Texas Wildfires destroy lives and homes

By Cynthia Brewer

The wildfire that started on Labor Day Weekend and swept through Bastrop, a city in the Diocese of Austin, claimed the lives of four people, destroyed 1,600 homes and blackened about 45-square miles, making it Texas’ most destructive fire.

Catholic Charities of Central Texas is accepting donations of gift cards and monetary donations to assist victims of the wildfire. Donations can be made online at http://www.austindiocese.org or mailed to Catholic Charities, 1817 E. Sixth Street, Austin, TX, 78702-2703. Both Catholic Charities and the Red Cross are assisting the victims of all of the other areas affected by fires as well.

During the same time period, another wildfire blazed in Mentz, Texas, destroying 11 homes and coming very close to St. Roch Catholic Church. St. Roch’s was being used as the fire command station until the fire got too close.

Of the 11 homes that burnt, three were owned or rented by St. Roch parishioners. “We’ve been in touch with them (the residents),” said Father Wayne Flagg, pastor of St. Roch in Mentz and Sts. Peter & Paul in Freiburg, “none of them need anything; they all say they’re doing well. All of them have faith and say ‘It’s just life issues, disdain for religion linked in Respect Life Month message

By Catholic News Service

WASHINGTON (CNS) — “Increasing attempts to expunge God and religious discourse from public life” are contribut ing to a growing disrespect for the unique status of human beings,” Cardinal Daniel N. DiNardo said in a message for Respect Life Month in October.

In a statement made public Sept. 26, the archbishop of Galveston-Houston and chairman of the U.S. bishops’ Committee on Pro-Life Activities linked respect for life to recent moves to silence the voice of people motivated by faith.

Cardinal DiNardo noted that the theme for the 2011-2012 Respect Life program, now in its 40th year, was taken from Jesus’ promise in the 10th chapter of John: “I came so that all might have life and have it to the full.”

“Jesus’ promise of ‘life to the full’ is especially poignant today, when our culture and sometimes our government promote values inimical to the happiness and true good of individuals and society,” he said.

“Viewing life as a ‘zero-sum’ game, in which advancing one’s interests requires putting aside the needs of others, can lead to inhumanity and disregard of the dignity and worth of individuals,” he continued.

The story was published in the August 2010 paper and can be seen on the diocesan Web site at www.victoriadiocese.org, on The Catholic Lighthouse page under The Catholic Lighthouse On-line title. For more information, see the photos.

The Holy Father’s Message for World Mission Sunday is available on the Vatican Web site. Resources for celebrating World Mission Sunday in your parish or school are now available. Go to The Catholic Lighthouse page at www.victoriadiocese.org and click on October issue, go to p. 7 and then click on Resources for World Mission Sunday.

Please be generous on World Mission Sunday, October 23.
Bishop Fellhauer's Schedule

October
4 10:27 a.m., Mass, St. Joseph High School, Victoria
8 10:30 a.m., Mass, Deacons’ retreat, Spiritual Renewal Center
10-13 Canon Law Society of America Convention, Jacksonville, Florida
15 12 Noon, Vietnamese Dominican Sisters, Luncheon with the Bishop, Victoria
18 10:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m., Tribunal Study Day, Holy Family Education Building, Victoria
6:00 p.m., Catholic Daughters and Knights of Columbus 1329 Awards Banquet, Knights of Columbus Hall, Victoria
22-23 Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre of Jerusalem Meeting and Investiture, San Antonio, Texas
27 6:00 p.m., Mass, Sierra Club Deacons’ Dinner, Holy Family Church, Victoria
28 2:00 p.m., Sacrament of Penance, ACTS retreat, Stevenson Detention Unit, Cuero
29 8:00 a.m., Mass, Stevenson Detention Unit, Cuero

November
1 8:15 a.m., Mass, Nazareth Academy, Victoria
6 9:30 a.m., Mass, Veterans Day, St. Mary Church, Pharr
7 5:00 p.m., Liturgical Commission meeting, Chancery Office
9 10:00 a.m., Diocesan Presbytery Council, Chancery Office

Effective September 13, 2011, the Rev. Dan Morales is appointed Associate Chaplain to the Serra Club of Victoria.

Effective September 21, 2011, the Rev. Peter Dery is appointed Parochial Vicar of Our Lady of the Gulf Church, Port Lavaca, and its mission churches.

Effective September 21, 2011, Deacon Linard Harper is released from his diaconal assignment at St. Joseph Church, Yoakum, and assigned to Sacred Heart Church, Hallettsville, and its mission churches.

~New E-mail Address~

To send local stories, photos or festival announcements, please use The Catholic Lighthouse’s new e-mail address: lighthouse@victoriadiocese.org. Thank you!

Letter to the Editor

I have to commend you for running the series of articles — “Poisoned by the Pill: Truths about Chemical Contraception”. It is so ironic that it’s illegal for a boy to take a steroid but they give the girls the steroid birth control pills.

The series is very educational and gives people the information necessary to understand and discuss the issues. I hope everyone will take time to read and understand why this is such a disastrous experiment on the American society and world.

Sincerely,
Wm. Paul Tasin
Victoria

See series on p.13 of this issue.

DSA & Reflection of Faith Capital Campaign Updates

2011 DSA

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Please Support Those Who Advertise in “The Catholic Lighthouse”!

Large food collection for SVdP, just the beginning of donations to come

By Cynthia Brewer

Because the Victoria Food Bank is so low on food at this time, Our Lady of Victory St. Vincent De Paul Society (SVdP) requested a nonperishable food collection from parishioners this past month.

Since Our Lady of Victory SVdP Society assists those who live in the parishes of both Our Lady of Victory and Holy Family in Victoria, the society asked the respective pastors, Msgr. Michael Harrold and Father Bob Knippenberg, if they would make an appeal at their Sunday, Sept. 4, Mass. Without even a chance to put a notice in the church bulletins, the response from the two parishes was so positive that the collection went on for an additional three weekends.

So much food was collected that Our Lady of Victory SVdP is now well equipped to help hungry families for some time.

“Needless to say, we at St. Vincent de Paul were totally impressed with the response we received,” said SVdP volunteer Robert Easterling.

As a holiday project, the chancery office of the Diocese of Victoria will also hold a food drive and a garage sale November 19 for the benefit of all the SVdP societies in Victoria (St. Mary’s, Our Lady of Lourdes, and Our Lady of Victory). All food/toilet items and proceeds from the garage sale will be donated to the SVdP societies.

Non perishable foods (including manual can openers) and toiletries may be dropped off at the chancery building from Nov. 7 – 19, and items for the garage sale may be brought to the chancery building from Nov. 16 to 18.

Large items (sofas, beds, etc.) will be accepted only on Friday, Nov. 18, due to lack of storage space. This garage sale will not be selling clothing, so please do not drop off clothing. Monetary donations will be accepted.

Please consider donating items to help make this one of the largest holiday garage sales of its kind. Please call Mrs. Janie Carrales in the Office of Catholic Schools if you have questions (361 573-0828 ext. 2213).

More information to follow in the November issue of The Catholic Lighthouse.

A shelf displays canned goods at St. Vincent De Paul house in Victoria.

Rarely does something get us this excited — rarest of all is the opportunity to participate in something like this.

SVdP’s non-perishable food collection has been inSth in the city.

Click to view image

The Catholic Lighthouse

First and fore- most Dick will be remembered as a loving and caring husband and father. He was a lifelong resident of his beloved Victoria. His life was principled upon his love of church and a spirit of community. His actions and personality endeared him to many. He will be greatly missed.

After graduating from St. Joseph High School, Dick completed his Bachelor of Science in Education at the University of Dayton with a Bachelor of Education degree and was Master’s Program in Social Work at the Warden School of Social Work, San Antonio. He served in the Air Force during the Korean War. Dick obtained his Master of Divinity in the Knights of Columbus Council 1329, a Knight of the Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepul- chre of Jerusalem and an Associate of the Incarnate Word.

Dick was ordained to the diaconate on Aug. 15, 1987. He served as the Spiritual Advisor to Catholic Daughters Court of St. Ann, to St. Mary’s Altar Society, and to St. Vincent de Paul Society. He was Trustee Emeritus of the St. Joseph High School Booster Club and a member of the Serra Club. He worked for the State of Texas as a supervisor for Child Protective Services and as the business manager for the Diocese of Victoria.

In April 2005, he was honored with the Holy Bible by Pope John Paul II awarding him the “Pro Ecclesia et Pontifici.” When he retired in 2005 from the Diocese of Victoria, he received a pension from the Diocese of Victoria thanking him for his dedicated service.

In his “retirement,” he was the owner and manager of the Inn on Main. He was an active member of St. Mary’s Catholic Church and served as a deacon for many years.

He is survived by his loving wife, Theresa Wearden of Victoria; daughter, Mary E. Wearden, M.D. of San Antonio and husband, Mark G. Welborn, M.D.; son, James A. Wearden of Victoria; grandchil- dren, Matthew and Macartney Welborn; son-in-law, Jeff Hampton of Dallas; and sisters-in-law, nieces, and nephews of Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

He was preceded in death by his par- ents and his daughter, Debra Wearden Hampton.

The rosary was recited by Sister Emiliana and Sister Evelyn of Incarnate Word Convent Sept. 15 at St. Mary’s Catholic Church. The funeral Mass was celebrated Sept. 16 at St. Mary’s Catholic Church with the Most Rev. David E. Fellhauer officiating, assisted by Deacon Jim Koenig and Father Joseph Hybner, homilist. Music for the Mass was provided by the Sisters of Incarnate Word Convent with Sister Mary of Latvia, and the Procession followed at Resurrection Cemetery.

Pallbearers were Charles Kutchka, Charles Bluntzer, Matthew Welborn, Jeff Hampton, Romeo Salinas and Jeffrey Osterhout.

Honorary pallbearers were members of the Associates of Incarnate Word Convent and Catholic Daughters; the Deacons of the Diocese of Victoria; and St. Mary’s Altar Society members.

Memorial Masses may be made to St. Mary’s Building Fund, Diocese of Victoria, St. Joseph Endowment Scholarship Fund for Debra Wearden Hampton, Incarnate Word Convent or Nazareth Academy.

Special thanks to the doctors and nurses at DeTar Navarro hospital for their outstanding care and compassionate care. Words of comfort may be shared with the family online at www.colonialfuneral- almondsvictoria.com

Published in The Victoria Advocate from September 14 to September 15, 2011

Deacon William R. (Bill) Long

SHERVEPORT, LA - A Memo- rial Service for Deacon William R. (Bill) Long, 79, was held at St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Catholic Church Thurs- day, March 31, 2011. Services were conducted by Rev. Pike Thomas. Dea- con Long died in Gay, Fl. on March 10, 2011.

He was born in New Jersey and was ordained one of the first Permanent Dea- cons of the Catholic Church in 1971 and served in Las Vegas, Nev., and at Our Lady of Lourdes in Victoria, Texas, before be- ing called to North Louisiana in 1989. He served the Shreveport Diocese as Pastoral Associate for the Catholic Communities of the Holy Spirit, Catholic Chaplain at Walsh Correctional Center, Director of Community & Family Ministry, Chaplain at LSUHSC, and Deacon & Director of Social Ministry at St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Church. He was an active member of Interfaith of North Louisiana and the Karios Prison Ministry.

He and his wife, Marilyn, retired to Dun- nellon, Fl., in 2004, where she still resides. Two sons, several grandchildren and a legion of friends survive him.

(Obituary originally published March 29, 2011, in the Shreveport Times.)
COLUMBUS, Ohio — When the doors of the Pontifical College Josephinum opened this fall for its 124th year of forming men for the Catholic priesthood, more than 40 new seminarians joined the community. With their arrival, the total number of men in discernment at the Josephinum reached 188 — the seminary’s highest enrollment since the 1970s.

As a national seminary not governed by any one diocese or religious community, the Josephinum educates seminarians from an average of 25 dioceses throughout the United States. In 1970, the first 17 new dioceses were added to the growing list: Victoria, Ogdenburg, Kansas City-Saint Joseph, Birmingham, Lexington, and Great Falls-Billings.

From the Diocese of Victoria, both Kristopher Fuchs and Matthew Soto attend Theology I at the Pontifical College Josephinum.

Very Reverend James Wehner, STD, rector/president, attributes the rise in enrollment — 53 percent in two years — and addition of new dioceses to the excellence of the seminary’s programs, its highly-qualified and dedicated faculty, and to its pontifical status. “Bishops are looking for seminaries that clearly define the charism, purpose and intent of priestly formation as it relates to the realities of the Church in America, while also considering the universality of the Church,” he said. “The Josephinum achieves these expectations in every aspect of its formation program.”

The Josephinum’s formation program is centered on the concept of forming Renaissance Priests: Spiritual Fathers for the New Evangelization. The thought of Blessed Pope John Paul II and Pope Benedict XVI is integrated throughout the formation program, emphasizing a dialogue between faith and culture.

The record enrollment at the Josephinum is part of a record number of priests who serve on the faculty. The priest-faculty consists of 17 full-time resident priests and 5 adjunct priests, the largest priest-faculty in nearly two decades. In addition to the priest-faculty, 14 full-time lay professors and five adjunct professors serve the operations of the formation program.

At WYD Mass with seminarians, pope says he’ll proclaim new doctor of church

Scott Hill is a Theology II student at St. Mary Seminary in Houston. His home parish is Holy Trinity in Bay City, and his birthday is September 29. Please show your support for this seminarian by writing to: Scott Hill, St. Mary Seminary, 9845 Memorial Drive, Houston, TX 77024-3407.

By Diocese of Victoria Seminarian John Dougherty

Many young, Catholic men in the world feel called to serve the Church in a more direct way than simply following the life of a lay member. For those young men who feel called to a greater life of service in the Church, the priesthood is a good place to start looking. This call is an extraordinary one in many aspects. For one, the vocation to celibacy is definitely a countercultural commitment; one which most of society does not understand or desire. The priesthood is also a life of consecration. A priest serves God’s people in so many different ways in just one day. The seminary is a life-changing experience where one formally discerns the call to the priesthood.

As the leader of the parish, the priest is a very public figure. And since the priesthood is a calling which the seminarian is aspiring to, it is important for him to undergo certain changes in behavior and mindset, which will make him a better public figure. One important aspect in the growth of a seminarian is to cultivate a strong social life among a variety of different people in different walks of life. The seminary is a great place where a prospective priest can encounter various different characters all having individual personalities, which the seminarian must learn to grow accustomed to. Sometimes it is easy for a seminarian to get along with the others around him, while at other times it can be very difficult. The seminary is a place where one can learn first-hand how to deal with people of different temperaments. This experience of familiarizing oneself with different personas is an opportunity, which will ultimately help to shape the seminarian into a better pastor and amplify his relationship with the Father.

Now, the seminary is not just a place to...
The Holy Father tells young people “Do Not Keep Christ to Yourself!”

By Wendy Eggert, associate director of Youth and Young Adult Ministry

“It is not possible to find Christ and not tell others about Him. So, do not keep Christ for yourselves. Communicate the joy of your faith to others. The world needs the testimony of your faith.” With these words the Holy Father invited young people present at the World Youth Day (WYD) concluding Mass to share the faith they profess with their peers.

Twenty-two young adults and six adults, along with Fathers Bryan Heyer, David Berger and Michael Rother, represented the Diocese of Victoria at WYD 2011 in Spain. After a 14-hour plane ride, with some of the young adults never having flown before, we arrived in Valencia, Spain, for “Days in the Diocese” from August 11-15. The young people would join about three thousand other youth from several other nations. Some to experience the cultures and surroundings of Valencia from dancing, singing, chanting, and just fellowshipping in the public squares. Many times the young people did not know what the other was saying, but thankfully smiles are universal.

No one seemed scared to approach one another to swap flags, key chains, t-shirts, or whatever they had brought to represent their hometown or village. Witnessing this truly fell like a glimpse of heaven where we will finally truly be one Universal Body of Christ.

Other experiences we had while in Valencia included visiting the “El Mercado” (the market) where the local Valencians regularly go to buy their fresh food. Some of the treats we experienced while visiting there were Churros and the national dish of Paella, which is a popular rice dish traditionally made with chicken; however, we were also able to order it with vegetables or seafood.

As we traveled from Valencia’s “Days in the Diocese” to Madrid for World Youth Day August 15-21, we prepared ourselves to be among 1.5 million other pilgrims. We attended catechesis sessions and Mass, which were offered in the morning, where we met and were catechized by Archbishop Diarmuid Martin of Dublin, Ireland, and Cardinal Keith Michael Patrick O’Brien of Edinburgh, Scotland. Our afternoons were spent attending the Life Center where we had the opportunity to hear talks on issues of life, attended concerts, and took in the sites of Madrid, which included beautiful churches and a museum of religious art.

A wonderful unique experience for all involved was attending a Coptic Rite Mass, at which we were graciously welcomed by the Bishop of the Coptic Catholic Church and celebrated with Catholics from Egypt, Iraq, and Syria.

The climax of the experience was seeing Pope Benedict XVI and having Stations, evening prayer, Adoration, and Mass with Him throughout our final week there.

Thank you for all your prayers and support for this life-changing event.

Band instruments needed for OLV

Our Lady of Victory School in Victoria is still looking for donations of band instruments that might be in your closet or attic that students at OLV could be using. They are planning to extend their band program this year and will be needing instruments for students who cannot afford to rent one. Please consider donating or lending it to OLV, and if you have a friend that has one, please mention this possibility.

For more information, please call OLV School at (361) 575-5391.

The Importance of “Community” in the Seminary Life

Continued from p. 4.

“The seminary, though not an escape from society, is an experience where one can witness all that’s right with the world.” —Seminarian John Dougherty

learn how to act as a public figure and cope with others. It is an excellent opportunity to spend time with all the other young men there trying to figure out God’s call for their lives at the same time and all taking the same path. The seminary community is also a place where the seminarian can experience all the good that others are doing. When we look at the world we live in today, often it deserts us and there are those trying to witness all the hate and crime that is rampant throughout the world. The seminary community is an experience where one can witness all that’s right with the world. Here one can witness the love and support of one’s fellow seminarian brothers, who are all aiming for the same goal, namely, to find their specific calling from God.

Community is everything. When a seminarian is asked what’s so great about the seminary, it is not uncommon for him to answer that it is the community of God-seeking young men that makes the seminary so enjoyable. Being a part of such a great group of guys who are all seeking a higher sense of holiness is not exactly a bad gig and is one of the great things about being in the seminary.

A group of seminarians and lay people from the Diocese of Victoria journeyed with Father Dan Morales to Antigua, Guatemala, this summer to assist Father Jose Contran and Las Obras Orphanage. Back row: seminarians Jaspar Liggio, John Dougherty, James Dvorak, Kristopher Fuchs, Father Jose Contran, director of Las Obras, Billy Milasos of Port Lavaca, Father Dan Morales, pastor of St. Mary, Victoria, and diocesan director of vocations and seminarians; Mary Julia and Tony Flores of Austwell, and Mike Nichols of Port Lavaca; front row: seminarian Jacob Mendoza, John Paul Barton of Needville, Teddy Haws of Port O’Conner, Cheryl Marwitz of Port Lavaca, Silvano Silva of Victoria, Clara Marie Paulk of Port O’Connor, Rachel Nichols of Port Lavaca and Steve Marwitz of Port Lavaca.

2011 Mission Trip to Guatemala

Father Dan Morales, along with a group of diocesan seminarians and lay faithful, journeyed once again to Las Obras Sociales del Santo Hermano Pedro (Las Obras) in Antigua, Guatemala, for their annual mission trip, July 31 - August 7, 2011. Las Obras covers an entire city block and houses almost 300 handicapped residents. Their doors are open to very young and to the elderly. Nearly all of the residents are in wheelchairs and many are mentally challenged. So many of them have come to Las Obras after having been abandoned by family that could not care for their special needs. Some were left in churches or found abandoned on the street. Some of the children are named after the parish churches in which they were found or named after the saint on whose feast day they arrived at Las Obras.

Las Obras (www.observahermanospedro.org) was founded by the Franciscan Friars, inspired by the charism of Santo Hermano Pedro. Santo Hermano Pedro (1625-1667) was a layman who was canonized by Pope John Paul II in the early 1980’s. He is referred to as “the Mother Theresia of Central America.” In addition to caring for the poor and abandoned, Las Obras also operates a hospital. The hospital serves the needs of over 250,000 patients a year. The Franciscan priests, brothers and sisters rely on the charity of others in order to provide for the poor. Faith In Practice (www.faithinpractice.org) provides medical personnel, equipment and expertise at no charge to Las Obras. They provide 35 medical teams to spend a week at Las Obras to care for God’s poor.

Our small group is not a medical team. Our group spends the time painting, washing clothes, scrubbing floors, cleaning the church, feeding children, changing diapers and helping out wherever we might be of help. The generosity of the people of the diocese has provided Father Joseph Josep Contran, director of Las Obras, with the means to secure medical education, materials, food and a great many improve-ments for Las Obras. Christ’s mandate to care for the least of our brothers and sisters and the Church’s reminder of caring for the poorest of the poor motivates this group of people to travel each year to Guatemala. We have been going since 2007. For more information, please do not hesitate to contact any member of the mission team pictured above.

Come and See at IWBS

Single Catholic high school graduates through 50 years of age, who are discerning God’s call are invited to attend an “Amor Meus” (My Love) day retreat on November 12 and then stay for an overnight visit at Incarnate Word Convention in Victoria, Texas. If you are interested, please check us out at www.iwbconvention.org or call (361) 523-7311 or e-mail iwbconvention@yahoo.com or iwbvoc@yahoo.com for more details or to make a reservation.

THREE FINDINGS with ramifications for the long-term faith development of teenagers and young adults in the U.S.

1. Students entering college feel unprepared and challenged by everything from loneliness to difficulty finding a new church.

2. Young people appear to benefit from intergenerational activities and venues that include varying age groups who may serve as mentors.

3. When college students fail to live up to the behaviors they think define Christianity, their feelings of guilt can make them quick to abandon their faith altogether.
I took some back roads to get around the afraid, but had to keep a strong face for her. It get out was backed up to our house (a mile billowing over our home, and the line to street with lights flashing, smoke plumes way, there were fire trucks driving down our friends were away that Labor Day weekend vacation), some important documents, our ber (as though we were going on a short night e-mails. I asked Stacey what they communicate with Stacey through several late Bobby grew up in the Victoria area. They chose to “give back” and in EE since 2008 and are big on giving back sending team on an EE weekend just four . They are involved in the Victoria Diocese Engaged Encounter (EE) ministry and they keep their commitment as a pre- senting team on an EE weekend just four days after receiving word that their home was a total . Bobby and Stacey have been involved in EE since 2008 and are big on giving back in the Victoria area. I recently had the opportunity to communicate with Stacey through several late night e-mails. I asked Stacey what they were able to pack that eerie Sunday after- noon as the wind wildly danced outside their front door…”The only things we got out were our packed bag per family mem- ber (as though we were going on a short vacation), some important documents, our EE notebooks, and a box of photos.” De- spite the devastation, Stacey still feels that they were “lucky,” because many of their friends were away that Labor Day weekend and weren’t able to salvage anything. “By the time we drove out of our drive- way, there were fire trucks driving down our street with lights flashing, smoke, flames billowing over our home, and the line to get out was backed up to our house (a mile into the neighborhood). It was like a scene out of an end-of-the-world type movie. It was freaky, especially when you have a seven-year-old asking you tons of questions and looking to you for comfort. I took some back roads to get around the traffic and as a momma, I was determined to drive ‘over’ homes if I had to, just to get my babies out of there.” The Saddlers say there isn’t a day (or hour for that matter) that goes by that they don’t think of something that burned in their home. Stacey said that Bobby is probably not as bad about losing a growth chart they had started for their oldest daughter on a piece of trim in their sunroom in Hous- ton. They had brought it along with them when they moved to Bastrop to mount and continue charting both of their daughters’ growth throughout the years. If only tears could have extinguished that fire….. For Stacey, it’s really not about the stuff so much, but more about the house itself. “I am kind of a homebody. I just love being in the comfort of my own home. I truly loved my home, so to lose that comfort has been difficult.” She has really had to learn to find her comfort in God because of this tragedy. I asked them what exactly it was that made them decide to keep their commit- ment to the EE weekend. Stacey said, “By 1:00 pm on Monday, September 5, I had received confirmation that our home was a total loss. As I started thinking about plans for that week and what all needed to be done, canceled, etc., I remembered we had EE that weekend. My first immedi- ate thought was that there was no way we would go.” Bobby and Stacey were able to take some time to talk on Tuesday. They were in absolute shock about the loss of their home and were overwhelmed. In the midst of their discussion, Bobby said, “I think we should go ahead and do EE this weekend.” Stacey was stunned, but agreed after some thought. She said, “You’re right. There is nothing we can do in Bastrop right now and the best thing to do when you are so filled with sorrow that you don’t know what to do with yourself, is to go help someone else.” Once the decision was made, Stacey said she experienced a sense of relief be- cause she felt she had a purpose for that week beyond just sitting around feeling sorry for herself, her family and her friends (who also lost their homes). “It gets you out of yourself and puts you in God’s hands.”

**Before the fire.**

**PEHSU Information on Health Risks of Wildfires for Children**

**- Aftermath Guidance for Health Professionals**

The Pediatric Environmental Health Specialty Units (PEHSU) Network en- courage families, pediatricians, and com- munities to work together to ensure that children are protected from exposure to environmental hazards. Wildfires expose children to a num- ber of environmental hazards, e.g., fire, smoke, psychological conditions, and the byproducts of combustion of wood, plastics, and other chemicals released from burning structures and furnishings. While wildfires are burning (acute phase), the major hazards to children are fire and smoke (described in the fact sheet “Health risks of wildfires for children – acute phase”).

In the aftermath of wildfires – the recovery phase – children may be exposed to a different set of environmental hazards involving not only their homes, but also nearby structures, land, and recovery activities. Some of these are easy to see, such as broken glass and exposed electric- al wires, and others are not, such as soil contaminated with hazardous materials like lead or persistent hot spots which can flare without warning.

Children are especially vulnerable to environmental hazards. They eat more food, drink more liquids, and breathe more air than adults on a pound for pound basis. Children are in a critical period of development when toxic exposures can have profound negative effects, and their exploratory behavior often places them in direct contact with materials that adults would avoid.

**Key requirements for children to return to an area impacted by wildfires include restored drinking water and sewage re- moval, and cleaned, cleared of hazards and made ready for use. Persisting hazards should be isolated and made inaccessible to children. Children, and whenever pos- sible, teens, should only be permitted to return after affected areas have been cleaned up. Children should be the last group to return. These recommendations also apply to pregnant women.**

**Key facts and recommendations for children and their families in the aftermath of wildfires are highlighted below.**

**BEFORE RETURNING HOME**

- **Know the location and status of the nearest medical treatment facility and verify the route to reach it is passable.**
- **Be sure a clean water supply, elec- tricity, and communication system (including 911 access) is restored, reliable, and readily accessible.**
- **Be certain areas not yet cleaned or not safe are not accessible to chil- dren.**
- **Homes and outdoor areas where children play (e.g., parks, play- grounds, yards) should be clean and free of environmental hazards.**
- **Thoroughly remove ash at sites where CCA (pressure treated) wood was present, such as wooden decks,**

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**St. Joseph High School student council members helped organize a collection for Bastrop fire victims.**

**STJ collects significant donations for Bastrop fire victims**

On September 6, 2011, Hayden Greer, TASC State president, contacted STJ Stu- dent Council sponsor, Debbie Horton, in an effort to join together in a state-wide initiative in light of the Bastrop Wildfire. Bastrop High School had been hit hard by the wild fires with their principal, at least 10 teachers and many students losing their homes and all of their pos- sessions. Over 1,600 homes and 34,000 acres burned in the Bastrop area and over 5,000 people were displaced. When asked how STJ could help, the Bastrop principal said that $25 Wal-Mart gift cards would be greatly appreciated. Within three days, the students, faculty and staff of St. Joseph High School raised a significant amount of money to help their fellow students and educators in the Bastrop area. However, the students said that they were giving to people in need and asked that their gift total not be disclosed. As the gifts poured in toward this effort, STJ teachers and administration were awed by the generosity of the Flyer family. Thank you to all who helped.
Diocese of Victoria chosen as pilot for diabetes education

By Cynthia Brewer

Have you had your finger stuck lately … that’s stuck by a needle – for a diabetes test?

One of the most prevalent, yet costly to treat, diseases is Type II Diabetes (Adult Onset Diabetes). Type II Diabetes can lead to loss of vision, amputation, heart problems and kidney disease.

"Type II Diabetes is caused from our diet and lack of exercise; therefore, if we don’t change these lifestyle characteristics," said Mike Brown, diocesan finance officer, "we should be able to prevent or delay the onset of the disease."

As an incentive, the Diocese of Victoria offered the opportunity to win one of three Apple iPad 2s to those who participated in the finger stick.

Additionally, all participants were offered the opportunity to complete a Health Quotient (HQ) questionnaire online through the Web MD site. Those completing their HQ also received a $100 incentive.

Nearly half of the employees took advantage of this opportunity, with 235 people participating at one of two different locations — August 11 at the chancellor building and August 12 at the Catholic Schools Seminar held in the KC hall in Hallenville.

More than 50 percent of the employees of the diocese are school employees; therefore, the majority of participants in the pilot program were school employees. This helps to explain why all three winners of the Apple iPad 2s were school employees.

The winners were: Dana Howard of Nazareth Academy (Victoria), Laura Janis of Our Lady of Victory School (Victoria) and Nancy Krenek of St. Philip School (El Campo).

Congratulations to everyone who participated. You are all winners!

Our next diabetes-screening test is scheduled for October 14 at the gym at Our Lady of Victory from 9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. This will be the last opportunity to participate in this program this year. Schedule your appointment by clicking, or going to: www.retatrust.org and click on the WebMD logo; log in or register and click the "Diabetes Prevention Program" tab in the center of the home page.

Barbara A. McCain

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Above, Bishop David Fellhauer leads chancery staff in diabetes education by example by being “stuck” by a needle.

Right, Dana Howard, a teacher at Nazareth Academy in Victoria, received an iPad2 as a winner of the finger stick incentive drawings.

Keeping up with the Weeds …

I was amazed at how the weeds had sprouted in the flower beds during the few days that I had neglected to check on them. Normally, while it was relatively cool, I would spend a few minutes each morning weeding flower beds. There were always a few persistent weeds that would dare to poke their heads out of the ground, in spite of my best efforts to make them disappear. One would think that after a while all the weed seed in the ground would have sprouted and been deleted. I had no such luck; it was only with frequent weeding, that I was able to keep them under control.

Then it happened! Since I was unable to check on them for a few days, they seemed to take advantage of my absence and sprouted prolifically. It was then, while I was trying to catch up with them, that I began to think of ways this experience was a reflection of more serious applications in life.

I had been taught that if we did not continually advance in our spiritual life, we would slide backward. Therefore, our spiritual striving to become one with our God is a constant struggle; if we are negligent, small hindrances, which interfere with our relationship with God, have a tendency to crop up. We may get careless in our prayer life; we may allow destructive thoughts and habits to slide into our daily life. When we realize what has been happening to us, it takes a greater effort to regain our footing on the path of spiritual advancement.

Texas Wildfires destroy lives and homes

Father Wayne handed out water to the fire fighters and tried to encourage them. Also, Deacons Doug Trombilee and Chuck Glyn are both members of the Bernardo Volunteer Fire Dept. Both deacons were on the fire trucks fighting the fire along with about two-dozen other St. Roch, Sts. Peter & Paul, and St. Anthony, Columbus, parishioners. Go to The Catholic Lighthouse Web page at www.victoriadiocese.org and click on Local Stories for Health Risks of Wildfires for Children – Acute Phase and Environmental Hazards for Children in the Aftermath of Wildfires. Or go to: http://aoer.org/PEH- SU/documents/wildfires_acute_final.pdf and http://aoer.org/PEHST/docu- ments/wildfires_recovery_final.pdf

... stuff; God is good.”

The two parishes got together Sept. 24 and 30 members showed up to help clean the parishioners’ properties. The local KC’s, CDA’s and parishes will pay for the cost to remove the trash.

"I can assure you, they’re being well cared for by our parish,” said Father Wayne. Both parishies held impromptu collections and raised nearly $3,000 to assist the families.

Just recently, Father Wayne was named the Freiburg Volunteer Fire Dept. chaplain. He said it wasn’t something he sought out because with two parishes he didn’t need another hat to wear. But now, after seeing how hard the volunteers work and care for their community, he said he’s glad to be their chaplain.
SACRED HEART SENIOR RECOGNIZED AS NATIONAL SEMIFINALIST—Emily Kossa, a senior at Sacred Heart Catholic High School, has been named a semifinalist in the 2012 National Merit Scholarship Program. She is the daughter of Michael and Linda Kossa of LaGrange. Recently officials of the National Merit Scholarship Corporation (NMSC) announced the names of approximately 16,000 semifinalists in the 57th annual National Merit Scholarship Program. About 1.5 million juniors in some 22,000 high schools entered the 2012 NMS Program by taking the 2010 Preliminary SAT / National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test (PSAT / NMSQT), which served as an initial screen of program entrants. The nationwide pool of semifinalists, which represents less than one percent of U.S. high school seniors, includes the highest-scoring entrants in each state. From the approximately 16,000 semifinalists, about 15,000 are expected to advance to the finalist level, and in February they will be notified of this designation. Emily Kossa is active in various school and community activities and has received numerous honors. In addition to participating in volleyball, basketball, swimming, tennis, and softball, she is also serving as drum major for the 2nd year in a row, is active with Leo Club, and is in the National Honor Society. She qualified for the TAPPS state competition in literary criticism, math, and ready writing and also qualified for regional symphonic band. Kossa was invited to attend the Texas A&M University Summer Honors Invitational Program and has served as a Junior Staff member for the past three years at Camp Lone Star, a Christian youth camp.

Catholic Merit Scholarship Program—The Catholic Merit Scholarship Program is the oldest and largest of the programs that recognize the academic efforts of high school juniors. The program is sponsored by the Committee on Colleges of the U.S. Catholic Conference. The 2013 year will mark the 55th year the program has been sustained. About 30,000 high school juniors are expected to participate in the program. The program eligibility is based on three criteria: academic excellence, scholarship potential, and official Catholoc affiliation. The program was initially established in 1959 as a program of the National Catholic Welfare Conference to recognize the academic efforts of the nation’s Catholic high school juniors. The program was later sponsored by the National Catholic Educational Association and now is sponsored by the Committee on Colleges of the U.S. Catholic Conference.

Seminary Burses

Continued from p. 4

--- Rev. Charles Kohl, O.S.B. and John & Mary Kelek
Previously Reported $3,350.00
In Memory of Joe C. Kozel by:
Henry and Frances Vesely 15.00
Andrew and Dolores Koepfer 10.00
J.J. and Loretta Janda 20.00
Agnes and Dan Schoppe 20.00
Total $3,420.00

--- Msgr. Julian Peters, New Tafton Bursorse #2
Previously Reported $855.00
In Memory of Cleburne Wendel by:
Mary Ann Kucera 25.00
In Memory of Louis and Pauline Kucera by:
Mary Ann Kucera 25.00
In Memory of Tony and Minnie Kucera by:
Mary Ann Kucera 25.00
Total $905.00

--- Rev. Celestino Say
Previously Reported $4,210.00
In Honor of Father Say by:
Catholic Life Insurance 145.00
Donation by M/M Winifred Kaiser 10.00
Donation by Catholic Life Insurance 100.00
Branch #51 400.00
Total $4,765.00

--- St. John Church For Rev. Brian Crookes Bursar #2
Previously Reported $4,921.00
In Memory of Donald J. Berger by:
Arnold and Dorothy Berger 50.00
Total $4,971.00

--- Msgr. Jerome J. Stryk
Previously Reported $13,859.50
In Memory of Ann Hollas by:
Richard and Jeanette Allman 20.00
Total $13,879.50

TEXAS STATE JCDA BOARD—Pictured is the State JCDA Board for 2011-2012, they were installed on June 26, 2011 at the 24th Biennial JCDA Convention in Austin, TX. Pictured, left to right, is State Reporter - Holly Whitworth, Court Ancilla Marie #1886, Crosby; State Secretary - Holly Soukoup, Court Sacred Heart #829, West; 2nd Vice President - Jamie Ornelas, Court Mary St. John #2197, Baytown; 1st Vice President - Katilyn Martinez, Court Mary Queen of Peace #2497, Floresville; President - Mary Adamek, Court St. Paul #1604, Shiner; State Youth/JCDA Chairman Terri Beltran, Court San Roberto Bellarmine #4225, El Campo; State Chaplain, Father John Peters, Court Sacred Heart #797, Halletsville; State CDA Regent - Carolyn Malik, Court St. Paul #1604, Shiner; and CDA 1st Vice Regent - Peggy Rosalez, Austin. For information on starting a Junior Catholic Daughter Court, please contact Terri Beltran at 361-534-7506, tabeltran@ecisd.org or you may go on the www.texascada.org Web site and send your request through the Web site. Mrs. Beltran will contact you.

~ Preparing the children of God for the Kingdom of God ~

From Shiner Catholic School Web site

Mr. Bill McArdle, principal, and Mrs. Debbie Michalski, vice principal present student Braden Peer with a Bible during the St. Joseph High Freshman Bible Mass.

With start of new year, STJ gets busy

St. Joseph High School Freshman Bible Mass was held on September 8, 2011. Freshman Bible Mass is a longstanding tradition at St. Joseph High School. At this Mass each freshman student was presented a personalized Bible, blessed by Father David Berger, to be used in theology classes throughout their four years at St. Joseph. This is the only beginning of many wonderful memories students will experience at St. Joseph High School.

On Sept. 13, the St. Joseph High School student body held a special reception and Mass honoring their grandparents. We were honored to have over 100 grandparents and honorary grandparents attend to celebrate this special day with their grandchild or loved one. Father Dan Morales was the celebrant for this special Mass.

Students were encouraged to bring a small, unframed photograph of grandparent who were unable to attend so that they might be recognized too. Each grandparent in attendance received a special bookmark from his or her grandchild. The bookmarks included a prayer honoring them for their love and for giving life to their parent, thus also giving them life. The day ended with campus tours.

Also at St. Joseph High School, the school band has selected its 2011-2012 Band Officers. They are Mark Chavez, drum major and librarian; Clara Allen, quartermaster; Katie Gray, woodwind vice president; Christian Culak, president; Tim Hubbell, percussion vice president; Kyle Winkler, crew chief; Seth Hawes, chaplain; and Wyatt Fraga, brass vice president.

Virginia vacation Bible School was held recently at St. Agnes Parish Hall in Edna for students in Grades Pre-K through Grade 5. Bible class, games, a Saint’s Walk, and a Saint’s Dress-up were some of the activities enjoyed by the students with the two-day theme being “Saints Alive”. Some 40 students attended a meal served each evening. Shortly thereafter, St. Agnes parishioners held a Family Games Night in the Parish Hall, which included a covered-dish dinner. Those attending enjoyed playing games, and the children had fun with the stick horse races. Approximately 50 parishioners attended.
of new shoes thanks to the school children from old tires, are wearing their first pair those who had no shoes, or shoes made the children the first week of August. Now children thus far and delivered them to and has been sent to Sister Rebecca. She raised $4,993.00 Janacek, IWBS. Sister Rebecca ministered to by Kenya who are children in Northwest for the Pokot chil money for shoes in an effort to raise Lent of this year titled, “Fill the Shoes” schools held a fundraising project during Catholic Schools and its 15 Catholic By Cynthia Brewer Below, Superintendent John Quary, presents Sister Laura Toman, IWBS, a check Yoakum sent a picture of themselves to the children in Pokot; the oldest holds it. "As you can see, you have made their parents very happy because you have bought them shoes. Some of them have walked 20 miles in the very hot sun to receive these shoes," ~ Sister Rebecca

"Fill the Shoes" has filled lives with joy and health By Cynthia Brewer The Diocese of Victoria’s Office of Catholic Schools and its 15 Catholic schools held a fundraising project during Lent of this year titled, “Fill the Shoes” in an effort to raise money for shoes for the Pokot children in Northwest Kenya who are ministered to by Sister Rebecca Janacek, IWBS. The project raised $4,993.00 and has been sent to Sister Rebecca. She has ordered 300-pairs of shoes for the children thus far and delivered them to the children the first week of August. Now those who had no shoes, or shoes made from old tires, are wearing their first pair of new shoes thanks to the school children in the Diocese of Victoria. Thank you to all who contributed. “Thank you so much for the care you have shown the children of Pokot who have no shoes to wear. Your generous gift, with which shoes have been purchased for these children, allowed many to have their first pair of shoes," said Sister Rebecca in a thank you note. “This is a big help, as many toes and feet are damaged by the stones and thorns of this harsh environment. ... More distributions will take place over the next months as I purchase them from town and bring them up the long distance to Pokot.”

October 6 — No Apologies, Just Apologetics at Holy Family in Victoria (7:00 - 8:30 p.m.) sponsored by Youth Adult Ministry October 9 — Youth Leadership Training at the Chancery in Victoria October 13 — Retreat Formation/Policy and Procedure Session October 15 — Foundations Youth Ministry Class - 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 noon at the Chancery in Victoria October 16 — Family Retreat for Nazareth Academy at Incarnate Word October 20 — No Apologies, Just Apologetics at Holy Family in Victoria (7:00 - 8:30 p.m.) sponsored by Youth Adult Ministry October 23 — Family Retreat for Nazareth Academy at Incarnate Word October 26-30 — Archdiocesan Conference for Catholic Youth Ministers in Houston November 3 — No Apologies, Just Apologetics at Holy Family in Victoria (7:00 - 8:30 p.m.) sponsored by Youth Adult Ministry November 5 — Youth Leadership Training at the Chancery in Victoria November 12 — Foundations Youth Ministry Class - 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 noon at the Chancery in Victoria November 15 — Retreat Formation/Policy and Procedure Session November 17 — No Apologies, Just Apologetics at Holy Family in Victoria (7:00 - 8:30 p.m.) sponsored by Youth Adult Ministry November 17-20 — National Catholic Youth Conference in Indianapolis Indiana December 4 — Youth Leadership Training at the Chancery in Victoria December 6 — Retreat Formation/Policy and Procedure Session Find us now on Facebook! At Diocese of Victoria – Youth Ministry For more information contact: Debbie Vanelli or Wendy Eggert at the Office of Youth Ministry at (361) 573-0828 ext. 2232/ ext. 2250 or e-mail at dvane@victoriadiocese.org or weggert@victoriadiocese.org or visit our Web site at www.victoriadiocese.org/youthoffice

ST. JOSEPH HIGH SCHOOL SELECTED ALL-AMERICAN CHEERLEADERS—St. Joseph High School varsity cheerleaders Kelly Carmona (l.) and Ashley Kolar, were selected as 2011 All American Cheerleaders while competing at cheer camp hosted on the Texas A&M campus in College Station, August 2-5. Being selected as All American Cheerleaders at Texas A&M cheer camp qualifies Kelly and Ashley the opportunity to represent STJ at the All American Cheer Conference in London, England, in late December. Kelly is the daughter of John Carmona of Cuero, and the late Melissa Carmona. Ashley is the daughter of Dennis and Mary Ann Kolar of Victoria.

Above, at the request of Sister Rebecca, the children from St. Joseph’s School in Yoakum sent a picture of themselves to the children in Pokot; the oldest holds it. Below, Superintendent John Quary, presents Sister Laura Toman, IWBS, a check for nearly $5,000 for shoes, for children served by the sisters African ministry.

STJ HOSTS JUNIOR HIGH TAILGATE PARTY—St. Joseph High School Student Ambassadors welcomed Nazareth Academy, Our Lady of Victory, and Trinity Episcopal Middle School students to a tailgate party with complimentary pizza, soft drinks and DJ music by STJ alumnus Ryan Leos, aka “DJ Caliente”. Each of the middle school football teams were recognized and the dance teams performed with the STJ Starlighters. The cheer teams also cheered with the STJ cheerleaders. Partner school students and faculty are encouraged to use their “Sports Passes” for free admission to all STJ home games.

~ Look out for one another’s interests, not just for your own. Philippians 2:4 ~
Joseph Puska, right, presents Father Gabriel Bentil a check for St. Joseph Church building fund. Other KJT members present were Wendy Hrncte, Barbara and Lawrence Yanta and Rose Puska (back row).

St. Joseph KJT Society Meeting

St. Joseph KJT Society #115 of Victoria met at Holy Family Catholic Church meeting room after the 7:30 a.m. Mass on Sunday, September 11, beginning with a light breakfast for members and guests. St. Joseph members were thanked in advance for the help they would provide at the Czech Fest held at the Victoria Community Center. They were to run a cake wheel to raise money for retired religious. Members donated either a cake or made a monetary donation toward this worthwhile cause.

Because of a conflict in December meeting dates, the next meeting will be held on November 13, after the 7:30 a.m. Mass at Our Lady of Victory Cathedral in the AV Room. A Continental Breakfast will be served. Members were asked to contact Lawrence Yanta at (361) 575-7280 with current addresses, phone numbers, e-mail addresses, and designated beneficiaries for their policies.

Preliminary plans were discussed for the district meeting, which will be hosted by Victoria in January.

Later that day, members attended the St. Joseph Catholic Church picnic in Inez, where they presented a donation to Father Gabriel Bentil for their building fund.

GROUNDBREAKING CEREMONY FOR SEADRIFT HALL—St. Patrick Catholic Church in Seadrift held a groundbreaking ceremony for its new parish hall in August. The parishioners have been planning and raising money for several years to achieve this goal. The hall will be used for gatherings, functions, youth activities, and religious training. Pictured is Father Ty Bazar, pastor; Scott Keckler, deacon; and several members of the parishioners.

By Terrie Vacek
State Public Relations Chair

HOUSTON — Catholic Daughters of the Americas (CDA) State Regent Carolyn Malik, Shiner, held the Texas State Organizational Workshop for district deputies, state chairmen, and past state regents at Holy Name Passionist Retreat Center, Houston. Three more districts were organized bringing Texas to 61 districts with 228 councils.

The Order’s Motto, “Unity & Charity,” identifies the foundation for the service work done by CDA. First Vice State Regent Peggy Rosales of Austin served as chairman of the workshop. Other state officers participating were Second Vice State Regent Eve Trevino of Corpus Christi, State Secretary Rosie Stockwell of Edinburg, State Treasurer Melodie Brunt of Texarkana and State Clergy Consultant Rev. Donald Ruppert of East Bernard.

The workshop was designed to ensure that district deputies and state chairmen are well prepared to undertake the duties and responsibilities of their respective officers. Father Ruppert prayed, “Under the mantle of Mary your mother, we gathered to plan our Order’s program for the next two years. Guide our decisions. Let us be an example for all Christian women. May the positive results of our prayer and good deeds bring Church leaders to welcome us and recognize the benefit we are, and can be, to the Universal Church and every local parish.”

The weekend included various presentations and training sessions, and the distribution of the state organizational notebooks. Past state regents met to review job descriptions for district deputies and state chairmen.

Past State Regents (PSR) in attendance were Cecina Koeijmans, Dallas; Amy Rueda, El Paso; Immediate Past National Regent Libby Ramirez, Victoria; Past National Director Duchess Collins, Sugar Land; Dee Scheertz, Austin; National Director Olga Samaniego, El Paso; Carolyn Bachmann, Scotland; and Immediate Past State Regent Sheila Martinka, Houston.

State Regent Malik presented the national awards she accepted at the National Workshop in Belleville, Illinois. She introduced the first Kick-off Celebration for the 95th Anniversary of the Texas State Court being organized for January 2012 for the Brownsville and Corpus Christi dioceses. State Regent Malik encouraged each district to organize multi-district celebrations and fill her calendar! The newly trained leaders left enthused and ready to meet the challenges that lie ahead. To learn more about the Catholic Daughters visit the national or state Web site.

District deputies and state chairs from the Victoria Diocese are, front row from l. to r., Teri Beltran, Libby Ramirez, Rev. Donald Ruppert, Carolyn Malik, and Christine Moone; back row: Carmen Longoria, Marcella Henke, Gussie Machacek, Mary Rose Barta, Carolyn Janak, Anne Martin, Georgia Mikosh, and Veronica Weinbreck.

IWBS ASSOCIATES ACCEPT NEW MEMBERS—Associates of the Incarnate Word assembled at Incarnate Word Convent in Victoria to celebrate their annual Renewal and Consecration of new members. The ceremony was held during the Mass celebrated by Bishop David Fellhauer on Sunday, September 11. Father Michael Petering, an Associate of the Incarnate Word concelebrated. Pictured above are the newly consecrated, seated l. to r.: Sister M. Emiliana Grafe, director of the associates; Joan Hairelly, GayLynne Carson, and Theresa Anderson; standing, l. to r.: Sister Evelyn Korenek, superior; Bishop David E. Fellhauer, Robin Reinhold and Gilda Miller.

Bishop David E. Fellhauer celebrated KC Council #1582's 100-year anniversary this summer. He is flanked by the KC 4th Degree in full regalia on the steps of St. Joseph Parish in Yoakum.

Yoakum KCs celebrate 100-Year anniversary

YOAKUM — The Knights of Columbus, Council #1582 of Yoakum, celebrated their 100-year anniversary on June 25, 2011. The Most Reverend David E. Fellhauer, bishop of the Diocese of Victoria, celebrated Mass, with the 4th Degree in full regalia. After the Mass, everyone registered at the parish center and all were able to look at some of the old history books, literature, and records from years past that were on display.

A meal was served, followed by a short program with Deacon Dennis Kuchar as the Master of Ceremonies. Special guests in attendance were state officers: Mr. Tony Herreth — state deputy, Mr. Jim Collins — state secretary and Mr. Mark Evans — state warden, along with guests from other councils in the area.

The Knights of Columbus stands for Charity, Unity, Fraternity, and Patriotism. “We have a passion to serve.”

Record Attendance at CDA Workshop

Seventeen years of service are represented in the Past State Regent Hands of Service photo.
KJZT #101 Presents 75 Year Pins

(above) Wendy Hrniric presents Sister Callista Mares, IWBS, her pin.

Lucy Blazek

Joan Scramek presents her mother, Bessie Janca, with her 75 year pin.

KJZT #43 HONORS FIRST 75-YEAR MEMBERS—Annie Macha, left, and Lexia Muschalek, right, members of Catholic Family Fraternal of Texas-KJZT Society No. 43 of Ganado, were recently honored with a reception at Southbrooke Nursing Center in which they were given pins to mark their 75-year membership in the fraternal. The state office of Catholic Family Fraternal-KJZT provided the pins. Cecilia French, president of Society No. 43, presented the pins and each recipient also received a red rose to mark the significant occasion. These are the first 75-year members to be so honored by the Ganado Society. Mrs. Muschalek’s sister, Georgia Farris, of El Campo also was awarded this honor but was unable to attend. Several family members of each honoree and society officers were also present for the ceremony.

ST. AUGUSTINE DONATION TO ST. ROSE CCD—Vice-President Matthew Prihoda presented a $100.00 check to St. Rose CCD Coordinator Nichole Michalke to use in purchasing needed teaching materials for the upcoming year. The St. Augustine KJST Society #129 also provided 50 percent funding for St. Rose Parish First Communion Kits, which are presented to its First Communicants. There were 18 boys and 17 girls in this year’s class.

ST. AUGUSTINE KJST SOCIETY #129 PRESENTS EVENT—St. Augustine KJST Society #129 President Joanna Rogers was presented a check for $150 by St. Michael’s Catholic School Principal Kim Patek in recognition of their $150 Educational Grant towards St. Michael’s educational programs. St. Augustine KJST Society #129 also provided 50 percent funding for St. Michael’s educational needs.

KJST Holds Benefit Turkey Shoot
St. Augustine KJST Society #129 Vice-President Matthew Prihoda presented Dalton Bubela proceeds of the Benefit Turkey Shoot held on his behalf for medical expenses. The total proceeds from the Turkey Shoot, donations and matching grant from the home office amounted to $1,242. St. Augustine’s KJST Society wishes to thank everyone who participated, worked, supported and contributed to the benefit.

CATHOLIC SCHOOL EDUCATIONAL GRANT—St. Augustine KJST Society #129 presented two checks to St. Michael’s Catholic School in Weimar for its educational Fund. President Joanna Rogers represented the Catholic Union of Texas (KJT) home office in presenting a $150 Educational Grant check towards St. Michael’s educational programs, as well as a matching $150 Educational Grant check from Society #129 officers and members. Pictured from l. to r., front row, is President Joanna Rogers, Paul Lee Rogers, Principal Kim Patek, Rev. John Bily, pastor of St. Michael’s; back row: Vice-President Matthew Prihoda and Secretary/Treasurer James Prihoda.

ST. ROSE RECEIVES GRANT—St. Augustine KJST Society #129 and Vice-President Matthew Prihoda had the honor of representing the Catholic Union of Texas, the KJT home office, in presenting a $150 Educational Grant check to Rosanne Gallia, principal, towards Schulenburg’s St. Rose Catholic School’s educational program. St. Augustine KJST Society also presented its own matching $150 Educational Donation check toward St. Rose School educational needs.
If you are a caregiver, you are also ...

As the church marks Respect Life Month 2011, we want to say “thank you” to those of you who are family caregivers. We know that you are keeping busy and that you suspect that you may not have had the time to notice that caregiving is much more than what it seems to be at first glance.

Yes, it’s all those obligations, commitments, details and worries, but if you’re caregiving you’re also:

— Doing the Fifth Commandments: Honor your father and your mother, and you shall not kill.

— Assisting the homeless, visiting the sick and the imprisoned.

— Living the corporal works of mercy, which include feeding the hungry, giving drink to the thirsty, clothing the naked, sheltering the homeless, visiting the sick and burying the dead.

Some of these seem obvious if, for example, your spouse needs assistance with eating or dressing. But what about sheltering the homeless if you and your care-receiver don’t live in the same place? It could be that you make that assisted-living or long-term care center room “home” by visiting a resident there.

What about prison? As a mind and body deteriorate, a person can feel imprisoned. And you’re there, fulfilling your care, you’re doing for Christ.

— Being as surprised as the “sheep” on Judgment Day. In Matthew 25:37-40, the “righteous” ask, “Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you drink? When did we see you a stranger and welcome you, or naked and clothe you? When did we see you in prison, and visit you?” And, the king answers, “Amen, I say to you, whatever you did for one of these least brothers of mine, you did for me.”

— Being surprised by Oct. 25.

What you’re doing for the person in your care, you’re doing for Christ.

God bless you.


For more caregiving information and resources, visit our site: www.YourAgingParent.com.

Respect Life book is prize for October contest

“The people (in Great Britain) seem more concerned with the issue of fox hunting than with the 44 million abortions that take place each year worldwide and with the dangers of assisted dying,” states author Daniel Levy.

His book, The Fox, the Foetus (Fetus) and the Fatal Injection is an incredible, compact book that explains how Western society treats abortion and euthanasia and why this must be changed. It will be the October Family Puzzle Contest prize.

In under 100 pages, divided into three parts: The Fox and the Foetus, The Fatal Injection; and The Doctor and the Patient, Rabbi Daniel Levy succinctly shows how the erosion of society’s morals has influenced how we humans have twisted our thinking when it comes to life and death issues.

His book is directed to the Jewish community as he uses the Torah (Hebrew Scripture) and Jewish teachings to educate the faithful on what the Jewish faith teaches concerning human life – from the womb to the tomb. However, since Christian teaching comes from the same foundation, it only strengthens the Christian’s argument in defense of the right to life issues.

For a chance to win this easy-to-read, thought provoking book, complete the October Family Puzzle Contest and mail it into The Catholic Lighthouse office, P. O. Box 4070, Victoria, TX 77903 by Oct. 25.


Moral theologians issue call to abolish death penalty
WASHINGTON (CNS) – More than 200 Catholic theologians, scholars and social justice advocates cite the executions of Troy Davis in Georgia and Lawrence Brewer in Texas in mid-September as proof for their call to abolish the death penalty.

"In a Catholic Call to Abolish the Death Penalty," posted Sept. 26 on the website Catholic Moral Theology, the signers said they protest the state-sanctioned killings of the two men and call for the abolition of the death penalty in the United States. The letter is "particularly troubling for it shines a stark light upon many long-standing concerns about capital punishment. The denial is impinging that they mourn the death of Mark McPhail, the Savannah, Ga., police officer Davis was convicted of killing, "we believe we can have just the freedom. Ignoring the truth of morality, we women teach men to respect, to cherish, to love, to be faithful, and to pour carcinogenic drugs daily into our bodies. We women are innocent."

"Baby Joseph," focus of end-of-life debate, dies at home in Ontario
WINDSOR, Ontario (CNS) – A 20-month-old Canadian boy who was the center of an end-of-life debate died at home Sept. 27. Joseph Maraachli died with his parents, Moe and Sana, by his side, six months after receiving a tracheotomy at a Catholic hospital in St. Louis. The procedure allowed him to return home to be cared for by his family. A grave-sided service for Joseph, who was baptized Catholic, was planned for Sept. 28. Franciscan Brother Paul O'Donnell, a friend and spiritual advisor to the Maraachli family, told Catholic News Service Sept. 28 that death came suddenly for Joseph, as he became known. "I visited the family about 10 days ago and recent doctor reports said he was doing well, so this came as a surprise to them," Brother O'Donnell said. He posted an announcement of the child's death on the Baby Joseph Facebook page late Sept. 27. Words of condolence and prayer offerings immediately flooded the site. Born in January 2010, Joseph had a history of health problems. He was admitted in October 2011 to the London Health Sciences Centre. Hospital officials, who called the boy's condition terminal, wanted to take the child off his feeding tube and ventilator, allowing him to die. The Maraachlis refused. In March, Joseph and Moe were flown to SSU Cardinal Glennon Children's Medical Center in St. Louis, where his tracheotomy was performed. Doctors also diagnosed Joseph with Leigh's disease, a progressive neurological disease that usually strikes children between the age of 3 months and 2 years. It causes the degradation of motor skills and eventually death.

"Look to the Lord and his strength; seek his face always." 1 Chronicles 16:11

Poisoned by the Pill: Truths about Chemical Contraception
By Mary Anne Moresco, reprinted with permission from Catholic Exchange
Continued story from the "50 Years of the Pill" conference, held in Washington D.C. on Dec. 3, 2010.

Effect on Women and Marriage
The pill has had the following effect on women and marriage:
Women are Given a False Sense of Freedom: The impact of the pill on women and marriage is one not just of mortality, but of depravity. We women have been brainwashed into believing that the pill has given us freedom. Ignoring the truth that children are a gift from God, we believe we can have just the number of children we want, exactly when we want them. We believe the pill puts us on par with men. But how many men would willingly ingest Group I carcinogens for months let alone years for their spouses? How is it love for a husband to expect this of his wife? Having talked ourselves into, or having been talked into, pre-marital and extra-marital affairs – having talked ourselves out of, or having been talked out of, relationships open to life – we became like sitting ducks. It was easy for others to convince millions of us to pour carcinogenic drugs daily into our bodies.

We thought we were ingesting freedom. How many women embraced the lie that giving into passions, rather than conquering them, was freedom? But this was not freedom. It was slavery. By ingesting birth control pills, we ingested the individual's perceived cross, we've found only new and heavier crosses to bear. In addition, we must become a surgeon at time when there were few women surgeons in the country said: "We don't have to take a Group I carcinogen to be liberated..."

Adult stem cells making news in courts, Congress and on football field
WASHINGTON (CNS) – Stem-cell research is once again making news in Congress and on the courts. But this time, it's on the sports pages too. And instead of the embryonic stem-cell research that was once all the rage, the news is in the field of adult stem-cell research, which does not involve the destruction of human embryos. Indianapolis Colts quarterback Peyton Manning, widely reported to have reportedly undergone an unidentified European country in recent weeks a treatment involving adult stem cells that is not yet approved by the Food and Drug Administration in the United States. Free-agent wide receiver Terrell Owens, whose football career was put on hold because of knee surgery, went to South Korea for the collection and storage of his own stem cells in an effort to speed his return to the NFL. It remains to be seen how successful those treatments will be, but adult stem-cell researcher Theresa Deisher knows that the two football players "chose the clinically superior solution" over research involving stem cells derived from human embryos. Deisher is working to develop better delivery techniques for adult stem-cell therapies. Researchers in Europe and elsewhere are "doing very well treating patients" with their own stem cells, but "they have some delivery issues," she told Catholic News Service in a telephone interview last month. "In Europe, one place where she runs AVM Biotechnology. "We could improve delivery, we could have even better outcomes."

Sunday Readings from Oct. 9 to Nov. 20

October 9 — Twenty-Eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time Isaiah 52:6-10a

October 16 — Twenty-Ninth Sunday in Ordinary Time Isaiah 45:1, 4-6

October 23 — Thirtieth Sunday in Ordinary Time Exodus 22:20-26

October 30 — Thirty-First Sunday in Ordinary Time Malachi 1:14b-22b, 8-10

November 6 — Thirty-Second Sunday in Ordinary Time Wisdom 6:12-16

November 13 — S的通知n Sunday in Ordinary Time Proverbs 31:10-13, 19-20, 30-31

November 20 — Solemnity of Our Lord Jesus Christ The King Corinthians 15:20-26, 28 Matthew 25:31-46

All daily and Sunday readings, as well as a daily reflection video, are available in text or video at: www.usccb.org/nab/

Brought to you by the Catholic Communications Campaign – please be generous.

The Seventeen Evidences of a Lack of Humility
1. To think that what one says or does is better than what others say or do
2. To always want to get your own way
3. To argue with stubbornness and bad manners whether you are right or wrong
4. To give your opinion when it has not been requested or when charity does not demand it
5. To look down on others of opposite view
6. To not look on your gifts and abilities as lent from God
7. To not recognize that you are unworthy of all honors and esteem, even of the earth you walk on and things you possess
8. To use yourself as an example in conversations
9. To speak badly of yourself so that others will think well of you or contradict you
10. To make excuses for yourself when you are corrected
11. To hide humiliating faults from your spiritual director, so that he will not change the impression he has of you
12. To take pleasure in praise and compliments
13. To be saddened because others are held in higher esteem
14. To refuse to perform inferior tasks
15. To seek to stand out
16. To refer in conversation to your honesty, genius, dexterity or professional prowess
17. To be ashamed because you lack certain goods

By the Catholic Lighthouse
St. Joseph Church, Yucaum
Bolivar, Mo. — Sept. 18, 2011

PARTNERS IN MISSION SURVEY
STJ 2011 SURVEY
-St. Joseph High School Makes a Difference-

St. Joseph High School would like to share the good news with our community, about the value and quality of receiving an exemplary high school education. We invite you to share your thoughts with us, by filling out our 2011 enrollment survey.

Please fill out our 2011 enrollment survey and return to listed e-mail or direct mail by November 20, 2011. We look forward to hearing from you!

St. Joseph High School invites you to visit our campus and experience first-hand why you will love the journey~

1. Do you have a personal connection with St. Joseph High School?
   0 I am an alum\i 0 Family/Friends attend 0 No connection

2. Will you have a child entering high school in the next five years?
   0 Yes 0 No

3. If you answered yes to the question above, what is the likelihood that your child will attend St. Joseph High School?
   0 Most likely 0 Unsure 0 Will not attend

4. If you answered no to the question above, please list reason(s) why:
   0 Tuition 0 Curriculum Intensity
   Other

5. When selecting a high school for your student, how much value is placed on where his/her friends will attend?
   0 Very important 0 Important 0 Not important

6. Would knowing that nearly 50% of current students receive tuition assistance be a determining factor in selecting St. Joseph High School for your child?
   0 Yes 0 No

7. Did you know that the current tuition to attend St. Joseph High School is $8,400?
   0 Yes 0 No

8. When determining the selection of a high school for your student, please select three of the top deciding factors for your family:
   0 Academic Excellence 0 Athletic Opportunity 0 Tuition Cost
   0 Christian Environment 0 Catholic Education 0 Community Service
   0 Challenging Curriculum 0 College Preparedness 0 Family Atmosphere
   0 College Credit Courses 0 Extracurricular Activities 0 Zero Tolerance

9. How important are sports programs and other extracurricular activities in your decision making when selecting a high school for your child?
   0 Very important 0 Important 0 Not important

10. Did you know that St. Joseph High School offers free-after-school tutoring?
    0 Yes 0 No

11. Do you think that St. Joseph High School, as a college preparatory school, is:
    0 Very challenging 0 Moderately challenging 0 Not challenging

12. Is your student planning on attending college?
    0 Yes 0 No

13. Did you know that 99% of St. Joseph High School graduating seniors attend college and the graduating class of 2011 received 3.6 million dollars in scholarships?
    0 Yes 0 No

14. Have you ever had the opportunity to visit the St. Joseph High School campus?
    0 Yes 0 No

15. Would you like to be contacted by the St. Joseph High School Admissions Office to schedule a campus tour?

Name: ____________________________
Address: _________________________
Phone: __________________________
E-mail: __________________________
Comments: _______________________
Faith troubled by doubts

Q. I am 79 years of age, have been a Catholic all my life and have tried my best to follow the Ten Commandments. But I find myself now bothered by religious doubts and fear that I may really be an agnostic. Can a person remain in the state of grace with this state of mind? (I have read that Mother Teresa had similar feelings before her death.) (Gahanna, Ohio)

A. Please let me assure you, first of all, that you are not alone. It is characteristic of the lives of many people, including some outstanding Christians, to suffer deeply from the feeling that they are not as certain as they should be about matters of faith. (Cardinal Avery Dulles, the learned Jesuit theologian, observed that “faith is suspended over the abyss of unbelief and hence is liable to be questioned at any time.”)

You do well to reference Blessed Teresa of Kolkata, for she serves as an encouraging model of those who have weathered this crisis well. A book released in 2007, revealing letters she had written over half a century, showed that she had learned to weather this crisis well.

Certainly they do, for you continue to practice your faith and keep the commandments, thereby keeping the state of grace. However, it is not as much a crisis of faith, that the state of grace will be lost, but it is a crisis of uncertainty, a state of mind that can be wrestled with.

I find myself now troubled by religious doubts and fear that I may really be an agnostic. You have read that Mother Teresa had similar feelings before her death.

That Mother Teresa endured, I believe, was not so much a crisis of faith. Only two or three times during more than 50 years does she say that she was tempted to conclude that God did not exist, but those times would pass. Instead it was more akin to what St. John of the Cross first referred to in the 16th century as “dark night of the soul,” that sense that God was absent from her life and far away when she needed him most.

You wonder, in your question, whether your doubts leave you in the state of grace. Certainly they do, for you continue to practice your faith and keep the commandments much as Mother Teresa continued to pray and to reverence God in those who were dying in the streets of Kolkata.

Prayer means trusting, not knowing; certainly being human. The prayer of the father of the boy possessed by the demon (Gospel of Mark, Chapter 9) is the prayer of each one of us: “Lord, I do believe. Help my unbelief.” You would do well to share your doubts in honest conversations — both with God and with a trusted priest or spiritual guide.

Holy Name Society pledges to use social media to attract membership

Baltimore (CNS) — At its height, the Holy Name Society boasted more than 40,000 members in 135 parishes in the Archdiocese of Baltimore. More than a half-century later, there are about 500 members in 18 parishes. Baltimore’s declining numbers aren’t an aberration. Across the country, membership has fallen as one of the world’s oldest Christian organizations has faced an increasingly secularized society, aging members and other challenges that have made it more difficult to attract new members. Today, there are more than 10,000 Holy Name members in the United States, totaling 21 active diocesan Holy Name Unions. The fourth annual convention of the National Association of the Holy Name Union, both held simultaneously in Baltimore Sept. 21-24, leaders of the venerable Union, both held simultaneously in Baltimore Sept. 21-24, leaders of the venerable Holy Name Society and president of the Archdiocese of Baltimore. More than a half-century later, there are about 500 members in 18 parishes. Baltimore’s declining numbers aren’t an aberration. Across the country, membership has fallen as one of the world’s oldest Christian organizations has faced an increasingly secularized society, aging members and other challenges that have made it more difficult to attract new members. Today, there are more than 10,000 Holy Name members in the United States, totaling 21 active diocesan Holy Name Unions. The fourth annual convention of the National Association of the Holy Name Union, both held simultaneously in Baltimore Sept. 21-24, leaders of the venerable社会 media to attract membership.

Cradle Catholics and Converts to share in humility with new missal

Continued from p. 14

learning and the loving move in tandem. Take it from one who has been involved in ministry along many times. All will be well. Change is never easy. And this change will be particularly difficult for many. If you are a priest or a musician, offer it up for a convert who finds the entire Liturgy too much or for something of a foreign language spoken over it for the one who longs to be part of the Church family, but feels like he will never fit in as easily as the cradle Catholic sitting beside him. Offer it up for the one who is trying to learn everything in just a few months of RCIA.

And I will remind you on a secret that every convert knows. You will look back on that part of the journey and miss it a little. You will realize that God was there. You knew it. You felt it. You relied on it.

I will meet you in the Mass; and we’ll learn together.

The Pope speaks

Pope Benedict XVI

Pope reviews trip to Germany, says it was ‘festival of faith’

By Cindy Woods

Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Pope Benedict XVI said he was happy to see that “the faith in my German homeland has a young face, is alive and has a future.”

At his weekly general audience Sept. 28, Peter the Square, the pope told an estimated 10,000 pilgrims and visitors about his trip Sept. 22-25 to Germany.

In his audience talk, the pope said his trip was “a true ‘festival of faith,’” and its liturgies and Masses, meetings with public officials, other Christians and Jewish and Muslim representatives “helped us see once again how it’s God who gives the deepest meaning and true fullness to our lives; in fact, he alone gives us, gives everyone, a future.”

Benedict said it was “particularly moving” to meet briefly in Erfurt with the 98-year-old Msgr. Hermann Scheipers, “the last surviving priest from the Dachau concentration camp.” The Nazi camp had a special section for imprisoned priests and ministers who had spoken out against the Nazis. Msgr. Scheipers was arrested for ministering to forced laborers from Poland. More than 2,500 Catholic priests were imprisoned in Dachau, and more than 1,000 of them died there.

The pope also spoke briefly about his meeting in Erfurt with five victims of clerical sexual abuse. He said, “I wanted to assure them of my sadness and my close-ness to them in their suffering.”

Pope Benedict said he was honored to be the first pope to address the German parliament and he wanted to lead the legislators and all citizens in a reflection about the relationship between faith and freedom, and about the importance of moral values having an impact on the way people live together in society.

The 84-year-old pope said that since he was a young man “I had heard people talk about the region of Eichsfeld – a strip of land that always has maintained Catholic despite various historical events – and about its inhabitants who courageously opposed the dictatorships of Nazism and communism.

Visit to the Marian shrine at Ebrambach and celebrating vespers, the pope continued his reflection on the region of Fichtelberg – a strip of land that always has remained Catholic despite various historical events. He wanted to lead the people to look with hope toward the Homeland and to confirm them in faith, hope and love, and share with them the joy of being Catholic. But my message was also one of wonder and awe. I wanted to introduce them to look with hope toward the future.”

The trip, he said, “offered me the occasion to meet the faithful of my German homeland and to confirm them in faith, hope and love, and share with them the joy of being Catholic. But my message was also one of wonder and awe. I wanted to introduce them to look with hope toward the future.”

~ Christmas Tour ~

April 9-11, 2012

Grapevine, Texas at the Gaylord Texan Hotel

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~ Mystery Tour ~

April 9-16, 2012

Rushmore & Badlands

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Hope You Can Come & Join Us!

St. Theresa Annual Parish Picnic

In La Salle at the Parish Hall

County Road 325 D Way

Sunday, October 16

Turkey Dressing Dinner

(A Catered by Robert Werner and Sons of Texas)

Serving: 11:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m. ~ $8 ~ Wine-In or Plates-to-Go

Auction of 12:30 p.m.
The Saddler family from Bastrop, Texas, lost their home and property to the Labor Day Weekend wildfire that killed four people and destroyed over 1,600 homes in the area, making it the most destructive fire in Texas. From left are Stacey, Maddison, 7½ years; Ivy Rose, 15 months; and Bobby Saddler. Bobby is from Victoria and he and Stacey are presenters for the Diocese of Victoria Engaged Encounter Program. Although they lost much, they feel they gained more in blessings from God.

What Was Gained

Continued from p. 6

Although they lost much, they feel they gained more in blessings from God.

© The Catholic Lighthouse 2011
COVERS OF BOOKS ON PRAYER AND THE MASS—These are the covers of "A Biblical Walk Through the Mass: Understanding What We Say and Do in the Liturgy" by Edward Sri, "The Mass in Scripture" by Stephen J. Binz and "The Essential Guide to Catholic Prayer and the Mass" by Mary DeTarris-foutz. The books are reviewed by Brian T. Olczewski (CNS).

Bishops’ new ad hoc committee will tackle religious liberty concerns
WASHINGTON (CNS) — Saying they are increasingly distressed over government policies that promote contraception, abortion, same-sex marriage and other decisions that conflict with church teaching and the personal abiding faith of those who uphold the church’s response on the issue. The Ad Hoc Committee for Religious Liberty was announced Sept. 30 by Archbishop Timothy M. Dolan of New York, president of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops. Bishop William E. Lori of Bridgeport, Conn., was named chairman of the new committee.

“There is a common and factually grounded perception that religious liberty is increasingly under attack at the state and federal levels in the United States, whether through unfriendly legislation or through rules and regulations that impede or tend to impede the exercise of religious liberty,” Archbishop Lori told Catholic News Service Sept. 30, explaining the motivation for forming the committee.

“Hopefully, we will raise up the issue for the entire Catholic community in the United States,” he said. “We will help educate about the issue and hopefully there will be good and effective action.”

18 Catholic colleges appeal parts of federal health care law mandate
WASHINGTON (CNS) — Eighteen Catholic colleges have asked the Obama administration to exempt all religious individuals and institutions from being forced to participate in the federal mandate that health insurance plans cover contraceptives and sterilization. The 13-page appeal was sent to the White House Sept. 29 and called the Department of Health and Human Services’ exemptions for religious employees as “potentially so narrow as to be not only nearly inconsequential but insulting to religious entities, in particular to Catholic colleges and universities.”

Archbishop of Military Services issues statement on death of Archbishop Hannan
WASHINGTON, D.C. – His Excellency, the Most Reverend Timothy P. Broglio, J.C.D., Archbishop for the Military Services (AMS), USA, today issued the following statement on the death of retired Archbishop Philip Hannan. Archbishop Hannan, who died Thursday in New Orleans at the age of 98, was the nation’s oldest living military chaplain. Archbishop Broglio said, “Saddened by the death of Archbishop Hannan, with all believers, I recognize that death opens the door to eternal life, the object of the earthly pilgrimage. From his days as a chaplain for the 50th Parachute Regiment of the Army’s 82nd Airborne Division in World War II, when he was known affectionately as ‘the jump padre,’ to his years of active retirement in New Orleans, Archbishop Hannan was a widely influential role model, not only to those he served directly, but also to the Church itself. He will be remembered for demonstrating the courage of his convictions and for his strong influence in the writing of ‘The Challenge of Peace,’ the U.S. bishops’ 1983 pastoral letter on war and peace. Like his predecessors, he never forgot the poor whose lives he set about improving with social action programs aimed at providing food, housing and other necessities for those in need. Archbishop Hannan’s long, fruitful life is an example to us all, and today we pray for the repose of his immortal soul.”

Archbishop Lori has written so narrowly,” said Msgr. Swetland, who also is executive director of the Center for the Advancement of Catholic Higher Education, a division of the Cardinal Newman Society, which helped organize the colleges’ appeal.

Archbishop Lori has written so narrowly,” said Msgr. Swetland, who also is executive director of the Center for the Advancement of Catholic Higher Education, a division of the Cardinal Newman Society, which helped organize the colleges’ appeal.

The state’s Department of Children and Family Services ended $30 million in contracts with these agencies, saying it was not compatible with Catholic Charities’ practice of referring unmarried couples to other agencies was discriminatory and a violation of the state’s civil union law. The Thomas More Society, which is representing Catholic Charities in this case, said it planned to immediately seek a stay from the Illinois Appellate Court to allow the agencies to continue their operations during the appeal. In court documents, the Catholic Charities lawyers argued that canceling these contracts would be disruptive to their 2,000 children clients.

They also said it would have a significant impact on Catholic Charities employees who could lose their jobs and could impair the charitable programs Catholic Charities provides. The legal proceedings on this issue began after passage of the Illinois Religious Freedom Protection and Civil Union Act, which took effect June 1.
October 17th – 24th is Radon Action Awareness Week

October 17-24 is Federal Radon Action Week according to The Surgeon General. Health agencies throughout the United States have joined forces to promote awareness of the leading cause of lung cancer for non-smokers (estimated at 21,000 deaths each year).

American Lung Association, Centers for Disease Control, and National Cancer Institute all agree that radon is a National Health problem and encourage radon testing during the October awareness drive.

Radon is a naturally-occurring, invisible and odorless radioactive gas. One in 15 American homes contains high levels of radon gas. Millions of Americans are unknowingly exposed to this dangerous gas. In fact, a recent study by Harvard University ranks radon as America’s #1 indoor hazard.

By taking simple steps to test your home for radon and fix if necessary, this health hazard can be avoided.

Radon gas is not isolated to certain geographical areas or home types. Radon problems have been detected in homes in every county of the U.S. It caused more American fatalities last year than motor vehicle accidents, monoxide, fires, and handguns combined! If a home hasn’t been tested for radon in the past two years, EPA and the Surgeon General urge you to take action.

Contact your state radon office for information on locating qualified test kits or qualified radon testers. Texas Department of State Health Services Radon Website: www.dshs.state.tx.us/radiation/ radon.htm. P.O. Box 149347, Mail Code 50187, Austin, Texas 78714-9347 Toll Free: 1-800-293-0753; Phone: (512) 834-6878.

October 17th – 24th is Radon Action Awareness Week

The ugly truth about Arab racism and life as the “wrong kind of Muslim.”

With the liberation, Libyan rebels have slaughtered scores of black Africans: they are Somebodies no more. In 1991, they escaped ethnic cleansing in Darfur and the South Kordofan region. In essence, they exchanged one form of Arab racism for another, this time back to the 7th century. Why do the Arab and Muslim leaders refuse to criticize their own for this? For one thing, Colonel Gaddafi, even after his ouster, has continued paying the personal bills for many A.U. leaders. Read it “praiseworthy and healthful to kill the criminal in order to spare the spread of infection and safeguard the common good. However over the centuries, justice has evolved from the smiting arm of revenge toward a striving for reform and restoration, much like today’s medical science, where amputation is no longer the only recourse for curing an infection. Modern-day scholars have reflected that change in attitude. Pope Paul VI took concrete action in distancing the church from this form of punishment, first by formally banning the use of the death penalty in Vatican City State, although no one had been executed under the authority of the Vatican’s temporal governance since 1870.

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**Special Collection**

Mission Sunday - October 23

**That Man is You!**

- A man’s weekly faith meeting will be held in three cities this year. The men’s faith meetings will be held at three locations: San Antonio, Bay City, Holy Cross School cafeteria, Fridays, 5:45 to 7:15 a.m.; Guadalupe, Assumption parish hall, Wednesdays, 5:30 – 7:15 a.m.; and Victoria, Holy Family Parish Hall, 5:45 – 7:15 a.m. All men are welcome; no fees. More information at [www.thatmanisyou.org](http://www.thatmanisyou.org).

**Grief Group**

- Have you experienced the death of a loved one? Join us on this grief-joining group on the 1st and 3rd Thursday of each month from 6:30-7:30 p.m. at Holy Family Church in Victoria. Please call Sharon at (361) 578-7522 before attending.

**Galveston-Houston**

- The Bishop’s Office for Ministry to People in a Crisis Pregnancy – an alternative to abortion – holds monthly meetings open to everyone interested. Meetings, including a local video presentation, will be held on the first Sunday of each month at 101 W. Convent, behind St. Mary’s Catholic Church, at 6:30 p.m. An Angel Workshop is held at the same location the 3rd Sunday of the month. All are welcome. Call (409) 765-5600 for more information. Meet in the McKee Family Chapel, church and children’s games.

**Havelock**

- Sacred Heart High School 60th Annual Apple Streed Bake will be Oct. 22. The strudel come ready to eat or baked for a fresh treat at a later date. Unbaked strudels are $11.50 each and is available for pick-up at the Sacred Heart Family Center on Oct. 22. To order, call Charlene Bradbury at (361) 798-3224, Annette Henke at (361) 798-5374, Sharon Wagner at (361) 798-2080 or e-mail charlene_haudio@ hotmail.com. Advance orders are required to guarantee order fulfillment. Victoria families order for pick-up at the Hobby Lobby parking lot on Navarro on 25 from 11 a.m.-noon.

**Seguin**

- St. Patrick Catholic Church in Seguin will be holding its annual Turkey Dinner on Oct. 23, at the parish hall (302 W. Cleveland). Serving begins at 11:00 with plates priced at $7 p/p. Turkey, homemade dressing, yams and gravy will be served. Egg rolls, fried rice and baked goods will be sold also. Drawings for prizes will also be held. Everyone is welcome.

** Blessing**

- St. Peter barbecued turkey and dressing dinner. Oct. 30 with dine-in or dine-thru plates available at $8 p/p. Auction begins at 12:30. The church is located at 902 N. Live Oak St.

**Upcoming Events**

Victoria – St. Mary’s Council #513 Kwanzaa Celebration at the Barrow will be Saturday, Nov. 5, from 9:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. and Sunday Nov. 6, after the 8:00 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. Masses, in the Activity Center (401 S. Liberty). All are invited for a unique hand crafted items including prayer blankets, quilts, pillows cases, baby items, woods crafts, holiday gifts and decorations, and much more. The center will have homemade breads, canned goods and more. Dine-in or take-out homemade cinnamon rolls, old fashioned potato soup, warm cheese bread and drinks.

**LaVaca**

- Our Lady of the Gulf Altar Society Annual Turkey and Dressing Dinner of Acquiescence of Shiner Nov. 6 at the KCH Hall. Serving from 11:00 a.m.-1:30 p.m at $8 p/p with dine-in or carry-out available.

**Boling**

- St. Joseph Picnic, Saturday, Nov. 12 (NEW DATE)

**Hungerford**

- KJFTS Society 709 and KJZT Society 575 will be hosting their annual turkey and dressing dinner Nov. 12 at the Catholic community center. Serving begins at 10:30 a.m.

**Victoria**

- Our Lady of the Lourdes Catholic Church Nov. 13 the community center. A turkey dinner and dressing, with dine-in or dine-out to go available.

**Port Lavaca**

- Our Lady of the Gulf Altar Society Annual Turkey and Dressing Dinner of Acquiescence of Shiner at the KCH Hall. Serving from 11:00 a.m.-1:30 p.m at $8 p/p with dine-in or carry-out available.

**Men’s ACTS Retreat**

- Men’s ACTS Retreat Nov. 17-20 at the Spiritual Renewal Center. To learn more about their Retreats, Taize Prayer and Lent and Holy Week, visit the website at iwbsvictoria.org. More information, please check out Sister Louise Marie Jones at (361) 577-7111.

**Tivoli**

- Our Lady of Guadalupe Church invites you to a Healing Mass and Prayer Service every First Friday of the month at 7:00 p.m. at the new church, at 545 S. Austin Rd. Mass is followed by praise and worship/adoration, healing prayers, prayer, censing, etc. Available for no cost. Please call for your family and friends. And experience the healing touch of the Lord? For more information, please contact Rev. Gabriel P. Coelho at (361) 288-3349.

**Advent Reflections**

- Dec. 5 – 7. Bishop David Fellhauer will celebrate the Mass, and a fellow pastor at OLG, and Father Phi Nguyen, chaplain at Incarnate Word Convent, will celebrate the Mass of the Month at 1:00 p.m. This Mass is open to the public. If you are interested, please check us out at [www. inwba.org](http://www.inwba.org) or [www.wbschool.org](http://www.wbschool.org) or [iwbsvictoria.org](http://iwbsvictoria.org) for more details or to make a reservation.

**Victoria**

- The Holy Family Catholic Church is sponsoring a Men’s ACTS Retreat Nov. 17-20 at the Spiritual Renewal Center. For more information, call Rev. Bob at (361) 575-1310; Gerald at (361) 212-5859 or Harvey Kuechen at (361) 920-0738.

**Victoria**

- Men’s ACTS Mass will be celebrated by Father Bob Knaipgenberg at St. Mary’s Church in Victoria every 2nd and 4th Sunday of the month at 1:00 p.m.

**Havelock**

- Sacred Heart High School 60th Annual Apple Strudel Bake will be held on Nov. 25, from 9:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. and Sunday, Nov. 26, after the 8:00 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. Masses, in the Activity Center (401 S. Liberty). There will be many unique hand crafted items including prayer blankets, quilts, pillows cases, baby items, woods crafts, holiday gifts and decorations, and much more. The center will have homemade breads, canned goods and more. Dine-in or take-out homemade cinnamon rolls, old fashioned potato soup, warm cheese bread and drinks.

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