By Cynthia Brewer

Trinitarian priest Father Donald Hayden, O.S.S.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 ordained Dec. 7, 1954, in Bayshore, N.Y., to the late John Hayden and Cecile P. Molberg.

Father Hayden was a gifted poet, writer and preacher. Throughout 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 life experience. 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, 1977, 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.L., on Oct. 8, 1981, at Holy Trinity Monastery, Pikesville, Md. He completed novitiate as resident chaplain at the IWBS motherhouse in Victoria.

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Bishop Fellhauer’s Schedule

October
6  Clergy Fraternity Day, Yoakum; dinner, Knights of Columbus Hall, Shiner
9  7:00 p.m., Recommission service, Spiritual Renewal Center
12-15 Canon Law Society of America Convention, Louisville, Kentucky
16  7:00 p.m., Recommission 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, Victoria
21  4:30 p.m., Diocesan Building Board meeting, Chancery Office
30  7:00 p.m., Recommission service, Spiritual Renewal Center

November
4  10:30 a.m., Presbyteral Council meeting, Chancery Office
1:45 p.m., Blessing of the new Hermes Hall, Spiritual Renewal Center, all invited
5  6:00 p.m., Mass and meal, 50th anniversary of Sierra Club of Victoria, Holy Family Church, Victoria
8  9:30 a.m., Veterans’ Day Mass, St. Mary Church, Praha
11  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 Church, R.C.I.A., Our Lady of Victory Cathedral
11  9:30 a.m., ‘Lay 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, Texas 77903; or call 361-573-0828.

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 Kutch and Deacon Kutch’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 great 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 Punka, with a net score of 51. The second place team of Pat Matuszek, David Berkovsky, Jimmy Berkovsky, and Scott Moeheim, 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 in 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 la Misericordia, San Antonio

Thanks to Msgr. Goertz who included with his letter a nice donation for The Catholic Lighthouse.
The Catholic Lighthouse
Page 3 — October 2009

The Priest

By Paula Brock, San Diego, Calif.

Editor’s note: The USCCB Committee on Clergy, Consecrated Life and Vitae;
ations has asked to develop their own speeches for their priests with prayer, celebration and dialogue. The last Sunday of October is designated as Priests Sunday, a one-day celebration of the priestly vocation 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, Priests Sunday celebration and the opening of a dialogue between priests and parishioners are encouraged.

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

Parishes may submit their Priests Sunday event photos to jozeczes@msn.com for possible posting on the Serra Web site — www.serraus.org.

Priests 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 Priests Sunday, a one-day celebration of the priestly vocation 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, Priests Sunday celebration and the opening of a dialogue between priests and parishioners are encouraged.

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In Memory of...

Elizabeth Eilers, mother of Sr. Emilie

FREDERICKSBUSK — Elizabeth A. Eilers, 93, of Fredericksburg, formerly of Hallettsville, passed away on Tuesday, Sept. 15, 2009, at her residence. She was born on Oct. 7, 1915, to Franz and Elizabeth Frommert Graf 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 Island, City and Candy Weaver of Austin; 38 grandchildren; 83 great-grandchildren.

Elizabeth was preceded in death by: her husband; daughter, Betty Jean Eilers; parents; and four grandchildren.

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

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

Rev. Donald Hayden, O.S.S.T.

Continued from p. 1

Fredericksburk — Zigmund Cernoch, of Weimar, passed away at St. David Hospi
tal Austin on his 80th birthday, Sept. 7, 2009, after a sudden brief illness.

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

Zigmund was born on Sept 7, 1922, in
Y palindrome, to Karel and Marie (Krecic)
Cernoch. He attended Dubina schools.

Zigmund entered the U.S. Army on
Nov. 14, 1942, and was honorably dis-
larged on Feb. 14, 1946. He spent four-
years in the Army and fought in 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
Loesin Implement Co., retiring after many
years of service. He continued to work on
farmers’ tractors and small engines at his home for a good number of years enjoying the fellowship that came with each repair.

He enjoyed reading, fishing, barbecu-
ing, 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.

Zigmund was preceded in death by his
wife, Georgia, of 65 years; four daughters; four sons and spouses; Sister Mary Beth, IWBS of Colorado Springs; Carl Eilers and Gary and
Carolyn; and nine nieces and nephews.

Survivors include children, Sister Char
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Seminary Burses

Seminary Burses are a permanent fund used for the education of future priests for the Diocese of Victoria. The goal of each bursary 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.

As of September 25, 2009

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<td>Seminary Burse #1</td>
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|教師 of Columbus Fourth Degree Yoakum #1128 Seminary Burse 2 | $292.84 |
|教师楼 of Columbus Victoria Council #1329 Seminary Burse 3 | $6,070.84 |
|教师楼 of Clinton Kline by Imogene Kline | $22.00 |
|教师楼 of Clinton Kline by Imogene Kline | $2,095.50 |
|教师楼 of Frank and Stacie Brick by Andy and Pauline Brick | $2,910.50 |
|教师楼 of Adolph Jasek by Lad and Helen Muras | $11,444.50 |

- Rev. Theophil Okrulhik & Rev. Vincent Verdrarame Seminary Burse: Previously reported $9,427.89 In memory of Henry J.Jozefka by: MM Elroy A. Broune 25.00 MM Kenneth Anderle 10.00 Georgia Jelicka Family 100.00 Gift by St. Ann Church, P.O. Comfort 25.00 Total: $9,760.44
- Rev. Msgr. Benton A. Thurmond Seminary Burse: Previously reported $1,175.00 Gift by CDA #2475, Inez 100.00 Total: $1,275.00
- Rev. Celestinio Say Seminary Burse (Catholic Life Ins.): Previously reported $2,675.00 In memory of Annie Ruppert by: MM Robert Bocot 25.00 In honor of St. Philip 300th jubilee celebration by: Frank and Rita Zurins 100.00 Fred and Anna Spangler 100.00 In memory of Morgan Weiland by: MM OLL Altar Society 25.00 Mary A. Bianchi 25.00 OLC Seminary Burse 50.00 Jimmy and Loretta Hobbs 10.00 Rosemah Salziger 10.00 In memory of Elzey Scheuler by: MM Robert Bocot 25.00 Gift by MM Kevin E. Walker & Family 100.00 In thanksgiving of 60 years of marriage for Evelyn and Philip Bujnoch by: their family Total: $3,190.00


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

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

**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 Angelene 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 Viannes, Victoria; Geraldine Jahn, Yoakum; and Evangeline Flores, Victoria.

**OLV has a deacon after nearly a 27-year absence**

Our Lady of Victory Catholic Church 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 Sep- tember 14, 2009.

After serving for over two decades as professor of education and law at the University of Oklaho- ma, Deacon Larry came to Victoria and began serving as the dean of the school of education and human development at the University of Hous- ton-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 mar- riage 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 edu- cator, 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 Chi- cago, III. He is a native of Chicago.

Holding a degree in theo- logy, 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 consul- tant 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.

**Pray for vocations!**

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.

Patrick’s year of discernment before being ordained a transitional deacon will consist of shadowing priests in parishes and other 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.

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**Pray for vocations!**

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. The year of discernment before being ordained a transitional deacon will consist of shadowing priests in parishes and other 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, 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.

**Pray for vocations!**
Native of East Bernard finds joy and fulfillment in ‘knighthood’ of Christ’s Eucharistic Presence

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 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, proclaim that very same commitment to God and King. Jesus Christ, through their work at the magnificent Shrine of the Most Blessed Sacrament and Our Lady of Angels Monastery, is headquartered some 50 miles to the south in Hanceville, Ala.

Steven Vacek, 23, of Vacek Hardware in East Bernard is a member of this community based in Alabama. He joined East Bernard High School and Wharton Junior College before entering the community.

His parents are Thomas and Donna Vacek. East Bernard 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 Sepulchre. Steven’s older brother owns Vacek Hardware in East Bernard.

The mission of the Knights of the Holy Eucharist is to promote 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 a cloistered community of Poor Clares in the monastery. Along with maintaining the grounds and facilitating the Knights’ busy schedule, brothers, and seminarians on retreat; serve as acolytes at Shrine liturgies; and provide assistance to pilgrims.

Situated on 400 acres of lush farmland along a remote county 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. Poverty is seen as 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; knightsofholyeucharist@gmail.com; or www.knightsofthoholyeucharist.com

VOCATION BOOM! Announces the Launch of its new Web Site

Religious and lay 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 beginning of what Pope John Paul II and continued by Pope Benedict XVI.

In this “Year for Priests,” the theme is, “For the face of the Lord” and in this spirit of trust. These noble and faithful men would give their very lives to the service and protection of their lord and his kingdom.

The Knights of the Holy Eucharist have as their primary goal 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 facilitating the Knights’ busy schedule, brothers, and seminarians on retreat; serve as acolytes at Shrine liturgies; and provide assistance to pilgrims.

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Theology at the Well schedule

Theology at the Well, the highly successful Catholic program geared toward those adults, married or otherwise, continues. The exciting and informative meetings take place every other Thursday evening at 7 p.m. at St. Virgil’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 business in America. We go to shows to laugh and cry and escape for a bit. 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; Joe Ortega at ext. 50 or at joaorgea@victoriadiocese.org or Jim Weauden at (361) 649-9157.

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 Houston’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 whirling, basically brightening 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 us along in our pursuit of big dreams and small to-dos.

The other day, for instance, I told my dad that a National Public Radio editor is considering an essay of mine and has requested audio samples—something I’d never dreamed of. Dad didn’t miss a beat, reciting a few lines of “My God and my All.”

He pulled me off 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 dad has also cheered me on at the softball game. She was there to listen to every story I wrote as a girl. Where there were heavy adverbs and too much participial phrases, Mother added a dash of her creative mind. She listened to my clarinet, sipping her tea and trusting that “Three Blind Mice” could score a goal into Mozart. She believed scales would be followed by symphonies and flat notes would slide into perfect harmony. That she had no doubt in her heart, she knew what practice could do, what a good night’s sleep could do, what time could do, and ultimately, what God could do.

Tomorrows also has cheered me on. He pulled me off 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.
Does contraception minimize the incidence of abortion?

In the 1960s the “free love” or sex without consequences groups advocated contraception as a means to reduce the abortion rate. Instead it increased premarital and extramarital sexual activity. It also failed to provide a context for welcoming new life, and abortions increased. Abortion became the backup to contraception.

Contraception itself causes abortions. Contraceptives were originally intended to reach the union of sperm and ovum to prevent the formation of a new human being. The union of sperm and ovum used to be called conception by the marketing model of Marketing 101. That started a new and successful campaign to identify contraception with unplanned pregnancy, 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 not responsible for the death of a new human being who, according to the definition of conception, had not yet been “conceived.” Users of the IUD or the contraceptive pill and, most assuredly, the Emergency Contraception (EC) or “morning after pill” makers found it necessary to lessen key ingredients to lessen side effects for women such as stress and even death. The first principle of Marketing 101 is “Don’t kill your customers.”

With the mini-pill, often ovulation still occurred. But pill makers found it necessary to lessen key ingredients to lessen side effects for women such as stress and even death. The first principle of Marketing 101 is “Don’t kill your customers.”

If contraception is supposed to eliminate contraception there is the more abortions. And the Dakotas, had the lowest abortion rate. In 2006 the Institute issued a report card of states and the Dakotas had the lowest abortion rate. Instead it increased premarital and extramarital sexual activity and the Dakotas, had the lowest abortion rate. In 2006 the Institute issued a report card of states and the Dakotas had the lowest abortion rate. Instead it increased premarital and extramarital sexual activity.

Abortion became the backup to contraception and also because, in actual practice, contraception does not seem to lower the abortion rate.

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 pro-life 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.

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 Domini- can life. College-age and older men are invited to join us the weekend of October 7-9, 2009 at the St. Mary’s Dominican College Center in Irving, Texas. For more information, visit our Web site at www.dominicanvocations.com or e-mail our Vocation Coordinator at fcharrlie@dominicanvocations.com (504-837-2129 ext. 10).

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@uddenlinkmail.com, or write to me at P.O. Box 2448, Victoria, TX 77902-2448.
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 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 at 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. He’s blessed with a curious mind always open to the spreading of the good news to all peoples…for the unity and harmony of all the world. Let them in; let them ask the questions; and let them challenge you.

By Cynthia Brewer


12th Annual Catholic Schools Conference raises questions about Social Justice

Catholic schools within the Diocese of Victoria.

The keynote speaker was Father Stan De Boe, O.S.S.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, 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,” 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 Dosser from Region III of the Victoria Independent School District.

CATECHESIS

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

By Cynthia Brewer

“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 $515 for the six-week class. Call 361-573-0828, e-mail calvanz@victoriadocese.org, or visit www.victoriadocese.org to register or for more information.

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Holy Trinity Chapel
November 1
Victoria Community Center

Jamaica
2009

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

Live Entertainment • Food Booths • Games • Auction

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

Turkey Dressing Dinner
(Gathered by Robert Werner of Shiner, Texas)
Serving: 11:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m. • $7 - Drive-in or Platters-to-go

Auction at 12:30 p.m.

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 Catholic schools within the Diocese of Victoria.

The keynote speaker was Father Stan De Boe, O.S.S.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.

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The deceased Catholic War Veterans and Memorial Service was held honoring all War Veterans and Auxiliary members. A St. John the Baptist grace, devotion to the sacred heart of Jesus, and the power of divine light and grace is fully developed and honed through the first theologians and the Church's magisterium. God is totally free 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.
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 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 9—NET Team at St. Roch in Menz

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

OLG 8TH GRADE CLASS ATTENDS RETREAT—Our Lady of the Gulf Catholic School 8th Grade Class from Port Lavaca attended their first Leader-Ship 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.
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 football clinic to elementary girls from local public schools at the Boys and Girls Club.

Freshman Ashley Mutchler (JV), Sophomore Savanna Mendoza (Varsity), and Senior Hilary Kristynik (Varsity) were selected as All-American Cheerleaders at 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 t-shirts.

Join the Buddy Walk — Oct. 10

One of the service projects the St. Joe Cheerleaders raise 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 dowsynndromelouis@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.
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 returned 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 1972 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 Loun, and husband Dennis of Fort Smith Ark.; sons, Antonio, and wife Flo of Richmond Va., Max and wife Donna of Cincinnati, Ohio, and Rodolfo 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.

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 plus.

Jerome and Alice Kocian recently celebrated their 75th wedding anniversary at Sacred Heart Catholic Church in Beeville with Bishop David Fellhauer. The couple blessed the Band Hall renovation and the addition to the Vocational Building projects and was assisted by Wayne Rother Construction.

Bishop blesses new buildings and renovations at Sacred Heart

HALLETTSVILLE—Bishop David Fellhauer celebrated Hallettsville’s Sacred Heart 9-11 commissioning Mass which blessed many new additions to Sacred Heart Catholic 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. Roeder, while the addition to the Youth House was made possible by the Wilhelm and Georgie Mae Grahamman 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. “Gilby” and Lecille Gerdes. Roger Janak Construction served as the general contractor for the Band Hall and Vocational Building projects and was assisted by Wayne Rother Construction.

Above: Bishop David 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 Hermyo, youth directors; and Father Michael Rother.

Above: In the addition to the band hall are pictured l-r Father Michael Rother, Father John Peters, William Harrison, band instructor, Bishop Fellhauer; Vic Roeder, benefactor; Roger Janak, contractor; Candy Hines, music director; and David Smolik, principal at Sacred Heart.

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

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 many nights 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 slash events, 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 that Holy Communion was not open to Protestant teacher’s kids who stayed over for the weekend. In my preacher’s kid mind, 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. And watched wide 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 air, the other in the other. “You bow, say amen, and put the Eucharist in your mouth with the bottom of your hand.”

She put one upturned hand in the air, the other under. “You hold your hands like this.” She put one upturned hand in the air, the other under. “You hold your hands in the air. 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! – 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, 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 the memory still haunts me. When I thought back to that Mass, I realized what I had missed.

A Family Puzzle Contest Winner to win “The Bible Blueprint”

The 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.”

Kate 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 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. Witzy 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 relationship with Christ.

“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.
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 his mother, Paulette 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 is calmer and is also more aware of his surroundings, particularly the coming and going of people.

Paulette said one of Sam’s first requests was to see his dad’s truck 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 three 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 Houston, where they picked up their daughter, Madison, from grandparents Daniel and Carolyn Pilcik before returning home to California, where they reside.

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

The 2009 officers of the Galveston-Houston Catholic Lighthouse Youth Council are Cathy Rojas, as well as special recognition for Elva Rivera and Stefani Spears as Central Committee members, and legislative change needed to allow full extension of the shelter and to establish a shelter in Victoria.

The evening was an opportunity to give special thanks to all who volunteer their time, efforts, and donations to our mission of helping women in a crisis pregnancy.

President Cathy Rojas introduced Bishop David F. O’Connell, 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 those who are caught up in a way of life until 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 Yaxin, public relations director, and Emily Yearley, member-at-large.
Los principios fundamentales de la subsidencia más necesarios que nunca. Ha hecho la presentación clara de unos principios que han de guiar este diálogo. La tarea parece dantesca, pero no es en el momento de rendirse ni desentenderse. El debate ha llegado a un punto crítico donde la voz de los católicos necesita ser escuchada. Los obispos católicos de Estados Unidos han hablado al unísono sobre los principios que se agrupan en este diálogo. 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 crisis y por lo complicado del debate, ha hecho la presentación clara de unos principios morales básicos por los que regirse más necesitados que nunca. Un católico, en buena conciencia, no puede aparecerse ciegamente a una proposición u otra sin pasarlas por el timbre de los principios fundamentales de la solidaridad, la verdad y el bien común.

Según 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 adyacentes 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, así como para educar a otros en este tema. Pero ¿existe la voluntad? La crisis del servicio médico nos depara una realidad, la solidaridad y el bien común. La raíz y retórica excesiva del debate sobre el servicio de salud se ha desarrollado de forma significativa en los últimos años. En el debate sobre el servicio de salud, debemos dar voz a los 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 por qué involucrarse?

Las mujeres embarazadas y los niños, inde-

Las dictaduras militares en Latinoamérica. En 1980, “El Llanto del Pueblo”. La crisis del servicio médico nos depara una realidad, la solidaridad y el bien común. La raíz y retórica excesiva del debate sobre el servicio de salud se ha desarrollado de forma significativa en los últimos años. En el debate sobre el servicio de salud, debemos dar voz a los 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 por qué involucrarse?

Las mujeres embarazadas y los niños, inde-
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 Wiartrek Zetsche October 1, 1997. He appeared to be healthy and happy, but as 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 Chiari Malformation I. We enrolled Zack in various activities including an early childhood school program, picture exchange, and anything else to help him develop. Our family is finding the hope that the autism would improve, and he did make some progress.

On February 28, 2002, Zack suffered a convulsive status epilepticus and multiple grand mal seizures and was hospitalized for 10 days. Those 10 days were scary—parents who 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, in the toilet, and at the parietal lobe. It was then that we realized this was the start of a life-threatening, serious and chronic health issue for Zack that has led to brain damage. Our journey has been to find a treatment to help him in this battle. He has endured multiple medication changes and other therapies treatment with the Vagus Nerve Stimulator. Most medications have caused side effects, such as 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 parietal lobe and the parietal lobe. He also has a tethered cord and Chiari Malformation I, both of the spinal cord, which causes atypical muscle fatigue and migraine headaches. This brain damage is irreversible; he will never speak; and the seizures have scarred his brain, causing brain 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.

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 family 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. We 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 big, strong brother who “just doesn’t talk.” Gabe 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 care 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 Wiartrek Machot, in Victoria at (361) 573-5787 or e-mail benefit4zack@gmail.com.

By Carol Glatz Catholic News Service
CASTEL GANDO, Italy (CNS)—Many children raised by cohabitation, 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 a 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, 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 eroding 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 build 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 situations” 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 “adi provisioning” visit, 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, also 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-

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


The 11th annual “A Gathering of Women” with Paula D’Arcy

The 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. Reserva-
tions 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.
Blessing and Dedication of New Early Childhood Facility

St. Rose Church—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 Rose 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.

St. Philip School celebrates 60 years

St. Philip School opened its doors in September of 1949. The school, which once had been a dream of Mrs. R.H. Hancock, and his daughter, Mrs. Dan Gillean to El Campo for the start of the 1949-1950 school year. The Pioneer is still the emblem and mascot of the school for the complete history of St. Philip School.

Each classroom is designed with the preschool child in mind. Each room has its own sink and private bathroom, and 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 a snack. Also on the grounds is a small, wooden kitchen area/teachers lounge. Lunch is served on the side St. Rose of Lima Catholic School's residence to a preschool facility. A generous contribution by Principal Rosanne Gallia.

“Be it known to all that the education of the ‘whole’ child is the unseen but ever model of its faculty and the inspiration of its students.”

USCCB Officials Welcome President Obama’s Statements on Health Care

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.

“President Obama’s speech last night, ‘Be it known to all that the education of the ‘whole’ child is the unseen but ever model of its faculty and the inspiration of its students,’’”

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 at 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.”

Capitol Comments:

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 Bush administration wants health care reform that respects the life and dignity of all 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.

“USA Today declared on September 10, 2009, “Obama’s speech last night, ‘Be it known to all that the education of the ‘whole’ child is the unseen but ever model of its faculty and the inspiration of its students,’””

RESPECT LIFE

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NEWS

St. Rose of Lima Catholic School Celebrates 120 Years

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(979) 743-3080.

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

Continued from p. 20

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

On Aug. 17, 1949, Father Valenta, R.H. Hancock, and his daughter, Mrs. Dan Gillean, offered to transfer at his own expense the property to San Antonio on April 1, 1949, to discuss the placing of the proposed school that would cost approximately $90,000.

After a short introduction and “Thank you’s” by Principal Rose 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.

St. Philip School celebrates 60 years

St. Philip School opened its doors in September of 1949. The school, which once had been a dream of Mrs. R.H. Hancock, and his daughter, Mrs. Dan Gillean to El Campo for the start of the 1949-1950 school year. The Pioneer is still the emblem and mascot of the school that would cost approximately $90,000.

On Aug. 24, 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, appeared before the School Board in San Antonio on April 1, 1949, to discuss the building of a six-room school building that would cost approximately $90,000.

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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 dying or euthanasia. As debate approaches for Bill C-384, an act to amend the Criminal Code to provide for assisted dying, Auxiliary Bishop Vincent James Weisgerber of Winnipeg urged lawmakers to consider the “profound impact” a 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 misunderstanding of compassion has led them to suggest euthanizing organizations are stepping up providing them with proper care, effective pain control, and social, emotional and spiritual support until their natural death.” Without clear, the discussion can be “confusing and unhelpful,” Archbishop Weisgerber said.

Catholic Latino leaders group hosts D.C. launch

WASHINGTON (CNS) — With several dozen 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 Sanfilippo, 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 Archbishop Joseph A. Mccoy. Now the head of the Archdiocese of San Antonio, Archbishop Gomez was among about a dozen bishops and archbishops in the Sept. 23 event. Manny Garcia-Tunon, secretary of the organization, told Catholic News Service that the group hosts D.C. launches each year to mark CALL’s national presence. Though the groups numbers fewer than 50 official members, local chapters are being developed in leading Hispanic communities, San Antonio, Houston and Phoenix, all of which will have events in October.

Catholic organizations aid Philippine victims of flooding

Catholic organizations are stepping up to help victims of the Philippines after the worst flood in decades hit in late September. According to one report, “almost everyone has lost everything in sleeping in schools in 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 Philippines.

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 are not 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 ‘fash; yet they have become a great stumbling block to hindering the concrete ‘goodness 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. “Political leaders have made use of this to further their own ends and to cause division,” he said, “We can see 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 strength and is supported by Pope Benedict XVI, the project’s main promoter said. Gary Knupp, 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 people 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 be given the greatest attention. Knupp said he had met briefly with Pope Benedict during his general audience Sept. 30, when he 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.

Honduran official hints Vatican help might mediate political crisis

TEGUCIGALPA, Honduras (CNS) — Days after deceased Honduran President Manuel Zelaya returned secretly to the country, there were signs that the leaders who ousted him were considering negotiations, and the Vatican may help mediate a solution to the crisis. On Sept. 24, Auxiliary Bishop Juan Pineda Fasquelle of Tegucigalpa spoke with both main players on the political stand-off. The bishop visited both Zelaya and Roberto Micheletti, who heads the political rival who took power in a coup June 28. As he left the Brazilian Embassy, where Zelaya took refuge after returning to the country on 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, said the event “brought signs that we could be nearing a way out” of the three-month-old political impasse. The oustings came after several days of protests in which at least one person was killed and various others injured or arrested.

Pope urges Czechs to retain 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 who had com- }ined in the town of Medjugorje, that dur- }ing 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 he said had begun in 1981 when six young people -- Mirjana Dragicevic, Marija Pavlovic, Vicka Ivanovic, Ivan Dragicevic, Ivanka Ivanovic and Jakov C. - 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 stop offering comments on the messages Pavlovic claims to receive on the 25th of each month.

“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 misunderstanding of compassion has led them to suggest euthanizing organizations are stepping up providing them with proper care, effective pain control, and social, emotional and spiritual support until their natural death.” Without clear, the discussion can be “confusing and unhelpful,” Archbishop Weisgerber said.

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 profess- }ing all the Church has established in the creed, we do not turn to certain alternative ‘aparitions’ or ‘messages’ to which the church has not attributed any supernatural character,” Bishop Peric said.

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Oberammergau – Passion Play

July 11 - 20, 2010

Poland (Warsaw; Czestochowa; Black Madonna “Queen of Poland”; Auschwitz: St. Maximilian Kolbe; Wadowice: birthplace of Pope John Paul II; Krakow; St. Augustine, Shrine of Divine Mercy) – Czech Republic (Prague) – 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@olccben.net

Pope Benedict Greets 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)
Williams explained the process of becoming a U.S. citizen, appearances and accompany victims through the 278 family members, including 98 subcontractors have assisted 1,043 victims and $33.9 million.

Williams said, “It’s a hidden crime. People don’t know it’s happening,” he told Catholic News Service. “It is happening here.”

In Louisiana, 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.

Traffic 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 and then sold or put in a position of financial independence and freedom. Once in place, usually outside their home country, victims end up under the control of the 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 U.S. 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 intake 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 American-born boys and young men are trafficked primarily for the sex trade, showing up on the streets as prostitutes or in brothels. While far fewer 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 laborers working in the 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 and 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 Prostited 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/j/tip/rls/tiprpt/2009/index.htm.

MOTHER, SON REUNITED AFTER YEARS OF SEPARATION

— 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 Re-settlement 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.

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 Reauthoriza-tion Acts (TVTPA) of 2005 and 2008. The report describes the range of actions undertaken by the department of Labor (DOL) in response to the TVTPA 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/ctf/PDF/2008OCFTreport.pdf.
Bay City—Holy Cross Fall Festival and Turkey Dinner Oct. 4 at the KC Hall (Hamm Rd.), starting with Mass at 9:30 a.m., followed by a banquet and Turkey dinner served from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Live music by Levon Rybak band from 1:00-3:00 p.m. 

Shiner—St. John the Evangelist Parish Oct. 4 at the American Legion Hall. A chicken-barbeque dinner will be served at $7.00 p/p from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. and drive-thru available. This event will feature a live auction, raffle and more.

Seadrift—St. Anthony Fall Festival Oct. 4 at the Marine City Community Center. There will be games, chicken, moonwalk, dunking booth and concessions.

Tivoli—The Catholic Community of Austwell/Tivoli Annual Parish Festival Oct. 4 from 11:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. A family dinner with dessert and tea included, will be served starting at 11:00 a.m. There will be a live auction, games and music and much more. The live auction begins at 12:30 p.m. Look for signs on Hwy. 35 at Tivoli.

Victoria—St. Mary’s Antiochian Fall Festival Oct. 4 at the community center. Turkey and dressing dinner served from 11:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. 

Nazareth Academy Fall Festival Oct. 4 at the community center. Music by Leroy Rybak band from 1:00-3:00 p.m. 

The Sisters of the Incarnate Word and Blessed Teresa of Calcutta promote a weekend of prayer, discussions, museum displays and a site visit. Jimmy Casares, Our Lady of Guadalupe Outdoor Demonstration Area. Regular museum admission is $3.50. Fee: $25.00 per session (or buy 3 get 1 free); registration form or call (361) 576-3832 or e-mail catherinerahab@gmail.com. 

Catholic Daughters Annual Turkey Dinner Oct. 18 at the Parish Hall. Serving begins at 11:00 a.m. at $7.00 p/p with dine-in or plates-to-go available.

Catholic War Veterans Auxiliary Annual Turkey Dinner Oct. 18 at Holy Family Catholic Church. Serving begins at 11:00 a.m. for $7.00 p/p with dine-in or plates-to-go only available on Depot Street. Proceeds to benefit Community Projects. Your support is greatly appreciated.

Holy Trinity Chapel Jamaica Nov. 1 at Victoria Community Center. A chicken-barbeque dinner will be served from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Proceeds will benefit special needs boy, 11-year-old Zackariah Zetsche, Reference: Account #05056799. As Zack turns 12 on October 23, 2010, the family is planning a celebration and donations to help Zackariah Zetsche.

Catholic Daughters Annual Turkey Dinner Oct. 18 at the Parish Hall. Serving begins at 11:00 a.m. at $7.00 p/p with dine-in or plates-to-go available.

See more information on page 7.
St. Philip School celebrates 60 years

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 his hand in a rededication blessing of the cornerstone of St. Philip School on which is the main building and home to the students and faculty. "It has been only a second grade student," he said with a chuckle. "Some talent that have passed through St. Philip’s doors have raised 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 support the school is the Home and School Association or HSA. This organization was founded in 1922 as The Catholic Lighthouse Parish, assists the bishop.

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, plenty of slides 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 Parish 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. Attend the Early Childhood Center dedication are, from left, Bob Starzel, volunteer project manager; Bishop David Fellhauer; Ralph and Linda Schmidt, representing the Schmidt Family Foundation, who donated the HSA; and Jim 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.

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.

At St. Philip, as well as three granddaughters and two great granddaughters, who was a year ahead of him, remembers her first year at St. Philip through the seventh grade. She said. “We were a close knit school. I have fond memories of being here. The school continues to contribute to each individual’s body, mind and soul. I look out on the school and see generation after generation here. We just keep passing on to the next generation. Hancock was a first 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 was a small class. We were the second 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 upbringing in El Campo. "My grandmother was instrumental in opening the school," she said, adding that her aunt Evelyn Glikel was also important to its opening. Jenkins’s three grandchildren also attend St. Philip. Alumni Adeline Kasper attended St. Philip through the seventh grade.

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

Two of her granddaughters, Brauna and Bridget Doroik, 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 all were the same age,” classmate Jeanette Pastejovsky, "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 kettles and no air-conditioning.

Hlavaty has had four of her children at St. Philip, as well as three grandchildren graduated 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