Our Lady of Victory St. Vincent de Paul council took 68 calls August 25 from those needing financial help. Economic times are hurting families and charities.

St. Vincent de Paul councils’ needs have doubled

By Cynthia Brewer

The biggest downturn in the economy since the Great Depression in the ’30s is putting a strain on the ability of St. Vincent de Paul (SVPD) councils throughout the Victoria Diocese and the United States to assist those in need.

According to an Our Sunday Visitor article on St. Vincent de Paul Web site at www.svdpusa.org, “Requests for assistance are up 40 percent in Seattle and have doubled in Long Island, N.Y., where business people wearing suits are showing up at the St. Vincent de Paul Society food pantries.”

As I left the chancery office August 25, I was surprised at the number of people lined up at the Our Lady of Victory (OLV) SVDP office seeking assistance. I have noticed the waiting lines becoming longer with each passing week.

Cars were lined up in both directions along Azalea and Mesquite Lane throughout the two-hour window that the society provides assistance.

The OLV SVDP council in Victoria had nearly 70 calls asking for economical help on August 25, 2009. When speaking to those waiting in line, one woman said, “This is the first time I’ve come for help. The kids don’t know I’m here; they’re teenagers and would be embarrassed.”

“We gave away 58 boxes of food and provided financial aid to at least 10 people,” said Bo, a volunteer of SVPD in Victoria. I asked her if she’s noticed an increase in those needing assistance. “Oh yeah, we have a whole lot more people than we used to have,” she responded. “That line going down the street tells it all. It’s very rare that we’re able to leave at the normal closing time,” she continued.

Most SVDP councils send two volunteers to go directly to the homes of those requesting assistance. Because of their size and for reasons of safety, the OLV SVDP society operates a bit differently than most councils. The SVDP office opens each Tuesday evening of the week; those needing assistance come to the office with their requests. Recently, a house located on the corner of Azalea and Mesquite Lane near the parish was donated to OLV and now serves as a St. Vincent de Paul office. Coats and other clothing are also accepted.

The OLV SVDP council had wanted facilities to be built on existing church grounds; however, they learned that this option was not possible. In an August 21, 2009, letter to his parishioners, Msgr. Michael Harrold said, “We believe this transaction will be a historic event in the life of the parish community and will offer an opportunity for our parish to flourish for many, many years to come.”

The parish and the School Advisory Council had been working on a strategic plan for over two years and have identified the need for numerous facilities to keep the parish and school vibrant and thriving. The required facilities to meet these needs total about 70,000 square feet. This includes two new classrooms and meeting space, religious education and CCD classrooms and meeting space, church and school administrative office space, classroom/lab additions (science, computer, foreign language, music, multi-media, shop, home economics, etc.), a gymnasium, an expanded and updated library, and storage space for church and school groups.

The council had wanted facilities to be built on existing church grounds; however, they learned that this option was highly unlikely for several reasons. First, the only open space on the grounds is behind the school and chancery building, which results in limited access options for emergency personnel and equipment. Secondly, in order to accommodate a parish hall, much parking would have to be installed, which would pave much of the remaining green space on the grounds and take away from the aesthetics of the property as well as needed space for sports practice. Finally, and perhaps most importantly, the cost is estimated to be in excess of $11 million.

About the same time as this evaluation was being done, the parish and School Advisory Council learned of the bank’s foreclosure on the mall property next door. They began to evaluate the fit of the property to the needs noted above and found that the site was an excellent fit for their needs with many opportunities for growth of the parish for years to come.

With this detailed knowledge, the council, with parishioners with expertise in the real estate, banking, construction and engineering fields, began to formulate a negotiation and valuation strategy. The parish Finance Committee met along with these advisors and determined an appropriate offer for the property was $1.5 million. This offer was accepted by the bank. In addition to the purchase price, they estimate the cost to complete the scope of work noted above within the existing facility would be less than $5 million, a huge savings compared to new construction.

Our Lady of Victory Parish, which celebrated its 50th anniversary of existence in September 2007, expects to close the transaction before September 15, 2009.
The Catholic Lighthouse

Bishop Fellhauer’s Schedule

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<th>Date</th>
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<tr>
<td>September 6</td>
<td>6:30 a.m., Mass, St. Joseph Church, Moulton</td>
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<td>9:00 a.m., Mass, St. Joseph Church, Moulton</td>
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<td></td>
<td>1:00 p.m., PTO Golf Tournament benefiting St. Joseph Youthum, Municipal Golf Course</td>
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<td>8:05 a.m., School Mass, blessing of Band Hall addition, etc., Sacred Heart Church, Hallettsville</td>
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<td>12:30 p.m., Mass, St. Joseph Church, Moulton</td>
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<td>6:30 p.m., Mass, St. Joseph Church, Moulton</td>
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<td>9:00 a.m., Mass, St. Joseph Church, Moulton</td>
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<td>2:00 p.m., Mass, IWBS Associates Consecration, Incarnate Word Convent, Victoria</td>
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<td>6:00 p.m., Votive Mass for the Mystery of the Holy Cross, Esquipuey, Ordinariate of the Holy Sepulchre of Jerusalem, St. Mary Church, Victoria</td>
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<td>15:00 p.m., Diocesan Finance Board meeting, Chancery Office</td>
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<td>4:30 p.m., Diocesan Building Board meeting, Chancery Office</td>
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<td></td>
<td>11:00 a.m., Mass, St. Anthony School 8th grade retreat, Spiritual Renewal Center, Victoria</td>
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<td>21-22 Texas Conference General Assembly and Texas Bishops’ meeting, Austin</td>
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<td>7:00 p.m., reconciliation service, Spiritual Renewal Center, Victoria</td>
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<td>9:00 a.m., Registration, Conference for Catechists and Ministry, Holy Family Church, Victoria</td>
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<td></td>
<td>4:15 p.m., Conference Mass, Holy Family Church, Victoria</td>
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<tr>
<td>October</td>
<td>Diocesan Clergy Fraternity Day, Yokum, dinner, Knights of Columbus Hall, Shiner</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>7:00 p.m., reconciliation service, Spiritual Renewal Center, Victoria</td>
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Job opening

The Diocese of Victoria is looking for a full-time staff accountant to handle the accounting for the Priests’ and Lay Employees’ Pension Plans and the collection and distribution of funds for the Annulment Envelope and the Annual Diocesan Services Appeal. Experience as a full-time bookkeeper or equivalent education is required. Must be proficient in Excel and Quick Books. Prefer a practicing Catholic.

Thank You

Your Excellency,

When His Excellency Pope Benedict XVI visited The Catholic University of America in April 2008, the entire university community embraced him with great love and affection. …

Last year, you and your brother bishops throughout our country facilitated a truly generous response to our national appeal in the history of The Catholic University of America. A national total of $5,538,669 was collected. I cannot begin to express our gratitude to you adequately. Once again this year, thanks to you and the good people of the Diocese of Victoria, $6,623.19 was raised and contributed – all of which is used to support young women and men through our financial aid and scholarship programs. Without this collection, the educational resources we provide at The Catholic University of America would simply not be accessible to so many students.

I do believe that we, at CUA, have responded to the Holy Father’s encouraging call: ‘Bear witness to hope. Nourish your work with prayer, account for the charity that characterizes your lives by living the truth.’ … I thank you and the people of your diocese for helping make that possible.

Sincerely yours in Christ,
Rev. David M. O’Connell, C.M.
President
The Catholic University of America

Shuttle: The Gate

Editorial by Cynthia Brewer, Editor

Beware of “Conversations with God” author

The secretary of a parish in the Diocese of Victoria was questioned about a book that was apparently being marketed to children through Thes Scholastic Book Club. She contacted the Diocese of Victoria offices of Catechetical Ministry and Youth and Child Protection to learn more about the book. “Conversations with God” and “Conversations with God for Teens,” written by Neale D. Walsch, sound harmless enough by their titles alone. Upon research the diocesan staff stated that they would not recommend these books to anyone.

Chris Alvarez, in Catechetics Ministry, sent out a request for information to the National Association of Catechetical Media Professionals (NACMP). One of the replies included a note that “It's a very New Age, and the author describes himself as being a spiritual messenger. The information I got this as a direct quote from the text. When asked about God’s goodness of sin, his reply was ‘I do not forgive anyone because there is nothing to forgive. There is no such thing as right or wrong and that is what I have been trying to tell everyone, do not judge people. People have chosen to judge one another and this is wrong, because the rule is ‘judge not lest ye be judged.’”

An e-mail warning against the books is being researched by Snopes.com; this e-mail includes the above quote, as well as others, such as: “The author purports to answer various questions asked by kids using the ‘voice of God.’” “Another girl poses the question ‘I am living with my boyfriend. My parents say that I should marry him because I am living in sin. Should I marry him?’ “His reply is, ‘Who are you sinning against? Not me, because you have done nothing wrong.’”

Upon looking into the book myself, it obviously goes against biblical and Church teaching, and is definitely not recommended.

However, please do not get it mixed up with “In Conversation with God,” which according to http://www.catholiccomnewsletter.org/catholic-books/1003444/- is a series of outstanding meditations that follow the Church’s liturgical calendar. Each day’s meditation is divided into three parts and is five or six pages long. The subjects relate to themes from the Mass readings for that day or the liturgical season. This work helps the reader deepen the message of Christ in the ordinary circumstances of the day. Your Excellency,

The Catholic University of America

Faith Capital Campaign Updates

2009 DSA & Reflection of Faith Capital Campaign Updates

2009 DSA

Diocesan Goal: $1,282,100.00
Parish Pledge Totals: $579,903.11
Parish Contribution Totals: $524,169.81
Number of Parish Families Participating: 3,638

REFLECTION OF FAITH CAPITAL CAMPAIGN

Diocesan Goal: $9,000,000.00
Parish Pledge Totals: $15,452,922.56
Parish Contribution Totals: $6,138,501.44
Number of Parish Families Participating: 6,950

St. Vincent de Paul councils need have doubled

Continued from p. 1

houses SVDP operations.

“Right now times are hard and I’m here to help,” said a woman named Renee who has 12 grandchildren she helps raise.

Another woman stated, “I’ve been working since 16, and this is the first time I’ve needed help.”

Debbie Vanelli, OLV SVDP vice president, said they helped 62 families July 98. This year in July that increased to 145 families.

“The people who donate to St. Vincent de Paul are very generous,” Debbie said. “Even in these times, donations have remained fairly steady at $1,200 to $1,500 a month.”

However, OLVS’s policy just decided that beginning in September they will have to limit their giving to food rather than help in pay bills, she said. At the average cost of $7.50 for a box of food, multiplied by the 198 families OLVS helped in August of this year, it cost the society all its monthly resources just to feed the hungry.”

“Food goes so much further; we can guarantee at least a meal,” she said. “When people come in and pay $400 to $600 electricity bills, we can only provide a band-aid; and we need to be wise stewards.”

Elsewhere, as such at St. Robert’s in El Campo, reports show that assistance has doubled since this time last year. For the two-month period of July and August ‘08 there were 85 requests for $2,444; for July and August of ’09 those figures jumped to 150 requests for a total of $5,050.69

The end-of-the-year totals from throughout the Diocese of Victoria, will be reported in the January 2010 issue of The Catholic Lighthouse by Cathy Garcia, the district council president.
You must wonder why people living in such affluent times as ours find it so difficult to appreciate God’s noble calling, and to encourage them to live out their vocation as God wants it to be lived. A couple and the people God need Jesus, the Church, and the sacraments. The priest is the minister of God who makes the sacraments present to the faithful. This is his priestly/cultural role. The priest is also a teacher of the ways of life, i.e., his prophetic role. God has a plan for all the basic components of human life like marriage, spousal love and family. This plan cannot be known if it is not taught. It cannot be lived if it is not known. Husbands and wives cannot be happy if they are not living their marriages, spousal love as God designed them to be.

A YEAR FOR PRIESTS is a time to reflect upon how to get important teachings back into the pulpit. Some priests think that their people are too weak to break the habit of constantly coming up with a new twist, a new idea today. Preaching God’s plan for marriage, spousal love and family is the first step in the gradual unraveling of these fundamental values. No, it is too late! We must act! We must be creative in proclaiming our faith. Preaching will be criticized and rejected; collections will be down. It is not the time for what? We simply carry our unresolved problems in our souls. They do not solve a problem. Divorcees are unwilling to face realities of a marriage. Divorcees, who have been divorced, do not want to hear about how young people perceive marriage.

Randy Moreau says that his collections will be criticized and rejected; collections are readily available. The people want to hear about how young people perceive marriage. Preaching will be criticized and rejected; collections will be down. It is not the time for what? We simply carry our unresolved problems in our souls. They do not solve a problem. Divorcees are unwilling to face realities of a marriage. Divorcees, who have been divorced, do not want to hear about how young people perceive marriage.

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Rev. Msgr. Leroy Braden, age 82, passed away peacefully on July 23, 2009. He was born on August 5, 1926, in Mentry, Texas, to Rochus and Louise Weid Braden. His family moved to Wharton County when he was seven and he was educated in the parish school at Jones Creek School. In 1943, he graduated from Crescent High School. Msgr. Braden entered St. Mary’s Seminary in La Porte in 1945 and was ordained a priest there by Bishop Weldon J. Nold on May 30, 1953. The next day, he celebrated his first Solemn Mass at St. Philip Catholic Church in El Campo, Texas.

Msgr. Braden’s assignments as assistant pastor were at St. Mary’s Cathedral in Galveston, St. Christopher Church and Corpus Christi Church, both in Houston, Texas. As pastor, his past parishes include St. Mary Church in Plantersville, with a mission church at St. Joseph’s in Stoneham, Texas, St. Augustine Church and St. Christopher Church, both in Houston, Texas. In June 1984, he became the pastor of St. Helen Church in Pearland, Texas. In recognition of his outstanding priestly ministry, Msgr. Braden was made an honorary prelate with the title of “monsignor” by Pope John Paul I on December 5, 1978. Besides his parish ministry, Msgr. Braden was also active in Engaged Marriage Encounter, Seaforthers Center, Chaplain of the Catholic Daughters of the Americas, Knights of Columbus, Alumnae, and Catholic Life Insurance Union. He was a charter member of the Pearl Region Ministerial Alliance. He has also served as dean of the Southeast Deanery and member of the personnel board and priest senate of the diocese. He is preceded in death by his parents, Rochus and Louise Wendel Braden, and brothers Leon and Leonard Braden.

Msgr. Leroy Braden, Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston, brother to Sr. Elaine Braden, IWBS

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Msgr. Leroy Braden, Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston, brother to Sr. Elaine Braden, IWBS
### Seminary Burses

Seminary burses are a permanent fund used for the education of future priests for the Diocese of Victoria. The goal of each burse is $15,000. The interest from this amount is applied yearly to the education of the seminarians to the Dallas and Fort Worth dioceses Catholics but is one of the outstanding social events of the diocesan calendar. To top off the evening festivities — beginning at 5:00 p.m. with a reception and wine pull – San Antonio Diocese Auxiliary Bishop Oscar Cantu will deliver the main after-dinner address.

### OUR LADY OF VICTORY CATHEDRAL

**ANNUAL Fall FESTIVAL**

**Sunday, October 11**

at the Victoria Community Center

Doors open at 11:00 a.m.

**Buffet style barbecue-beef and sausage dinner with all the trimmings**

**Adults, $7; children under 12 years, $4.50**

**All plates-to-go $7**

with curb service available

Booths and games for the entire family

Auction begins at 12:30 p.m.

in the Community Center Annex

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**HEAVENLY HELPERS**

**ACTS Bracelets**

Baptismal Outfits & Sets

Wedding Gifts + VBS Supplies

Catholic Bibles, Books & Gifts

1406 B N Mechanic

EL Campo, TX 77437

979-543-2850
The Catholic Post, newspaper of the Diocese of Peoria, Ill.

Local students receive scholarships

SAN ANTONIO – Several local students were recently awarded the All American Catholic Student Award from Catholic Life Insurance.

Jessica Dornak and Stephanie Mahoney, both attending the University of Texas at San Antonio, are sisters. They are the daughters of Jan and Dornak is the daughter of Jan and trophy.

Heather Haas

Jessica Dornak and Stephanie Mahoney

Kendall Dornak

Stephanie Kusak

Mahoney

Detective Dan Fyock, Desiree Dendich, Jessica Dornak and Stephanie Mahoney.

Heather Haas

Jessica Dornak and Stephanie Mahoney.

Kendall Dornak

Stephanie Kusak

Mahoney

Catholic Life Insurance offers life insurance, IRAs, retirement annuities and fraternal benefits to individuals, families and businesses.

The Catholic Lighthouse Young Adult

Celebrate Mass with your priests

By Rev. Donald Hayden, O.S.S.T., Chaplain at Incarnate Word and Blessed Sacrament Convent

I don’t know whether you can remember the way things were before Vatican II. It was not young when the changes began happening. And still one thing I can remember is before, whenever we talked about whatever priest we had at Mass on Sunday, we would say that “Father, this is MASS.” I don’t remember when it changed. I do remember that in the post-Vatican II times we began to say that “Father, CELEBRATED Mass. This was a rather significant change in vocabulary and in understanding of what we were doing in those Sunday (and weekday) gatherings, but we didn’t quite go far enough...

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Morality and the Health Care Bill

A new report from the Marist Poll, released today, reflects the positions the bishops have taken on health care reform. The report states: 

“All people should need and should have access to comprehensive, quality health care that they can afford, and this should not depend on their stage of life, where or whatever right they earn, or where they live or where they come from.” – Health Care Statement of the US Conference of Catholic Bishops May 20, 2009

Most states follow the federal policy against abortion funding; 46 states have laws protecting the conscience rights of individual health care providers on abortion; and 43 also protect conscience rights for institutional providers.

It turns out that we are our brother’s keeper, wherever they live or where they come from.”

The bishops affirm a moral imperative: 

• Universal Access. It must be available to everyone based on the U.S. bishops.
• Comprehensive Benefits. Benefits should be sufficient to promote and maintain health; good health; provide preventive care; treat disease efficiently and disability appropriately; and care for persons who are chronically ill or dying.
• Cost Containment and Controls. Equitable Financing. Costs should be borne in an equitable manner based on ability to pay. Costs are not to include non-medical items and services. Costs are not to include items and services that are not medically necessary. Costs are not to include any item or service that is excluded as a covered benefit.
• Administrative Costs. Costs should not be driven by administrative costs.
• Qualifying Definitions. There are different definitions for what is considered “qualified.”

In a resolution of the bishops of the United States June 18, 1993 the bishops affirmed that, ac

...In communities across our land, we serve the sick and pick up the pieces of a failing system. We are pastors, teachers, and leaders of a community deeply committed to comprehensive health reform. Our urgency for reform reflects both on our traditional principles and everyday experience.

Our Lady Guadalupe Festival Meal

Bay City — Parish Hall (12th Street and Ave. D)

Brisket Dinner — Sunday, September 20
11:00 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. at $6 p/p
Dine-in / Pick-up / Drive-Thru

Auction Begins at Noon

Our Lady Guadalupe Co-ed Volleyball Tournament (4 Men/2 Women)

Sunday, September 20 at 8:30 a.m.
$60/Team - 8 players per team max

Children Serving Contest - at noon

To register or for more information:
Call Lydia: (979) 216-6234 or Rosario: (979) 216-7421

http://www.usccb.org/healthcare/
CATECHESIS

By Cynthia Brewer

Doris Andel and Karen Morrow of St. Agnes Parish in Edna are being honored by the diocesan Office of Catechetical Ministry as parish catechetical leaders for the month of September.

St. Agnes Parish offers regular classroom instruction of the Catholic faith along with music, Vacation Bible School, other activities and twice yearly a Generations of Faith-type program called HOPE (Helping Our Parish Evangelize) for its parish religious education program. Approximately 35 catechists and 15 aides assisted Mrs. Andel and Mrs. Morrow with the 235 youth who attended the kindergartens to 12th grade classes last year.

Mrs. Andel has been involved in the CCD program at St. Agnes Parish for over 20 years, and specifically with the K-5th grade program since fall 2002.

"After being an educator in the Edna ISD system for 27 years, I worked with the Incarnate Word and Blessed Sacrament Sisters, and finally decided to work with St. Agnes. There is a place for everyone. I enjoy teaching first grade and four year olds and seeing the excitement in their faces," explains Mrs. Andel. "Since the children come from different backgrounds, literally and figuratively, it is a challenge to see that students are given an opportunity to receive the sacraments at the appropriate given age. We all need to understand the importance of the children's presence and care."

"Because many changes in society have affected work and scheduling, it's difficult to fulfill Mass obligations, Mrs. Andel said, but we still need to satisfy the needs of the youth in our parishes. I have found it to be a challenge to see that students are given an opportunity to receive the sacraments at the appropriate given age. We all need to understand the importance of the children's presence and care."

Mrs. Andel and Sharon Carroll, and 11 grand-children and five great-grandchildren "I enjoy being with my grandchildren, reading, yard work, short trips, and spending time with family and friends," she said.

Karen Morrow has been a parish catechetical leader at St. Agnes parish for 21 consecutive years. "As soon as I enrolled my children in the parish CCD program," she said, "I volunteered to help in any way needed."

"We are very fortunate to have dedicated catechists who are the backbone of making the program successful," Mrs. Morrow said. "We also have a caring and supportive pastor, Father Michael Petering, who is our main catechist."

"The most challenging aspect of the ministry is dealing with the fact that faith is not being taught in the homes of some of the students," Mrs. Morrow said.

"This makes the task of teaching the children the faith very challenging," she said. "The parents will always be the first and foremost teachers of the faith to their children, and the most influential teaching tool is the example of how their parents live out the faith."

Mrs. Morrow said that the happy moments of ministry are when the Church community comes together as God's family to share the faith.

By Father John Dietzen

Catholic News Service

Q. Would you explain the Catholic Church's position on suicide? My wonderful wife took her own life 15 years ago, and every day I think about her salvation. She was a good wife and mother while she lived. Our parish assures us that our Lord would bring her home. Still, my children and especially myself feel responsible that we did not do enough to prevent this tragedy. (Illinois)

A. I'm sure you know and have probably been told often that the reaction of you and your children is not uncommon. When struck by a catastrophe like your wife's death, which we cannot make sense of no matter how hard we try, we feel we must have done, or not done, something within our power to prevent what happened. To attempt to explain such actions this way, however, is futile and unhelpful. I believe it would be personally useful to understand the Catholic Church's approach to suicide, and I hope you take consolation in what you said. He reflects the same theology as the Catholic Church's position when it says we each have responsibility for our own lives, but we should not despair of those who take their own lives. All we know to him alone, God has ways of providing for them, and the church always holds them, as it does all the deceased, in its prayers (No. 2283).

Much Catholic understanding of these situations is reflected in the church's funeral policies. Canon law states among those who might be deprived of Catholic rites if "manifest sinners who cannot be granted ecclesiastical funerals risk without public scandal of the faithful" (Canon 1184). Are people who commit suicide really "open sinners" whose Christian burial would give scandal? That is for every priest in the church to decide about such suicides as your good wife's. You have every reason to hope, even be certain, that she is in our Lord's loving presence and care."

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

"Please pray for the healing of those with addictions — to drugs, sex, alcohol and gambling."

Reporting Abuse

If you or someone you know has been sexually abused by a member of the clergy or other church personnel, you can register a complaint.

• Call the Chancery at (361) 575-0828 and ask to speak with the bishop or the chancellor;
• Call Rev. Gary Janak (979) 543-3770 or Sr. Emilie Eilers (361) 575-7111, Coordinators of Pastoral Care and Outreach;
• Write to: Most Rev. David E. Fellhauer, Diocese of Victoria, PO. Box 4070, Victoria, TX 77903

"Mark your letter "Personal and Confidential.""

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

If you are unsure about bringing a complaint or would like further information, please contact Rev. Gary Janak at (979) 543-3770.

Annual Picnic

St. Roch Catholic Church – Mentz, Texas
Join us for the Sacrifice of the Mass beginning at 10:00 a.m. Sunday, October 4

BBQ BEEF, PORK & SAUSAGE
Adults $8.00
Children Under 12: $4.00
Dine in AC comfort or under pavilion
Serving beginning at 11:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

Auction • Bingo • Country Store • Kids Activities • Live Music by Leroy Rybka Swingin’ Orchestra - 1:00-5:00 p.m.
National Regent Libby Ramirez, right, is seen with fellow Catholic Daughter Texan Sheila Martinka, Texas State Regent, left, at the CDA State Officers Conference in Belleville, Ill.

National Regent Libby Ramirez presides over CDA State Officers National Conference

By Tom Panas, National Public Relations Director
BELLEVILLE, Ill. — CDA National Regent Libby Ramirez, who lives in Victoria, led the Catholic Daughters of the Americas’ biennial State Officers Conference, which was held at Our Lady of the Snows Retreat Center in Belleville, Illinois.

The conference was held to instruct state leaders from across the country, many recently elected, on how to run minister CDA affairs in their respective states. In addition to overseeing months of preparation for the conference, it was Mrs. Ramirez’ responsibility to act as master of ceremonies.

In explaining her position and responsibilities as national regent, Mrs. Ramirez said, “I prefer to call the National Regent a ‘facilitator of the National Board’ (the National Regent is composed of the five top national officers and nine national directors, ed. note) which works wonderfully as a team.”

Mrs. Ramirez explained that the national board is working hard to prepare for the next biennial national convention to be held in Buffalo in August 2010 and discussed the second highest position within the organization, the national regent-elect. “This is a new position,” Mrs. Ramirez explained. “I was the first National Regent-Elect. It is the National Regent in training. Joanne (Joanne Tomassi, current National Regent-Elect, ed. note) and I are not only officers, but good friends. This is a very important two years for Joanne. She will make an excellent national regent.”

Mrs. Ramirez is a member of Court St. Ann #369 in Victoria, which she joined in 1983. She was elected to her two-year term as National Regent in August 2008.

The Catholic Daughters of the Americas is one of the oldest and largest organizations of Catholic women in the Americas. They are a sister organization to the Knights of Columbus, which formed the Catholic Daughters in 1903. Catholic Daughters honor their faith as Catholic women by sharing prayer, charitable activity, community involvement, friendship and social ‘woman time’ together. For more information or to join, call National Administrative Assistant Mary Impellizzeri at 212-877-3041 or e-mail Ms. Impellizzeri at CdaNatAn1@aol.com or visit www.catholicdaughters.org.

The Shiner CDA recently presented scholarships to seven St. Paul High School graduates. The winners, from 1st to 7th, are Michele Caka, Allie Hoerig, Ashley Kloesel, Carissa Selba, Julie Petru, Courtney Novosad and Hannah Kocian.

Shiner CDA Announces Seven Scholarship Winners

SHINER—Seven St. Paul High School graduates in Shiner will be heading in many different directions when they begin their college careers in the fall of 2009. However, they will have at least one thing in common; they are all proud recipients of a CDA scholarship received through Shiner’s CDA Court #1604. The CDA scholarships they received totaled $3,100.

Four of the winners were named in the CDA State Scholarship program. Ashley Kloesel and Hannah Kocian each received a $1,000 state scholarship; while Michele Caka and Courtney Novosad each received an $800 state scholarship. In addition, the Shiner CDA Court #1604 awarded three scholarships of $500 each to Carissa Selba, Julie Petru and Allie Hoerig.

The four state scholarships awarded to the organization, the national regent-elect. “This is a new position,” Mrs. Ramirez explained. “I was the first National Regent-Elect. It is the National Regent in training. Joanne (Joanne Tomassi, current National Regent-Elect, ed. note) and I are not only officers, but good friends. This is a very important two years for Joanne. She will make an excellent national regent.”

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The parish RCIA program. She is married to John Morrow, who says she has always supported and encouraged her through all her years of ministry. This year, they will celebrate their 29th wedding anniversary. They have been blessed with five children: John Craig, Dustin, Nicholas, and twin girls, Regan and Riley.

“My hobbies are all my children’s school events and gardening with my husband in our spare time,” she said.

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The four state scholarships awarded to Shiner graduates were among the thirty-three scholarships totaling $29,800 that were awarded to graduates throughout Texas in 2009 by the Texas State Catholic Daughters of the Americas.
Three Houston-area Catholic schools donate instruments for a 40-piece band to students in a Catholic high school in Jamaica. They made the donation through Food For The Poor and then journeyed to Jamaica to deliver the instruments and hold a band camp. The camp culminated with a joint concert.

### Band Camp Hits Right Note in Jamaica

COCONUT CREEK, Fla. — The mission: Deliver instruments, pair Texas and Jamaica band students for a five-day camp, and perform a 90-minute concert on the last day. Impossible? Not if it’s Food For The Poor’s “Musical Journey of Hope.”

One student called the experience a week of small miracles.

On the first day of camp, many of the students in Jamaica had never picked up an instrument, much less tackled a new one. Some of the students could play music, but had never been introduced to reading sheet music or learning the technical aspects of playing in a group. But the message was even greater than the music that resulted.

“The impact of music is tremendously important to these students in Jamaica. It is a way for them to escape the day-to-day struggles, and it leads them out of gangs and into a more useful life,” said Robin Mahfood, president/CEO of Food For The Poor.

“The band that plays the music not only changes the band in the beginning, but it begins to influence the whole community.”

The project began when students from the Jesuit College Preparatory band in Houston, Texas, and two neighboring schools, St. Agnes Academy, Houston, and Pope John XXIII, Katy, decided to raise money to outfit a complete 40-piece band. They donated the money to the Florida-based charity Food For The Poor that, in turn, equipped the boys at St. George’s College in Kingston, led the band camp.

“I have played music all over the world,” Martin said. “These students come from two different cultures. It’s good to see young people trying to bring our music together in the world. When you’re going to play music, it doesn’t matter where you’re from — when they play together you can see they understand each other.”

St. George’s College has many students who live in communities that deal with the inner city influences of violence, guns and drugs. Music is an outlet that can make a difference.

“We have found in Jamaica that music unites, it always unites,” said Margaret Campbell, principal of St. George’s College, which is adding band to its curriculum this year. “We are very humble; the Texas students would take the time to come here and bring the musical instruments. The music will serve, I’m hoping, as a source of unity among the students themselves and will mushroom out into the wider community.”

Some of the events from Jamaica that participated in the final performance echoed Campbell’s thoughts.

“For the band really has encouraged me to be a better member in every way,” said Bancroft Biggs, a member of the Marching Eagles Drum and Bugles Corp. “What this does is takes the students off the road and takes them away from being involved in any violence.”

One Texas student told how he and his mother were looking through the pages of the Food For The Poor gift catalogue, when he spotted the band instruments and was inspired to raise money.

“This has been an amazing week,” said John Culbritch, a student at Strake. “There are so many miracles happening inside of here.”

Many children in the United States take for granted the opportunity to learn to play a musical instrument and join their school’s marching band. For poor children in the Caribbean and Latin America, it is only a dream. Through its gift catalogue, Food For The Poor offers the gift of music — everything from a snare drum for a child to instruments for an entire marching band. For more information, visit www.FoodForThePoor.org/giftsforchildren.

### Twenty-nine young men attend diocesan vocation camp

God’s love.

Facilitating the camp were Rev. Dun Morales, director of vocations, Rev. Tommy Chen, Shiner; Rev. David Berger, Victoria; Rev. Kirby Hlavaty, Cuyo; and Rev. Bryan Heyer, Port Lavaca; and seminarians Sean Breeden, Jacob Koerth, Kris Fuchs, Matthew Soto and E.J. Gutierrez.

Please pray for these young men, our seminarians and priests!
By Cynthia Brewer

On August 13, 2009, a small group gathered as a labyrinth was dedicated on the grounds of the Spiritual Renewal Center in honor of Father Celestino Say, pastor at Our Lady of Lourdes in Victoria, and in memory of Justin Forest Cox, the son of Chip and Mary Cox. The labyrinth, an exact replica in scale and design of the labyrinth in the Cathedral of Our Lady of Chartres, a Roman Catholic cathedral located in Chartres, France, was donated by Chip and Mary Cox, James and Madeline Dodson, Bob and Susan Oakley, and Roger and Donna Welder.

Sacred geometry was utilized in the placement of the labyrinth on the SRC property with the centers of the chapel, labyrinth and the ancient oak tree forming a triangle, a symbol of the Trinity.

Many people are confused as to the meaning of the labyrinth, as they often only recognize the New Age references to it. The first labyrinths were created over 4,000 years ago, and it is believed that they served as traps for bad spirits or as distinct paths for ritual dances, but just as Christianity “christened” other cultural traditions for Christian purposes, such as the Christmas tree, so Christianity also christened the maze-like labyrinth path.

The labyrinth has been used as a Christian form of journeying to God for centuries. In medieval times, it symbolized a “hard path to God,” with the clearly defined center representing God and the one entrance denoting birth. Labyrinths were also used as a symbolic form of pilgrimage when it was too expensive or dangerous to travel to the holy sites during the Crusades in the 12th century.

Later, the religious significance of labyrinths faded, and they served primarily as entertainment; however, recently the labyrinth has seen a resurgence in its spiritual significance.

According to the “walking the labyrinth” guide posted at the SRC by Spirit Wind Ministry, “The labyrinth has only one path so there are no tricks to it and no dead ends. The path winds throughout and becomes a mirror for where we are in our lives. It touches our sorrows and releases our joys. Walk it with an open mind and an open heart, remembering the encouraging and inspired words of St. Augustine: ‘Solvitur ambulando … It is solved by walking …’”

The SRC labyrinth is a mystical tool that was inspired by Father Say and Justin Cox, two people dear to the couples. Their prayer intentions during the ceremony asked that God’s wisdom, healing, reconciliation and answers come upon all the pilgrims who travel the spiritual path that they may find God a ready source of love, power and peace.

By Karen Osborne

Everybody’s selling something. It’s just something people do.

They sell iPads, cars — and God. They sell Pepsi and fleece blankets and toilet cleaners. People sell thinness and coolness and the chance at a better life.

Most of all we sell ourselves.

This happens when you grow up in a consumer world. It happens when everyday life is so full of billboards and television commercials urging you to open up your wallet. It happens when acceptance seems to depend so much on what you wear, what you have and where you live. (It doesn’t.)

You put up a facade and the person you present to the rest of the world is never the person you truly are.

See The price of faking, p. 12
YOUTH HAVE A GOOD TIME AT VBS—Recently the parishes of Queen of the Holy Rosary in Hostyn and Sts. Peter and Paul in Plum held Vacation Bible School with the theme “Discovery Canyon” for the young people from pre-K to the sixth grade. Each day the attenders would learn a daily theme word, hear a Bible story and learn a memory verse associated with the word. They also played games, learned songs and dances and made crafts associated with the day’s word. Pictures above are the “discoverers” and the student helpers. All who were asked states they had a good time. Several of them were often heard singing the songs and doing the hand movements outside of the music class.

$100 grand for 100 years

KJZT NO. 101 DONATES FUNDS
FOR TV MASS—During a reception August 9, 2009, the Assumption KJZT Society No. 101 of Victoria donated funds to Msgr. Michael Harrold, pastor of Our Lady of Victory Catholic Church, to pay for a TV Mass. From left are Carolyn Nev- lam, Msgr. Harrold and Evelyn Di- erlan. The $450 presentation, $100 of which came from the KJZT state office, helps the society remain at Diamond status.

Brewery supports parish gym renovation

Continued from p. 1

a remarkable expansion under the lead- ership of the Gamburci Company and Brewmasters John Hybner and Jimmy Mauric.

In the twenty years leading up to this an- niversary, the brewery growth has allowed for greatly increased tax payments to Shiner ISD and expanded donations that largely benefit the education of our youth as well. In recognition of the work that the Catho- lic school has done for both Shiner, the leader- ship of the brewery decided to make an exceptional gift to the Catholic school.

“This was a true, heartfelt ges- ture from Mr. Alvarez on behalf of Spoetzl. I think it helps the community as a whole,” said Jimmy Mauric, brewmaster.

The overall project will renovate the locker rooms, refinishing the floor, repaint the entire facility, replace the windows with new energy efficient windows and cool the whole facility. With the permission of the brewery, a por- tion of this challenge gift is already being spent so that the first benefits can be felt immediately.

Jelco Gym Floors of Austin has been hard at work, scraping decades of varnish off the maple wood floor- ing prior to resealing the floor and applying new graphics and lines. “The refinished floor will look better than the original floor” said Jared Jellison of Jelco. “We rarely get to work on a project where the before and look after will be so strikingly different,” added Jellison. Kelly Painting and Decorating of Victoria has already completed a complete removal of the old paint along with a fresh coating of white paint throughout the gym. Spe- cial attention was paid to the old metal rafters. The locker rooms are also undergo- ing repainting and retiling in the showers. Both the boys and girls locker rooms will now be cooled.

“The look is incredible already” said Rob Whitworth, Shiner Catholic School Principal. “I am so grateful to the folks at Shiner Beer for their generous consider- ation in this anniversary year.”

When I first approached Jimmy Mauric and Shiner Beer back in Spring 2008, I did not imagine they would be so strikingly different,” added Jellison.

“Office” (Liturgy of Hours) 

SACRED HEART TEENS HOLD ACTS RETREAT—Michelle Freirich and Scott Sommerlatte were direc- tors of the summer 2009 Teens’ ACTS retreat. The retreat was held July 9 – 12, 2009, at Cathedral Oaks Retreat Center with 42 retreatants attending. The theme of the weekend was “Lord if it is you, tell me to come to you on the water.” The weekend was filled with music, prayers, laughter and conversation. Return Mass was at Sacred Heart Church in Hallettsville with Father Michael Rother presid- ing. Special thanks to Jeff and Tara Trlicek, adult directors, and all who helped and prayed for the weekend to be a success. Michele is a senior this year at Yoakum High School and is a member of St. Joseph’s Church in Yoakum. Scott is a senior this year at Hallettville High School and is a member of St. Mary’s Church in St. Mary (Hallettsville).

Continued from p. 1

that’s what I enjoyed the most.”

Kevin, 18 years said, “You really got connected with the priests. I thought it was just going to be a fun camp, but it was more than that. We’d say the “Office” (Liturgy of Hours) every day. It helps you focus on spiritual life, grow stronger in faith.”

Twenty-year-old Stephen said the retreat was a great experience. “I really enjoyed the retreat, especially the quiet times, the nightly rosary walks, and getting to know the priests on an intimate level,” he said. “I’m going away from this knowing more about what it is to be a seminarian or priest.”

“I needed to be away from everything, just us, a bunch of holy men,” he continued.

Stephen is attending Victoria College as a biomedical science student to maybe become a pharmacist because he wants to help people, to heal them from sickness. He worked at a pharmacy for a year and has come to realize that pharmacy was a bit narrow. “As he continued to go to Mass beyond just weekends, he began to realize that he could help so many more people than just the sick, by showing them...

See Twenty-nine young men, p. 9

DIocese

By Cynthia Brewer

The offices of Vocations and Youth Ministry held the third vocation camp in the past three years for young men July 19– 22, 2009, at the Spiritual Renewal Center. From throughout the Diocese of Victoria, 29 young men attended the camp, which was facilitated by five seminarians and five priests from the diocese.

Special guests included Bishop David E. Fellhauer, who celebrated the opening Mass, and Msgr. Thomas C. McLaughlin, who celebrated the Monday evening Mass with the retreatants. The Sierra Club of Victoria and the Knights of Columbus 9088 provided dinner and fellowship on Sunday and Tuesday nights, respect- ively.

The Vocation Camp is not a high- pressured retreat to obtain seminarians. Following morning prayers (Liturgy of the Hours), Father Dan Morales led the closing Mass, and in his homily, he told the retreatants, “I did not pressure you. If God is calling you to the priesthood, we are here to help you. If God is calling you to marriage, we are here to guide you.”

He continued, “The only thing I care about is what we heard in morning prayer, Romans 12:1-2: ‘I urge you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God, your spiritual worship. Do not conform yourselves to this age but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and pleasing and perfect.”

Retreatants came from towns throughout the diocese and were between the ages of 15 and 31.

Of the camp, Jordan, 18, said, “I thought it was fantas- tic. I came with an open mind, no expectations. It was nice seeing the priests in a different light – outside of the Mass as a normal, real guy. It makes you open to the possibility, if that’s what you’re called to do.”

“I really liked it here. Even if you’re here just to discern, it can be more open; it’s very informative,” said Zach, 19 years.

“The prayers were something else; I think...
The Catholic Lighthouse
Page 12 — September 2009

FAITH & FAMILY

Catholic By Grace
By Denise E. Bossert
catholicbygrace.blogspot.com

Back To School

My husband, John, was pushing forty when he entered the Church. His Uncle Carl made a similar journey at about the same age. John, who was nearly seventy. Both the uncle and the nephew had Catholic wives, but that wasn't the reason they attended the Church. If that had been their reason, they would have done it much sooner. The real fact of the matter is that Carl and John entered the Church because they had teachable hearts, which eventually gave grace an open door. Both men are intelligent and highly educated. Without exaggeration, they are the brightest men I know.

When I asked John why he finally decided to become Catholic, this is what he said: "I realized that I was thinking about it all wrong. There I was, studying for my doctorate degree, going to class, and listening to professors, and I trusted that these men and women were able to teach me what I needed to know. I put faith in the university's ability to understand degrees on what they attend their institution. It never crossed my mind to ask myself if the instructors were qualified and whether or not I should believe they have the ability to teach. My job was to show up for class and be teachable." Then John summarized his epiphany by saying: "The Catholic Church is over 2000 years old. The men and women who passed on the faith have been at this faith thing a long time. The least I can do is trust that they are qualified to hand on the faith to me. I simply needed to show up and be teachable."

John's uncle is a man of few words. When asked why he finally became Catholic, he just said, "Don't you think it's about time?"

That kind of middleware or end-of-life change in direction requires humility. There's no room for self-satisfaction. There's no room for complacency. One must reclaim that childhood hunger for learning. But the challenge isn't just for those outside the faith. Even the faithful within the Church sometimes lose the joy of lifelong. All too often, Catholics stop studying their faith once they are confirmed. I've heard some non-practicing Catholics say they just stopped going to Mass as a family after the youngest child received First Communion or went through Confirmation. This is a tragedy. Shortly after we bought the holy spirit, they put their books on a shelf and let their faith atrophy. The parents proclaimed mission accomplished and the children said that's cool. Maybe you have kept the faith better than that. Maybe that doesn't accurately describe your situation. Great. Even if there is almost always room for growth. When was the last time you came to Mass and entered into Liturgy with deep joy and when? When was the last time you showed up at Holy Hour and quietly listened for Our Lord's voice, confident that he was glad to see you and wanted to commune with you? When did you last pause for quiet time, pick up a spiritual book, read the life of a saint, or join a Bible study? When was the last time you did any of those things with the words on your lips, "Today, I want to learn more. I will be teachable. I will become like a little child." You are never too old to become a student of the faith.

Editor's note: The Rise of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA) is a process in which a person journeys towards full communion with the Catholic Faith. It is open to the baptized and unbaptized. Please call your parish for further information.

"150 Bible Verses Every Catholic Should Know"

Sharon Taylor of Holy Cross Parish in East Bernard has won the August Family Puzzle Contest and will receive the book “The Rosary ~ A Journey to the Beloved” by Gary Jansen, published by Faith Words.

Matthew Holub, 15, of St. Rose of Lima Parish in Schulenburg, and Clarissa Posada, 8, of Parish of the Nativity in Eagle Lake, have won the August children’s contest. Because we lost last month’s contest entrants, we chose two winners this month. Each will receive an age-appropriate gift from the Incarnate Word Gift Shop.

If you have not won the puzzle contest within the past six months, please send completed puzzle and contest form to the Catholic Lighthouse, P. O. Box 4070, Victoria, TX 77903, by September 25 for a chance to win the September Family Puzzle Contest prize of “150 Bible Verses Every Catholic Should Know” by Patrick Madrid, published by Servant Books, a division of St. Anthony Messenger Press.

The September Family Puzzle Prize will be Patrick Madrid’s “150 Bible Verses Every Catholic Should Know,” published by Servant Books of St. Anthony Messenger Press. Complete the Puzzle Contest and name form and send to The Catholic Lighthouse by September 25 to have a chance to win this book. "Scripture is your guide to what matters most in life. If you’re not familiar with it, Patrick Madrid’s choice of 150 verses can ease your in. If you regularly read and pray with Scripture, these verses will provide you rich food for thought. No matter what your situation, the Bible will help you evaluate the choices and make the decisions that confront you every day. Either explicitly or implicitly, Scripture addresses all life’s problems, worries, dangers, questions and uncertainties."

150 Bible Verses Every Catholic Should Know offers you a window into Scripture revealing how God's eternal wisdom relates to your life.~ from the publisher.

Patrick Madrid is a best-selling author of more than a dozen books. A popular presenter of parish seminars on Catholic themes, he is the publisher of En Magazine and hosts the Thursday edition of EWTN’s “Open Line” radio broadcast. Patrick and his wife, Nancy, who live in central Ohio, have been blessed with eleven happy and healthy children.

Saint Paul wrote: “God’s Reign is justice, peace, and joy in the Holy Spirit.” — Romans 14:17

www.europegenerationstrusts.com

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Natural Family Planning now offers Home Study Course

The Natural Family Planning (NFP) organization, Couple to Couple League, has created its own Home Study Course so couples may learn the Sympto-Thermal Method of NFP at their own pace in the comfort of their own home. CCL has even designated personal consultant couples who may be contacted for help, advice or to answer questions regarding the program. The consultants for the Diocese of Victoria are Rene and Wilma Galvan of Palacios.

“The ART OF NATURAL FAMILY PLANNING® Student Guide” presents the Sympto-Thermal Method of NFP within the beautiful context of Pope John Paul II’s Theology of the Body. The Student Guide follows CCL’s classroom presentation, thus, it is easily used as a home course manual. Produced in full-color and with many graphics and illustrations, and with practice exercises for each new concept presented, this manual presents the Sympto-Thermal Method in logical, easy-to-understand lessons, with answers provided in the appendix for convenient self-study. Materials are available in English and Spanish.

What are the advantages of the CCL Home Study Course?

CONVENIENCE — You learn it on your own...in the comfort of your own home...at the pace that meets your schedule.

QUALITY INSTRUCTION — The easy-to-follow lessons in the Student Guide provide you a complete and thorough understanding of all aspects of the Sympto-Thermal Method, as well as introduce you to the richness of Catholic Church teaching on marital love as explained in Pope John Paul II’s renowned “Theology of the Body.” The CCL Home Study Course has been thoroughly tested by couples just like you...and it works!

QUALITY MATERIALS — The materials that comprise the CCL Home Study Course were completely revised and updated in late 2007 based on CCL’s 35+ years of experience teaching NFP...these materials are absolutely the latest and most up-to-date materials and information on the Sympto-Thermal Method available.

PERSONAL CONSULTATION — This is a unique feature of the CCL Home Study Course; it’s not just materials, but service! You will be assigned a personal consultant who is available to answer your questions and offer advice until you are confident in your NFP knowledge.

CONTINUED SUPPORT — With your one-year subscription to Family Foundations and access to Member Consultants, you will be constantly in touch with the latest NFP findings, and will have NFP support at your fingertips.

What is the cost of the CCL Home Study Course?

The CCL Home Study Course is $150.00 + $9.95 flat rate for shipping and handling, and provides you with lifelong knowledge of your fertility cycle. The only ongoing costs to practice NFP would be for new chart booklets every few years (sold at $40.00 for two booklets, a total of 32 charts), and an occasional new thermometer ($14.00). These costs are a fraction of what a couple would spend on artificial birth control over the course of their fertile years.

 Satisfaction Guaranteed: CCL is so convinced couples will be happy with the CCL Home Study Course that if, after looking over the materials, they are not satisfied that the CCL Home Study Course is a very complete and usable way to learn Natural Family Planning, they may return all materials within 30 days to receive a complete refund of the price of the course.

To order, visit their online store at http://ccl.org/shop/ or call the CCL Order Department at 1-800-745-8222.

As Couple to Couple League consultants, Rene and Wilma Galvan of Palacios may be contacted for counseling or questions at (361) 972-5030.

Houston launches biggest 40 Days for Life campaign ever

Suit up for the record-break fall campaign both locally and internationally! Houston launches biggest 40 Days for Life campaign ever in at least 212 communities, said David Bereit, 40 Days for Life.
El 10 de diciembre de 1948 la Asamblea General de las Naciones Unidas adoptó y proclamó la Declaración universal de los Derechos Humanos. Estados Unidos fue uno de los países signatarios.

El artículo 25 dice lo siguiente:

1. Toda persona tiene derecho a un nivel de vida adecuado que le asegure, así como a su familia, la salud y el bienestar, y en especial la alimentación, el vestido, la vivienda, la asistencia médica.

2. La maternidad y la infancia tienen derecho a cuidados y asistencia especiales...

Más de sesenta años después, la multitud de iniciativas generadas por las personas para mejorar el sistema público del que dependen sus vidas, en muchos casos, en los países donde su población. Y lo que es peor, algunas personas en Estados Unidos parecen no querer encontrarla.

El actual debate sobre la reforma del sistema de atención médica es un ejemplo claro. Hay muchas cosas que hacen de los Estados Unidos una gran nación. Como ciudadanas estadounidenses, sin embargo, tenemos derecho a la vivienda, la asistencia médica, la educación... Como seres humanos, tenemos derecho a la libertad de habla, a la libertad de conciencia; y d) reducir los riesgos asociados a la compra de medicamentos y vacunas.

El argumento de los derechos humanos de protección y convivencia, considero lo siguiente: los indicadores de los que participan en la atención médica es un problema principalmente en los tiempos de espera.

Plan de salud pública

Más de la mitad de los estadounidenses apoyan un plan de salud del gobierno que cumpla con las leyes de los derechos privados, mientras que los contribuyentes. Estos son los argumentos más comunes en favor y en contra del citado plan:

- Un plan de salud público...
- Sería una alternativa favorable a los aseguradores de salud
- Mandaría a los costos del seguro médico
- Ayudaría a los pacientes
- Reduciría la libertad de los pacientes a escoger a los médicos que se les cobren impuestos.

CCL Lanza Nueva Instrucción en línea para Parejas españolas de Enseñanza de NFP

Cincinnati, OH — La pareja para Esoaparaje la Liga (CCL) ha abierto su nuevo, en línea programa español de la formación del profesorado el 22 de julio de 2009, un movimiento que continúa el desarrollo de programas de instrucción de la planificación familiar (NFP) comenzado hace varios años. El lanzamiento de este programa de entrenamiento fue el 16 de septiembre de 2009. Así se asegura que un poco de competencia saludable puede animar a las compañías de seguros privados a mejorar los tiempos de espera y el servicio.

La Iglesia Católica cree que la atención médica, como la educación, es un derecho humano fundamental. Por eso, los obispos estadounidenses afirman que la reforma del sistema sanitario necesita: a) incluir la asistencia médica para todos los ciudadanos, desde su concepción a la muerte natural; b) proporcionar acceso universal, con especial atención a los pobres, e incluir a los residentes legales; c) estar dirigida al bien común y conservar el pluralismo, incluyendo la libertad de conciencia; y d) reducir los riesgos asociados a la compra de medicamentos y vacunas.

El argumento de los valores humanos de protección y convivencia, considero lo siguiente: los indicadores de los que participan en la atención médica es un problema principalmente en los tiempos de espera.

Para el 2009, un movimiento que continúa el desarrollo de programas de instrucción de la planificación familiar (NFP) comenzado hace varios años. El lanzamiento de este programa de entrenamiento fue el 16 de septiembre de 2009. Así se asegura que un poco de competencia saludable puede animar a las compañías de seguros privados a mejorar los tiempos de espera y el servicio. La Iglesia Católica cree que la atención médica, como la educación, es un derecho humano fundamental. Por eso, los obispos estadounidenses afirman que la reforma del sistema sanitario necesita: a) incluir la asistencia médica para todos los ciudadanos, desde su concepción a la muerte natural; b) proporcionar acceso universal, con especial atención a los pobres, e incluir a los residentes legales; c) estar dirigida al bien común y conservar el pluralismo, incluyendo la libertad de conciencia; y d) reducir los riesgos asociados a la compra de medicamentos y vacunas.

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Vatican. The group meets on the second Tuesday of each month at St. Mary’s Church and features a visit from Padre Pio’s close friend Padre Ermilindo. The site, www.usccb.org/romanmissal, has background material on the process of development of liturgical texts, sample prayers, and answers to frequently asked questions.

Vote on gay clergy may cause rift in Lutheran denomination
WASHINGTON (CNS) — A vote to permit the ordination of homosexual men and women as priests, deacons and bishops, was defeated at the 2009 Lutheran Church in America biennial church assembly Aug. 24-26 in Nashville, Tenn.

The 559-451 vote Aug. 24 to defeat the proposal, coming from the church’s ordination and marriage committee,水面 added, “It’s not negative. They just have no opinion.” Of the survey’s 1,007 Catholic respondents, those who favor having the traditional Mass offered more widely outnumbered those who opposed the increased availability of the Tridentine rite by more than a 2-to-1 ratio, or 25 percent to 12 percent.

Vatican economist says Christians must put ethics back into business

The current global economic crisis shows that capitalism without ethical grounding doesn’t work, and Christians should keep this in mind whether they are business people, policymakers or simply consumers, a top Vatican economist said. Thomas Han Hong-soon of the Vatican Prefecture for Economic Affairs said that “the root of this crisis is a moral deficit” and that when it comes to business ethics, Christians have not always followed the principles of charity and justice found in the Gospel. “Let’s start by honestly recognizing that the spirit of capitalism doesn’t agree with that of the Gospel. The heart of Christianity is love for others. The nucleus of capitalism, rather, is competition, which is the opposite of love,” Han told the Vatican newspaper L’Osservatore Romano Aug. 22.

A radical overhaul of the capitalist system is very realistic, he said, considering that alternatives, such as communism, have not worked out historically. But better rules for governing the free market are needed, he said. “It’s clear that as Christians we can’t only pursue the notion of the highest profit at the lowest possible cost,” he said.

Majority of Catholics have no opinion on Tridentine Mass availability
WASHINGTON (CNS) — Nearly two-thirds of U.S. Catholics surveyed said they have no opinion on the increased availability of the Tridentine Mass since Pope Benedict XVI made it easier for parishes to offer the traditional liturgy two years ago. Overall, 63 percent of Catholics held a neutral opinion about the availability of the Tridentine Mass, according to findings released Aug. 24 by the Center for Applied Research in the Apostolate, a research center based at Georgetown University in Washington.

Padre Ermilindo to visit Victoria’s Padre Pio Prayer Group
The Padre Pio Prayer Group will receive a visit from Padre Pio’s close friend and religious companion, Padre Ermilindo Di Capua, for the second time in two years. He is a priest from San Giovanni Rotondo, Italy, where Padre Pio, now St. Pio, ministered and is buried. Padre Ermilindo spent the last three years of Padre Pio’s life with him.

Padre Ermilindo will celebrate the Eucharist at St. Mary’s Parish in Victoria Sunday, September 13, at 1 p.m. The Victoria Padre Pio Prayer Group invites all in the diocese to St. Mary’s Parish Church Sunday afternoon to meet Padre Ermilindo and receive his message and special blessings. It is assumed that he will bless participants with Padre Pio’s relics. Padre Ermilindo will officiate at other Masses in Victoria during his visit, including Our Lady of Sorrows Fri., Sept. 11, at 7:00 p.m., and Our Lady of Victory Saturday, Sept. 12 at 5:30 p.m.

The Padre Pio Prayer Group of Victoria is the only Padre Pio Prayer Group in Texas that is officially sanctioned by the Vatican. The group meets on the second Sunday of each month at St. Mary’s Church and begins promptly at 7:00 a.m. at the chapel.

Padre Pio’s intentions for September 2009

General: That the word of God may be better known, welcomed and lived as the source of freedom and joy.

Mission: That Christians in Laos, Cambodia, and Myanmar, who often meet with great difficulties, may not be discouraged from announcing the Gospel to their brothers, trusting in the strength of the Holy Spirit.

By Catholic News Service
CHILDREN PLAY IN FENCED-IN AREA AT DETENTION CENTER IN TEXAS—Children play in a double-fenced playground area outside the T. Don Hutto Family Residential Facility in Taylor, Texas, in late June. The former medium-security prison converted for family detention in 2006 has been the subject of harsh criticism from attorneys, immigrant advocates and civil rights organizations. (CNS photo/Brahm M. Sobhan)

Immigrant family detention center has faced criticism since it opened

By Patricia Zapor

TAYLOR, Texas (CNS) — The T. Don Hutto Family Residential Facility came into existence in the small Texas town of Taylor in the 1990s as a privately owned, medium-security detention center under contract to various agencies such as the U.S. Marshals Service.

In 2006, Hutto was converted for use by immigrant families, with space for up to 512 people in bunk beds, with cells shared by parents and their minor children.

It quickly became the subject of a scathing report by the Women’s Refugee Commission and Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service largely focused on conditions they said were inappropriate for children. A lawsuit followed soon after, leading to the release of families who were at Hutto at the time, and a court-supervised settlement agreement to improve the overall situation.

It proved to be far from the end of the criticisms of Hutto, as community, civil rights and religious groups kept up pressure for an end to family detention there.

On Aug. 6, the groups got their wish.

CHILDREN PLAY IN FENCED-IN AREA AT DETENTION CENTER IN TEXAS—Children play in a double-fenced playground area outside the T. Don Hutto Family Residential Facility in Taylor, Texas, in late June. The former medium-security prison converted for family detention in 2006 has been the subject of harsh criticism from attorneys, immigrant advocates and civil rights organizations. (CNS photo/Brahm M. Sobhan)

He said he believes most of the families being held at Hutto are working on getting documentation together that might help them remain legally in the United States. He said most seemed to be there for a few months.

Msgr. Pavlicek said, for the most part, families in Hutto seem generally resigned to their circumstances, with young children happier than teens, who better understand the situation. And it beat the practice of separately detaining parents and their children that existed before Hutto and Pennsylvania family detention center opened, he said.

He said arrangements would begin immediately to move families currently detained at Hutto — either to home monitoring or to a less prison-like family detention center operated by Berks County, Pa., in an 80-bed former nursing home.

Many changes in operations at Hutto followed the 2007 settlement of the lawsuit; they included the removal of the barred wire atop its multiple layers of fencing; an end to mandatory uniforms for all adults and children; a loosening of controls over when detainees were required to be in their rooms; the construction of shade tents over playground equipment; the addition of curtains around the previously unscreened toilets in each cell; and the expansion of the children’s school day from one hour to five.

Msgr. Louis Pavlicek, pastor of St. Helen Parish in nearby Georgetown, is one of several Catholic priests who have provided pastoral care inside Hutto. He told Catholic News Service he’s seen significant improvement at Hutto, from more respect- ful and friendly staff to some relaxation of the strict schedule everyone was expected to follow.

Over all, I think it’s better than splitting up families,” he said.

Even with those changes, critics of Hutto didn’t let up, saying children simply should not be detained.

At a June 20 rally outside the deten- tion center, participants from across Texas called for Hutto to be closed and its detain- ees released to more normal family living conditions.

“Schools not jails,” “Free the Children,” “Immigration is not a crime,” and “Shut down T. Don Hutto” read signs and T-shirts among the 100 or so people braving 100-degree mid-afternoon sun. For a while during the hours-long rally, detained children could be seen from a distance, playing soccer on a playground behind multiple layers of fencing.

Hutto security officers monitored the rally closely, filming the proceedings and participants and admonishing anyone who strayed onto the Corrections Corporation property in search of shade under a row of saplings.

David Atwood of Pax Christi Texas, a Catholic peace and justice organization, told CNS at the rally that “incarcerating children who have done nothing wrong shows how far our nation has fallen in recent years in terms of respecting basic human rights.”

He said Atwood’s report on how Hutto was meeting the lawsuit settlement agreement, its court-appointed monitor took the Cor- rections Corporation and ICE to task for continued shortcomings and flawed think- ing about keeping children in a former medium security prison.

U.S. Magistrate Andrew W. Austin noted many improvements at Hutto, includ- ing the addition of counseling services and regular field trips for the children.

However, Austin’s report also included comments such as: “It seems fundamen- tally wrong to house children and their non-criminal parents this way. We can do better.”

An Amnesty International report, re- leased July 27 and titled “Jailed Without Justice: Immigration Detention in the USA,” said the average cost of immigrant detention is $95 per person per day. Alternatives such as monitoring by electronic ankle bracelets or phone reporting cost as little as $12 a day. It said 91 percent of people monitored by those means report for their immigration court proceedings.


NEW YORK (CNS) — The hour-long documentary “Interrupted Lives: Catholic Sisters Under European Communism” premiered Aug. 31 at a documentary film festival in the Dove Project Calendar.

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Ted Kennedy, longtime senator, dies at 77

By Nancy Fraser O'Brien
WASHINGTON (CNS) — Sen. Edward M. Kennedy, who died late Aug. 25, at the age of 77, stood firmly on the side of the Catholic Church on a wide range of issues from immigration reform to the minimum wage during his 47 years as a U.S. senator from Massachusetts.

But the youngest son of one of the nation’s most famous Catholic families ran into criticism from leaders of the U.S. Catholic Church for his stand on abortion. He opposed the Partial-Birth Abortion Ban Act, supported Roe v. Wade and was a strong supporter of legislation to help women outside abortion clinics and to permit the use of federal funds for research projects using fetal tissue.

Kennedy died at 11:30 p.m. at his Massachusetts home on Cape Cod after a yearlong battle with a malignant brain tumor. His family was at his side, as was a Catholic priest, Father Patrick Tarrant.

The senator took the helm of one of the most prominent American Catholic political families of the 20th century after his two older brothers, President John F. Kennedy and Sen. Robert Kennedy, were assassinated in the 1960s.

His death came exactly two weeks after the death of his sister Eunice Kennedy Shriver, 88. The only surviving sibling is Jean Kennedy Smith, 81.

Kennedy had served in the U.S. Senate since he was first elected in 1962 to fill his brother John’s unexpired term after he became president.

As the second-most senior member of the Senate, Kennedy joined with Sen. John McCain, R-Ariz., in a bipartisan effort for immigration reform, which the Catholic Church backed but which was ultimately unsuccessful. In earlier years, he championed a national health insurance plan that church leaders supported, except for its inclusion of abortion as a covered health service.

He also served as a co-sponsor and/or co-author of the Americans with Disabilities Act, the Family and Medical Leave Act, the State Children’s Health Insurance Program, and legislation raising the minimum wage from $5.15 to $7.25 per hour.

He was a vocal opponent of both the Vietnam War and the war in Iraq and a strong supporter of the civil rights movement, increased federal funding of public schools and early education programs such as Head Start, universal health coverage, the rights of workers to organize and to earn a living wage, and immigration reform that would lead toward citizenship.

On most of those issues Kennedy’s stance was on the same side as Catholic leaders, but on abortion they diverged sharply.

He did not begin his Senate career as an abortion supporter, however, according to a 1971 letter that surfaced many years later.

“While the deep concern of a woman bearing a child over the possibility of abortion is certainly real, I believe that the right to grow old,” he added. “When history looks back at this era it should recognize this generation as one which cared about human beings enough to halt the practice of war, to provide decent living for every family, and to fulfill its responsibility to its children from the very moment of conception.”

In recent years, however, Kennedy earned a nearly 100 percent negative rating from the National Right to Life Committee, according to his voting record.

“Wanted or unwanted, I believe that human life, even at its earliest stages, has certain rights which must be recognized — the right to be born, the right to love, the right to grow old,” he added. “When history looks back at this era it should recognize this generation as one which cared about human beings enough to halt the practice of war, to provide decent living for every family, and to fulfill its responsibility to its children from the very moment of conception.”

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The Catholic Lighthouse

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SOCIAL ISSUES

HOLOCOST

Holocaust Museum Houston, 5401 Caroline St., Houston

Houston Museum District Day — Sept. 12

Compassion of Catholics and Muslims to Jews explored in all-day event

HOUSTON — In these tumultuous times of strife, uncertainty, and conflict between religions, adults and children can learn through speakers and free arts and crafts activities about the compassion and commonality between Muslims, Christians and Jews at Holocaust Museum Houston as part of this year’s annual Houston Museum District Day.

All activities will take place Saturday, Sept. 12, 2009, from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. at the Museum’s Morgan Family Center, 5401 Caroline St., in Houston’s Museum District. Admission and all of the day’s activities are free.

Adults and children are invited to explore the personal stories of heroes or “upstanders,” individuals who did not stand by and watch atrocities happen to their fellow man, but who fought oppression in a multitude of situations. These stories will include the history of Pope John Paul II and of Albanian Muslims, both of which are subjects of the featured exhibits at the Museum because of their bravery in dealing with people of differing faiths. Children looking to express their creativity will find an opportunity with an activity based around the child Holocaust victims of Theresienstadt. One drawing, “Little Town in the Palm of Your Hand,” is of a young girl’s hand. To keep her spirits up and remind her of what was important to her in the palm of a young girl’s hand. To keep her spirits up and remind her of what was important to her, she drew pictures of all of the places that were important to her in the palm of her paper hand. Children will be able to do the same in workshops throughout the day on paper hand fans.

Also that Saturday, two Houston area survivors, Ruth Steinfield and Chaja Verveer, who endured the Nazi oppression and received aid from Catholic dissenters will speak about their experiences. Steinfield will address morning crowds at 11 a.m., and Verveer will speak to afternoon visitors at 2:00 p.m.

Also on view will be the museum’s 1942 World War II rail car of the type used to carry millions of Jews to their deaths and a 1942 Danish fishing boat that tells the heroic story of how more than 2,700 Jews were rescued from almost certain execution.

Holocaust Museum Houston is free and open to the public and is located in Houston’s Museum District at 5401 Caroline St., Houston, TX 77004. For more information about the museum, call (713) 942-8000 or visit http://www.hmh.org.

HOUSTON, TX — Each month this fall, Holocaust Museum Houston will sponsor an exclusive and intimate guided tour through buildings used for religious worship by three of the world’s major religions: Judaism, Catholicism and Islam.

Congregation Beth Yeshurn, the Co-Cathedral of the Sacred Heart (Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston) and the Islamic Da’wa Center are opening their doors to members of the museum and the public in the tour series “Building Faith: Church, Mosque, Synagogue: Visiting Houses of Worship.” Each tour will give a brief description of the religion before moving onto the focus of the series: how the building is used for religious services for each community and the intricacies of how worship is conducted.

The tour series is in conjunction with the museum’s current exhibits on display that highlight the possible compassion between the three monotheistic religions, “A Blessing to One Another: Pope John Paul II and the Jewish People” and “Besa: Muslims Who Saved Jews During the Holocaust.” Following the tours, the museum will invite members to come and tour these two changing exhibits on Thursday, Dec. 3, beginning at 5 p.m. A panel discussion will follow at 7 p.m. in the Albert and Ethel Herzstein Theater featuring a religious leader from each religion discussed during the tours.

The first tour will be on Sept. 9, 2009, from 10 a.m. to noon at Congregation Beth Yeshurn, 4525 Beechnut, Houston, 77096. On Oct. 19, 2009, from 4:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m., the tour will be held at Co-Cathedral of the Sacred Heart, 1111 St. Joseph Pkwy., Houston, 77002. The final religious building tour will be on Nov. 13 from 10 a.m. to noon at the Islamic Da’wa Center, 202 Main, Houston, 77002.

Registration is required for each tour, and space is limited. To register, visit www.hmh.org/register.asp. Members who wish to attend should plan on arriving at 15 minutes before the scheduled tour time. Transportation is not provided, and all tours begin at the building site. For more information, call (713) 942-8000, ext. 104 or e-mail membership@hmh.org.

Holocaust Museum Houston is dedicated to educating people about the Holocaust, remembering the 6 million Jews and other innocent victims and honoring the survivors’ legacy. Using the lessons of the Holocaust and other genocides, the museum teaches the dangers of hatred, prejudice and apathy. Holocaust Museum Houston is free and open to the public and is located in Houston’s Museum District at 5401 Caroline St., Houston, TX 77004.

For more information about the museum, call (713) 942-8000 or visit www.hmh.org.

Jewish, Catholic, Muslim Houses of Worship Offer Free Tours

Leading advocate for Pope John Paul II’s sainthood to speak in Houston

HOUSTON — The Catholic priest leading efforts to canonize the late Pope John Paul II will discuss his efforts and the legacy of the pope in a special public address at Holocaust Museum Houston on Thursday, Sept. 10, 2009.

Monsignor Stanislaw Oder, who is based in Rome, will conduct an English-language presentation of “Pope John Paul II: Builder of Bridges,” to be followed by a question-and-answer period open to the audience.

The Polish-born Oder will answer questions in either his native tongue or adopt ed language of Italian, but a translator will be present to facilitate the discussion with English-speaking audience members.

Oder was appointed postulator in the Cause of Beatification and Canonization of the Servant of God John Paul II shortly after the former pope’s death in 2005.

The presentation coincides with the opening of Holocaust Museum Houston’s newest exhibit, “A Blessing to One Another: Pope John Paul II and the Jewish People.”

The lecture begins at 7:30 p.m. in the Albert and Ethel Herzstein Theater at Holocaust Museum Houston’s Morgan Family Center, 5401 Caroline St., in Houston’s Museum District. Admission is free. Seating is limited, and advance registration is required. Visit www.hmh.org/register.asp or call (713) 942-8000 to RSVP online.

Lighthouse to host field trip to Pope John Paul II Exhibit, Houston

The Catholic Lighthouse will host a field trip to the Holocaust Museum Houston Saturday, October 17, to view “A Blessing to One Another: Pope John Paul II and the Jewish People” exhibit. Also included in the tour will be “Besa: Muslims Who Saved Jews During the Holocaust” and the permanent exhibit, “Hearing Witness: A Community Remembers.”

Transportation to Houston will be via air-conditioned St. Joseph school bus, which allows for 50 passengers. Cost: $20 with a boxed Jason’s Deli lunch or $13 with no lunch (pack your own). Trip will last from 9:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. with stops at Prasek’s going north and Mikeska’s returning. Picnic lunch will be held at Hermann Park prior to our 1:00 p.m. tour at museum. Tour not recommended for children under 12 years. No admittance charge to museum; however, donations accepted.

To register, please call The Catholic Lighthouse at (361) 573-0828 ext. 31 or 30. Medical Release forms may be downloaded at www.victoriadiocese.org/lighthouse/lighthouse.html.

First come, first serve basis. Only 50 spaces available!
Holy Family Bazaar Oct. 18 with a barbecue-beef dinner from 11:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. at $7 per person. There will be hamburgers, chicken, moonwalk, bingo, duck calling and more for everyone to enjoy. The auction begins at 12:30 p.m. Look for signs on Hwy. 35.  

Victoria—St. Mary's Church will have a BBQ Cookout on Oct. 11 at the church (10- West Glidden/Exit) as a benefit for Zackariah Zetsche, Reference: Account #05056799. For more information, call Charlene Bradbury (361) 897-1155 or Richard Zahn (979) 282-2451.

Cursillos—The Cursillo in Christianity of the Archdiocese of San Antonio (CCAS) and religiously and lively invite you to their upcoming events.

Men's English Cursillo in Christianity of the Archdiocese of San Antonio—Inmaculate Heart of Mary in San Antonio—begins on Tuesday, Nov. 3 at 7:00 p.m. and ends Friday, Nov. 6 at 7:00 p.m. Sunday with a closing ceremony.

Women's English Cursillo: Oct. 14 at Inmaculate Heart of Mary in San Antonio—begins on Thursday, Nov. 5 at 7:00 p.m. and ends Sunday, Nov. 8 at 7:00 p.m. with a closing ceremony.

Additionally, both for Cursillo on Saturday, Sept. 26 at 9:00 a.m. on Jordan and Red River in historic Victoria, Texas. Please visit the Web site at www.cursillos.org for more information.

You Are Invited to Join Us for this Annual Diocesan Conference

The Rev. Stanley De Boe, O.S.S.T. will use this year’s Catechetical Sunday theme “Catechesis and the Proclamation of the Word” for his keynote presentation. De Boe states, “Christians are called to service in the world as one way of proclaiming the ‘Good News’ and making Christ’s actions visible in the community.”

The day will be filled with informative and dynamic workshops by Catholic clergy, theologians, liturgists, musicians, and catechists, who, in addition to being knowledgeable in their perspective fields, are passionate and committed to their ministry.

Conference participants will have the opportunity to visit with representatives from some of the top Catholic publishers and browse merchandise from several vendors. The Knights of Columbus from Holy Family will be selling food and drinks for breakfast and lunch. Bishop David E. Fellhauer will celebrate the closing Liturgy.

• 42 Workshops - Something for Everyone •

Receive the best rates when you register before Friday, September 18!

Save by registering in groups from the same parish!

Call the catechetical office at (361) 573-0828, e-mail Chris Alvarez caulvez@victoriadiocese.org, or visit www.victoriadiocese.org for more registration information.

Registrations after Friday, September 18, still accepted.

Doors open at 7:30 a.m., Saturday, September 26!