleyball Horseshoe

Washer

Domino

Call 361/277-3854 for details and registration or visit our website www.stmichaels-cuero.org





HOSTYN KJT PRESENTS CHECKS TO YNIA—Hostyn KJT Society #3 presented the Hostyn Young Neighbors in Action (YNIA) with a matching grant from the KJT Home Office. This grant was from their bake sale efforts in conjunction with the KJT 2009 Religious Retirement Fundraiser. Also, the YNIA members helped sell tickets for the event and received a commission. YNIA earns money so they can go on service trips and help the less fortunate. Pictured is Theo Svec, treasurer, presenting checks along with Ralph Goerig, president; Benedict Kallus, vice president; and Ted Hoffmann, secretary, to the members who were present: Jenifer Rocha, Jackie Rocha, Marissa Rubio, Jodi Kozelsky, Allegra Abbey and Cindy Corona.



St. Joseph High School cheerleaders, Ashley Mutchler, Savanna Mendoza and Hilary Kristynik, were selected as All-American Cheerleaders at the Universal Cheerleaders Associaion summer camp.

Cheerleaders not only win awards, but also serve

While there can be a stereotype for cheerleaders, the St. Joseph High School cheerleaders make service one of their main goals. Beginning this past summer, they began painting for Habitat for Humanity, working the food bank, landscaping with Keep Victoria Beautiful, working a food drive at Wal-Mart, raising money for the Down Syndrome League of Victoria with a team for the Buddy Walk in October, and most recently they offered a free Cheer Camp to elementary girls from local public schools at the Boys and Girls Club.

Freshman Ashley Mutchler (JV), Sophomore Savannah Mendoza (Varsity), and Senior Hilary Kristynik (Varsity) were selected as All-American Cheerleaders during the Universal Cheerleaders Association (UCA) summer camp held in

August. All-Americans are selected based on superior cheerleading skills at camps across the country. Only 12 percent of cheerleaders who try out earn this honor. Varsity All-Americans are invited to perform in London during the New Year's Day parade while JV All-Americans are invited to the Thanksgiving Day parade held in Houston, Tx.

These young ladies are truly an inspiration in that they are so willing to offer their time and talents to help others. The captain's mother, Traci Monroe, is the coordinator for these events. She does a great job of organizing these young ladies and offering them service opportunities.

"A good cheerleader is not measured by the height of her jumps but by the span of her Spirit" is a motto on one of their

Join the Buddy Walk – Oct. 10

One of the service projects the St. Joe Cheerleaders raises money for is the Down Syndrome League of Victoria. The cheerleaders will be a team for the local organization's 1st Annual Buddy Walk, which will be held Saturday, October 10, at the Nature Area located at 3003 N. Vine Street in Victoria. Anyone, individuals or teams, may join them.

Registration for the Buddy Walk begins at 8 a.m. with the opening ceremony at 8:45 a.m. From 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. there will be live entertainment, food and lots of family fun. For more information, please contact Yvette Laqua at (361) 489-5070 or down syndrom eleague @yahoo.com.

The Down Syndrome League of Victoria is an organization that encourages

awareness of Down Syndrome by providing educational information to the community and resources to individuals with Down Syndrome, their family and friends.

The league provides a support group meeting every first Thursday of the month, from 6:30 - 8:00 p.m., in the Education Room at DeTar Hospital - Navarro, 506 E. San Antonio St., Victoria.

As their organization grows, they want to strive to meet the needs of individuals with Down Syndrome, their family and friends. One may contact the Down Syndrome League of Victoria Support Group for educational information, resources, or for a compassionate heart at the above number and e-mail.

Saint Isidore arrives in East Bernard

EAST BERNARD-Parishioners of Holy Cross Church in East Bernard waited 16 months for the arrival of a near, life-size statue of Saint Isidore. Farming families have wanted the statue of their patron saint for a long time. It was important that the statue blend with the décor of the church and other statues enthroned when the present church was built in 1925.

Father Donald Ruppert, pastor of Holy Cross Parish, began searching for a company who still produced so-called "pre Vatican II" style statues. An Internet search and information from The Sacco Company in Houston revealed only two companies still manufacturing traditional plaster statues for churches. Both companies are in Spain.

Satisfied the statue was what parishioners were looking for, an order was placed in April of 2008 and the estimated delivery date was October of the same year. Word finally came that "Saint Idisore was aboard a cargo ship" that was scheduled to dock in New York on July 4, 2009. The statue arrived in East Bernard on July 30, 2009.

When the crate was opened, no one doubted the wait was worthwhile. Guided by a small statue standing on a shelf in the rectory, Father Ruppert colored a black and white photo of the statue and sent it to Spain asking that the new statue be painted accordingly. The coloring, features and texture of the 67-inch statue are life-like.

On August 15, the statue of Saint Isidore

was unveiled and enthroned on a four-foot pedestal. The statue was blessed and the Litany of Saint Isidore was recited. Shortly thereafter clouds appeared and a gentle rain began to fall. Visitors from neighboring parishes stop in to see the statue and offer prayers. Everyone prays for rain. Some want it now; farmers want it just as soon as they finish harvesting; and ranchers don't want their hay to get wet before it's



Saint Isidore



DIOCESAN CDA MEMBERS SERVE STATE FOR 2009-2010—Members from the Victoria Diocese serving Texas Catholic Daughters of the Americas for the term 2009-2010 are, left to right, District Deputy #34 Georgia Micosh (Port Lavaca), State Youth/JCDA Chairman Terri Beltran (El Campo), District Deputy #14 Elsie Meyers (Edna) and District Deputy #29 Carmen Longoria (Wharton). Congratulations, ladies.

CHRISTIAN MOTH-ERSHONORED—The Confraternity of Christian Mothers Chapter 716 of Sacred Heart Church in Hallettsville celebrated its annual Mass for the living and deceased members, recently. At the end of the Mass, 25-year pins were presented to Gracie Lampley and Debi Sevcik, and 50-year pins were presented



and Barbara Kubena, right. The 50-year members are pictured with Father John Peters, pastor.

LASALLE KJZT DONATES TO PARISH—Each year societies of the KJZT focus on participating in work projects for parish and community throughout the state.



During 2008, fraternal members donated 275,724 volunteer hours and participated in 10,996 events assisting others, working to make parishes and communities stronger. This year the Theresa Society No. 94 of LaSalle chose to donate \$100 to their parish building fund. Shown in the photo are Secretary Barbara Jones and Father Johnson Owusu Boateng, pastor.





Antonio and Jovita Guzman, of Our Lady of the Gulf Parish in Port Lavaca, celebrated their 75th wedding anniversary on Sunday, August 23, 2009, at Our Lady of the Gulf's noon Mass. They were married at Our Lady of Victory Church in Beeville in August of 1934. Antonio will be 100 years old June 13, 2010, and Jovita is 91 years old. Their daughter, Becky Loum, said her dad's saying is, "I just want to live long enough to celebrate my 100th birthday and then I am ready to go home."

Port Lavaca couple celebrates 75 years of marriage

By Sherry Ficklen Lifestyle/Youth Department of the Port Lavaca Wave

PORT LAVACA—Antonio R. and Jovita M. Guzman recently celebrated their 75th wedding anniversary with a reception for friends and family at Days Inn in Port Lavaca.

Upon their marriage, Antonio worked in a barbershop before making special order boots and saddles at a leather shop. They later moved to Port Lavaca where he worked as a projection machine operator for Jimmy Denham at the Port Lavaca Theatre while it was located on Main Street in Port Lavaca. Once World War II began, he volunteered to serve his country and was sent to Fort Sam Houston in San Antonio for boot camp. He was placed in the United States Army 79th Infantry division where he was later sent to France and then to Germany where he was a machine gun ammunition assistant. He fought courageously for his country during the "Battle of the Bulge," the turning point of the war in Europe.

Antonio retuned home on Christmas Eve of 1945 to a happy reunion with his family. Again he went to work at a boot shop designing and hand making dress shoes and boots, some of which were used for Hollywood cowboy movies. He also attended school under the G.I. bill to further his reading and writing skills. He moved his family back to Port Lavaca where he worked for Tom Deshazor, helping to develop Deshazor addition along with others

in Seadrift. He worked for Alcoa in the pot rooms as a pot man, electrode and crane operator where he retired in 1975 after 25 years of service. Antonio was involved in charity work for St. Vincent De Paul ministry and also did construction and repair work for senior citizens.

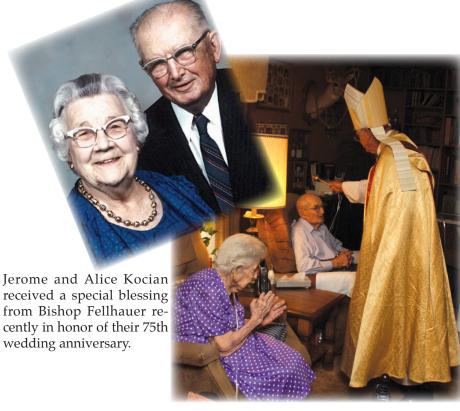
Jovita worked as an assistant in the kitchen at Bee County Hospital in Beeville before she had their first child and became a full time mother and homemaker. She later worked at the De La Garza's family store on Main Street in Port Lavaca. She received many awards and recognition for charity and volunteer work in community organizations and Our Lady of the Gulf Catholic Church where she also taught catechism. She served as president of the Sacred Heart Society for 50 years.

Jovita enjoys visiting with family, cooking, and, along side her husband, helping people in need.

Antonio and Jovita were married on Aug. 17, 1934, at Our Lady of Victory Catholic Church in Beeville. The couple has four children, daughter, Rebecca Loum, and husband Dennis of Fort Smith Ark.; sons, Antonio, and wife Flo of Richmond Va., Max and wife Donna of Cincinnati, Ohio, and Robert Luis Guzman of Pasadena; grandchildren, Errol Guerra, Michelle Camacho, Pruddy Chappo, Nieves Guzman, Terry Guzman, the late Todd Guzman, Melissa Guzman, Robert Anthony Guzman and Alicia Guzman; nine great grandchildren; and three great, great grandchildren.

Hines, music director; and David Smolik,

principal at Sacred Heart.



Hallettsville couple celebrates 75 years of marriage

HALLETTSVILLE—Jerome and Alice Wagner Kocian of Hallettsville celebrated their 75th wedding anniversary on Friday, September 4, 2009. They were married at Sts. Cyril & Methodius Catholic Church in Shiner, Texas, in 1934.

They have nine children, 23 grandchildren, and 17 great grandchildren.

Both Jerome and Alice had long teaching careers of more than 30 years each. They are members of Sacred Heart Catholic Church in Hallettsville.

Jerome has been active in the Knights of Columbus, Lions Club (50 years per-

fect attendance) and several youth support organizations. He also farmed, ranched, sold insurance and is a former owner of Lavaca County Abstract Co.

Alice learned to piece quilts after retiring from teaching and has made over 50 quilts. She is a member of the Catholic Daughters and the Retired Teachers Association.

Alice's sister, Marie Jo Knippa of Yoakum and Dr. Dennis Wagner of Shiner were the flower girl and ring bearer at their wedding in 1934. Both were present to help celebrate this 75th anniversary.

left: Students from Sacred Heart held a cer-

emony remembering those who died on 9-11.

Student council members l-r Ethan Svetlik,

Dylan Grahmann and Emily Harper raise

the flag. Below, Bishop David Fellhauer

blessed Mary's House. Pictured 1-r,

Father John Peters.

Father Michael Rother, Judy Gerdes,

Bishop Fellhauer, James Evans and

man; nine great grandchildren; and three great, great grandchildren. Bishop blesses new buildings and renovations at Sacred Heart HALLETTSVILLE—Bishop David

Fellhauer celebrated Hallettsville's Sacred Heart 9-11 commemoration and blessed many new additions to Sacred Heart Church and School on Friday, September 11, 2009.

He officiated at the 8:05 a.m. Mass at Sacred Heart Church and joined in the 9-11 prayer service at the flagpole of Sacred Heart Catholic School.

During his visit, Bishop Fellhauer blessed the Band Hall renovation and addition, the Vocational Building addition, the addition to the Youth House, and Mary's House. He also blessed Mr. and Mrs. Jerome Kocian on their 75th wedding anniversary.

The renovation and addition to the Band Hall and the addition to the Vocational Building were made possible by Victor C. Roeber, while the addition to the Youth House was made possible by the Wilhelm and Georgie Mae Grahmann Estate. Mary's House, which is used for small meetings, was donated to Sacred Heart Parish by James and Judy Evans in memory of G. H. "Gibby" and Lucille Gerdes. Roger Janak Construction served as the general contractor for the Band Hall and Vocational Building projects and was assisted by Wayne Rother Construction.



The shop building at SH also had an addition blessed, pictured l-r, Father Michael Rother, Roger Janak, Bishop Fellhauer, Vic Roeber, who made this project possible; and Father John Peters.

Above: Bishop Fellhauer blessed the renovated Youth House at Sacred Heart to be used for various activities. Pictured l-r, Father John Peters, Jack and Betty Clark, Bishop Fellhauer, Kris and Greg Hermes, youth directors; and Father Michael Rother.

Catholic By Grace

By Denise E. Bossert catholicbygrace.blogspot.com



A Sleepover to Remember

Recently, my daughter spent the night at a friend's house. She has only done this one other time; I used to do it on a regular basis when I was growing up. Some sleepovers are more memorable than others. Like the night I got homesick and had to wake my friend's parents in the middle of the night and beg them to take me home. Or the night many years later when we had a huge slumber party on the evening of the high school dance. Five girls in one bedroom, all putting on make-up and comparing outfits for the big event.

Somewhere in between these two slumber parties, I spent the night at Lori's house - I was in middle school. It was a Saturday night and her family was Catholic - Catholic enough that they went to Mass every weekend - not Catholic enough to explain to me that Holy Communion was not open to Protestant preacher's kids who stayed over for the weekend. In my preacher's-kidmind, I believed I was entitled to participate in every faith event. I considered myself to be one born into a spiritual lap of luxury. No holds barred.

In the middle of the Mass, my friend Lori leaned over and asked me if I knew about Communion. "Yeah, we have it at my church." I said.

She nodded her head as if to say, that's cool. I watched and waited for the moment the ushers would pass the bread and grape juice around. Instead, everyone started standing up and walking forward. I had the terrifying realization that I was going to be standing in front of the priest very soon, and I had no idea how to pass myself off as one who knows what's going on.

I turned to my friend and whispered, "Wait! We don't do it like this! What do I do?

Lori gave me the quickest catechesis in the history of humankind. "You hold your hands like this." She put one upturned hand in the other. "You bow, say amen, and put the Eucharist in your mouth with the bottom hand."

And that was it.

I felt the heat of embarrassment going up my neck and into my face. Suddenly, my self-assured spiritual pride was gone. I wasn't even familiar with the terms Lori used. Eucharist? What was that?

Half-way down the aisle, I thought of my parents, and I wondered if I really should be doing this. I probably should have stayed back in the pew and waited. Too late now, I thought.

And then it was my turn. I don't remember if I followed proper protocol. But somehow, I made it back to the pew and knelt beside Lori. I stayed there for a moment and wondered what I had done. What was that whirlwind of Communion all about?

The priest took Lori's parents aside after Mass and asked about me (so I must have drawn attention to myself after all). He told them that non-Catholics were NOT to receive Holy Communion. What were they thinking? They felt duly chastised, and I was left with a completely confusing memory.

Years later, when my journey of grace led me into the Catholic Church, I was properly catechized. I discovered that the Jesus I had loved from childhood was waiting for me in the Most Blessed Sacrament, the Eucharist - the Body and Blood, Soul and Divinity of Our Lord.

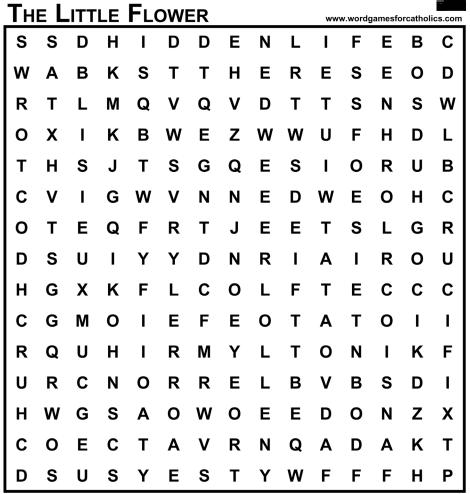
It wasn't a symbol. It didn't remind us of something that happened 2000 years earlier. It was my Jesus, truly present.

Do you know what that discovery was like for me? Absolutely beautiful. But there was that childhood memory, and that memory still haunts me. When I thought back to that Mass, I realized what I had missed.

A little over a year ago, I shared my conversion story with a parish in Oklahoma. When I came to this part of the story, a seemingly insignificant moment in my childhood, I wept. To have come so close all those years ago - if only I had known!

I encourage you to invite a guest to come to Mass with you. If you do this, please take a moment and explain to your friend what you are receiving - who you are receiving. And that only those who are in communion with Our Eucharistic Lord Jesus Christ can receive this sacrament. To receive communion, you must be in union...

And make sure they know one thing above all other things. The Eucharist is



CARMELITE CHILD JESUS CHURCH DOCTOR CONFIDENCE IN GOD CONVENT

CRUCIFIX GREAT LOVE HIDDEN LIFE LISIEUX LITTLE WAY

OCTOBER SHOWER OF ROSES ST. THERESE STORY OF A SOUL **TWENTY FOUR**

Name:			
Address:			
Phone number:			
Parish:			
Age if under 18:			
	Q		
		 	_

Family Puzzle Contest Winner to win "The Bible Blueprint"

The October Family Puzzle Contest Winner will win "The Bible Blueprint -A Catholic's Guide to Understanding and Embracing God's Word" by Joe Paprocki, the best-selling author of "The Catechist's Toolbox."

Marie Romo of Parish of the Nativity in Eagle Lake has won the September Family Puzzle Contest drawing and will receive the book "150 Bible Verses Every Catholic Should Know" by Patrick Madrid, published by Servant Books, a division of St. Anthony Messenger Press.

Emily Fikac, 12, of St. Joseph Church in Moulton has won the Youth Puzzle Contest and will receive a gift from the Incarnate Word Gift Shop.

If you have not won the puzzle contest within the past six months, please send completed puzzle and contest form to The Catholic Lighthouse, P. O. Box 4070, Victoria, TX 77903, by October 28 for a chance to win the October Family Puzzle Contest.

October Puzzle Contest Prize is "The Bible Blueprint"

It's pretty hard to build a house if you don't know how to read a blueprint. In the same way, it's difficult to develop your faith if you don't know how to read

10'E0E

the Bible – or are reluctant even to open it. In "The Bible Blueprint," best-selling author and popular speaker Joe Paprocki cleverly uses a blueprint metaphor to help Catholics gain a solid understanding of the structure and organization of the Bible, and to help them build confidence in navigating its pages.

Among other topics, Paprocki

covers the different genres of biblical writing, key figures in biblical history, and the methods Catholic rely on to interpret the Bible. Readers are also shown how to consult commentaries, concordances,

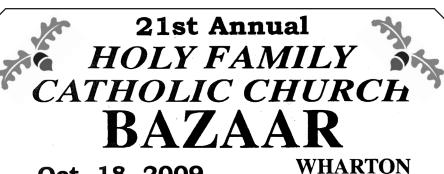
and other valuable tools of Bible study to deepen their understanding of God's Word. Witty cartoons, sidebars and quizzes throughout the book keep the tone

> fun and engaging; eight perforated Bible bookmarks are bound into the book.

For the large number of Catholics who have never felt comfortable with the Scriptures, and for any Catholic new to the faith, the Bible Blueprint serves as an effective, non-threatening introduction to God's Word, as well as a gateway to a deeper

A CATHOLIC'S GUIDE TO UNDERSTANDING AND EMBRACING GOD'S WORD Christ.

relationship with "The Bible Blueprint" is published by Loyola Press – A Jesuit Ministry, www. **loyolapress.com**; it is a 7 x 9 paperback, 144 pages and sells for \$9.95



Oct. 18, 2009

Join in the fun at the KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS HALL **2820 N. Fulton**

DINNER MENU

BAR-B-QUE CHICKEN & SAUSAGE

- *Bacon & Onion Potatoes
- *Pinto Beans
- *Cole Slaw

\$8 per plate

*Ice Tea

Serving starts 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Horseshoes & Washer

MASSES:

SATURDAY: 5:30 P.M

SUNDAY: 10:00 A.M.

Auction Begins 11:30 AM

Handmade Quilts

Other Valuable Items

Tournament

Seating available or plates to go
Drive thru for plates to go (11:00 to 1:00 p.m.) Various Children's Games

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

FAITH & FAMILY

Progress Report on Sam's **Adult Stem Cell Treatment**

By Cynthia Brewer

Eight-year-old Samuel Britton, who has family in East Bernard, went to Costa Rica for Adult Stem Cell Therapy for Autism during the week of August 10, 2009. The Catholic Lighthouse received an update on Sam's

progress from Sam's mother, Paula Britton, on September 15.

She reports, "The adult stem cell treatment that Sam received is already showing benefit."

According to his parents and his two teachers, Sam also more aware Paula, and profession team. of his surround-

ings, particularly the coming and going of people.

Paulette said one of Sam's first noticed improvements was in the Costa Rica airport upon their return to the States, "He was really calm, sat on my lap, put his arm around my neck and said, 'Mom, I love you.' This was the first time he had spoken these words unprompted. It was surreal," she said.

"The deficits for autism are many;" Paulette said. "Sam has a hard time initiating speech and mostly repeats, like a parrot, what someone else says."

"For example, if you say 'Hi Sam,' he will say 'Hi Sam.' It is called echolalia," Paulette said. "So for him to self initiate words of love is new."

On their return from Costa Rica, the Britton family stopped in Texas to pick up their daughter, Madison, from grandparents Daniel and Carolyn Pilcik before returning to California, where they reside.

While in Texas, Sam took several big steps toward improvement. He noticed his grandfather for the first time and asked, "Where's Grandpa?"

"The next day he noticed

Catholic School Uniforms: The Story Behind the **Pleats**

Catholic Digest takes a lively look at pleats, plaids, and pushing the envelope

Plaid skirts and navy trousers may seem synonymous with Catholic school, but that wasn't always the case. Although these days even many non-denominational and public schools have adopted the uniform as an equalizing, unifying force that reminds students to take seriously the work they are given, it wasn't until the mid-1960s that the trend took off.

"Catholic School Uniforms" in the October issue of Catholic Digest, takes a look at the history of the school uniform and its evolution over time. Please read at: http://www.catholicdigest.com/ article/print/catholic-schooluniforms.

my dad's truck was gone," Paulette said. "He asked, 'Where's grandpa's truck?' He noticed that when the truck was gone, so was grandpa, so he is piecing the world together in a way that makes sense."

While visiting, they went

to Schlitterbahn Water Park in New Braunfels. Texas.

"Sam was a different kid this year," said his mother, "he truly enjoyed some of the big kid rides and got bored with the little ones. These are great strides in development."

Other nois calmer and is Samuel Britton with his mother, ticeable signs of progress include: saying "thank

you" three different times immediately after someone gave him snacks, without being prompted; saying "pardon me" after burping; asking where his aunt and cousin were; night-time bed wetting reduced; and having a great first day of school - like a new kid.

Sam is currently undergoing baseline assessments to get his therapies headed in the right direction. He will begin therapeutic horseback riding October 1; begin an RDI program (relationship development intervention); begin HANDLE (http://www.handle. org/) to help him overcome his sensory deficits; and at the threemonth, post-stem cell transplant mark, Sam will be eligible for Hyperbaric Oxygen Treatment (HBOT), which is often used for scuba divers who get the bends or for stroke or serious wounds.

"This will help get Sam's new and repaired neurons to make better connections," his mother said. Also all of the supplements he takes will support the immune function boost he received from the stem cells. Anything we can do to exercise affected parts of the brain is helpful," his mother said.

"There is still a LONG way to go, but we are pleased with the very early results. It takes a few weeks for the stem cells to multiply significantly to a number that can make significant healing progress.

To follow Sam's progress, please go to his Web site at: www. samuelbritton.com, where his parents post frequent updates.

Sam's next Adult Stem Cell Treatment should happen toward the beginning of 2010.

For a Sick Child

St. Gerard, who, like the Savior, loved children so tenderly and by your prayers freed many from disease and even death, listen to us who are pleading for our sick child. We thank God for the great gift of our son (daughter) and ask him to restore our child to health if such be his holy will. This favor, we beg of you through your love for all children and mothers. Amen.

Prayer from Catholic Online www.catholic.org



Dr. Marcella O'Connor Colbert

Gabriel **Project honors** volunteers

By Cynthia Brewer

On the feast of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary, August 15, 2009, the Gabriel Project held its Angel Appreciation Banquet at Holy Family parish hall in Victoria. The evening was an opportunity to give special thanks to all who volunteer their time, efforts, and donations to serve Our Lord by helping women in a crisis pregnancy.

President Cathy Rojas introduced Bishop David Fellhauer, an honored special guest, and Msgr. James Brunner, director of Pro-life Activities, for the Diocese of Victoria.

Special guest speaker was Dr. Marcella O'Connor Colbert, director of the Respect Life office at the Diocese of Galveston-Houston. In her talk she said, "Respect for Life is at the heart of the new evangelization."

Respecting life is a work of evangelization where the church, in truth and love, presents a challenge to the moral disorder of our time and the terrible suffering of so many caught up in a way of life unfit for the human person, she said.

As a solution, she said that in response to the current disregard for the value of human life, the bishops' document "The Pastoral Plan for Pro-Life Activities" (1975 and revised in 1985) is the guideline for implementing, in dioceses and parishes, all the programs in education, pastoral care and legislative change needed to overcome this evil.

Also recognized during the banquet were Gabriel Project Central Committee members, Barbara McCain, Cathy Rojas, Elva Rivera and Stefani Spears as well as special recognition for the Hotline Volunteers.

The 2009 officers of the Gabriel Project are Cathy Rojas, president and treasurer; Elva Rivera, vice president; Paul Tasin, secretary, Barbara McCain, public relations director; and Emily Yeary, member-at-large.

Pope Benedict XVI Intentions – October 2009 General: That Sunday may

be lived as the day on which Christians gather to celebrate the risen Lord, participating in the Eucharist.

Mission: That the entire People of God, to whom Christ entrusted the mandate to go and preach the Gospel to every creature, may eagerly assume their own missionary responsibility and consider it the highest service they can offer humanity.

Sunday Readings from Oct. 11 to Nov. 8

October 11 — Twenty-eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Wisdom 7:7-11 Psalms 90:12-13, 14-15, 16-17 Hebrews 4:12-13 Mark 10:17-30

October 18 — Twenty-ninth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Isaiah 53:10-11 Psalms 33:4-5, 18-19, 20, 22 Hebrews 4:14-16 Mark 10:35-45

October 25 — Thirtieth Sunday in Ordinary Time Jeremiah 31:7-9 Psalms 126:1-2, 2-3, 4-5, 6 Hebrews 5:1-6 Mark 10:46-52

November 1 — Solemnity of All Saints Revelation 7:2-4, 9-14 Psalms 24:1bc-2, 3-4ab, 5-6 1 John 3:1-3 Matthew 5:1-12a

November 8 — Thirty-second Sunday in Ordinary Time

1 Kings 17:10-16 Psalms 146:7, 8-9, 9-10 Hebrews 9:24-28 Mark 12:38-44

All daily and Sunday readings, as well as a reflection video, are available in text or audio at:

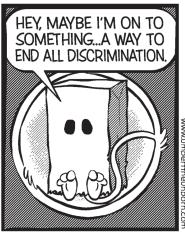
www.usccb.org/nab/

Umbert the Unborn

by Gary Cangemi











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Entre Amigos

Por Mar Muñoz-Visoso USCCB



Haga oír su voz en el debate sobre acceso a la atención médica

¿Le duele la cabeza con tanta información y desinformación sobre qué va a pasar con la reforma del sistema de salud? ¿Tentado a sucumbir ante la idea de que los enfermos más necesitados de tratamiento médico, los pobres, los marginados, los inmigrantes van a acabar perdiendo, "como siempre", frente a poderosos intereses económicos y políticos y se pregunta para qué involucrarse?

La tarea parece dantesca, pero no es el momento de rendirse ni desentenderse. El debate ha llegado a un punto crítico donde la voz de los católicos necesita ser escuchada de forma clara y expresada con fuerza.

Los obispos católicos de Estados Unidos han hablado al unísono sobre los principios que han de guiar este diálogo. Llevan años, décadas, abogando por la reforma de un sistema de salud fragmentado, actualmente caro, lleno de ineficiencias, y que deja a demasiadas personas fuera.

La introducción de diferentes propuestas legislativas (en la actualidad hay varias versiones circulando en la Casa de Representantes y el Senado) reconocen esta realidad. No sólo ha dado oportunidad de presentar la enseñanza católica con respecto al tema sino que, a juzgar por la crispación y por lo complicado del debate, ha hecho la presentación clara de unos principios morales básicos por los que regirse más necesarios que nunca.

Un católico, en buena conciencia, no puede apegarse ciegamente a una propuesta u otra sin pasarlas por el tamiz de los principios fundamentales de la subsidiaridad, la solidaridad y el bien común.

Siguiendo la enseñanza social católica, la Conferencia de Obispos de los Estados Unidos:

- 1. Apoya una cobertura médica universal que proteja la vida y la dignidad de todas las personas, desde la concepción a la muerte natural, especialmente los pobres y vulnerables.
- 2. Se opone a cualquier esfuerzo para expandir fondos públicos para el aborto, o que haga obligatoria la cobertura de procedimientos de aborto, o que no respete el derecho a la libertad de conciencia de los trabajadores de la salud e instituciones religiosas.
- 3. Apoya medidas efectivas que salvaguarden la salud de la sociedad en su conjunto, tales como expandir la elegibilidad para programas de salud pública —como Medicaid— a todas las familias de pocos recursos y ofrecer subsidios adecuados a los que con un poco de ayuda podrían comprar por sí mismos primas de seguro médico y cubrir otros gastos de su bolsillo. Los inmigrantes legales y todas las mujeres embarazadas y los niños, independientemente de su estatus migratorio, deberían ser incluidos.

La urgencia de la situación ha llevado a muchos obispos por todo el país a presentar estos principios para educar a los fieles y al público, animarles a que se involucren en el debate, y también hacer que estén al tanto sobre los peligros, subterfugios y sutilezas escondidos en las diferentes propuestas.

Localmente, cada obispo pone el énfa-

sis donde más le preocupa pero, al final, el mensaje es el mismo: urge reformar el sistema de atención médica en Estados Unidos, pero que no se haga a costa de los pobres, de los niños en el vientre de sus madres, o de la conciencia de médicos, enfermeras y otros trabajadores de la salud.

Hay diferentes formas de llegar a una cobertura universal. Podemos debatir y alcanzar un compromiso sobre cuál es la función propia del gobierno en este asunto.

Busquemos soluciones donde todas las partes implicadas puedan aportar algo y puedan hacerlo de acuerdo con sus convicciones religiosas.

Paremos el ruido y los insultos, y prestemos atención al tema que nos ocupa: la salud de la nación. Como dijo recientemente uno de nuestros obispos hispanos más veteranos, el obispo Ricardo Ramírez, de Las Cruces, Nuevo México, "en nuestro discurso público no permitamos que el enfado ahogue la sabiduría, ni que los eslóganes sustituyan a las soluciones".

Si en algún país existen los medios para remediar la crisis de la atención médica es en éste. Pero ¿existe la voluntad? La solidaridad y el bien común tienen un precio.

¿Has pensado ser Sacerdote o Hermano Coperador Dominico?

Si quieres explorar una vocación Dominica (Orden de Predicadores) sacerdote o hermano coperador, te invitamos a una experiencia Dominica (DEW). Es un fin de semana de oración, comunidad y compartir información. Este encuentro sera en Inglés y esta diseñado para ayudar a jovenes como tú explorar la posibilidad de una vocación a la vida Dominica. Hombres universitarios y otros adultos estan invitados octubre 16-18, 2009 al Noviciado Dominico en Irving, Texas. Para mas información, visitenos en la red www.dominicanvocations.com; mande un correo electronico al Promotor de Vocaciones frcharlie@dominicanvocations. com o llame al (504) 837-2129 x 10)



Buscando Vida

Por Moises Sandoval Servició Noticiero Católico



La reforma del sistema de seguro médico no debe ser tan difícil

La rabia y retórica excesiva del debate sobre el servicio de salud actualmente enfureciéndose en los medios de comunicación me recuerdan las palabras que la fallecida Penny Lernoux utilizó para introducir un importante libro publicado en 1980, "El Llanto del Pueblo".

Este detalló la lucha de la iglesia contra las dictaduras militares en Latinoamérica. Lernoux, una gran amiga por quien todavía lloro, escribió:

"Hay tres verdades, dice un antiguo proverbio chino: mi verdad, tu verdad y la verdad". Lernoux declara que los hechos documentados en su libro son el punto de vista de los pobres. "Las historias de represión, de tortura y homicidio, éstas son su verdad".

Puede parecer imposible discernir la verdad en los gritos y acrimonia, los reclamos y contra reclamos en el debate sobre el servicio de salud. Entonces tenemos que preguntar: ¿Qué es verdad que debemos aceptar?

Para mí, esa verdad consiste de los incontrovertibles hechos que 50 millones de nuestros conciudadanos no tienen seguro médico, de que 14,000 personas pierden su seguro cada día y que las cuentas médicas son la causa principal de la bancarrota en las familias hoy día.

Por esas razones, se tiene que reformar el sistema de salud.

Nadie en el país más rico del mundo debe carecer de seguro médico. Como dice el Presidente Barack Obama, la inacción no es opción.

Si uno camina por su vecindad, como lo hago yo todos los días, estos hechos duros no son sólo cifras. Hace unos días estaba conversando con uno de mis parroquianos quien vive cerca de mí. Su esposa es cantora en la Misa y él participa en el equipo para el retiro parroquial anual.

"Mi compañía esta clausurando", Carl dijo. "Nos dieron dos meses de advertencia y ésta es mi última semana".

Este matrimonio tiene dos niñas, quienes en ese momento jugaban con su

nuevo perrito alrededor de nosotros. El año pasado mejoraron y agrandaron su casa porque necesitaban más espacio.

Me pregunté qué pasará con la familia si en los próximos meses él no puede hallar trabajo. Todavía no encontraba nada.

La crisis del servicio médico nos desafía a pensar no sólo de sí mismos sino también de todos los demás. Para nosotros con servicio adecuado, la reforma puede cambiar la rutina de recibirlo, pero valdrá la pena si los excluidos son integrados en el sistema. Nuestro pueblo triunfa cuando se une

Si la influenza del cerdo vuelve con venganza este invierno, va a poner en prueba a nuestra unidad como nunca en el pasado.

¿Cómo se decide quienes reciben la vacuna y quiénes no? La decisión no debe depender de quienes tienen plata y poder y quiénes no, sino de quienes son más vulnerables y la necesitan más. Vamos a necesitar fe y confianza de que nuestros líderes actúen sabiamente.

Últimamente, todos los desafíos que enfrentamos como pueblo, en cuanto el servicio médico, inmigración, pobreza y seguridad nacional entran en un tema más grande. Como escribió el novelista mexicano Carlos Fuentes en un libro titulado "El Espejo Enterrado" el interrogante es: ¿Podemos aceptar al Otro? Fuentes escribió:

"Pueblos y sus culturas perecen en aislamiento, pero nacen y renacen en contacto con otros hombres y mujeres, con hombres y mujeres de otra cultura, otro credo, otra raza. Si no reconocemos nuestra humanidad en los demás, no la reconoceremos en sí mismos".

Si reconocemos nuestra humanidad en los desempleados, los sin seguro médico, y los inmigrantes, los traeremos bajo la gran tienda de nuestra compasión y preocupación. Y entonces esos desafíos, ahora tan insolubles, al fin y al cabo no serán tan difíciles.

Parish of the Nativity



545 S. Austin Rd - Eagle Lake, TX Pavilion Across from the Hospital



Annual Fall Festiva

Sunday, October 18, 2009

Eucharist
310 N Stevenson St.



Spanish 8:00 am

English 10:00

* Barbecue Beef & Sausage Dinner * 88 per plate

Serving from 11:00 am until 1:00 pm

CURB SERVICE WILL BE AVAILABLE

Live Auction 1:00 pm

RAFFLE DRAWING (AFTER THE AUCTION)
FIRST PRIZE \$1000.00 GIFT CARD
SECOND PRIZE \$500.00 GIFT CARD

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Food Booths, Cake † Plant Walk, Country Store, Kids Games Soccer Townnament, Horseshoe Townnament



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SPIRITUALITY

Community's love and support give family hope

Zack's Story ... written by his mom, Beverly

Zackariah Yates Zetsche was born to Chris Zetsche and Beverly Wiatrek Zetsche October 1, 1997. He appeared to be like any baby, but as he entered his toddler years, it became evident that he was not a typical child; at the age of two he stopped talking and began having problems with impulsive behavior. We had him tested by many doctors and specialists and at the age of two and one-half he was diagnosed with Autism. We enrolled Zack in various activities including an early childhood school program, picture exchange therapy, and behavioral therapy in the hopes that the autism would improve, and he did make some progress.

In February of 2002, at age four, Zack suffered a convulsive status epilepticus and multiple grand mal seizures and was hospitalized for 10 days. Those 10 days were tough and we didn't know if Zack

would survive, but he proved to be our little fighter and defied the odds.

On March 26, one day after Zack's brother, Gabe, was born, Zack had a grand mal seizure at school. It was then that we realized this was the start of a new and serious health issue for Zack that has led to brain damage. Zack has been cared for by countless doctors, therapists and has

endured multiple medication changes and other therapy treatments like the Vagus Nerve Stimulator. Most medications have caused life-threatening illnesses like Acute Pancreatitis and Acute Aplastic Anemia that has required many hospitalizations and emergency room treatments. It has taken seven years for Zack to be formally diagnosed with Lennox Gastaut Syndrome (LGS), a rare and debilitating seizure disorder. Zack's seizures associated with LGS are grand mal and complex partial seizures. Even though he is on three medications, he has, on average, five seizures a day.

The two damaged areas of his brain are the left temporal lobe and the parietal lobe. He also has a tethered cord and Chiari Malformation I, both of the spinal cord, which cause additional muscle fatigue and migraine headaches. This brain damage is irreversible; he will never speak; and the seizures have scarred his brain, causing urinary and bowel incontinence, intellectual decline, and dementia. The next step for Zack is brain surgery to remove the damaged areas of his brain to alleviate the severity of his seizures and migraines.

Tivoli Monthly Healing Mass and Prayer Service

"Come to me, all you who labor and are burdened, and I will give you rest" Mt 11:28. Our Lady of Guadalupe Church in Tivoli invites you to a Healing Mass and Prayer Service every First Friday of the month at 7.00 p.m. Mass is followed by praise and worship/adoration, healing prayers, praying over, etc. Counseling available. Please come; bring your family and friends; and experience the healing touch of the Lord!

For more information, please contact Rev. Gabriel P. Coelho at (361) 286-3349.

Zack's 12-year journey has taken the family on an endless roller-coaster ride through countless doctors and therapists, emergency room visits, and hospital stays. Zack still attends school, but he generally misses 20 to 30 days a year from the uncontrolled seizures. The drugs have caused aggressive and violent behaviors. Through all of this, Zack has remained our fighter.

We have created a good family unit, a life not bound by Zack or our struggles or pain but by the love and joy we each bring to the table daily. As his mom, I am so proud of Zack's courage and zest for life. He still greets everyone with a big smile and lots of hugs and kisses. He can make your worst day the best day ever. For his dad and me, Zack is the love of our life. For Gabe, Zack is a good, big brother who "just doesn't talk." Gabe



The Zetsche Family Gabriel, Chris, Zack and Beverly

came into our lives at the right moment and brought us this incredible, radiant light; he is our joy. For Zack, Gabe is the irritating, little brother.

This fall, Zack will have his brain surgery and his family is reaching out to the community in the hope that others will hear his story.

We will hold a fund raiser with BBQ plates, bake sale, raffle and live auction Sunday, Oct. 25, from 10:30 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. at the Falls City Community Hall, 211 Meyer Street, Falls City, Texas. Although there is no cure for Zack, the love and support of the community will give the Zetsche Family and Zack the strength they need to go on and lift their spirits.

For more information about the event or to purchase meal or raffle tickets, please contact Zack's aunt, Brenda Wiatrek Machost, in Victoria at (361) 573-5787 or e-mail benefit4zack@gmail.com.

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THE POPE SPEAKS

Pope Benedict XVI



CNS photo from Reuters

Divorce, cohabitation ruin the lives of many children, pope says

By Carol Glatz Catholic News Service

CASTEL GANDOLFO, Italy (CNS)—Many children raised by cohabitating, separated, divorced or remarried parents are deprived of fixed points of reference and can suffer from inner conflict and confusion, Pope Benedict XVI told Brazilian bishops.

The traditional family based on a man and woman united in an indissoluble marriage is under attack in today's world, he said.

"There are forces and voices in present society that seem committed to demolishing the natural homestead of human life," the pope said during a meeting Sept. 25 with bishops from the northeastern area of Brazil.

Families in secularized cultures, especially where divorce is legal, seem deeply immersed in uncertainty, he said.

More and more couples build their unions on the fragility and impermanence of cohabitation, which is merely based on an "individual's feeling or subjectivity," he said.

He said as divorces increase and cohabitation is on the rise, the children in these situations are "deprived of their parents' support and become victims of malaise and abandonment, thus spreading social disorder."

Children need concrete fixed points of reference such as having one set of parents who will always be united as a family, the pope said.

He said divorce is sabotaging the traditional sense of an extended family by creating too many "parents," such as stepmothers and stepfathers.

In fact, the majority of children today "who feel like they are orphans are not children without parents, but children who have too many parents," he said.

This situation of a child caught between the different expectations and mixed messages of too many stepparents "cannot help but create inner conflicts and confusion" within the child, he said.

The church must reach out to families and help them base their union on a solid Christian foundation and help them resist becoming "deceived and seduced by certain relativistic lifestyles promoted by films, television and other media outlets," he said.

Pope Benedict also warned the bishops of the "irregular and dangerous situation" of divorced and remarried Catholics. Only the first marriage exists, he said, "there is no husband and wife in a second marriage," rather they are a man and woman living in adultery.

Remarried couples must resolve their situation by seeking the help of a priest who can help all the people involved, he added.

The bishops were meeting with Pope Benedict and Vatican officials for their "ad limina" visits, required of heads of dioceses to brief the pope on the situation in their home territories.

House resolution honors Catholic Sisters — Exhibit in Dallas

WASHINGTON (CNS) — A U.S. House resolution passed Sept. 22 "honors and commends Catholic sisters for their humble service and courageous sacrifice throughout the history" of the nation. The resolution by Rep. Kaptur, a Catholic, approved with a voice vote, also specifically supports the goals of a traveling exhibit on women religious in the United States that is being sponsored by the Leadership Conference of Women Religious.

"The humanitarian work of Catholic sisters with communities in crisis ... throughout the world positions them as ac-

tivists and diplomats of peace and justice for some of the most at-risk populations," the resolution said.

The traveling exhibit "Women & Spirit: Catholic Sisters in America" opened in the Women's Museum of Dallas Sept. 25, after a three-month showing at the Cincinnati Museum Center. The exhibit will move on to the Smithsonian's S. Dillon Ripley Center in Washington in January, the Ellis Island Immigration Museum in New York next September and the Mississippi River Museum in Dubuque, Iowa, in early 2011.

Eleventh Annual "A Gathering of Women" with Paula D'Arcy

The 11th annual "A Gathering of Women: To See Thee More Clearly...the Deeper Teachings of Jesus" with Paula D'Arcy will be held Sunday, January 24, through Wednesday, January 27, 2010, at the Spiritual Renewal Center in Victoria.

Paula D'Arcy is the author of numerous books including Gift of the Redbird, Song for Sarah, and A New Set of Eyes and is widely recognized as an eloquent and powerful speaker and retreat leader. She leads retreats and writing workshops in the United States and abroad. She also counsels and lectures frequently on bereavement issues, drawing on the loss of her own family in a drunk-driving accident in 1975. For additional information on Paula visit www.redbirdfoundation.com.

This retreat is limited to only 25 women. The retreat cost is \$380, which includes all meals and single occupancy lodging for three nights at the Spiritual Renewal Center just outside Victoria. Reservations are on a first come basis and will be reserved by the date deposits of \$100 are received. The balance of \$250 will be due by December 1. Retreat deposits and fees are non-refundable. The retreat begins with check-in at 5:00 p.m. Sunday evening and will end with lunch on Wednesday.

Make checks payable to Spirit Wind Ministry and mail to: Susan Oakley, 103 Woodmere, Victoria, TX 77904. Please include your name, address, telephone number and e-mail address with your deposit. Your cancelled check will serve as your receipt. For additional information contact Susan Oakley at (361) 576-1515 or e-mail smoak53@msn.com.

NEWS



Blessing and Dedication of New Early Childhood Facility

SCHULENBURG—A celebratory crowd of nearly 100 people gathered outside St. Rose of Lima Catholic School's new Early Childhood Center on the morning of Sunday, Aug. 23, for its dedication.

After a short introduction and "Thank You's" by Principal Rosanne Gallia, Bishop David Fellhauer welcomed parish members, parents, students and friends in attendance for the formal dedication of the school's new, five-classroom facility.

The bishop discussed the importance of the education of the "whole" child. After a prayer, Gospel reading and blessing upon the faculty, staff and students at the new center, Bishop Fellhauer went inside to bless each individual classroom and then returned outside for a closing prayer and final blessing.

The eager crowd then entered the building for their first look at the new center. The facility is currently home to 45 students ages 3-4 and a faculty of four lead teachers and support staff of three assistants.

Each classroom is designed with the preschool child in mind. Each room has its own sink and private bathroom with a child-sized toilet. There are also two teacher workroom/offices, an adult bathroom and kitchen area/teachers lounge. Lunch is brought over from the school cafeteria daily and students and teachers dine family-style in the classrooms. This helps to make the center truly self-contained.

Perimeter fencing creates a safe and secure play area for the children. Currently there is a sandbox with sand donated by Mr. Johnny Fowlkes; tricycles, seesaw, a number of outdoor toys and games as well as picnic tables donated by the American Legion, where students enjoy a morning snack. Also on the grounds is a small, wooden chapel that was formerly used on the feast day of Corpus Christi. It is an original piece of the parish property and will be restored and repainted to serve as an outdoor chapel for the center.

Committee members who dedicated

time and energy to this project are: Stacy Oeding, Rosanne Gallia, Natalie Mechura, Melissa Schmidt, Linda Schmidt and Lucy Stanzel. The committee approached the Jane Stanzel family to assure they would be comfortable with the conversion of the residence to a preschool facility. A generous grant from the Schmidt Family Foundation made acquisition of the property possible. After the purchase of the home, the bidding process began. Bob Stanzel served as volunteer project director and insured that everyone was on task and on time.

The home was completely transformed over the summer. General contractor Art Janecka of Weimar worked tirelessly to insure the project was completed in time for the 2009 school year. Numerous sub contractors including Leon's Electric and Plumbing of Schulenburg put in countless hours of work and energy making sure every detail was executed properly.

St. Rose of Lima Catholic School Celebrates 120 Years

Continued from p. 20

(979) 743-3080.

On hundred and twenty years since St. Rose School first opened its doors parents are still choosing the gift of a Catholic Education for their children. Faculty and staff at the school remain focused and dedicated to providing excellent academic instruction in a Christian environment with Christ as the center focus. Upon entering the main office you will find a quote that embodies what makes a Catholic education unique. It reads: "Be it known to all who enter here that Christ is the reason for this school. He is the unseen but ever present teacher in all its classes. He is the model of its faculty and the inspiration of its students."

St. Philip School celebrates 60 years

Continued from p. 20

would often stop to buy groceries for their mom at Newton's Grocery.

St. Philip School opened its doors in September of 1949. The school, which once had been a dream of Mrs. R.H. Hancock, a parishioner of St. Philip Church, became a reality shortly after her death. Her husband, R.H. Hancock and Father Marcus Valenta met with the Archdiocesan Building Board in San Antonio on April 1, 1949, to discuss the building of a six-room school building that would cost approximately \$90,000.

On April 26, 1949, R.H. Hancock approved the placing of the proposed school building on the site of the rectory, which he offered to transfer at his own expense to another place on the property.

On Aug. 17, 1949, Father Valenta, R.H. Hancock, and his daughter, Mrs. Dan Gillean requested two Sisters from Sisters of the Divine Providence in San Antonio to aid with the opening of the school. Sisters M. Silverius and M. Evangelista accompanied Gillean to El Campo for the start of the 1949 school year.

The two Sisters together with Mrs. Jerome Sliva pioneered the school for the 1949-1950 school year. The Pioneer is still the emblem and mascot of the school today.

Please go to: http://www.stphilip-school.org/history.htm for the complete history of St. Philip School.

Capitol Comments:

USCCB Officials Welcome President Obama's Statements on Health Care

Texas Catholic Conference, Austin http://www.txcatholic.org/

Calling it an important contribution to a crucial national debate, officials speaking on behalf of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops welcomed President Obama's September 9 address on health care reform, particularly his statements regarding abortion and the uninsured.

"We agree that 'no one should go broke because they get sick," said Kathy Saile, director of Domestic Social Development at the USCCB. "That's why the U.S. Bishops have worked for decades for decent health care for all. The Catholic Church provides health care for millions, purchases health care, picks up the pieces of a failing health system, and has a long tradition of teaching on ethics in health care. Health care reform that respects the life and dignity of all is a moral imperative and urgent national priority. We welcome the president's speech as an important contribution to this essential national debate and task."

'We especially welcome the president's commitment to exclude federal funding of abortion, and to maintain existing federal laws protecting conscience rights in health care," said Richard Doerflinger, Associate Director of Pro-Life Activities at the USCCB. "We believe that incorporating essential and longstanding federal laws on these issues into any new proposal will strengthen support for health care reform. We will work with Congress and the Administration to ensure that these protections are clearly reflected in new legislation, so no one is required to pay for or take part in abortion as a result of health care reform."

"We agree with the president that there are details that need to be ironed out," said Saile. "And with his address last night, we see the opportunity to work towards a truly universal health policy with respect for human life and dignity, access for all with a special concern for the poor, and inclusion of legal immigrants. We also see the possibility of meeting the bishops' goal to pursue the common good and preserve pluralism, including freedom of conscience and a variety of options, and restraining costs and applying them equitably across the spectrum of payers."

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Respect Life Sunday, October 4



Victoria Life Chain
2:30 to 3:30 p.m.
On Navarro from Loop 463
to Magruder/Sam Houston
Pick up signs at Hall
Electric, HEB and
Ashley Furniture



Archbishop urges Canadian MPs to back palliative care, not euthanasia

OTTAWA (CNS) — The president of the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops has sent an open letter to members of Parliament, urging them to support good palliative care instead of assisted suicide or euthanasia. As debate approaches for Bill C-384, an act to amend the Criminal Code (Right to Die With Dignity), Winnipeg Archbishop V. James Weisgerber took aim at the "misleading and unclear" terms framing the debate. The bill is sponsored by Francine Lalonde, a Bloc Quebecois member of Parliament. Archbishop Weisgerber asked politicians to use "clear definitions" and to consider the "profound impact" such a bill would have on society. "Those wishing to reopen this debate are no doubt motivated by concern for the sufferings of others," he said in an open letter sent Sept. 23. "An unfortunate understanding of compassion has led them to suggest euthanizing the most vulnerable instead of providing them with proper care, effective pain control, and social, emotional and spiritual support until their natural death." Without clear terms, the discussion can be "confusing and unhelpful," Archbishop Weisgerber said.

Catholic Latino leaders group hosts D.C. launch

WASHINGTON (CNS) - With several hundred guests for a reception at the Vatican Embassy Sept. 23, the Catholic Association of Latino Leaders, or CALL, launched its first national outreach effort at an observance of Hispanic Heritage Month. "To be a leader is to have a clear sense of identity," said Archbishop Pietro Sambi, apostolic nuncio to the United States, in welcoming CALL members and hundreds of others to the embassy. "What I wish for all Latino leaders is that you have a sense of identity and of very clearly belonging." CALL was founded in 2007 under the guidance of then Denver Auxiliary Bishop Jose H. Gomez. Now the head of the Archdiocese of San Antonio, Archbishop Gomez was among about a dozen bishops and archbishops at the Sept. 23 event. Manny Garcia-Tunon, secretary of the organization, told Catholic News Service that the reception was intended to mark CALL's national presence. Though the group numbers fewer than 50 official members local chapters are being developed in Miami, San Antonio, Denver, Houston and Phoenix, all of which will have events in October.

Catholic organizations aid Philippine victims of flooding

WASHINGTON (CNS) - Catholic charitable organizations are stepping up to help victims in the Philippines after the worst flood in decades hit in late September. "Many of the people who have lost everything are sleeping in schools right now," said Luc Picard, Catholic Relief Services' country representative in Manila, Philippines. "They're calling this the Katrina of the Philippines." Picard told Catholic News Service in a Sept. 28 telephone interview that rescuers were still searching for survivors from the flooding and mudslides two days earlier. The flooding followed Typhoon Ketsana, or Ondoy, as it was referred to in the Philippnes.

African ethnic disputes could hinder church unity, cardinal says

COLUMBUS, Ohio (CNS) — An African Catholic leader visiting Columbus in late September said the chief concern among bishops of his continent who will gather at the Vatican in October involves

maintaining the unity of the church in the midst of ethnic disputes in several nations. "This is something that cuts across national borders and affects all of us in Africa, even if we aren't directly involved," said Cardinal Peter Turkson of Cape Coast, Ghana. "Our ethnic differences are a good and beautiful thing, which God bestowed to show how his image can be seen in many ways," he added. "They're nobody's 'fault,' yet they have become a great stumbling block hindering the cohesiveness that needs to exist in the church." As examples, Cardinal Turkson cited disputes in Uganda, Rwanda, Nigeria and Kenya that together have resulted in the deaths and forced resettlement of millions of people. "Politicians have made use of this to further their own ends and to cause division, creating a tremendous challenge to our efforts as Catholics to be part of one great family in the strong tradition of African families," he said in an interview with The Catholic Times, newspaper of the Columbus Diocese.

Foundation seeks place of honor for Pope Pius XII at Yad Vashem

ROME (CNS) — An effort to add the name of Pope Pius XII to the official list of people who helped protect Jews during the Holocaust is gathering steam and is supported by Pope Benedict XVI, the project's main promoter said. Gary Krupp, president of the Pave the Way Foundation, a nonsectarian organization that seeks to reduce religious conflict, said in a telephone interview Sept. 21 that he had gathered thousands of documents to support his proposal that the wartime pope be named as Righteous Among the Nations. The title is conferred by the Yad Vashem Holocaust memorial in Jerusalem after a scholarly exam of the life and actions of non-Jews who risked their lives to hide or in some way rescue Jews from Nazi persecution during World War II. Krupp, an American Jew, said he did not know if the unusual idea had a chance of succeeding. He said he and his aides were trying to fulfill the strict requirements for documentation, and that he was sure the material would at least be given thorough attention. Krupp said he had met briefly with Pope Benedict during his general audience Sept. 16 and presented him with a 3-pound, 255-page book containing the 3,000 documents he had so far unearthed to present to the Yad Vashem commission. Contents of the book may be viewed at www.pavethewayfoundation.org.

Honduran official hints Vatican help might mediate political crisis

TEGUCIGALPA, Honduras (CNS) — Days after deposed Honduran President Manuel Zelaya returned secretly to the country, there were signs that the leaders who ousted him were considering negotiations, and the foreign minister said the Vatican might help mediate a solution to the crisis. On Sept. 24, Auxiliary Bishop Juan Pineda Fasquelle of Tegucigalpa spoke with both of the main players in the political standoff. The bishop visited both Zelaya and Roberto Micheletti, who heads the de facto government that ousted Zelaya in a coup June 28. As he left the Brazilian Embassy, where Zelaya took refuge after returning to Honduras Sept. 21, Bishop Pineda told reporters he hoped the visit would be a "first step" toward dialogue. Jesuit Father Ismael Moreno, director of Radio Progreso, called the events "hopeful signs that we could be nearing a way out" of the three-month-old political impasse. The overtures came after several days of protests in which at least one person was killed and various others injured or arrested.



POPE BENEDICT GREETED BY CZECH PRESIDENT AND WIFE AFTER MASS IN CZECH AIRPORT—Pope Benedict XVI shakes hands with Silvia Klaus, the wife of Czech President Vaclav Klaus, left, at the end of a Mass at the Turany international airport in Brno, Czech Republic, Sept. 27. (CNS photo/Max Rossi, Reuters)

Pope urges Czechs to regain values that inspired fight for freedom

PRAGUE, Czech Republic (CNS) — Commemorating the 20th anniversary of the peaceful revolt that brought down the country's communist regime, Pope Benedict XVI urged people in the Czech Republic to rediscover the spiritual and moral values that sustained their struggle for freedom. In gatherings Sept. 26-28 with political, social, cultural and religious leaders as well as the Catholic faithful, the pope delivered a message of hope meant to inspire both the country's majority of nonbelievers and the minority Catholic community. Central to his message was that no society, no matter how democratic, could ever maintain a healthy and ethical sense of freedom without guidance from the truth found in God and the wisdom of faith. The pope's trip to Prague, Brno and Stara Boleslav was his 13th trip abroad and his seventh to Europe. The fact that more than half of his apostolic journeys so far have been to Europe reflects his deep concern for revitalizing the continent's Christian heritage.

Mostar bishop reiterates rules for Medjugorje parish

MOSTAR, Bosnia-Herzegovina (CNS) — Bishop Ratko Peric of Mostar-Duvno told young people whom he had comfirmed in the town of Medjugorje, that during a visit to the Vatican early in the year, the top officials at the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith and the Vatican Secretariat of State confirmed they were telling anyone who asked that the Catholic Church has never recognized the alleged apparitions in Medjugorje as authentic.

The bishop praised Father Vlasic for the way he was handling what he called "the Medjugorje phenomenon," which began in 1981 when six young people -- Mirjana Dragicevic, Marija Pavlovic, Vicka Ivankovic, Ivan Dragicevic, Ivanka Ivankovic and Jakov Colo — said they had seen Mary on a hillside near their town. Several of them say they continue to see Mary and receive messages from her.

In his letter, the bishop reaffirmed that priests from outside the parish cannot give conferences or lead retreats at the parish without written permission from his office and that no one can use parish facilities to promote the alleged apparitions or messages. The bishop specified that the pastor should ensure that Father Perutina

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stop offering comments on the messages Pavlovic claims to receive on the 25th of each month.

"If, as Catholics, devoted sons and daughters of the church, we want to live according to the norms and the teaching of the church, glorifying the Holy Trinity, venerating Blessed Mary ... and professing all the Church has established in the creed, we do not turn to certain alternative 'apparitions' or 'messages' to which the church has not attributed any supernatural character," Bishop Peric said.

He also asked Father Vlasic to remove from the parish Web site all references to the parish and its church buildings as a shrine or sanctuary and to ban prayers allegedly dictated by Mary or suggested by her alleged messages from liturgies and prayer services inside the church, including public recitations of the rosary.

"We have enough official ecclesiastical intentions (pontifical, episcopal, missionary, etc.) and there is no need to turn arbitrarily to the presumed apparitions and messages and mix them with the public prayers of the Church," he said.

"These are private messages to private people for private use," he said.

Oberammergau – Passion Play July 11 - 22, 2010

Poland (Warsaw; Czestochowa: Black Madonna "Queen of Poland;" Auschwitz: St. Maximilian Kolbe; Wadowice: birthplace of Pope John Paul II; Krakow: St. Faustina, Shrine of Divine Mercy) – Czech Republic (Praque) – Germany (Munich, Ettal, Oberammergau, Heidelberg).

Spiritual director will be Father Bob Knippenberg, pastor of Sts. Cyril & Methodius, in Shiner.

Cut-off date March 2010

Holy Land - November 7, 2010

For more information or to register, please contact Betty Urbanovsky, 911 Fahrenthold, El Campo, TX 77437; (979) 543-2333; e-mail: burbanovsky@sbcglobal.net.

SOCIAL ISSUES

Human Trafficking

Human trafficking remains largely in the shadows across the US

By Dennis Sadowski Catholic News Service

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Darko Mihaylovich likes to tell his fellow Kentuckians that if they think human trafficking doesn't exist in the state they'd better think again.

As the director of migration and refugee services for Catholic Charities in the Archdiocese of Louisville, Mihaylovich knows that on any given day he or a member of the statewide human trafficking task force could run across a trafficking victim.

Since March 2008, "we have identified ... 31 victims," he told Catholic News Service. "It is happening here."

Mihaylovich knows the number of discovered victims in Kentucky is far below those in such entry points as New York, Washington, southern California, Texas and Florida. But, as he tells anyone who will listen, human trafficking exists everywhere.

Trafficking victims -- called "survivors" by advocates -- are considered modern-day slaves by law enforcement officials and outreach workers alike. For the traffickers, the motivating factor is money. For the trafficked, the dream is a better life, but it never becomes so.

Worldwide trafficking networks involve systems where individuals are recruited for an honest wage for an honest day's work as they pursue financial independence and freedom. Once in place, usually outside their home country, victims end up under the control of one individual, with their freedom restricted and their safety usually threatened.

Mihaylovich's agency is one of 98 non-profits across the U.S. and its territories that have been subcontracted by Migration and Refugee Services of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops to provide vital services to foreign-born trafficking victims once they are identified. Funding comes through a five-year contract with the Department of Health and Human Services worth up to \$33.9 million. The contract runs through March 2011.

Despite the contract, identifying people who are being trafficked is a difficult task, said Kristyn Peck Williams, screening and field coordinator for the MRS Office of Refugee Programs.

"It's not easy to find people," Williams said. "It's a hidden crime. People don't self-identify as being abused."

Since the contract began in April 2006 the 98 subcontractors have assisted 1,043 victims and 278 family members, including dependent children, parents of dependent children and spouses.

The subcontracted agencies provide case-management services for the victims. Social workers arrange counseling sessions, find housing, transport victims for court appearances and accompany victims through the process of becoming a U.S. citizen, Williams explained.

The agencies assist minors and adults,

males and females. Statistics from Williams' office show that 97 percent of the victims are adults.

Other statistics from their work under the contract show:

- Women and girls make up more than two-thirds of victims.
- Slightly more than one-quarter of victims were involved in sex trafficking while two-thirds were brought to the U.S. and placed in abusive labor settings, including domestic housekeeping and child care, factory work and janitorial services. About 7 percent were involved in both sex and labor abuses.
- Victims have been identified from 83 countries, most commonly from Southeast Asia, West Africa, Eastern Europe, Mexico and Central America.

The services offered under the contract reach only a small portion of the 14,500 to 17,500 people that the State Department estimates are trafficked into the U.S. annually. Worldwide, the United Nations and government agencies estimate that the number tops out in the hundreds of thousands.

Within the U.S., thousands more American-born girls and young women are trafficked primarily for the sex trade, showing up on the street as prostitutes or in brothels. While far lower in number, American-born boys and young men are not immune to being trafficked.

To help address trafficking concerns, many of the agencies subcontracted by MRS have joined statewide or regional task forces. While funding under the federal contract is limited to helping foreign-born victims, agencies like those run by Mihaylovich have other financial resources to help American victims.

Local law enforcement officials, the FBI and federal prosecutors also participate in most of the task forces. Such efforts allow all parties to work more closely and better understand the needs of victims, especially those involved in the sex trade, explained Roy L. Austin Jr., coordinator of the District of Columbia Human Trafficking Task Force.

"There's such a huge need for education," Huffman told CNS. Ayuda offers regular training programs for the general public as well as for law enforcement officials

Even with such efforts, the huge sums of money that traffickers make ensure that human trafficking is not about to go away any time soon.

Austin said the extent of the problem depends on the city or region of the country. In the nation's capital, with its lack of a major manufacturing base, the sex trade is the most likely place to find trafficked people. He said American teenage girls are often found to be victims working in prostitution rings. He also cited Asian-style massage parlors and brothels filled with young Central Americans as places where trafficking victims can be found.

On Maryland's Eastern Shore, people are trafficked into the region for their labor, according to Solette Magnelli, an assistant U.S. attorney in Baltimore and a member of the Maryland Human Trafficking Task Force. She also said some women end up in domestic servitude after being brought into the country by diplomats residing in the Maryland suburbs of Washington.

Williams of MRS said such treatment is difficult to fathom for most Americans.

"We're still in the baby steps of understanding (trafficking)," she said. "We're



still developing our knowledge and responses as a country. It takes collaboration between agencies, law enforcement and good Samaritans to identify (victims)."

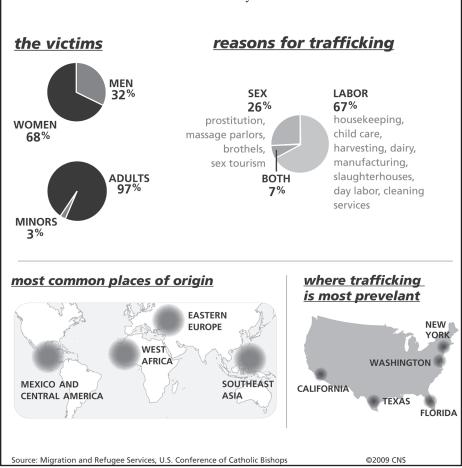
Editor's Note: Several resources on both domestic and international human trafficking are available. Shared Hope International's "The National Report on Domestic Minor Sex Trafficking: America's Prostituted Children" is available online at www.sharedhope.org. The U.S. State Department's annual "Trafficking in Persons Report 2009" is available online at www.state.gov/g/tip/rls/tiprpt/2009/index.htm.

MOTHER, SON REUNITED AFTER YEARS OF SEPARA-

TION—After being separated for more than four years, Lucy Magambi welcomes her son, Brian, from Kenya at Newark Liberty International Airport in New Jersey in late July. The Catholic Charities Refugee Resettlement and Human Trafficking programs worked tirelessly for years to help reunite the mother and son. (CNS photo/courtesy of family)

Human Trafficking

The U.S. bishops' Migration and Refugee Services department has aided 1,043 victims of human trafficking since 2006. Here is a statistical look at the victims assisted by MRS.



HUMAN TRAFFICKING

The U.S. bishops' Migration and Refugee Services department has aided 1,043 victims of human trafficking since 2006. Here is a statistical look at the victims assisted by MRS. (CNS graphic/Emily Thompson)

Forced labor/child labor items identified at 122 from 58 countries

The Department of Labor's List of Goods Produced by Child Labor or Forced Labor submitted a report to national leaders on Sept. 10, 2009, in accordance with the Trafficking Victims Protection Reauthorization Acts (TVPRA) of 2005 and 2008. The report describes the range of actions undertaken by the department of Labor (DOL) in response to the TVPRA mandates, and contains a list of 122 goods from 58 countries that DOL's Bureau of International Labor Affairs has reason to

believe are produced by forced labor or child labor in violation of international standards. Secretary of Labor Hilda Soliz has sent the report to Vice President Biden, House Majority and Minority leaders and the Senate Majority and Minority leaders. To see the list of 122 goods believed to be produced by forced labor or child labor in violation of international standards, please go to: http://www.dol.gov/ilab/programs/ocft/PDF/2008OCFTreport.pdf.





EVENTS

Special Collections Mission Sunday — October 18 Ongoing Events

To see the full listing of all on-going ministries within the Diocese of Victoria, see the diocesan calendar at: www.jiavic.com/misc/calendar.htm or call the office for information at (361)

Engaged Encounter—Register as soon as you have contacted your pastor due to limited space. *It is strongly recommended that you attend an encounter weekend four to six months prior to your wedding date.* For a registration form, contact your pastor, visit the Web site at www.victoriadiocese.org/family/ee.htm, or write to: Engaged Encounter, P.O. Box 4070, Victoria, Texas 77903. The weekend is held at the Spiritual Renewal Center. The dates for 2009 are: Nov. 20-22. The dates for 2010 are: Feb. 26-28, April 16-18, June 25-27, Sept. 24-26 and Nov. 19-21. For more info., call (361) 573-0828 ext. 30. All registrations are on a first come, first serve basis. Fee must accompany registration form.

Picnics, Activities, etc. October

Bay City—Holy Cross Fall Festival and Turkey Dinner Oct. 4 at the KC Hall (Hamman Rd), starting with Mass at 9:30 a.m. in the multi-purpose building next to KC Hall. A turkey and dressing dinner will be served from 11:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. with drive-thru available at \$8 p/p. There will be a live and silent auction starting at 12:00 p.m. Also available will be children's games, cakewalk and much more. Fun for all!

Hungerford—St. John's Annual Bazaar Oct. 4 at the community center. A barbecue- chicken, beef and sausage dinner will be served along with sauerkraut beginning at 10:30 a.m. The auction starts at 12:30 p.m. There will be games, country store, cakewalk, and much more for your entertainment.

Mentz—St. Roch Parish Picnic Oct. 4 on parish grounds (north of I-10 just East of Columbus). The day begins with Mass at 10:00 a.m. followed by a barbecue- beef, pork and sausage dinner at \$8 p/p for adults and \$4 p/p for children. There will be an auction, games in a/c hall, country store and more. Live music by Leroy Rybak band from 1:00-5:00 p.m.

Shiner — Shiner Catholic School Fall Festival Oct. 4 at the American Legion Hall. A chicken-barbecue dinner will be served at \$7 p/p from 11:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. with drive-thru available. The live auction begins at 12:00 p.m. There will be games, cakewalk, moonwalk, dunking booth and concessions.

Tivoli—The Catholic Community of Austwell/Tivoli Annual Parish Festival Oct. 4 at Our Lady of Guadalupe. A spaghetti dinner, with dessert and tea included, will be served starting at 11:00 a.m. for \$7 p/p. There will be a country store, children's games and much more. The live auction will begin at 12:30 p.m. Look for signs on Hwy. 35 at Tivoli.

Victoria—Nazareth Academy Fall Festival Oct. 4 at the community center. Turkey and dressing dinner served starting 11:00 a.m.

Columbus—St. Anthony Fall Festival Oct. 11 at the KC Hall (I-10 West/Glidden Exit). A barbecue-beef and sausage dinner begins at 11:00 a.m. Also serving pit barbecue, Mexican food and hamburgers. There will be lots of booths, auction and something for everyone to enjoy.

East Bernard—Holy Cross Bazaar Oct. 11 at Riverside Hall. A barbecue- beef, chicken and sausage dinner along with homemade dressing will be served starting at 11:00 a.m. Hamburgers will be served starting at 3:00 p.m. Czech pastries, refreshments and country store items available during the day. The auction begins at 12:30 p.m. There will be games (12:00-5:00 p.m.), moonwalk, velcro wall, rock climbing wall and pony rides. There will be live music starting at noon provided by the Texas Legacy Czech Band (12:00-3:00 p.m.), Dujka Brothers (3:30-6:00 p.m.) and No Limit (6:00 p.m.-?). Masses at Holy Cross on Sunday, are 7:00 a.m. and 9:00 a.m.

Victoria — Our Lady of Victory Cathedral Parish Festival Oct. 11 at the community center; doors open at 11:00 a.m. A buffet-style barbecue- beef and sausage dinner will be served. There will be booths and games for the entire family to enjoy. The protein begins at 12:30 p.m. in the appear.

auction begins at 12:30 p.m. in the annex.

Victoria — Catholic War Veterans Auxiliary Annual Turkey
Dinner will be held Oct. 11, at the CWV Hall, 1007 S. Main
Street. Turkey and dressing plates will be \$6 p/p and will be
served from 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. A silent auction will be
held. Proceeds to benefit Community Projects. Your support
is appreciated.

Austwell—St. Anthony of Padua Parish invites you to their Annual Turkey Dinner with trimmings and dessert for \$7 p/p on Oct. 18. Plates will be served from 11:00 a.m. to 2.00 p.m. For more information, call the parish office at (361) 286-3349.

Wharton—Holy Family Bazaar Oct. 18 with a barbecuechicken and sausage dinner at \$8 p/p at the KC Hall (2820 N. Fulton).

Eagle Lake—Parish of the Nativity Picnic Oct. 18 at the pavilion located at 545 South Austin. The meal will be served from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. The auction begins at 1:00 p.m. Food will be served throughout the day along with a variety of booths, games, activities and a dance. See page 14 for more information.

El Campo—Catholic Daughters Annual Turkey Dinner Oct. 18 at St. Philip Parish Hall. Serving will begin at 11:00 a.m. with plates at \$7 p/p with plates-to-go only available on Depot Street. There will also be a raffle.

Goliad — Immaculate Conception Fall Festival Oct. 18 on the church grounds starting with Mass at 10:00 a.m. followed by a barbecue-beef buffet style dinner. There will be a cakewalk, games, country store, moonwalk, ballet folklorico, music, auction (1:00 p.m.) and much more. See page 3 for ad.

La Salle— St. Theresa Annual Parish Picnic Oct. 18, see page 7 for more information.

Victoria — Knights of Columbus Council 1329 chicken-barbecue fund-raiser Oct. 18 at the KC Hall (3610 N. Ben Wilson). The

price is \$6 per chicken. Beans and Spanish rice are available for \$1.50 per pint. Sale starts at 8:30 a.m. Proceeds benefit various council projects.

Cuero—KC Council 1682 Annual Columbus Day Shrimp Dinner Oct. 18 from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at St. Michael's Hall. Plates-to-go available. All plates are \$7 p/p. Proceeds are used for scholarships and various charities of the KC's.

Falls City—Fundraiser for special needs boy, 11-year-old Zackariah Yates Zetsche, Oct. 25, 10:30 a.m. - 3:00 p.m., Falls City Community Hall, 211 Meyer St., 78113. There will be a BBQ plate sale, bake sale, raffle and live auction! Zack is the son of Beverly and Chris Zetsche, relatives of Victoria area parishioners. Zack's formal diagnoses are Autism, Lennox-Gastaut Syndrome (a rare form of epilepsy), and Encephalopathy. Zack needs brain surgery to remove two damaged areas of his brain to alleviate severe seizures and migraine headaches. To make merchandise/cash donation for raffle and live auction, purchase meal or raffle tickets, or for information, please contact Brenda Wiatrek Machost at (361) 573-5787 or e-mail at benefit4zack@ gmail.com. Monetary Donations: contact Falls City National Bank to send a donation for Zack's care: Lillian Sekula, P. O. Box 339, Falls City, TX 78113; (830) 254-3573 ext. 107; Lsekula@FCNB.net; make checks payable to: Benefit for Zackariah Zetsche, Reference: Account #05056799. As Zack turns 12 on October 1, all the support, prayers, and donations will be the greatest gift he could ask for. See story on page 15.

Cuero—St. Michael's H.S.A. Fall Festival Oct. 25 on the school grounds with a homemade chicken-fried-steak dinner from 11:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. There will be live and silent auctions, country store, cakewalk and more. The Shiner Hobo Band will play in the hall from 10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. See page 9 for more information.

Hillje—St. Andrew Altar Society Turkey Dinner Oct. 25 at the parish hall. Serving begins at 11:00 a.m. at \$7 p/p. with dine-in or plates-to-go available.

Seadrift—St. Patrick Annual Turkey Dinner will be held Oct. 25 at the parish hall. Serving begins at 11:00 a.m. Plates are \$7 p/p.

Hallettsville—The Sacred Heart Home and School Association Apple Strudel Bake Saturday, Oct. 31. The strudels come ready to eat for \$14. Unbaked strudels sell for \$12 each, and will be available for pickup at the Sacred Heart Family Center on the day of the event. To order, call Charlene Bradbury (361) 798-3224, Annette Henke (361) 798-5374, Angela Harper (361) 798-3323 or e-mail charlenebradbury@hotmail.com. Advance orders are required to guarantee order fulfillment. Victoria orders will be available for pickup at Our Lady of Victory cafeteria on Monday, Nov. 2, from 4:00-5:00 p.m.

Upcoming Events

Victoria — Holy Trinity Chapel Jamaica Nov. 1 at Victoria Community Center from 11:00 a.m.-7:30 p.m. A turkey dinner will be served from 11:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m. at \$7 p/p. There will be live entertainment, food booths, games, auction and more.

Praha—Veterans Memorial Service Nov. 8 at 9:30 a.m.

Victoria — Knights of Columbus Council 1329 chicken-barbecue fund-raiser Nov. 15 at the KC Hall (3610 N. Ben Wilson). The price is \$6 per chicken. Beans and Spanish rice are available for \$1.50 per pint. Sale starts at 8:30 a.m. Proceeds benefit various council projects.

Victoria — St. Mary's Altar Society's Annual Harvest Bazaar Saturday, Nov. 21, at 401 S. Liberty Street from 9:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. There will be many unique hand crafted items for sale including blessed prayer blankets, quilts, pillowcases, cup towels, quilted items, baby items, wood crafts, cookbooks, holiday gifts and decorations, decorated fall foliage and much, much more. The Country Store will be brimming over with home baked goods, canned goods and more. Enjoy soup, drink and dessert lunch for \$5 from 11:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.

Masses • Retreats • Conferences

Tivoli—Our Lady of Guadalupe Church invites you to a Healing Mass and Prayer Service every First Friday of the month 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. Coelho at (361) 286-3349.

Victoria — Our Lady of Lourdes Parish Mission Oct. 4–7 welcomes Father Stan De Boe, Trinitarian priest and pastor of Our Lady of Sorrows. The mission will center on Mary as Servant, Witness and Disciple and how we can be like her. Mission begins Sunday, Oct. 4, at 6:00 p.m. with Mass; then at 7:00 p.m. Monday — Wednesday. Please call (361) 575-3813 for more information.

Cursillos — The English Movement of the Cursillos of Christianity of the Archdiocese of San Antonio (CCASA) religious and laity invite you to their upcoming events:

Women's English Cursillo, Oct. 15-18 at Immaculate Heart of Mary in San Antonio – begins 5:30 p.m. on Thursday and ends 5:00 p.m. Sunday with a closing ceremony. Will be at the Cursillos, 617 South Santa Rosa Ave (1 block south of Durango next to I-35). If you feel called to become closer to Christ by leading others to the Way, the Truth, and the Life, view their Web site www.sa-cursillo.org; e-mail us at saenglishcursillo@gmail. com; call (210) 492-8788, or locally in Victoria, call Andrew L Marquez (361) 579-0504. De Colores!!

Houston—Coming Events at Holocaust Museum Houston – Education Center and Memorial: **www.hmh.org/pc_home.asp**.

Victoria—Holy Family Catholic Church presents Michael Cumbie for a Parish Mission, Oct. 18 – 21. Michael is an experienced speaker, musician and worship leader who converted to the Catholic faith after having been a Protestant pastor for 23 years. He inspires with his knowledge, wit and incredible sense of humor and will have you rolling with laughter while appreciating your Catholic faith. Daily presentations begin each evening at 7:00 p.m. at Holy Family, 704 Mallette Drive. See more information on page 7.

Houston – The Sisters of the Incarnate Word and Blessed

Sacrament in Houston are holding Days of Discernment for Women expressing an interest in Religious Life Saturday, Oct. 24, (8:45 a.m. -4:00 p.m.) and Sunday, Dec. 6, (8:30 a.m. -1:00 p.m.) at their motherhouse, 3400 Bradford, Houston, 77025. Interested women are also welcome each Saturday evening to join in Scripture Sharing (in preparation for Sunday's readings) from 7:00 - 8:00 p.m. and each first Sunday to attend Mass followed by Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, beginning at 8:30 a.m. and closing with noon lunch. Please contact Sr. Scholastica (sscholastica@yaho.com) at (713) 668-0423 or Web site http://incarnatewordsistershouston. org for more information.

Victoria – Come and See Discernment Weekend for single Catholic women up to 50 years of age will be hosted by the Sisters of the Incarnate Word and Blessed Sacrament on Oct. 31 - Nov. 1, at Incarnate Word Convent in Victoria. If you are interested in learning more about religious life or in discovering if God might be calling you to consecrated life, please call (361) 575-7111 or e-mail iwbsvoc@ yahoo. com or check www. iwbsvictoria.org for more information about the Sisters.

Victoria — An All Souls Day Mass will be held at 12:00 p.m. Monday, Nov. 2, at Resurrection Cemetery Mausoleum on the corner of Laurent St. and Mockingbird Lane. Fellowship with refreshments will follow.

Victoria—The 11th annual "A Gathering of Women: To See Thee More Clearly...the Deeper Teachings of Jesus" with Paula D'Arcy will be held Sunday, January 24, through Wednesday, January 27, 2010, at the Spiritual Renewal Center in Victoria. This retreat is limited to only 25 women. The retreat cost is \$380, which includes all meals and single occupancy lodging for three nights. Reservations are on a first come basis and will be reserved by the date deposits of \$100 are received. For more information on Paula D'Arcy, go to: www.red-birdfoundation.com; for more information on retreat, go to p. 15 or contact Susan Oakley at (361) 576-1515 or e-mail smoak53@msn.com.

Museum of the Coastal Bend

Upcoming Events – 2200 East Red River, Victoria, (361) 582-2511, www.museumofthecoastalbend.org

• Young Artist Workshops, Grades K - 5 – Wednesday afternoons, 4:00 - 5:30 p.m.; October 14: Charcoal rubbings & Las Catrinas; November 18: Nature's Window & Twig Looms; December 16: Suncatchers, Leaf Pressing & Painting. Fee: \$25.00 per session (or buy 3 get 1 free); all supplies provided!

• Wine Tasting Tour of Texas, Adults (Age 21 & Up)

– Thursday evenings, October 1, 15, 29 and November 12; 6:00 - 7:30 p.m.; Led by HEB Plus Sommelier Roxane Rollinson, this tasting workshop is designed for anyone who wants to learn all about Texas Wines. Tuition is \$40

• Hispanic Heritage Celebration: Storytelling, Folklore, Flavors & Music, All Ages – Thursday, October 8, 5:30 – 7:30 p.m. Consuelo Samarripa is a Texas Commission on the Arts Touring Roster Artist. A bilingual storyteller, Consuelo shares her Mexican heritage through stories, tales, poetry and folklore. Hispanic musical heritage will be celebrated with a performance by the Memorial High School Mariachis directed by Robert Rodriguez. This event will be held in the Museum's Outdoor Demonstration Area. Regular museum admission applies. Held in conjunction with the exhibit, Images of Valor: U.S. Latinos & Latinas in WW II, on display through October 15.

• World War II Oral History Training Workshop – presented by the Texas Historical Commission at MCB; Saturday, October 10, 9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. Free and open to the public.

• Junior Archeology Field Crew Workshop, Grades 4 - 8 - Museum instruction - Friday, October 9, 4:00 - 7:00 p.m.; Site visit - Saturday, October 10, 9:00 - 11:00 a.m. Participants will receive an introduction to the field of archeology. Materials will be presented in hands-on activities, discussions, museum displays and a site visit. Jimmy Bluhm, an Archeological Steward for the Texas Historical Commission and MCB Volunteer, leads the workshop. Class limited to 15 students. Parents must provide transportation for site visit. Tuition for new students: \$50 (non-members); \$45 (MCB members). Tuition for returning students: \$25 (non-members); \$20 (members).

• Archaeology Awareness Day, All Ages – October 20, 10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. Visit the MCB's archaeology laboratory; live demonstrations of early peoples activities. Regular museum admission.

• El Dia de Los Muertos Altars & Tradition – Altar Exhibit/Competition Oct. 22 – 29; Lecture October 22, 5:30 p.m. by Raphael Venegas, recently retired Professor of Spanish and Spanish Literature at The Victoria College. Regular museum admission.

Spooky Guided Flashlight Tour, All Ages – Thursday, October 29, 7:30 p.m. Regular museum admission.

Advance registration required for tuition/fee events; suggested for all others; call 361-582-2511 for additional

St. Rose of Lima, Catholic School Celebrates 120 Years

SCHULENBURG—This year marks 120th year anniversary of St. Rose of Lima School in Schulenburg, Texas. The community celebrated the anniversary with an early morning Mass and photo slide show at St. Rose Church celebrating the feast of St. Rose of Lima. St. Rose of Lima was born at Lima, Peru, April 20, 1586, and died there August 30, 1617. St. Rose of Lima is the patroness of Latin America and the Philippines.

Established in 1889, the first one-room school was made possible through the personal funding of Rev. John Kirch. The school was later acquired by the Sisters of Divine Providence, who reimbursed father with a sum of \$800. There were 20 students enrolled the day the school opened. The schools current enrollment is 165 students and St. Rose of Lima has seen increased growth in enrollment every year for the last four years.

In 1930 the current brick schoolhouse, which is the main building and home to kindergarten through third grade, was built under the pastorate of Rev. F.X. Wolf at a cost of \$36,000. During this time Sister Denise Demel of the Sisters of Divine Providence was still active and involved in the operation of the school; however, parish records indicate that in 1914-1915 the school reverted back to the parish as a parochial school, as contributions were made by the parish. It was the retirement of Sister Denise Demel that concluded the sisters time with the school. The school now employs over 20 lay teachers and support staff. Father Tim Kosler and Father Peter Yeboah-Amanfo serve as spiritual directors for the school.

St. Rose Parish still provides a \$90,000 annual subsidy for the school's operating fund as income generated by tuition and fees is not enough to sustain daily operation.

Another group that provides annual support for the school is the Home and School Association or HSA. This organization was founded in 1922 as The School Club with 25 charter members. It later grew into the PTC, which primarily

be held Saturday, Dec. 12. This organization helps provide necessary funds for the school and provides parents the opportu-



At St. Rose of Lima's 120th anniversary, Donna Kunz, junior high teacher; Father Tim Kosler and Bishop David Fellhauer process in during the Mass Sunday, August 23, 2009. The fourth degree Knights of Columbus escorted the bishop.

like to make a gift donation of financial contribution to the New early Childhood Center can contact the school office at

the school.

See St. Rose of Lima, p. 16

nity to lead by example and teach children

Center open house and dedication, on

the same day, the school held a pancake

breakfast and bake sale from 7:00 a.m. to

11:00 a.m. coordinated by Carolyn Osina

and Jennifer Moeller. Other special guests

in attendance for the day's events included

superintendent of schools for the Diocese

of Victoria, Mr. John Quary; principal of

Sacred Heart School in Hallettsville, Mr.

David Smolik; Ralph and Linda Schmidt

of the Schmidt Family Foundation, and

former second grade teacher Anna Marie

Huebner who after numerous years of

teaching experience still volunteers at

about St. Rose School or who would

Anyone wanting more information

In addition to the Early Childhood

about service to others.

provided the school with all necessary textbooks and other essential purchases for the classrooms. The current HSA provides the school with an annual subsidy in the amount of \$100,000. The organization also provides special funding for field trips, PSIA entrance costs and study supplies, and other incidentals the school may request during the year. At the beginning of the 2009 school year HSA provided all homeroom teachers with \$200 to purchase supplies for their classrooms.

All parents of students enrolled at St. Rose School are members of the HSA. These parents work numerous events over the summer months and school year to raise funds needed to meet the subsidy. Two of the biggest HSA events are the annual Fall into Step Dinner & Dance held on Sept. 19 and the annual Christmas Around the World children's carnival to



Attending the Early Childhood Center dedication are, from left, Bob Stanzel, volunteer project manager; Bishop David Fellhauer; Ralph and Linda Schmidt, representing the Schmidt Family Foundation; John Quary, superintendent of schools for the Diocese of Victoria; Rosanne Gallia, principal; Stacy Oeding, lead teacher and 3k teacher; and Father Tim Kosler. See complete story on page 16.

St. Philip School celebrates 60 years

as a student there.

"I didn't like school, but I had to be

I have fond

memories of

being here. The

school contin-

ues to contrib-

ute to each indi-

vidual's body,

mind and soul.

I look out on

the crowd and

see generation

after generation here. We just

keep passing

on to the next

was a first

Hancock

generation."

there," he said with a chuckle. "Some talent-

ed students have walked through these halls.

By Quala Matocha of the El Campo Leader-News

EL CAMPO-Students and alumni gathered for St. Philip Catholic School's 60th anniversary Mass and rededication ceremony Friday morning, September 18, 2009. Bishop David Fellhauer extended a holy blessing upon the school's cornerstone, as well as the crowd gathered outside the school.

"We welcome you today with great appreciation in our hearts for all the time and talent that have passed through St. Philip's School doors for the past 60 years," Student Council President Kari Wilkins said in her greeting.

Parish, assists the bishop.

"It has been only because of the commitment of so many dedicated people that these doors have remained open and the contents of this structure continues the solid teachings of the Catholic Church and Jesus Christ our Lord. We pray for many more years

to serve this

community in bringing the Good News of Jesus Christ to all our neighbors. May we as students continue the excellence that has been established and so continue the work of Our Lord."

John Hancock Jr., whose grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. R.H. Hancock, had envisioned the opening of a Catholic school in El Campo, shared some historical background about St. Philip School, while recalling his own days

St. Philip students, former students, parents and faculty walk up the walkway

to the school where Bishop Fellhauer conducts the rededication and blessing of

the school, which was founded 60 years ago. Inset: Bishop Fellhauer extends

his hand in a rededication blessing of the cornerstone of St. Philip School on

the observance of its 60th anniversary. Father Gary Janak, pastor of St. Philip



grader when he started school at St. Philip. His sister, Karen Jenkins, who was a year ahead of him, remembers her first year at St. Philip as a second grader. "It was great," she said. "There were about 15 children in my class. It

class to graduate eighth grade." Prior to its opening, Jenkins attended Catholic school in Wharton. But it was her grandmother who wanted her children to have a Catholic school

was a small class. We were the second

upbringing in El Campo. "My grandmother was instrumental in opening the school," she said, adding that her aunt Evelyn Gillean was also important to its opening.

tend St. Philip. Alumni Adeline Kasper attended St.

Jenkins's three grandchildren also at-

Philip through the seventh grade.

"It was cool having the nuns teach us," she said. "We were a close knit school. I treasure that."

Two of her granddaughters, Brianna and Bridget Dorotik, attend school there.

Jo Ann Balcar Hlavaty was one of the first students who was enrolled in the very first, first grade class. At the beginning there were only three grades. By the time she graduated, her class was the first to complete first through eighth grade. She remembers the bond between classmates.

"Everybody was close together. Heck we had to get along," Hlavaty said.

"We were family," added classmate Jeanette Pustejovsky Novak. "These were some of the happiest years of my life here."

Novak and Hlavaty remember their classroom being located in the old church in the beginning, the wooden kneelers and no air-conditioning.

Hlavaty has had four of her children at St. Philip, as well as three granddaughters graduate from there.

Betty Kacal Leopold of Nada lived on Strand and walked to school each day.

There were 10 children in her family.

"My parents sent all 10 of us to St. Philip," she said.

On the walk home after school, they

See St. Philip School, p. 16