



Inside ...

8 Optimism opens the 2022-23 school year

12 Sister Rosario takes final vows.

# The Catholic Lighthouse

The Cradle of Texas Immigration



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September 2022

## Vietnamese Catholics celebrate new parish



Girls and women in the Vietnamese community honor the Blessed Virgin Mary with song and dance to celebrate the establishment of their new parish named for her under the title of Our Lady of Lavang. (Janet Jones/The Catholic Lighthouse)

### JANET JONES

*The Catholic Lighthouse*

PALACIOS – The Our Lady of Lavang (or La Vang) Quasi-Parish was established on the Feast of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary at the Assumption Chapel built by the Vietnamese Apostolate here.

Before the Mass on Aug.

14, Bishop Brendan Cahill read the decree that created the parish, which was also read in Vietnamese, and women and girls of the Vietnamese community in traditional dress and holding floral wreaths and baskets danced at the foot of the statue of the Blessed Virgin Mary.

During Mass, the bishop

installed the Rev. Dominic Nguyen as the first pastor of Our Lady of Lavang. He already has served the community as the pastor for St. Anthony's in Palacios which has been the mother church to Assumption Chapel. Father Eliecer Patino, parochial vicar under Father Dominic, has been named the parish administrator of

St. Anthony.

"We have prayed for this for so long," Father Nguyen said. "We are blessed."

He said the quasi-parish has a membership of 120 families who have wanted to be an independent parish for a long time "in order to keep our traditions and our customs." The quasi-parish was a response to their petition.

According to canon law, the diocesan bishop "is to show himself concerned for all the Christian faithful entrusted to his care of whatever age, condition or nationality they are." (canon 383 §1)

"The desire to become independent is a good, healthy desire," said Bish-

*See Vietnamese, pg. 24*

## Younger Catholics asking for fellowship

*EDITOR'S NOTE: This is the second in a four-part series to look more deeply into the some of the themes that came out of the Diocese of Victoria's participation in the Synod on Synodality. This story looks at how the diocese is trying to keep young people engaged. In October we will discuss elderly, widowed and home-bound ministry.*

### JANET JONES

*The Catholic Lighthouse*

How do we keep our young people from leaving the Church? In the diocesan phase of the synod, some suggested more contemporary music and liturgical styles are needed. On the other hand, it seems many young people are veiling and finding themselves inspired by older traditions.

So what's the answer?

The need to keep the Catholic youth connected to the Church was one of the main themes or concerns identified in the Diocese of Victoria through synod listening sessions and surveys.

According to the Region

*See Younger ... , pg. 21*





# Ministry of Good Shepherd recalled as school begins

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

As part of the research for my doctoral thesis, I read all the talks that St. John XXIII gave in the summer and early fall of 1962, in final preparation for the start of the Second Vatican Council. I've been thinking of those speeches lately. It's exactly 60 years since he gave those talks.

One of my thoughts is that these speeches present the spiritual vision that led to the solemn gathering of the Council.

This spiritual vision continues to guide the mission of the Church throughout the world – the ministry of the Good Shepherd.

## A Shepherd's Message

By Bishop Brendan Cahill



In one of his talks, he encouraged seminarians who were returning to school. Sixty years later, our seminarians are returning to school, and the words of the saintly farmer pope continue to inspire.

I wrote about that talk:

“In an address to Seminarians on the anniversary of his ordination to the priesthood, August 10, he called them to always see in their priestly ministry the continued work of the Good Shepherd who gave his life for his sheep. He declared: «Jesus continues his ministry through means of his priests, always in an act of directing the sheep, of searching them out, of bringing them back to the flock on his shoulders. It is to this goal that I want to call the Council, the highest and most worthy goal for all, the same for the bishop of Rome as for the humble and simple, but oh how precious!, country priest.» \*

This quote comes from the fourth chapter of my thesis: *The Renewal of Revelation Theology (1960-1962)*, Editrice Pontificia Università Gregoriana, Roma, 1999.

As we are starting our school year across

the diocese of Victoria, we all share that same mission – to bring people to Jesus!

May the Lord bless you and your families with the peace and joy of the Holy Spirit, and may we be strong in bringing people to know and love Jesus.

Let's keep each other in prayer.

+Brendan

\* AAS 54 (1962) 58. See also AD II/1, 329. John XXIII encouraged the Seminarians: «Ah! figliuoli. Il vostro avvenire vuol essere soprattutto realtà di ministero sacro. Siate voi destinati ad esercitarlo direttamente nelle parrocchie, oppure nei molteplici servizi che, per altro, nella loro ultima finalità tendono egualmente a coadiuvare e sorreggere il ministero pastorale, è là che si incentra e si ingemma il vostro servizio: per le singole anime, per le famiglie, per le popolazioni. È là, e non altrove: è là nella sua perfezione anche di sacrificio estremo. Pastor bonus animam suam dat pro ovibus suis (Io, 10,11).[...]

Lo ripetiamo. Là è il sacerdozio. Ed è nell'esercizio sacro e più elevato di questa eminente funzione pastorale che il sacerdote esprime la vera grandezza sua. Gesù benedetto continua il suo ministero per mezzo dei sacerdoti suoi: sempre in atto di dirigere le pecorelle, di ricercarle, di ricondurle all'ovile sulle sue spalle. È a questa meta che vuol richiamare il Concilio, la meta più alta e più onorifica per tutti, così del Vescovo di Roma, come dell'umile e semplice, ma oh! quanto caro curato di campagna».



### ***BARBECUE TURKEY and DRESSING DINNER***



**St. Peter's Catholic Church  
Parish Center – Blessing, Texas**

**Sunday, October 30, 2022**

**Mass at 9:00 A.M.**

**Dine-In or Drive-Thru -- 11:00 a.m.**

**\$15.00 per plate**

**MUSIC BY “THE RUSTY STEINS”**

**(Music Before the Live Auction)**

**Live Auction -- 12:00 Noon**

**Country Store – Raffle**

***Meal Includes:***

**Barbecue Turkey, Homemade Dressing, Green Beans,  
Sweet Potatoes, Cranberry Sauce, Dessert, with Tea/Coffee**



### Fishing with the bishop

Fisherwomen, from left, Sheila Vesely, Rhonda Volkmer, Alicia Lesak and Debbie Michalski went fishing recently with Bishop Brendan Cahill, far right. Bruce Poncik, far left, was their guide. The ladies bought the trip during the 2021 NA Fishing Tournament, but didn't get to go until a couple of weeks ago. The sign refers to Deborah Machicek, who also was supposed to be fishing with them, but was unable to go because of illness. (Contributed Photo)



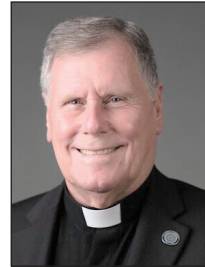


## Bishop Cahill's Schedule

### September

- |              |  |              |  |
|--------------|--|--------------|--|
| <b>5</b>     | Labor Day – Chancery office closed   |              | • 9:30 a.m. Legion of Mary Praesidium meeting; Cathedral Center  |
| <b>6</b>     | 9:30 a.m. Legion of Mary Praesidium meeting; Cathedral Center  |              | • 12:15 p.m. Mass for Victoria College students and staff at Student Center; Victoria  |
| <b>7</b>     | Presbyteral Council meeting; chancery  |              | • 6 p.m. Adult Confirmation Mass at the Cathedral of Our Lady of Victory; Victoria   |
| <b>10</b>    | • 10 a.m. Mass at St. John Nepomucene Church for Father Gabriel Oduro Tawiah's 25th Ordination Anniversary; New Taiton | <b>21</b>    | • 2:30 p.m. Finance Board; chancery  |
|              | • 6 p.m. Confirmation Mass for Sts. Peter and Paul; Frelsburg  | <b>23</b>    | • 4 p.m. Building Board; chancery  |
| <b>11</b>    | • 9:30 a.m. Confirmation Mass for Sacred Heart Church; Flatonia  | <b>24</b>    | 6 p.m. Blessing of rectory at St. Robert Church; El Campo  |
|              | • 3:30 p.m. Houston Senatus meeting for Legion of Mary; Houston  |              | • 8 a.m. Mass for Diocese of Victoria's First Hispanic Catholic Conference at the Cathedral of Our Lady of Victory; Victoria |
| <b>12</b>    | • 12:30 p.m. Mass for students and staff at UHV; Victoria  | <b>25</b>    | • 5 p.m. Mass of Installation for Father Jasper Liggio at St. Rose of Lima Church; Schulenburg                               |
|              | • 2:30 p.m. Communities of Faith meeting   | <b>25-28</b> | 9 a.m. Mass at the Cathedral of Our Lady of Victory, Victoria  |
|              | • 6 p.m. School Advisory Council workshop; Victoria  | <b>29</b>    | Fall priest convocation; Lost Pines  |
| <b>13</b>    | • 9:30 a.m. Legion of Mary Praesidium meeting; Cathedral Center  |              | • 3:30 p.m. University of St. Thomas Board Meeting; virtual  |
|              | • 6 p.m. Vocation Ministry Gala; Houston   |              | • 5:30 p.m. Blue Mass for police officers and first responders at the Cathedral of Our Lady of Victory; Victoria             |
| <b>15-16</b> | Texas Catholic Conference of Bishops Meeting and General Assembly; Houston   | <b>1</b>     | <b>October</b>   |
| <b>17-18</b> | Annual Meeting of the Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre; Houston  | <b>2</b>     | 11 a.m. Mass at Grief Weekend Retreat at Spiritual Renewal Center; Victoria  |
| <b>19</b>    | 4:30 p.m. Meal with Incarnate Word Healthcare Sisters at IWBS Convent  |              | • 9 a.m. Confirmation Mass for St. Joseph Church; Inez   |
| <b>20</b>    | • 6:30 a.m. Morning Air radio interview  | <b>4</b>     | • 6 p.m. Opening of Rosary Congress at the Cathedral of Our Lady of Victory; Victoria  |
|              |  |              | 9:30 a.m. Legion of Mary Praesidium meeting; Cathedral Center  |

## Official Announcements



Rev. Jasper Liggio

Bishop Brendan Cahill has appointed Reverend Jasper Liggio to be pastor of St. Rose of Lima Parish in Schulenburg, along with its accompanying missions of St. John the Baptist in Ammannsville, St. Mary's in High Hill and St. Wenceslaus in Holman.

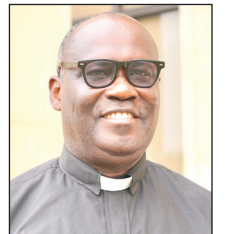
Father Liggio has been a Spiritual Director at St. Mary's Seminary in Houston this past year, and has previously served as pastor of St. Michael and Our Lady of Guadalupe Parishes in Cuero.

Reverend Isaac Maunger and Reverend Chase Goodman will continue to serve as parochial vicars under the direction of Father Liggio.

The appointment is effective on Sept. 10, 2022.

## Welcome Father Peter Nimo

VICTORIA — The Diocese of Victoria welcomes the Reverend Peter Nimo, who will serve as the Victoria Deanery hospital chaplain for the Diocese of Victoria. Father Nimo arrived a few weeks ago from Ghana. He is residing at Our Lady of Sorrows Catholic Church in Victoria. His email is pnimo@victoriadiocese.org.



Rev. Peter Nimo

## In Memoriam

### Rev. Donald Ruppert passes away

YOAKUM — The Rev. Donald Ruppert, passed into eternal life, Tuesday, Aug. 23, 2022, at the age of 75. He was born June 1, 1947, in Yoakum to Herbert and Annie (Friedel) Ruppert.

He graduated from St. Joseph High School in 1965 and attended Baldwin Business College where he studied business and accounting. He worked the next five years for Tex Tan Leather Co. as credit manager and assistant comptroller. During this time he was actively involved in the parish activities at St. Joseph Catholic Church, coordinating the religious education program, was the first Extraordinary Minister of the Eucharist appointed in a parish following Vatican Council II and was active in the Legion of Mary. He served as secretary-treasurer for Yoakum Rotary Club.

In 1973, he left his position with Tex Tan and began studies for the priesthood in the Archdiocese of San Antonio. He attended St. Mary's University and Oblate School of Theology in San Antonio and was ordained to the priesthood in St. Joseph Church in Yoakum on Jan. 20, 1978. He served in parishes of St. Ann and St. Luke in San Antonio. In April 1980, he was appointed Parochial Vicar of Our Lady of Victory Church in Victoria. When the new Diocese of Victoria was established in 1982, Bishop Charles Grahmann asked Father Ruppert to serve as his priest-secretary and finance officer of the Diocese. In November of 1984, he was appointed pastor of Holy Family Church in Victoria where he served until 1996; he was then appointed pastor at

Holy Cross parish in East Bernard where he served until he retired to Yoakum in 2019.

He was a member of Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre, 4th Degree Knights of Columbus, Court Chaplain and 1st State Clergy Consultant for Texas of Catholic Daughters of the Americas, Chaplain of Boy Scouts, served on staff of the Victoria Diocesan Youth Dept., served as a team member of Engaged Encounter for 12 years and received Rotary International Paul Harris Fellow Award with his faithful membership since 1968. Father

Don loved serving God, his parish family and all he encountered through his calling. He was a loving uncle to his nieces and nephews that shared his life.

Survivors are nieces, Kim Whitley of Edna, Monica Lee (Mark) of Crosby, Dede Mooney (Tim) of Edna and Valerie Novian (Jerry) of Edna, nephew, Jeff Ruppert (Lindsay) of Yoakum and sister-in-law, Tina Otto of Edna. His extended family includes 16 great nephews and nieces and 22 great-great nephews and nieces.

Preceded in death by his parents and brother, Wilfred Ruppert.

Funeral Mass was held Saturday, Aug. 27, at St. Joseph Church in Yoakum where his baptism, First Communion, confirmation, Catholic school education and priestly ordination occurred. The Rite of Committal followed at St. Joseph Catholic Cemetery.

Memorials may be given to donor's choice.



Rev. Donald Ruppert



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Education of Seminarian Fund

The Education of Seminarian Fund is a fund in which **all of the monies** donated to this fund, as well as the earnings, are available to cover the cost of educating seminarians. The proceeds of the special collection on Holy Thursday are deposited into the Education of Seminarian Fund. Publication of this fund will appear when new contributions are received.

**Donation categories: Lector – \$.01 - \$99.99; Acolyte – \$100 - \$499.99; Candidate – \$500 - \$1,499.99; Transitional Deacon – \$1,500 - \$2,499.99; Priest – \$2,500 >.**

Lector

Paz Morales  
*In memory of Father Dan Morales*

M/M Robert Davis  
Monroe & Margaret Rieger  
The Alan Culberson Family  
Vi Hajek

Marvin & Rosemary Mikush  
Hal Redmon

Albert & Margaret Janak  
Chris Hessler

Marvin Mikush Jr & Family  
Dan & Barbara Respondek  
Gene & Mary Jeansonne

Rose Drost  
Robert Goebel

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Murlene Enke

*In memory of Bernice Krueger*

Acolyte

Baker – Thomas Wearden Family  
P.L. Brown  
Mark Zafereo  
Josie & Manuel Gonzales, III

Gladys Vrazel  
Robert & Amber Leuschner  
*In memory of Bernice Krueger*

Jo Ann Jalufka  
*In memory of Marie Stary*

Jo Ann Jalufka  
*In memory of Jason Lad Hankins*

Knights of Columbus #1329  
*In memory of Franklin Niesner*

Candidate

Transitional Deacon

Priest

Donice Krueger  
*In memory of Bernice Krueger*

To contribute to the Education of  
Seminarian Fund, send contributions to:

Diocese Of Victoria  
**Education of Seminarian Fund**  
P. O. Box 4070  
Victoria, TX 77903

Seminary Endowment Fund

Seminary Endowment Fund (formerly known as Seminary Burses) is a permanent fund used for the education of future priests for the Diocese of Victoria. The goal of each burse is \$15,000. The **interest from this amount** is applied yearly to the education of seminarians. The burses are in memory of or in honor of an individual priest or layperson, living or deceased. Publication of the burses will appear periodically when new contributions are received. **Donation Categories: Lector - \$.01 - \$99.99; Acolyte – \$100 - \$499.99; Candidate – \$500 - \$1,499.99; Transitional Deacon – \$1,500 - \$2,499.99; Priest – \$2,500 >.**

August 25, 2022

• Rev. Wayne Flagg and Rev. Philip  
Brune Seminary Burse

*Lector*  
In honor of Bill and Mary Lee Wilson's  
55th wedding anniversary by  
Darry and Barbara Meyer

• Rev. Isaac Maunger Seminary Burse  
*Acolyte*

In memory of Mr. Larry G. Janda by  
K of C Council #2902, Schulenburg



To contribute to an existing Seminary  
Endowment Fund, send contributions with  
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Diocese Of Victoria  
**Seminary Endowment Fund**  
P. O. Box 4070  
Victoria, TX 77903

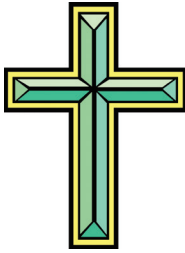
*Please remember in prayer the priests of the Diocese of Victoria,  
who were ordained during the month of September:*

Rev. Wayne N. Flagg                      09/24/1988                      St. Michael Church, Weimar

*Please remember in prayer the priests of the Diocese of Victoria, who died during the month  
of September:*

Rev. Dan Morales	09/03/2016
Rev. Msgr. Werner Bockholt	09/08/1992
Rev. Marcus Valenta	09/09/1984
Rev. Msgr. John J. Hanacek	09/14/1994
Rev. Donald Hayden, O.Ss.T.	09/19/2009
Rev. Jude Belisle, O.Ss.T.	09/24/1994

*For if we live, we live for the Lord, and if we die,  
we die for the Lord; so then, whether we live or die,  
we are the Lord's. (Romans 14:8)*





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Join in listening to Bishop Brendan Cahill every third Tuesday of the month at 6:30 a.m. on *Relevant Radio Morning Air with John Morales*. Listeners can call in with questions or comments. You can listen to past podcast online.

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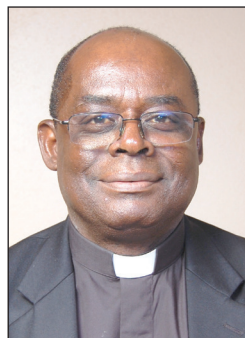
## Father Oduro Tawiah jubilee celebration planned

NEWTAITON — The Rev. Gabriel Oduro Tawiah, pastor of St. John Nepomucene Catholic Church will celebrate his 25th anniversary as a priest on Saturday, Sept. 10.

The celebration begins at 10 a.m. with the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass at the church, located at 1843 County Road 469 near El Campo.

A reception and lunch will follow immediately afterward in the parish hall.

To RSVP, please call 979-543-6985.



*The Rev. Gabriel Oduro Tawiah*



## Frelsburg helps Hostyn recovery effort

FRELSBURG — The Frelsburg Knights of Columbus Msgr. Gury Council No. 5157 and the St. Anne Altar Society of Sts. Peter & Paul Catholic Church in Frelsburg put on a Summer Fish Fry Fundraiser on Aug. 5 to help Queen of the Holy Rosary Catholic Church in Hostyn recover from the tragic explosion and fire that destroyed their church and took one parishioner's life on June 9. The event raised \$16,125, which will be presented to the Rev. Felix Twumasi, parish administrator, and the parishioners of Queen of the Holy Rosary Catholic Church in Hostyn. (Photo by Jaimie Emik of Jaimie Lynn Photography)

## Life Chain set for Oct. 2

VICTORIA -- The annual Life Chain pro-life demonstration takes place from 2 to 3 p.m. on Oct. 2 between Loop 463 and Magruder Drive along Navarro Street.

Everyone who advocates for life, from conception to natural death, celebrates this year the overturning of Roe v. Wade, which did away with the federal government making it a "right" to have an abortion. Now people can vote to give their home states the authority to protect unborn children at all stages of life.

Bernie Seale of St. Gianna Pro Life Ministry of Holy Family Catholic Church in Victoria stated that the Life Chain event is not in-

tended to be political or confrontational. It is a visible, but silent prayer vigil for Christians to communicate their opposition to abortion. All who believe in the protection of unborn children and their mothers are invited to participate.

Participants will display signs that are handed out beforehand near Ace Hardware, Chick-Fil-A and Hall Electric.

The event is for the whole family and will happen rain or shine. Bring umbrellas, lawn chairs and strollers as needed.

For information, contact Bernie or Robert Seale, 361-649-1712, or 361-221-0008.





### FALL FESTIVAL

## SUNDAY

### SEPTEMBER 18<sup>TH</sup>

beginning at 10:30 am

#### PORK STEAK DINNER

\$12 A PLATE  
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#### LIVE AUCTION

BEGINNING AT 1PM

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## ST. ROBERT BELLARMINE CHURCH FESTIVAL

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 9, 2022  
COLUMBUS CLUB HALL (Formerly KC Hall) EL CAMPO, TEXAS

**FESTIVAL**  
Begins at 10am

Co-Chairpersons:  
Martin Medina  
979-637-6638  
Albert Cavazos  
979-637-1532  
Michael Rodriguez  
979-616-7918

**BBQ Brisket & Sausage**  
Buttered Potatoes, Green Beans  
And all the trimmings  
**Plates \$15.00/Each**  
*Best Brisket in El Campo! Period.*  
Dine In, To Go Plates, or Drive thru  
Serving Begins at 11am (until 1pm)

**LIVE AUCTION**  
Begins at 12pm  
Auction Item Donations:  
**Deacon Adrian Canales**  
979-253-0328  
Accepting Cash & Credit Cards

**Cake Walk**  
**Plant Walk**  
**Kid Games**  
**50/50 Raffle**  
**Lottery Sombrero**

**Gorditas**  
**Hamburgers**  
**Sausage on a Stick**  
**Aguas Frescas**  
**Nachos/Hot Dogs**

**K of C Raffle**  
\$20,000 Gift Certificate  
**\$100/Ticket**  
FR. LAWRENCE J. MATULA COUNCIL #9393  
\$20,000 "K" GIFT CERTIFICATE  
SUNDAY, OCTOBER 9, 2022  
DRAWING TO BE HELD AT 5:00 PM AT ST. ROBERT BELLARMINE CHURCH  
FOR TICKETS CONTACT: ADAM GUSMAN 979-541-6835

**St. Robert's King and Queen Contest**  
**"\$15K Giveaway" Raffle**  
**\$15,000 in Prizes!!**  
\$50.00/each  
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\*Coronation at 5pm\*



**Newly commissioned Missionaries to the Family**  
EL CAMPO — Kenneth and Jennifer Solis, center, with children Jericho, Scarlett, Josiah and Mila, completed their yearlong formation with Missionaries to the Family and were commissioned during Mass at St. Robert Bellarmine Catholic Church on July 30 with the Rev. Philip L. Brune officiating. They will now serve as the coordinators for the Missionaries to the Family couples from St. Robert who are discerning, in formation or have completed the formation with Paradisus Dei. All Missionaries to the Families from St. Robert came to celebrate their commissioning. Pictured with the Solis Family, at left, are Robert and Felicia Orozco (class of 2021) with children Emma, Kara and Reed; the Rev. Philip L. Brune, pastor of St. Robert; Frank and Brandy Flores and Lupe Rosas (class of 2021), on the right in back; and Erica and Noel Ramirez (class of 2023) with sons Mason and Noel Jr. (Contributed Photo)

Scholarship offered for Catholic studies

SAN ANTONIO -- The Rev. Msgr. Larry J. Droll Scholarship, worth \$2,000, will be awarded to two Catholic laymen or women pursuing graduate degrees in theology or religious studies and in need of tuition assistance. This scholarship is geared towards those who have already obtained their bachelor's degree and are either enrolled or want to enroll in a Catholic graduate school. "Today many dedicated Catholics, who are not ordained clergy or women religious, serve parishes as Parish Coordinators or Administrators, as Pastoral Associates, Directors of Religious Education, Youth Ministers, Liturgists, and many other roles,"

said Msgr. Droll. "This scholarship can help provide the funds to earn an advanced educational degree in theology or religious studies that is often required for these positions." Students may also be enrolled in an extension program or the Catholic University of America School of Canon Law and must reside in Texas, Arizona, Florida, Colorado, Oklahoma, Kansas, Nebraska, New Mexico, Alabama, Georgia, Mississippi or Louisiana. The deadline to apply is Oct. 7. Applications are available at [www.cliu.com](http://www.cliu.com) and the Communications Department at [branch@cliu.com](mailto:branch@cliu.com) or 210-828-9921, Ext. 141 (1-800-262-2548).

# STS. PETER & PAUL CATHOLIC CHURCH BBQ & RAFFLE

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 25, 2022  
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# Appreciate others, and give yourself credit, too

**EDITOR'S NOTE:** Father Kram wrote this sermon for the 27th Sunday in Ordinary Time, Cycle A. He titled it "Appreciation."

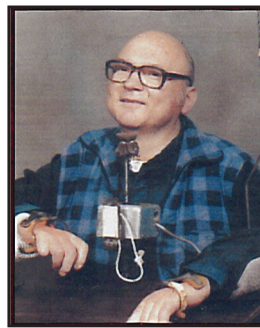
One of the main points Dale Carnegie makes in his course on how to win friends and influence people is the great need we all have to be appreciated. In fact, the craving to be appreciated is one of the strongest drives in our nature.

A child who tries hard to do well in school but is never praised soon quits trying. Something as simple as a star on the board can be a great boost to a child's morale.

A worker who does outstanding work but is never promoted or even honored as "employee of the month" eventually moves

on to something else. Here in the hospital we have lots of cake and punch parties honoring departments and individuals.

Wives whose husbands never have time



1929-2000

## Father Charles Kram Corner

for them look for solace elsewhere. A recent report showed that now just about as many women as men are having extra-marital affairs. Wives get their sense of self worth from the way their husbands treat them.

Appreciation is a powerful force and it works both ways.

We can encourage others by appreciating them, but we can also encourage ourselves by appreciating and using well what God has given us.

If you feel inadequate because you don't seem to have certain qualities that you admire in others, consider that nature tends to balance out our shortcomings by giving us something else.

Some of the most noted people in history had serious defects. Edison, for example, was stone deaf. Roosevelt was severely handicapped by polio. Helen Keller was deaf, dumb

and blind. Yet they were all of great impact on the times in which they lived.

God works through us as we are. He uses us as his coworkers. We are His hands and His feet.

God's plan includes you. You are alive in this day and age because this is where you belong. No one else will do.

If you are young, strive to be a good student, develop strong habits of respect for the feelings of others. Don't expect to be paid for everything you do. If you feel insecure about your future, ask God often to show you the way.

If you are married, of course, be faithful to your spouse; remind your spouse how much he or she means to you; keep your word.

If you are elderly, try not to complain about your symptoms too much. Don't give too much free advice. Don't be ashamed to let others help you when you need it.

In summary, let's say that we who are called to be Christians are also specially called to be appreciative of others as well as of the good qualities we see in ourselves.

*Lord Jesus, thank you for reminding us how many things there are to appreciate. Help us to show our appreciation by striving to use all our blessings to the fullest. Grant that our appreciation of others may help bring out the best in us all. Amen.*

## NAZARETH ACADEMY



## Fall Festival

OCTOBER 2, 2022, 10:30AM

Victoria Community Center Annex

**Plates-To-Go ONLY:** Turkey & Dressing Dinner **\$12.**

No activities will be in the Community Center.

**Online Auction 09/29 - 10/02**

(Link to Auction will be available on school website)

**Raffle Tickets**

(purchased online, from an NA student or at the school)

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# School year to focus on vocations — all of them

JANET JONES  
*The Catholic Lighthouse*

Catholic school enrollment, overall, is up in the Diocese of Victoria. More than 30 new teachers have been hired in the midst of a teacher shortage. And a new team has formed to promote vocations with the theme “Worthy of His Calling.”

The Office of Catholic Schools, along with the Rev. Kristopher Fuchs, director of vocations for the diocese, is leading a new Vocations Team in order to carry out the theme.

Ashley Novosad, assistant to Catholic School Superintendent Dr. John Quarry, said she jumped whole-heartedly into the idea of supporting vocations. The spark, she said, was a workshop provided by the Scanlan Foundation with Rhonda Gruenewald, author of “The Harvest: A Guide to Vocation Ministry in Education.” Gruenewald is the founder of Vocation Ministry in Houston,

which provides training in how to develop a culture of vocations.

The Vocations Team is made up of teachers, principals, ministers and laypeople who want to bring that culture of vocations into the schools, not only to promote consecrated life or priesthood, but to help children understand that if and when they marry or decide to remain single, their choice is also a vocation. Their work, too, is a vocation if it is centered in doing God’s work.

“It’s a wonderful focus that we’ve never tapped into with this intentionality,” said Dr. Quarry. He said it can, for children, as well as teachers revitalize their sense of worthiness to pursue a holy life.

“I don’t know how many times I’ve heard someone say, ‘I’m just a teacher,’ but that’s an incredible vocation. You really, really are doing God’s work in this vocation.”

The team was introduced at the annual teacher seminar held a week before classes

commenced. The seminar was also different this year, conducted like a spiritual retreat with Adoration following Mass, a guided meditation and prayer and a rosary. Novosad said the Office of Catholic Schools decided to re-imagine the seminar in response to the feedback from campus leadership. And it turned out to be a good start for the teachers, with lots of good feedback.

Shawna Collins, new principal of St. Anthony in Columbus, said, “We’re gonna come back at full force,” echoing the enthusiasm that many expressed during a teacher seminar shortly before the first day of school. Collins has taught there for 10 years, but following Principal John O’Leary’s retirement, she was encouraged by her fellow teachers to



Shawna Collins, new principal of St. Anthony in Columbus.

apply for the position. “The staff has been really supportive,” she said.

Novosad said principals already were feeling optimistic because the 2021-22 school year was a relief after the worst of the pandemic. She said several principals said it was a really good year.

Optimism is high this year as well.

“We are very excited because we’re feeling like the pandemic is in the rear-view mirror,” Quarry said, adding that caution is still necessary, but it is not the stressful situation it was two years ago.

Also during the height of the pandemic, the enrollment sagged by more than 6 percent, but has rebounded to its pre-pandemic level. And Dr. Quarry said schools have been registering new students beyond the opening day of school.

Holy Cross in Bay City, which has been very intentional about recruiting and marketing, started this school year with a 20-percent

*See School year, pg. 9*

# 168th ANNUAL MENTZ PICNIC



## St. Roch Catholic Church – Mentz, Texas

Join us for the **Sacrifice of the Mass** at **10:30 am**

### SUNDAY, OCTOBER 2ND

**BBQ BEEF, PORK & SAUSAGE** *Serving at 11:00 am*

Dine In & Plates To-Go **\$15.00** ❖ Children 10 & Under **\$10.00**

HAMBURGERS AT 2:00 PM    PLENTY OF KIDS ACTIVITIES

GIFT CARD WALK • COUNTRY STORE • DESSERT WALK

<b>DANCE INSIDE</b> 12:00-4:00 PM <b>MUSIC BY:</b> <b>ENZIAN BAUM</b>	<b>AUCTION</b> <b>1:00 PM</b> <b>RAFFLE</b>	<b>SILENT AUCTION</b> 10:00a.m. – 3:00 PM <b>BINGO</b> 1:00 – 5:00 PM <small>Tax 10 74-130-9241</small>
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Check out our Facebook page for any updates. (Saint Roch Mentz)



Kindergarteners at Bay City’s Holy Cross Catholic School finished a book entitled “The Crayon Box that Talked.” They discussed how every person contributes to their class and learned a new word: “unique.” The lesson ended with them working together to put together the puzzle shown here. According to Rhonda Westbrook, a staff member at Holy Cross, they were “sooooo proud” of that puzzle. The small school has seen a significant increase in enrollment this year, especially in the pre-kindergarten classes. (Contributed Photo)





Ashley Novosad, on stage, introduces the new Vocations Team members who will be helping schools carry out the theme “Worthy of His Calling,” stressing the importance of all types of vocations. This team is being led by Father Kristopher Fuchs and Novosad. Members are: Amy Alegria and Debbie Michalski of Nazareth Academy in Victoria; Adriana Avila, Our Lady of the Gulf, Port Lavaca; Vern Crockett and Taylor Janak, Our Lady of Victory, Victoria; Rick Masek, Sacred Heart, Hallettsville; Kat Robinson, St. Anthony Catholic Church, Columbus; John Gilley, Megan Schott and Michael Golla of St. Joseph High School, Victoria; Sean Mooney, St. Joseph School, Yoakum; Judy Roeder and Sharon Johnson, St. Michael, Weimar; Gwen Edwards, St. Philip the Apostle, El Campo; and Melissa Schmidt, St. Rose, Schulenburg. (Janet Jones/The Catholic Lighthouse)

School Year Continued from pg. 8

increase in enrollment. Linda Bradford, who took over as principal in January, said the greatest increase has been in pre-kindergarten classes and she presently has a waiting list for 3K and 4K placement. The school, which goes through fifth-grade, is the smallest in the diocese.

Bradford said her staff had its own seminar on campus as well and did dyslexia training and a “Nurturing Hearts” program. “It has started out on a good note and, it’s like I told the staff, let’s keep the positive climate going,” she said.

As the first day of school approached, Cheri Zenker, PE teacher for Holy Cross in Bay City, said she was “feeling confident and excited for the future.” She said she thinks

the rise in enrollment is because, “People want quality education for their children.”

Enrollment jumps at Holy Cross; Our Lady of Victory, Nazareth Academy and St. Joseph High School in Victoria; Sacred Heart, Hallettsville; St. Michael, Weimar; St. Philip the Apostle, El Campo; and Shiner Catholic Schools have added 85 new Catholic students to the diocesan school, a 3.18 percent jump over last year at the same time.

Other schools were down slightly, but, according to Dr. Quary, the enrollment numbers aren’t considered official until September, and Bradford said it’s common to continue getting new students through Labor Day.



Two pre-schoolers greet each other on the first day of school at Holy Cross in Bay City. (Contributed Photo)

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# Uvalde victims gifted Catholic school tuition

## From Catholic Extension

Catholic Extension, a Chicago non-profit, awarded 30 full scholarships to children who were wounded in the Robb Elementary School mass shooting. Following the shooting, many families are seeking immediate psychological relief by transferring their children from Robb Elementary School to Sacred Heart Catholic School.

The scholarships awarded are a part of Catholic Extension's ongoing efforts to support the well being of the children and their families of Uvalde, Texas.

Some 80 families are looking to transfer to Sacred Heart, according to a press release from Catholic Extension, now seeking help through outside donations to meet all the

demand.

Father Jack Wall, president of Catholic Extension, said, "Catholic Extension is committed to the ongoing care and support for the children and families of Uvalde, Texas. It is our belief that awarding scholarships to Sacred Heart Catholic School will provide a safe and loving educational environment to children who are suffering from the physical and emotional wounds of violence."

"The tuition assistance means everything to my son and our family," Oscar Orona, father of Robb Elementary shooting survivor, said. "My son has gone through a lot, and still has a long road to recovery ahead. At the very least, he deserves to go to a school where he feels safe."



*Catholic Extension is seeking help to give 80 families tuition to attend Sacred Heart in Uvalde to help those suffering physical and emotional wounds from the mass shooting at Robb Elementary.*

In addition to providing financial assistance to the students, Catholic Extension supported six religious sisters to provide onsite emotional assistance during the first week of school to both the students and teachers of Sacred Heart. Throughout the course of the next 18 months, with the support of Catholic Extension, ultimately 100 sisters total will serve the Uvalde and Catholic community in various capacities.

Sister Esther M. Guerrero, MCDP, said, "Returning to school is undoubtedly a scary and trying time right now for the kids of Uvalde, however they are filled with hope. This week, our focus is solely on showing the students, parents and teachers love and support through simply being by their side. We are here to serve this grieving community, no matter how big or small."

Uvalde was one of the first-ever communities Catholic Extension supported, helping build Sacred Heart Church in 1906, and Sacred Heart Catholic School in 1912, both of which remain relevant institutions to date.

For over a century, Catholic Extension has supported this and 1,400 other church communities in rural Texas and along the U.S.- Mexico border. Catholic Extension's most recent activity in Uvalde involved the Teresian sisters, along with other religious sisters, who launched Camp I-CAN for the survivors of Robb Elementary.

For more information on ways to support the Catholic Church and children in Uvalde, please visit [catholicextension.org/uvalde](http://catholicextension.org/uvalde).



## The fun has begun

PORT LAVACA — Our Lady of the Gulf Catholic School children will enjoy a new playground this year thanks to several contributors, including Coastline Trailers, all Mariner families and supporters of the school's Home and School Association fundraisers, and the Aviles Family for all their hard work and expertise this summer helping to construct the playground. (Contributed Photo)

St. Patrick's Catholic Church  
Bloomington, Texas

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## Fall Festival Dinner

Turkey, Dressing, Gravy, Green Beans,  
Corn, Bread, & Cake  
PLATES-\$12 each

Dine-in or Plates to Go

Curbside plates to go start @ 9:30 am

LIVE AUCTION starts @ 11:30 am

Country/Religious store, Cake Walk  
Kids Games-Face painting, Toy Walk, Fish Pond  
Raffle Tickets available at the Church or Parishioners

September  
**25**  
Sunday

**For orders on Festival day call: (361) 897-1398**

For More information Contact: Marshall Lange 361-676-0365  
Thomas Pribyl 512-657-1795



# The win comes when you are there *and* hear

**M**y wife and I have been declared “the winners.”

Not to boast, but we’ve received this honor multiple times and it brings with it the possibility of claiming prizes ranging from complementary meals to vacations in the Bahamas. The prize, of course, comes only after we sit through a sales pitch about a new investment strategy or time-share condo. I suspect that you have been winners in these as well, and have learned the “just be there” method -- no preparation required, no participation necessary; don’t pay anything, not even your attention; grab the prize and don’t look back.

The “just be there” approach works well in getting steak knives and meals; not so in receiving the gift of graces which come from Mass.

We are called to a full, conscious and active participation in our liturgical celebration. Yet, I suspect that, at times, you have fallen into the “just be there” mindset, as I have. For some, there is the tendency to undervalue parts of the Mass and, thereby, grant themselves permission to “just be there” rather than to engage. These reflections are offered in the hopes that we can more fully recognize the riches – and necessity -- of parts of the Mass, especially those leading to and following Communion. This month we look at the readings of the Liturgy of the Word in the hopes that they never become for us a spiritual sales pitch that we must sit through in order to grab our prize at Communion.

Millions of words have been produced as to why we should be as dedicated to feeding from the Table of the Word as we are from the Table of the Body. Even so, I submit there are eight that you must hear: Eight words that Jesus spoke in the synagogue of Nazareth on the Sabbath Day. Eight words that came after He stood up, unrolled the scroll from the prophet Isaiah and read from the 61st chapter the hopeful message of God’s redemption of Israel. Eight words that came after He revealed that He is the one who would bring “good news to the poor, to release captives, to bring sight to blind and free the oppressed.”

After He rolled up the scroll and sat down, and while the “eyes of everyone in the synagogue were fastened on him,” He spoke the eight words. Eight words that mark us for Divine life or leave us to “just be there.”

Listen: “*Today this scripture is fulfilled in your hearing.*”

Understand that what Jesus spoke through the readings is truth. He is the truth of all of the love and mercy, of the offering of salvific graces and of the promise of eternal life. But

## At Your Service

By Deacon Michael Tankersley



those truths are not actualized, not fulfilled, until we hear them. Yes, the scripture is true both when and because He spoke it, but the mystery becomes real and alive when we hear it. This “hearing” event is not the passive process of taking in sounds, or even as the taking in of ideas as from a spiritual lecture. This “hearing” is an experience -- an engagement with Jesus that draws us into active attention with our eyes “fastened on him.”

“In your hearing,” you feed on His words and respond to His will ... and become who you eat. When we allow that to happen, the great and unexpected can break through:

For *in your hearing*, you become the agent through which the graces and gifts of God come to be “on earth as it is in heaven.” Through you, God’s plan of salvation can morph from promise to certainty; from mystery to reality. You and I are made factors in God’s equation for salvation ... not because He needs us. Far better than needing us, He loves us and desires that we share in His life.

For *in your hearing*, you help bring Christ into the world. God spoke to Mary who heard His word, responded obediently and became filled with the Incarnation of God. So it is with us. God continually sends His words to us, announcing what He wishes to do in our lives. When we hear and respond, we too become bearers of Christ.

For *in your hearing*, you enter into the divine dialogue that is the structure of all liturgy (“hear the Word, celebrate the reality”) and the model for our Christian life. Look at the pattern of Scripture and you will see that God’s Word precedes and prepares His people for His presence. You hear the Word so as to live the Mystery. “Call and Response” is embedded in our Mass so it will become embedded in our lives of covenantal conversation, marked by God’s truth and our response; His invitation and our acceptance.

For *in your hearing*, you become fulfilled. No longer can you consider yourself unsalvageable because of past sins or present doubts of worth. Neither will you seek spiritual merit badges for certification through your work. Instead, you will allow for transformation through His words.

My friends, the fruits of hearing the Word



*But He answered and said, “It is written: ‘Man shall not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes out of the mouth of God.’”*  
(Matthew 4:4)

of God are not reserved for harvest, until we die or at some undisclosed time in the future. Jesus said, “*Today this scripture is fulfilled in your hearing.*”

Once, God spoke into creation all the heavens and the earth from what was formless, empty and dark.

Today God is speaking to you, and, in your hearing, you will be formed, fulfilled and lit with fire.

Today, you can help God “*make all things new again,*” help bring life to the inert and order from chaos in the life of others.

Today, those who are captive to the sins of their past or doubts of the future can be released.

Today you can bring “*recovery of sight*” to those who are blind to the love of God or who have been blinded by the hate of man.

Today, we can preach the good news to the spiritually poor, and to those oppressed.

This cannot be done by just being there, it will come in your hearing.

Pax tibi,  
Deacon Michael

## St. Joseph Catholic Church – Inez

149<sup>th</sup> Annual Picnic

Sunday, September 11, 2022

Inez Community Center

**Fried Chicken, Brisket, Sausage  
& All the Trimmings**

**All Plates - \$12**

Plates to Go at 10:30 a.m.  
Serving Begins at 11:00 am

**Live Auction at 1:00 pm**

Other Activities Include:

Country Store

Silent Auction

Cake Walk

Bucket Game

Kid’s Game Room

**Raffle Prizes Include over \$6,000 in Gift Cards!!**

**Come Out & Join the Fun!!**







# Some hard things look better looking back

One day during lunch, a friend and I were talking about how, when we are going through something that may not seem so great, those times are actually preparing us for something in the future. They are, in fact, blessings.

I told my friend, “Yes, but we must pray for people going through these times of difficulties because we don’t usually recognize the blessings while we are going through them. Only when we look back do we see it for what it was.”

Now I speak from experience about that statement. A week before I was to make my final profession, I tested positive for COVID. What might be said about that virus, in my case, is true: It feels completely different than anything we may have had before. It feels like a different kind of cold, like a different kind of flu, and, in my opinion, it didn’t feel like allergies.

## Finding Beauty in Mystery

By Sister Rosario Resendez, IWBS



The moment I saw the results, I began to cry. I know I wrote in my last article that I cried when I read my old journals, and here I’m writing about how I cried when I saw my results. Actually, tears falling from my eyes are rare. I cried, not only because I felt awful, but also because my profession was coming at me like a freight train, I still had so much to do, and I was going to be pulled away from it all to be quarantined.

One might ask: “Do we really still have

to quarantine when positive for COVID?” When you live in a convent full of Sisters who might be high risk, the answer is, without a doubt, “Yes!”

So as I settled into the room that would be my home for the next five days, with a headache that felt like my skull was splitting in two, I had to resign myself to the fact that I would not finish everything I needed to finish and pray that I would be better before Aug. 6 rolled around.

I’m an introvert, so quiet alone time is always good for me, and spending time alone with the Lord is even better. However, for the first time since the pandemic started, I was unable to attend Sunday Mass in person and had to watch it online. We sisters, because we have a chaplain, didn’t have to do without Sunday Mass even at the height of the pandemic, but now I know what the rest of the world experienced.

Yet, during that time, I also experienced something else.

At my profession, the Communion meditation song was “*Qué Detalle, Señor*” by José Antonio Cubiella and Fernando Menéndez Viejo, sung beautifully by Maria Treviño. This song is describing how the Lord has doted on someone called to ministry.

The Sisters of the Incarnate Word and Blessed Sacrament are supposed to be Christ to others. While I was sick, I can honestly say that the Sisters doted on me. They couldn’t come into the room with me but they found ways to make sure I knew they cared about me. A couple went out on the search for “caldo,” Mexican chicken soup, because I wanted it, and it’s what makes me feel better. Another sister would leave me my favorite candy by my door and slip me a Pepsi every once in a while. They could call me on the phone during their recreation to see how I was doing and talk about their day. When people say it’s the little things that matter, it

really is the little things. Small details one may overlook are magnified when they are done out of love.

The blessing I received while going through COVID was not only knowing and, therefore, understanding what some people felt when they had to be isolated from others and not attend Mass in person, but also I knew for certain the community of women I would be promising to be a member of for the rest of my life truly love the Lord to the point that their actions – their doting – reflects His.

Many times I get asked if I doubted through my formation process. A friend

once told me that if we don’t doubt, we aren’t truly discerning. So, yes, I did doubt, but that moment of darkness where doubt would try to set in would get cast out by the brightness of the blessings the Lord would give to me -- where He showed me there was no reason to doubt.

If I thought there was nothing more beautiful than giving one’s life to the Lord, if I wanted to live my life like Jesus and be Him to others, what better place to be than with a group of consecrated women doing just that?

*Que detalle señor has tenido conmigo/ Cuando me llamaste cuando me elegiste/ Cuándo me dijiste que tú eras mi amigo/ Que detalle señor has tenido conmigo.*

*Yo dejé casa y pueblo por vivir tu aventura/Codo a codo contigo comencé a caminar/Han pasado los años y aunque apriete el cansancio/Paso a paso te sigo sin mirar hacia atrás.*

How you have doted on my Lord/When You called me, when You chose me/When You told me You were my friend/How You have doted on me Lord.

I left home and town to live your adventure/Arm in arm with You I began to walk/ The years have passed and though fatigue begins to take hold/Step by step I’ll follow You without looking back.



Sister Rosario Resendez shown during the Mass and ceremony of her final profession of vows. (Janet Jones/The Catholic Lighthouse)



## HOLY CROSS PARISH BAZAAR

Riverside Hall - East Bernard  
Sunday, October 9, 2022

Meal Served at 11:00AM

\*BAR-B-QUE BEEF \* CHICKEN \* SAUSAGE\*

WITH “HOMEMADE DRESSING” & ALL THE TRIMMINGS

Hamburgers Served at 3:00PM

Plenty of Pastries, Refreshments & Country Store Items

**\*\*GAMES\*\***

11:00AM- 4:00PM

**Grand AUCTION - 12:00 Noon**

## ENTERTAINMENT

The Dujka Brothers (Noon to 3:00PM)

The Red Ravens (3:00PM to 6:00PM)

**Raffle Drawing ~ 7:30PM**

Holy Cross Catholic Church Mass Schedule

Sunday, October 9<sup>th</sup> – 7:00AM, 9:00AM & 11:00AM (Spanish Mass)

**EVERYONE INVITED!**





## 100 years of service

YOAKUM — The Yoakum Knights of Columbus 4th Degree Assembly No. 1128 was recently recognized by the Supreme Council in Connecticut for 100 years of service to the order's principle of patriotism on behalf of our Holy Mother Church, our country and our fellow man. A Knights of Columbus anniversary certificate was presented by District Marshall Joe Martinez to Faithful Navigator Tim Kleihege at their installation of officers to recognize this 100-year anniversary. The assembly is made up of members from Yoakum, Hallettsville, Shiner, Gonzales, Moulton, Cuero, Yorktown and Meyersville. Officers installed for 2022-23 fraternal year, from left, are, front row Kenneth Roznovsky of Shiner; Joe Martinez of Victoria; Timothy Kleihege of Moulton; Marty Patek of Yoakum; Jerome Boehm of Cuero; Lukas Janak of Yoakum; and, back row, Arlyn Seiler of Meyersville; Reggie Guettner of Shiner; James Darilek of Gonzales; Don Brown of Shiner; Leo Pustka of Shiner; Leonard Ebner of Hallettsville; and Andrew Pesek of Hallettsville. *(Contributed Photo)*

## A gift for St. Michael

WEIMAR — The Rev. Wayne Flagg, left, accepts a \$2,400 donation from Delphin Bartek, grand knight of the Weimar Knights of Columbus Council during the council's August meeting. The money is for the St. Michael Catholic Church general fund. Father Flagg serves the Weimar council as its chaplain. *(Contributed Photo)*



## VICTORIA COUNTY'S 34TH ANNUAL CZECH HERITAGE FESTIVAL SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 25th

**Festival Admission \$10 • Children under 15 ALWAYS FREE!**

**10:30am - Opens to the public**

**Přijďte na kávu [bezplatný] a koláče! / Come for coffee [free] and kolaches!**

Music By

**The Czechaholics 10:30am-12:30pm & 2:30-4:30pm**

**The Red Ravens 12:30-2:30pm & 4:30-6:30pm**



**ALL BEER ON TAP: SHINER BOCK, SHINER LIGHT BLONDE, COORS LIGHT, SHINER OCTOBERFEST**

**Czech Booths • Exhibits • Face Painting  
Arts & Crafts • Country Store • KJT Pastry Wheel • Silent Auction**

### — Festival Events —

Tarok Card Game Lessons 1:30pm-3:30pm

KJT Kolache Eating Contest 2:30-3:30pm

Accordion Lessons 3-4 pm Call 361-649-2243

**Czech Stew & Sausage Lunch \$12/plate 11am-1pm**

**Kolaches, Homemade Chicken Noodle Soup  
and Sausage Wraps also available**

Sponsored by: Victoria County Czech Heritage Society | facebook.com/victoriaczechsociety  
Info: www.VictoriaCzechs.org

**Victoria Community Center | 2905 E. North, Victoria, Texas**

**St. Anthony's Catholic Church**  
Palacios, Texas

## 57th Annual Shrimporee

**October 8th & October 9th**

*20th Annual*  
**Tran's Sport Boat Raffle** *!Wow!*

**\$25/Ticket**  
Limited number of tickets sold!! Tickets are going fast!  
Call 972-2446 for details/tickets.

**Saturday**  
**25 TH ANNUAL**  
**GOLF SCRAMBLE**

Tee Off Time: 8am - A Flight  
Noon - B & C Flight  
@ Palacios Golf Course

Entry Fee: \$300/team or \$75/person  
Fee includes Green Fee, 1 Mulligans, Meal & Drink tickets.  
(Golf carts for rent - \$20. Personal carts welcomed)  
For info & registration, call:  
Isidro O. Castanon @ 361/972-6006

**Shrimporee Sunday**

Palacios Recreation Center  
2401 Perryman, Palacios, Texas

**GAMES** **Lunch begins at 10:30am**  
**Shrimp or BBQ (Beef or Chicken)**  
**Plus all the Trimmings**  
**\$15 per plate**  
**Dine In or Take Out**

**Vietnamese Cuisine**

**Live Auction**  
**Starts at 12:30 pm**  
Boat Raffle Ticket & Gift Card Drawings at 4 p.m.

**Fun for all ages!!**  
For more information or questions, contact 361/972-2446





Say hello to these new faces in DOV's Catholic schools this year

This row, from left, Mary Ann Knezek and Sister Mary John Lam of Our Lady of the Gulf, Port Lavaca; Lauren Belk, Colleen Horning, Don Paul DuBose, Karen Goode, Brenda Matula, Joanie Salinas and Ginger Vara, all of Nazareth Academy.



This row, from left, Angelica Kurtz, Heather Neuvar and Jocelyn Rodriguez, Our Lady of Victory; Karly Champion, Nicholas Champion and Deacon Luther Hill, Sacred Heart, Hallettsville; Cecilia Allison, Leslie Stevens and Lacy Morris of Holy Cross in Bay City.

This row, from left, Michael Colle and Kimberly Tomasek St. Joseph HS Victoria; Annette Ratley, St Joseph in Yoakum; Sharon Jochen, Nancy Koehl and Sherry Pietsch of St. Michael in Weimar; Sarah Kalina, Traci Llanes and Marissa Sharp of St. Philip the Apostle, El Campo.



From left, Hannah Ahrens, Julius Castillo and Shavon Lewis of St. Rose of Lima in Schulenburg, and Maggie Walligura of St. Anthony in Columbus.

191<sup>st</sup> Anniversary of the first Mass celebrated in Hostyn!

# Queen of the Holy Rosary Parish

## Hostyn Festival

**Sunday,  
October 2,  
2022**

936 FM 2436 La Grange, TX 78945  
6 miles South of La Grange off Hwy 77  
[hostynch@cvctx.com](mailto:hostynch@cvctx.com)  
[www.HostynPlumCatholic.org](http://www.HostynPlumCatholic.org)  
updates available on our Facebook page:  
*Queen of the Holy Rosary-Hostyn / Sts. Peter & Paul-Plum Catholic Churches*

**Mass - 10 AM**  
**Outdoors - Under a Tent**

**Auction at 1 PM**  
Country Store, Drawings,  
Cake and Plant Wheels,  
Silent Auction, Games  
**Bingo at 1:30 PM**  
License 116976 260734

**Music All Day!**  
**11:00 AM - 3:00 PM**  
**Czech Melody Masters**  
**3:30 PM - 7:30 PM**  
**Dujka Brothers**  
**3:00 PM - Magic Show**

**Hostyn Style Dinner**  
**11 AM to 1 PM**  
**Fried Chicken, Sausage**  
**& All the Trimmings - \$12.00**  
**Drive through Line**  
**11 AM to 12:30 PM - \$12.00**  
**Hamburgers available after 3 pm**

Welcome to Hostyn!  
Our wonderful parish and community are coming together to recover and rebuild our Church.  
Thank you for joining us.  
*"Go up to the mountains, bring wood and rebuild the temple, that I may be pleased with it and be glorified, says the Lord."* Haggai

Check out our

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## Catholic Daughters officers installed

EL CAMPO — Newly elected 2022-24 officers for Court St. Robert Bellarmine, No. 2275 Catholic Daughters of the Americas and Junior Catholic Daughters were installed July 7. The Rev. Philip L. Brune celebrated Mass and the Rev. Augustine Owusu-Peptra, chaplain, and CDA District Deputy Lori Kocurek, officiated the installation. Front row are JCD members, from left, Jessica Escamilla, secretary; Alma Rosales, 1st vice president; Brenda Gonzales, president; Sofia Medina, 2nd vice president; and Flor Rosales, reporter; and, back row, CDA members Nelda Vallejo, treasurer; Elma Escobar, financial secretary; Vicky Limas, recording secretary; Father Philip; Carmen Dominguez, regent; Father Augustine, chaplain; Lori Kocurek, district deputy; and Terri Beltran, vice regent. *(Contributed Photo)*



## Leaders seeking new insights

EL CAMPO — A group of 12 leaders from St. Robert Bellarmine Catholic Church attended a dynamic and inspiring conference called Divine Renovation in Coppell last month. Divine Renovation's vision is to inspire, connect and create community among a network of parishes intentionally pursuing mission through the best of leadership principles in the power of the Holy Spirit. Each leader attended different training sessions for their specific specialties and will now bring these insights into their own given ministries. Conference attendees, from left, are Deacon Adrian Canales, Brandy Flores, Frank Flores, Joe Holik, the Rev. Augustine Owusu-Peptra, parochial vicar, Vicky Limas, Alicia Gutierrez, Mauricio Santiago, Lupe Rosas, Francisco Rosas, Erica Ramirez and the Rev. Philip Brune, pastor. *(Contributed Photo)*

## Safe Environment

### Reporting Procedures for Suspected or Known Sexual Abuse of a Minor (person under 18 years of age) or Vulnerable Adult by a Member of the Clergy

#### Contact:

- The Texas Department of Family and Protective Services, within **48 hours**, at (800) 252-5400, [www.txabusehotline.org](http://www.txabusehotline.org), or local police department.

**If person is in immediate danger call 911.**

**and**

- Shannon Thomas, LMSW, Coordinator of Pastoral Care and Outreach, Diocese of Victoria, (361) 827-7186, [pastoralcare@victoriadiocese.org](mailto:pastoralcare@victoriadiocese.org).

**or**

- Bishop or Chancellor of the Diocese of Victoria, (361) 573-0828  
Written allegations can be mailed

marked "Personal and Confidential" to  
Office of the Bishop  
P.O. Box 4070  
Victoria, TX 77903



If sexual abuse by a member of clergy has occurred in another diocese, the Diocese of Victoria will help bring your concerns to church officials. For assistance contact Shannon Thomas at (361) 827-7186 or [pastoralcare@victoriadiocese.org](mailto:pastoralcare@victoriadiocese.org).



Attention High School Youth:

Youth Leadership Training Applications  
Available NOW!

Email Shannon Thomas at  
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Wendy Eggert at [weggert@victoriadiocese.org](mailto:weggert@victoriadiocese.org)  
For More Information

## Holy Cross Catholic Church

### Fall Festival and Turkey Dinner

Sunday, September 25, 2022

Knights of Columbus Hall  
63 CR 216 (Nichols Rd), Bay City, TX

Drive through or dine in 11:00AM to 1:00PM

Turkey - Cornbread Dressing - Potatoes  
Green Beans - Cranberry Sauce - Dessert & tea  
(tea dine-in only)

**\$15.00 per plate**

Live & On-Line Auction (Live Auction begins @12:00 PM)  
Country Store Children's Activities Raffle

**There will be no 11:30 AM Mass on 9/25**

On-Line Auction  
Begins Sunday 9/18 at noon  
Closes Sunday 9/25 at 3:00 PM

[onlinefundraiser.events/HCCCFALLFEST](https://onlinefundraiser.events/HCCCFALLFEST)



EVERYONE WELCOME





# Ministerio del Buen Pastor recordado al comenzar la escuela

Queridos hermanos y hermanas,  
Como parte de la investigación para mi tesis doctoral, leí todas las charlas que dio San Juan XXIII en el verano y principios del otoño de 1962, en preparación final para el inicio del Concilio Vaticano II. He estado pensando en esos discursos últimamente. Hace exactamente 60 años que dio esas charlas.  
Uno de mis pensamientos es que estos discursos presentan la visión espiritual que condujo a la reunión solemne del Concilio.  
Esta visión espiritual sigue guiando la misión de la Iglesia en todo el mundo: el ministerio del Buen Pastor.  
En una de sus charlas animó a los seminaristas que regresaban a la escuela. Sesenta años después, nuestros seminaristas están

## Mensaje del Pastor

By Obispo Brendan Cahill



regresando a la escuela y las palabras del santo Papa granjero continúan inspirando.  
Escribí sobre esa charla:  
“En un discurso a los seminaristas en el aniversario de su ordenación sacerdotal, el 10 de agosto, los llamó a ver siempre en su ministerio sacerdotal la

obra continua del Buen Pastor que dio su vida por sus ovejas. Declaró: «Jesús continúa su ministerio por medio de sus sacerdotes, siempre en un acto de dirigir las ovejas, de buscarlas, de llevarlas de nuevo al rebaño sobre sus hombros. Es a esta meta a la que quiero llamar el Con-

cilio, la más alta y la más digna meta para todos, lo mismo para el obispo de Roma que para el humilde y sencillo, pero ¡oh cuán precioso!, párroco.»  
Esta cita proviene del cuarto capítulo de mi tesis: *La renovación de la teología de la Revelación (1960-1962)*, Editrice Pontificia Universita Gregoriana, Roma, 1999.  
Al comenzar nuestro año escolar en la diócesis de Victoria, todos compartimos la misma misión: ¡llevar personas a Jesús!  
Que el Señor los bendiga a ustedes y sus familias con la paz y el gozo del Espíritu Santo, y que seamos fuertes para llevar a las personas a conocer y amar a Jesús.  
Mantengámonos unos a otros en oración.  
+Brendan

## Primera Conferencia Católica Hispana Diocesana este mes

La Diócesis de Victoria está organizando su primera Conferencia Católica Hispana de 8 a. m. a 4 p. m. el 24 de septiembre en el Centro de la Catedral de Nuestra Señora de la Victoria.  
“Es muy significativo que la Diócesis de Victoria vaya a tener su primera Conferencia Hispana. Es un reconocimiento concreto de la realidad de los hispanohablantes católicos en nuestra área y nuestra necesidad de apoyar su fe”, dijo el Reverendísimo Jacob Koether, Vicario Episcopal para la Catequesis y Evangelización. “A través de la Conferencia Hispana podemos decir, ‘¡Bienvenidos!



Sister Norma Pimentel

Tu perteneces aquí. Ustedes son miembros de nuestra familia diocesana y queremos ayudarlos a crecer en su fe católica”.  
El costo es de \$20 por adulto y solo \$10 para jóvenes de 13 a 17 años que quieran participar. Se proporcionará cuidado de niños para niños de 3 a 12 años si es necesario.  
La preinscripción está ya disponible en el sitio web de la diócesis. El día de la conferencia comenzaremos a recibir a la gente para el registro y/o inscripción a las 7:30 a. m. de la mañana en las puertas de la Catedral de Nuestra Señora de la Victoria, donde el obispo

Brendan Cahill celebrará la santa misa. La conferencia continuará a las 9:15 en el centro de Catedral una vez concluida la celebración Eucarística.  
La hermana Norma Pimentel será la conferencista principal y hablará sobre la dignidad del Hispano y su importancia en la sociedad. La hermana Pimentel ha estado en la primera línea de la misericordia durante tres décadas, apoyando a los migrantes que buscan refugio en los EE. UU. a lo largo de la frontera de Texas con México. Como directora ejecutiva de Caridades Católicas del Valle del Río Grande, dirige los esfuerzos para


brindar refugio, comida, santuario y consuelo a las personas que a menudo son tratadas como menos que humanas. Su organización ha albergado y asistido a más de 100.000 personas en la frontera. Gracias a su trabajo humanitario, fue nombrada en el 2020 como una de las 100 personas más influyentes del mundo por la revista TIME.  
El padre Nelson Gonzalez, vicario parroquial en St Anthony Catholic Church, Columbus, Texas y asesor espiritual del Ministerio Hispano en la Diócesis de Victoria, dará una presentación sobre la “Eucaristía como fuente

de la vida comunitaria.”  
Georgian Labastida, Psicóloga y Coach de Vida con experiencia profesional de veintidós años, y cofundadora del Instituto Misión Familia dará una presentación titulada: “Mi rol como padre y madre de familia de acuerdo al designio divino.”  
Valeria Dubourdieu presentará “El efecto de la salud mental en la valorización del ser.” Ella posee formación universitaria completa en tres grandes áreas: como Maestra Educadora, como Capellán, y como Consejera Clínica en Salud Mental. Su experiencia es extensamente rica ya que ha trabajado con niños en las escuelas, con enfermos en los hospitales, y también trabajó como Consejera Profesional Licenciada-Asociada (LPC-A), certificada nacionalmente (NCC), en el Centro de Consejería Emaus, Victoria, TX. Actualmente sigue acompañando y ayuda a sus clientes de Peace Be With You Counseling a entender lo que les pasa reconociendo la presencia sanadora de Dios en sus vidas.  
Para obtener más información, visite el sitio web de la diócesis, [www.vicoriadiocese.org](http://www.vicoriadiocese.org), o comuníquese con Aldo Camacho, coordinador del Ministerio Hispano, al 361-573-0828, ext. 2227, o [acamacho@victoriadiocese.org](mailto:acamacho@victoriadiocese.org).  
“Con suerte, todos los asistentes se sentirán inspirados para difundir las Buenas Nuevas de Jesucristo y acercar a otras personas de nuestra área a Él. Todos estamos muy agradecidos con Aldo Camacho, el coordinador diocesano del Ministerio Hispano, y con su equipo diocesano que han trabajado tan duro para hacer esto realidad”, dijo el padre Koether.

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**Gaze Upon Jesus**  
WOMEN'S RETREAT  
October 7-9, | Friday 4pm - Sunday 1:30pm  
Spiritual Renewal Center  
718 Gussie Schmidt Rd. Victoria, Texas 77905

Bundle - Book, Journal & Bookmark  
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**SPEAKER:**  
**Kelly Wahlquist** is a wife, mother of three, inspiring Catholic author and speaker residing in Minnesota. She is the founder of WINE: Women In the New Evangelization and the Director of the Archbishop Flynn Catechetical Institute in the Archdiocese of Saint Paul and Minneapolis. She is the author of *Created to Relate*, and the creator and editor of *Walk in Her Sandals* and *Gaze Upon Jesus*.

**Stop, Gaze, and Listen with WINE!**

What if you had walked beside the Virgin Mary from the Annunciation to the point at which she and Joseph found Jesus in the Temple? How might seeing Christ as a child impact you and your faith life? Join us for this unique retreat that follows the infancy and early years of Christ as seen through the eyes of Mary and other familiar and imagined women in the gospels.

*Grab a friend & register!*

**To Register:** <https://www.victoriadiocese.org/women-retreats>

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## Sunday Readings from Sept. 4 - Oct. 9

<p>September 4 ~ Twenty-third Sunday in Ordinary Time Wisdom 9:13-18b Psalms 90:3-4, 5-6, 12-13, 14 and 17 Philemon 9-10, 12-17 Luke 14:25-33</p> <p>September 11 ~ Twenty-fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time Exodus 32:7-11, 13-14 Psalms 51:3-4, 12-13, 17, 19 1 Timothy 1:12-17 Luke 15:1-32</p> <p>September 18 ~ Twenty-fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time Amos 8:4-7 Psalms 113:1-2, 4-6, 7-8 1 Timothy 2:1-8 Luke 16:1-13</p>	<p>September 25 ~ Twenty-sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time Amos 6:1a, 4-7 Psalms 146:7, 8-9, 9-10 1 Timothy 6:11-16 Luke 16:19-31</p> <p>October 2 ~ Twenty-seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time Habakkuk 1:2-3; 2:2-4 Psalms 95:1-2, 6-7, 8-9 2 Timothy 1:6-8, 13-14 Luke 17:5-10</p> <p>October 9 ~ Twenty-eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time 2 Kings 5:14-17 Psalms 98:1, 2-3, 3-4 2 Timothy 2:8-13 Luke 17:11-19</p>
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For daily and Sunday readings, as well as a daily reflection video, visit  
[www.usccb.org/bible/readings](http://www.usccb.org/bible/readings).

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## ST. ANTHONY CATHOLIC CHURCH ANNUAL PARISH FALL PICNIC

COLUMBUS HALL (FORMERLY KC HALL) 1-10 W EXIT 693

### SUNDAY, OCTOBER 9, 2022

**BBQ BEEF & SAUSAGE Meal**

11 AM - 1 PM Drive Thru or Dine In

**RAFFLE**

TICKETS \$5 EACH

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**HAMBURGERS**

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Old Tyme Music by  
**DONNIE WAVRA & THE HI-LIGHTERS**

**Big Country AUCTION**

Starts at 1:00 pm

**CAKE & GIFT CARD WALK**

**MECHANICAL BULL**

**BINGO \* PLANT WALK \* MEAT TO GO**

**SILENT AUCTION**

11am-4pm

**STREET TACOS** 3-5pm

**\* AGUAS FESCAS \* KOLACHE BREAKFAST \***

**COUNTRY STORE**

**\* SPORTSMAN'S WHEEL \* SLICED CAKE \***



**FOR MORE INFORMATION. CALL 979-733-4089**







## Conference a chance to learn more about Blessed Mother

### Contributed story

Fullness of Truth's Marian conference, entitled "Mary, the New Eve: Grasping Her Role in Salvation History!" is coming next month to the Our Lady of Victory Cathedral Center in Victoria on Oct. 14 and 15.

Speakers include Bishop Gary Janak, Auxiliary Bishop of the Archdiocese of San Antonio; the Rev. Msgr. Eduardo Chavez, canon at the Basilica of Guadalupe, Mexico City, and postulator for the canonization cause of St. Juan Diego; Immaculee Ilibagiza, Rwandan genocide survivor, Marian author and international presenter; and Jim Burnham, Catholic evangelist, apologist and author.

Conference speakers will guide attendees through the Church's teachings about the Blessed Virgin Mary, while showing their firm scriptural and historical roots as well.

Employing the best recent scholarship, speakers will address the persistent contravening arguments and, in the process, help participants better appreciate how all the Marian doctrines are not only relevant, but even essential to a comprehensive faith in Jesus Christ.

Holy Scripture tells us that Christ is the "New Adam," and where all had died in the

original sin of the first "Adam," the salvific mission of Our Lord Jesus may make all alive once more.

The Blessed Virgin Mary, by her "Fiat," also plays a crucial role in the salvation history of humanity, then and now, by virtue of her obedience to God's plan, in contrast to the first "Eve," has since been recognized fittingly as the "New Eve."

So who is this woman foreshadowed in Genesis, honored as such by Jesus Himself, and enthroned in the Book of Revelation that Catholics venerate so much?

Why are the Holy Scriptures replete with typological references to her? Why do Catholics speak of consecrating their hearts to her .... when is it not to God alone that one should commit their undivided heart?

Why is it so important to recognize that Mary remained a virgin even after Christ's birth? Was she truly without sin? And what is the significance of her Immaculate Conception and Glorious Assumption?

Every Catholic should not only understand why, but be able to plainly share these powerful insights with a searching and confused world. Mary always points us to her Son, and our world desperately needs Jesus.

See ad on pg. 20 for registration.

## Prayers, action urged worldwide during Season of Creation, Sept. 1 to Oct. 4

BY JOE RUFF

Catholic News Service

ST. PAUL, Minn. — Sister Kathleen Storms hopes a calendar of prayers and suggestions for action during the upcoming worldwide Season of Creation will help people "understand that simple options can make an important difference in our care for creation."

Meatless Mondays and shopping at farmer's markets are among actions proposed by the Care for Creation Team of the Archdiocese of St. Paul and Minneapolis to observe the season.

Sister Kathleen, a School Sister of Notre Dame, is a member of the team who wrote the calendar.

She said she studied resources on Catholic social teaching and ecology provided through the Catholic Climate Covenant, which was formed in 2006 by the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops with partners including Catholic Relief Services, Catholic Charities USA and St. Paul-based Catholic Rural Life. She worked on the calendar for about three weeks.

"My best creative time is in the morning," said Sister Kathleen, whose ministry since the 1990s has centered on environmental education. "It was a very prayerful

experience," she told The Catholic Spirit, the archdiocesan newspaper.

The internationally recognized Season of Creation was proclaimed in 1989 for Eastern Orthodox Christians by the late Ecumenical Patriarch Dimitrios I of Constantinople.

In 2015, Pope Francis encouraged Catholics to welcome the season, the same year the pope wrote his encyclical on faith and the environment, "Laudato Si," on Care for Our Common Home."

In his encyclical, Pope Francis calls on people to address pollution, waste and misuse of natural resources. He promotes "integral ecology," that is, a realization that all things in the natural world are connected, and everyone has a responsibility to promote a healthful planet.

The season starts Sept. 1 with the World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation and closes with the feast of St. Francis of Assisi, Oct. 4.

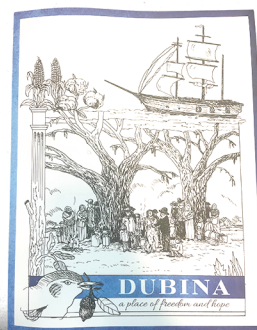
The archdiocesan calendar takes this year's Season of Creation theme, "Listen to the Voice of Creation."

Copies of the calendar can be requested at [creation@archspm.org](mailto:creation@archspm.org). Calendars also are available through a public resources tab at [tinyurl.com/24pdk9et](http://tinyurl.com/24pdk9et).

## DUBINA

*A place of freedom and hope*

A new book written by Ed & Margie Janecka gives a comprehensive look at the people who settled the first Czech settlement in Texas as well as Czech culture, tradition, and values. The book is over 350 pages long with over 400 pictures.



For more information, please contact [DubinaHistory@gmail.com](mailto:DubinaHistory@gmail.com). To receive a copy of the book via mail, please send \$40 plus \$5 for shipping to Country Publishing at 2405 Dubina Weimar Road, Weimar, Texas 78962.

## The Cathedral of Our Lady of Victory FALL FESTIVAL

### In Person

Sunday, October 9 ~ 11:00 a.m.

Victoria Community Center

Barbecue Beef & Sausage Dinner  
with all the trimmings

Dine-In & Plates-to-Go \$14 each

LIVE AUCTION 11:00 A.M.

Games, Raffle, Virtual Silent Auction & more...

*Family Fun for All!*





## QUEEN OF PEACE CATHOLIC CHURCH

Sweet Home, Texas PARISH PICNIC

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 25, 2022

Held in the Air-Conditioned  
Sweet Home Community Center  
FM 531 Sweet Home TX

Silent Auction  
Live AUCTION - 1 pm

Country Store • Kids Games  
Cakewalk

Picnic Stew, Sausage & Trimmings  
\$12 per plate

Dine-in serving at 11 AM - 1 PM

Drive-Thru serving at 10:30 AM - 1 PM

Stew available for sale

Ice-Cold Refreshments

Hamburgers for Sale in the Afternoon

Nachos sponsored by Junior KJZT

**RAFFLE!**

Approximately \$5,000 in prizes

50 50  
RAFFLE

‘I never thought this would happen.’

~ Sister Rosario Resendez



### Meeting Pope Francis during pilgrimage to Rome

Bishop Brendan Cahill and Sister Rosario Resendez are part of a group from the Diocese of Victoria who took a pilgrimage to Rome Aug. 21-30. On Aug. 24, during the weekly papal audience, Bishop Brendan Cahill was asked to sit near Pope Francis as a visiting bishop. Bishop Cahill also requested that Sister Rosario Resendez be allowed to meet Pope Francis as she has just professed her final vows with the Sisters of the Incarnate Word and Blessed Sacrament in Victoria (*See page 12*). According to Sister Rosario, the meeting was a long shot, but, by the grace of God and the persistence of Bishop Cahill and their tour guide, she was able to fulfill her dream of meeting Pope Francis. She said he smiled at her and looked into her eyes as she spoke to him in Spanish, saying, “I’m Sister Rosario from the Incarnate Word Sisters, please pray for us.” She said when she stood in front of the pope, she forgot the script she was memorizing while waiting in line to greet him. “I never thought this would happen,” she said. “I still can’t believe it did happen. I can’t thank Bishop and all who made it happen enough.” (*Contributed Photos*)

St. John Catholic Church of Hungerford  
Annual

# Bazaar

Sunday, Oct. 2nd  
Hungerford Hall

Music  
by:

1-5pm

## Red Ravens

Sunday Mass at 9:30 AM

# Barbecue Dinner

Beef - Chicken - Sausage

with all the trimmings

Live Auction DRIVE THRU  
at 12:30 OR DINE IN

SERVING BEGINS AT 10:30 AM



# A Prayer to the North American martyrs

DEAR Saints Isaac Jogues, John Brebeuf, Noel Chabanel, Gabriel Lalemant, Anthony Daniel, Charles Garnier, Rene Goupil and John Lalande, we beg of you, pray for the people of this vast country ours.

You are the first canonized saints of the United States and Canada. We are glad to have you. We are happy to honor you. You know our country and its needs, and we know you are in heaven praying for us.



There is one very special favor we wish to ask of you. Dear Saints of North America, pray God to send us another saint, or better still, a number of them. Ask Him to have soon—a man or a woman, a boy or a girl from this country of ours raised to the honors of the altar. Let it be a farmer or a laborer, a housewife or a schoolboy, born and bred in these United States. Let it be some one who lived his whole life here—a Saint Joseph of Car-



ville County, or a Saint Mary of Middletown, or a Saint William of New York.

We do not wish to displace you in our affections, but to add to your glorious number. You understand our desires in this, and we feel sure that we will obtain this great blessing for the salvation of the people of this land. Remember us now, and obtain this great blessing for us from God. Help us always to cooperate with the graces that God so richly and generously gives us, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

*\*From [www.catholicrurallife.org](http://www.catholicrurallife.org).*

Presidio La Bahia



Open daily 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Admission is \$5 for adults, \$4.50 for seniors, \$3.50 for military personnel, \$2 for children 6-11, and under 6 are free.

Group rates available when reservations are made in advance.

Guided tours available to large groups and schools. Please confirm in advance.

The fort is handicapped accessible.

For more information, call 361-645-3752.

Early Bird Registration Deadline Is August 31



FULLNESS OF TRUTH

The New Eve

Mary's Role in Salvation History

The Cathedral of Our Lady of Victory  
Cathedral Center | 3102 N. Laurent Street  
Victoria, Texas 77901



October 14-15, 2022

Early Bird General Admission  
General Admission Pass - \$55 • Virtual General Admission Pass - \$55  
Family Pass - \$150 • Priority Seraphim Pass - \$110  
Clergy/Religious Admission Pass - FREE



Bishop Gary Janak  
Archdiocese of San Antonio



Msgr. Eduardo Chavez  
Postulator for the Canonization Cause of St. Juan Diego



Immaculée Ilibagiza  
Marian Author & Rwandan Genocide Survivor



Jim Burnham  
Apologist & Author

For tickets, schedule and more information call 877.218.7884 or visit [www.FullnessOfTruth.org](http://www.FullnessOfTruth.org)

Journeys of Faith with Ceci



Holy Land and Jordan Pilgrimage with Father Philip Brune  
January 27 ~ February 9, 2023

This is a once in a lifetime experience! Even if you've been to Holy Land before, you will want to go on this pilgrimage. Can you imagine walking in the Footsteps of Jesus in His homeland? How will you feel as you lay your hand on the place where his earthly body lay for three days only to rise again? Experience experience the Scriptures come to life! And to add to this life changing experience, we will also visit Holy Jordan! We go to Mt Nebo and see the Promised Land as Moses did. We go on to Petra to walk the ancient Siq to the famous Treasury carved into the side of a cliff. Afterwards we travel to the Wadi Rum in the Desert for the night where we sleep in "tents!" Stargazing here is incredible! The next day we head back and visit the Baptismal Site of Jesus and the swim in the Dead Sea. Our last day includes a visit to Amman before our flight home. The price is inclusive of all but two meals, and includes a family dinner with Christian families in Bethlehem! Informational/sign up meeting, 10 am Sept. 10 at St. Robert in El Campo.



Join us on a journey to Italy with Father Gabriel Bentil  
September 1 - 10, 2023

Join Father Gabriel Bentil on an Italy Pilgrimage that starts in Assisi, home of St. Francis and St. Claire, Cascia and view the incorrupt body of St. Rita, Saint of Impossible Causes, the Holy House of Blessed Mother in Loreto, the beautiful town of Siena where we see the relics of St. Catherine, Orvieto to see the Eucharistic Miracle of Bolsena in the beautiful Cathedral, and ROME, where we attend the Papal Audience, tour the four Basilicas, the Colosseum and have a free day to explore on your own!

Information and online fliers are found at [www.selectinternationaltours.com](http://www.selectinternationaltours.com) or contact me at [ceci.triska@gmail.com](mailto:ceci.triska@gmail.com) and I will email it to you



# Younger Catholics asking for fellowship

Continued from pg. 1

X synod report, our diocese – not surprisingly – isn't the only one with this concern. The report states, "The faith journey of young Catholics – in and outside the Church -- was another common concern. This was a consistent, prevailing, theme in each report from the (arch)dioceses in Region X. This concern for the young Church includes the absence of young people in the Church, leaving the Church, and the lack of youth and young adult engagement in ministries and in the communal celebration of the Eucharist."

But at Sts. Cyril and Methodius in Shiner, a group of young people has asked their pastor to help them be holier.

The Rev. Bryan Heyer said, "I was approached by some college-aged young adults that have moved back to Shiner and they wanted something for them."

The result was the first of a planned monthly gathering called Truth on Tap. About 25-30 young people gathered at the Shiner Diner for an information discussion on "living the virtues."

Father Heyer said in the area of faith formation, there is often a gap between high school and marriage. During that time, "They are out of their bubble and confronting the world, wondering, 'How do we do this?' We're here to walk with you."

He also said there have been plenty of opportunities offered for all ages to study



A group of young people from the Diocese of Victoria traveled to Colorado recently for the 2022 Rocky Mountain High retreat. They are shown here praying during Stations of the Cross. Each person had the opportunity to carry the cross while reflecting on the passion and death of Jesus. (Photos by Taylor Janak)

their faith and grow closer to God. "We have offered everything under the sun," he said. But as many reach the age where their parents' aren't pushing them to go to Mass, they don't.

Some good news at Sts. Cyril and Methodius right now is younger families are filling the pews. Father Heyer said people are moving out to Shiner to escape the problems of cities with large populations, many looking for a better place to raise their children. He said his church is working on ways to make sure those new families are welcomed and people are feeling like a community. They need chances to gather in person for fellowship. "People don't talk to each other any more."

Other good things are going on in the diocese as well. The Office of Youth and Young Adult Ministry has seen an increase this year in participation in its events, most recently the Rocky Mountain High trip to Colorado, which has had a lasting effect on many lives.

The Rev. Dalton Ervin, parochial vicar at Our Lady of Victory parish in Victoria, is one whose experience during Rocky Mountain High helped form his decision to become a priest.

That retreat, Father Ervin said, gave him a chance to connect with other people his age who made God a

priority. "I yearned for faith and I knew church was going to be a big part of my life," he said.

During that time of his life a couple in Weimar, where he grew up, started encouraging young people there to join other youth in the diocese for the Rocky Mountain High. "It had been going on before, but I had never heard of it. I didn't know what to expect. I just knew it was something new and I was always up for something new."

On that Colorado trip, he found young people and adults who really cared about the youth, and he got to know the late Rev. Dan Morales and the Very Rev. Kirby Hlavaty, now pastor/rector at the Cathedral of Our Lady of Victory, who served as spiritual directors for the group. For Father Ervin, those two men "brought new personality to the priesthood," and made him realize that he might also have what it takes to pursue priesthood. But he did see that there was a place for him in the church beyond sitting in the pews.

His is not the only vocation influenced during the Rocky Mountain High retreat. He said he knew of several couples that met at the retreat and later married. And he made life-long friends with people who shared his passion for the Catholic Church.

One of the problems he sees when it comes to youth leaving the church is that families are not making faith the priority in many cases, choosing to attend other extra-curricular activities at the expense of attending Mass or making a retreat.

"All of us, our souls long to be with God," Father Ervin said. Having an encounter with God in a space made for Godly encounters -- like the retreat center in Colorado -- can help sustain the encounter.

The Region X report also indicates that Catholics the need to be more encouraging to young people and families. It says, "The reports recognized that we, as the Church, are not always welcoming or inviting. Young people feel distant and neglected. More effective outreach and engagement of youth, young adults and young families is needed to help faith become central to their lives."

Other notes concerning youth from the Region X synod report are as follows:

"The reports revealed that young Catholics in Region X want joyous and festive liturgies with homilies addressing issues in their daily lives, to have a better understanding of liturgy and ability to serve in liturgical ministries. They are discouraged to participate in sacramental preparation when there are "too many hoops to jump through." They desire sacramental preparation processes that are more substantive and foster a personal encounter with Jesus Christ.

"The reports said that young Catholics should also be empowered to participate in other areas of Church life as catechists, liturgical ministers, and in other leadership roles -- the fellowship opportunities could make faith central in their lives and lead to even more involvement. Examples of empowerment included: providing childcare, opportune scheduling of training or meeting times, and outreach and significance of young Catholics in leadership roles."



The Rev. James Dvorak, parochial vicar for Sacred Heart, Hallettsville, gives Communion during a Mass at the Rocky Mountain High Retreat. The Rev. Michael Rother, pastor of St. Philip in El Campo, also accompanied the youth to Colorado.



Lauren Theriot climbs a rock wall during the 2022 Rocky Mountain High retreat. It was one of the "just for fun" activities at the Sonlight Campgrounds where the group gathers to get away from the daily grind and spend time in prayer, fellowship and worship.





### 4th degree KC officers

SCHULENBURG — The Knights of Columbus 4th Degree, Our Lady of Guadalupe Province District 2, Saint Michael's Assembly #1527 of Schulenburg, Flatonia and Weimer installed their new 2022-2023 officers at the Schulenburg Hall on July 17. The 4th Degree of the Knights of Columbus is patriotism, these Sir Knights are honored to protect and cherish the Flag, the symbol of the United States. The Fourth Degree is the highest and most prestigious degree within the Knights of Columbus. It is a group of outstanding Sir Knights dedicated to the service of their church, their community, their country and the order. From left, are, front row, Captain Paul Zapalac, District Master and Master of Ceremony Herman Poothong, Faithful Navigator Kenneth Berger, District Marshall Joe A Martinez, Purser Thomas Bargas; back row, Admiral Timothy Leihardt, Scribe Douglas Berger, Trustee Larry Brown, Sentinels Richard Schacherl and Dennis Olsovsky, Comptroller Martin Luchak. Not pictured: Worthy Faithful Friar Rev. Wayne Flagg, Pilot Randell Barta, Trustees Adolph Kutac and Raymond Prihoda. (Contributed Photo)

## ST. PHILIP the APOSTLE CATHOLIC CHURCH PICNIC

**Sunday, Sept. 25, 2022  
at the Columbus Club**

(K.C. Hall, Armory Rd. in El Campo - 11 a.m.-7 p.m.)

**BBQ plates with all the trimmings!**

**HUGE AUCTION**  
*Beginning at 12:30 p.m.*

Games ~ Kiddie Rides ~ Music  
Country Store ~ Silent Auction ~ Hamburgers  
*Food, Fun and Fellowship for the Entire Community!*

### Grief retreat for parents planned

The Strength for the Journey ministry is planning a weekend retreat for parents whose children have died beginning Sept. 30. The retreat is at the Spiritual Renewal Center and concludes on Oct. 2.

This is open to anyone who has lost a child for any reason, at any age no matter how long ago. It is open to all faiths. Registration forms can be found at [victoriadiocese.org/grief-support](http://victoriadiocese.org/grief-support), for more information call 979-257-9984 or [phoelscher@victoriadiocese.org](mailto:phoelscher@victoriadiocese.org) or Deacon Larry Hoelscher at 979-578-3934 or [lhoelscher@victoriadiocese.org](mailto:lhoelscher@victoriadiocese.org).

Partial financial assistance may be available for those who cannot afford the cost of the retreat.

The Strength for the Journey team, a group of other parents who have suffered the death of a child, also offers an ongoing grief ministry open to all faiths. It meets monthly in Ganado at the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary parish hall from 6:30 to 8 p.m. The church is located at 108 6th St. The next monthly meeting is Sept. 13.

### ACTS Core training offered on Sept. 17

The last chance for in-person ACTS Core training this year is Sept. 17 at Our Lady of Victory Cathedral Center in Victoria.

This is a requirement for all who are serving on the ACTS Core Team who have not completed the training in the last three years.

The training begins at 8:30 a.m. in the St. Gabriel Room. Registration begins at 8. The training is scheduled to conclude around 3:30-4 p.m., and lunch is included.

Those who cannot attend the in-person training can always complete the training online from ACTS Missions in San Antonio.

If you have any questions, contact Jodie Runge at 361-550-8000, or email [dovactschapter@victoriadiocese.org](mailto:dovactschapter@victoriadiocese.org).

Also, the Diocese of Victoria ACTS Chapter is seeking more members to serve. If you are interested, contact Rick Thorton at 281-924-9903, or email [dovactschapter@victoriadiocese.org](mailto:dovactschapter@victoriadiocese.org).

## Holy Family Catholic Church

# FALL FESTIVAL

**Turkey & Dressing  
with Trimmings**  
Dine In or Drive Thru  
10:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.  
\$12 per plate  
Sunday Mass: 9:00 a.m.

Live Auction begins at Noon

- Country Store
- Cake & Gift Card Walk
- Silent Auction | Raffle
- Concession Stand | Pastry Booth
- Bounce House
- Pony Rides | Petting Zoo | Games
- Train Ride | Face Painting

**OCTOBER 16th, 2022**

2009 Briar Lane | Wharton, TX





## Meals • Picnics and More

## September

**Hallettsville** – Indian Open Golf Classic Sept. 3. For more information call Hallettsville Golf Association at 361-798-9908 or Aaron Chovanetz at 281-750-9279.

**Cuero** – Our Lady of Guadalupe Annual Jamaica, Sept. 4 on the parish hall grounds. BBQ dinner 11 a.m.-1 p.m. for \$12 each plate. Music from 4-11 p.m.

**Hallettsville** – Sacred Heart Parish Fall Picnic, Sept. 4 at the KC Hall. Fried chicken, stew and dressing dinner from 10:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. for \$12 each plate. Music from 11 a.m. to 8 p.m.

**High Hill** – St. Mary's Parish Picnic, Sept. 4 on the parish grounds. Polka Mass at 10 a.m. followed by a fried chicken and stew dinner for \$12 each plate. Music all day. Fireworks show at 10 p.m.

**Nada** – St. Mary's Parish Festival and Homecoming, Sept. 4. A BBQ beef and sausage dinner from 11 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. for \$12 each plate. Bingo in the hall from 1 to 7 p.m.

**Shiner** – Sts. Cyril and Methodius Fall Picnic, Sept. 4 at the KC Park. A stew, fried chicken and sausage dinner served 10:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. Music from 10:30 a.m. to midnight.

**Vanderbilt** – St. John Bosco Fall Festival Sept. 4 at the Trinity Family Center. A BBQ brisket and sausage plates from 11 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. for \$13 each plate. Live auction at 1 p.m.

**Inez** – St. Joseph Church Annual Picnic at the Inez Community Center on Sept. 11. A fried chicken, brisket and sausage dinner for \$12 each plate. See ad on pg. 11.

**Yorktown** – Holy Cross Festival at Community Hall on Sept. 11. Mass at 9:30 a.m. followed by a BBQ beef shoulder clod and sausage dinner for \$12 each plate. Music from 11:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. Live auction at 1:00 p.m.

**Holman** – St. Wenceslaus Annual Feast (9937 FM 155, between Weimar and La Grange) is on Sept. 18. There will be a drive-thru only meal of fried chicken, sausage and all the trimmings beginning at 10:30 a.m. Also, there will be an online auction at [www.charityauction.bid/HolmanPicnic](http://www.charityauction.bid/HolmanPicnic).

**Moulton** – St. Joseph Picnic, Sept. 18 at the St. Joseph's Social Center located on the parish grounds. A fried chicken and stew dinner beginning at 10:30 a.m. at \$12 per plate (dine-in, drive-thru plates-to-go, and meat-to-go available). Music by Ken Brothers and Czech Wine Stompers. There will also be a cakewalk, plant walk, bingo, children's games and an auction (1 p.m.). Refreshments and hamburgers will be available all afternoon.

**Port Lavaca** – Our Lady of the Gulf Fall Festival, Sept. 18 at the Bauer Community Center. A Pork steak dinner for \$12 each plate with dine-in or take-out. See pg. 5 for more information.

**Bay City** – Holy Cross Fall Festival, Sept. 25, at the Knights of Columbus Hall. A turkey and dressing dinner from 11 a.m.-1 p.m. at \$15 each plat See ad on pg. 15.

**Bloomington** – St. Patrick's Fall Festival Dinner, Sept. 25 on the church grounds. A turkey and dressing dinner will be served for \$12 each plate. See pg. 10 for more information.

**El Campo** – St. Philip Picnic, Sept. 25 at the Columbus Club serving BBQ dinner. For more information, see pg. 22.

**Meyersville** – Sts. Peter and Paul BBQ and Raffle on Sept. 25. A BBQ meal will be served 11 a.m.-1 p.m. at \$12 per plate for dine-in or to-go. See pg. 6 for more information.

**Sweet Home** – Queen of Peace Parish Picnic, Sept. 25, serving stew and sausage dinner for \$12 per plate at the Sweet Home Community Center. For more information see ad on pg. 19.

## October

**Hostyn** – Queen of the Holy Rosary Festival Oct. 2 on the parish grounds. Outdoor Mass, under a tent, at 10 a.m. A fried chicken, sausage dinner serving starting at 11 a.m. for \$12 each plate. See ad on pg. 14 for more information.

**Hungerford** – St. John Bazaar Oct. 2 at the Hungerford Hall. A BBQ beef, chicken and sausage dinner staring at 10:30 a.m. with dine-in or drive thru available. See ad on pg. 19 for more details and activities.

**Mentz** – St. Roch Parish Picnic Oct. 2 on the parish grounds. A BBQ beef, pork and sausage dinner starting at 11 a.m. at \$15 per plate. Dance inside from 12-4 p.m. See ad on pg. 8 for all the activities happening that day.

**Victoria** – Nazareth Academy Fall Festival Oct. 2 at the Victoria Community Center Annex. A turkey and dressing dinner (plates-to-go ONLY) at \$12 each plate. There will be no activities at that day. Online auction and raffle only. See pg. 7 for more information.

**Palacios** – Shrimporee Oct. 8-9 with a golf scramble on Saturday and on Sunday food, games, music, auction and more. Serving shrimp or BBQ (beef and chicken) starting

at 10:30 a.m. for \$15 each plate. See ad on pg. 13.

**Columbus** – St. Anthony Parish Fall Picnic Oct. 9 at the Columbus Hall. A BBQ beef and sausage meal will be served at \$?? per plate with dine-in or drive-thru available from 11 a.m.-1 p.m. For more details see ad on pg. 17.

**East Bernard** – Holy Cross Bazaar, Oct. 9 at Riverside Hall. A BBQ beef, chicken and sausage with homemade dressing dinner starting at 11 a.m. Music by the Dujka Brothers and Red Ravens from 12 - 6 p.m. See ad on pg. 12 for all the information.

**El Campo** – St. Robert Festival, Oct. 9. See ad on pg. 6.

**Victoria** – The Cathedral of Our Lady of Victory Festival, in person on Oct. 9, serving BBQ beef and sausage dinner at the Victoria Community Center. See ad on pg. 18 for all the information.

**Wharton** – Holy Family Fall Festival, Oct. 16 serving turkey and dressing dinner with dine-in or drive-thru for \$12 per plate. For more information see ad on pg. 22.

**Blessing** – Sts. Peter and Paul Annual Dinner Oct. 30 at the parish center. A BBQ turkey and dressing dinner will be served at \$15 per plate with dine-in or drive-thru available starting at 11 a.m. See pg. 2 for more information.

## Ministries • Ongoing Activities

**ACTS Retreats** – Anyone needing any information regarding ACTS retreats in the diocese should e-mail [dovactschapter@victoriadiocese.org](mailto:dovactschapter@victoriadiocese.org).

**Catholic Family Services** – To find Catholic organizations that focus on family, visit the Catholic Association of Catholic Family Life Ministers at <http://www.nacflm.org>.

**Courage** – Ministers to persons with same-sex attractions and their loved ones. The ministry also has an outreach, EnCourage, which ministers to relatives, spouses, and friends of persons with same-sex attractions. It is a Roman Catholic Apostolate endorsed by the Pontifical Council for the Family. For information, visit <http://www.couragerc.net>.

**Crisis Pregnancy Center of Victoria** – A sister organization to the Gabriel Project staffed by volunteers that offers help to girls and women who find themselves in a difficult situation due to an unplanned pregnancy. Office located at 1501 E. Red River, is open 1-4 p.m. on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays. Free pregnancy tests offered and medical referrals are made for prenatal care. New volunteers are welcome. For information call 361-575-6171.

**Emmaus Center** – Offers individual, couple, family, adolescent and children's counseling, as well as specialized support groups. Spiritual direction is also available if requested. To make an appointment, call 361-212-0830.

**Engaged Encounter** – 2022 Dates: Sept. 16-18; Nov. 11-13. Registration is on a first-come, first-served basis. Fee must accompany registration form. For information, call 361-573-0828 or visit <http://www.victoriadiocese.org>.

**Gabriel Project of the Crossroads** – Helps women experiencing a crisis pregnancy as an alternative to abortion. Our mission is to protect the unborn by providing spiritual and emotional support as well as supplies. We provide housing through the Bethlehem Maternity Home and have an outreach ministry that visits pregnant women in our community. Our services cover Victoria, Calhoun, Colorado, DeWitt, Fayette, Goliad, Jackson, Lavaca, Matagorda and Wharton Counties. For more information, please contact our helpline at 361-576-1156.

**Grief Ministry** – For parents whose children have died meets on Aug. 9 at Assumption Church parish hall, 108 6th St., in Ganado from 6:30 to 8 p.m. For more information, please call Pat Hoelscher at 979-257-9984.

**id.9:16 Ministry** – For adults in their 20s and 30s, single or married. Held at Holy Family in Victoria every first Thursday of the month. Starts with 6 p.m. Mass followed by dinner and a talk live streamed from the headquarters in Michigan and fellowship. It is open to all young adults of the diocese. For information, or to RSVP for events, e-mail [id916victoria@gmail.com](mailto:id916victoria@gmail.com).

**Incarnate Word Prayer Group** – Praise and worship 7:30-9 p.m. Mondays in the auditorium at Incarnate Word Convent, 1101 N.E. Water St. For information, contact Sister Louise Marie Jones at 361-575-7111 or e-mail [amormeus@yahoo.com](mailto:amormeus@yahoo.com).

**Mothers of Grace** – A mothers' group at the Cathedral of Our Lady of Victory. For information, contact Leslie Book at [book.leslie@gmail.com](mailto:book.leslie@gmail.com) or visit their Facebook page at [www.facebook.com/Mothersofgraceolv/](http://www.facebook.com/Mothersofgraceolv/).

**Natural Family Planning** – NFP is the only church-approved form of family planning. For the CREIGTON MODEL Fertility Care System (CrMS) featuring NaPro TECHNOLOGY™ contact Susanne Koch in Wharton at 505-710-0903 or [mailto:susannekoch614@gmail.com](mailto:mailto:susannekoch614@gmail.com). Also in the Cuero area contact, Ashley Rodriguez at 361-293-0700 or e-mail [ashleyfay09@gmail.com](mailto:ashleyfay09@gmail.com).

**Raphael's Refuge** – Raphael's Refuge is the home of the Monument to the Innocents which honors babies who have died (from conception to one year). We are a non-profit organization located outside of Flatonia, Texas. Peer counseling is available for those suffering the loss of a baby due to miscarriage, stillbirth, infant death or abortion. For information, call Therese at 361-258-1514, e-mail [raphaelsrefuge@att.net](mailto:raphaelsrefuge@att.net), or visit <http://www.raphaelsrefuge.org>.

**Retrouvaille** – Retrouvaille, meaning "rediscovery," is a marriage-healing ministry offered in the diocese to couples in difficult marriages. Contact John and Jennifer Vincent at [jbvjov@sbcglobal.net](mailto:jbvjov@sbcglobal.net) or 361-580-2770; or call 800-470-2230; or visit <http://www.helppourmarriage.org>



# Vietnamese Catholics celebrate new parish

*Continued from pg. 1*

op Cahill. He added that Bishop Charles Grahmann, the first bishop of the Diocese of Victoria, saw the beauty of every culture that formed the Catholic communities in the diocese. It's evident, he said, in the chancery where the stained glass windows of its chapel pay homage to the immigrants who built the parishes. "Our faith is communicated through our culture," he said.

The Vietnamese community began to grow in Palacios after the fall of Saigon in the 1970s and people left to find a better

that church was integrated with an all-white parish with the best of intentions, but they never fully integrated and the black Catholic population in Weimar disappeared.

Our Lady of Lavang will operate as any other parish, with a pastor, a parish finance council and its own faith formation programs, and it will adhere to other norms of a diocesan parish, such as keeping records of sacraments.

It is considered a quasi-parish by virtue of the fact that it could be created with the

*Bishop Brendan Cahill congratulates the Rev. Dominic Nguyen after installing him as the first pastor of Our Lady of Lavang. He has served the Vietnamese Apostolate in Palacios as pastor of St. Anthony Catholic Church previously. The Rev. Eliecer Patino, who was parochial vicar for St. Anthony, has been appointed St. Anthony's parish administrator. (Janet Jones/The Catholic Lighthouse)*



way of life. The shrimping industry began to draw more to the area and they formed a faith community whose pastoral needs were cared for by the late Rev. Joseph Pham duc Trinh. After Father Joseph died, the community sought help from Father Dominic, who was ordained as a Redemptorist priest and later became incardinated in the diocese.

This new parish is kind of a reversal of thought from some past efforts to integrate, but it serves to help preserve the Vietnamese culture. "It's nice to have an ethnic parish," the bishop said.

Though we do want to worship together, a minority culture in a parish can feel left out, so integration can fail if that minority is not "fully engaged and alive," Bishop Cahill explained. That scenario played out before, he said, with an African-American parish in the Weimar area many years ago. He said

bishop's authority to serve a special purpose, in this case providing for the needs of the Vietnamese Apostolate in the diocese, whereas the first and foremost function of an ordinary parish is to meet the sacramental needs of a population in a particular territory. The creation or suppression of an ordinary parish is far more difficult than that of a quasi-parish, which might require a change in its status in the future if, for example, the group of faithful it was created to serve becomes too small to sustain itself or, on the other hand, grows to a point that it could be established as a full-fledged parish.

During his homily at the Mass, Bishop Cahill referred to the "cloud of witnesses" – the ancestors who kept their faith in God alive for future generations – as a fitting image for the community gathered in the chapel.



*Children of the families of the newly created Our Lady of Lavang parish re-enact the story of the apparition of the Blessed Virgin to the faithful in the rain forest of Lavang in Vietnam. (Janet Jones/The Catholic Lighthouse)*

The "cloud of witnesses that helped form this parish," is what the bishop called "the men and women who came from Vietnam in the '70s and '80s with many difficulties and challenges and trials, seeking to provide for their families in a safe, new area. And as we look back on the days of the '70s and '80s I also want to acknowledge the German, Czech and Mexican American communities that welcomed the Vietnamese. We know that living in America – it's no secret – we're not always welcoming to refugees."

"In a way, today is a marvelous day to say there's a great cloud of witnesses that have come before us into this area of Palacios and have led us to this day where we rejoice in the dedication of a new parish, with a new pastor, with new guidance for our community and trusting everything to God. We look back and give thanks to God for the cloud of witnesses that began the parish."

The bishop added that a source of pride for him as bishop of the Diocese of Victoria "is that our parishes produce priests and religious sisters."

Palacios has produced Dominican Sisters, Redemptorist priests and diocesan priests to name a few vocations. And the

groups were well represented for the celebration of Our Lady of Lavang.

After the Mass, a dinner and party took place in the church hall next door, with singing, traditional foods, and

a reenactment of the story of Our Lady of Lavang, a source of strength for Vietnamese Catholics for more than two centuries. According to the history, the Vietnamese Catholics were being persecuted and killed, so they took refuge in the rain forest at Lavang. Many became ill in the rain forest, and they prayed for help from the Blessed Virgin Mary. She appeared to them in traditional Vietnamese dress with an infant in her arms and angels at her sides. She told the people to boil certain leaves to make medicine for themselves.

The Marian devotion has always been very strong among Vietnamese Catholics, Bishop Cahill said. During his homily, he remarked that Catholics,

no matter what nationality, are united by two things – the Eucharist first and foremost, and the devotion to Mary.

"From the beginning of many of our stories, whether we're Irish, German, African, Czech, Vietnamese, Taiwanese – whatever our culture as Catholics – we have a cloud of witnesses that give us strength in God," he said.



*Our Lady of Lavang*





## DOV’s Hispanic ministry leader on regional board

Aldo Camacho, the Hispanic Ministry coordinator for the Diocese of Victoria has been selected as treasurer of the executive committee of the Region X Catholic Association of Diocesan Directors of Hispanic Ministry.

Camacho joins other board members Sister Esperanza Micaela Espinoza of the Diocese of Little Rock, coordinator; Maria Beltran of the Diocese of Dallas, secretary; and Lazaro Contreras of the Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston, NCADDHM representative.

Region X includes dioceses in Texas, Oklahoma and Arkansas.

According to its website, “NCADDHM is a national organization recognized by the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops in Washington with representation throughout the United States.” For more than 25 years, it has provided support to current and future diocesan leadership serving the Hispanic population in the Church through networking opportunities, mentoring and best practices in the field of Hispanic ministry.



Aldo Camacho

## Meet the four new seminarians attending Holy Trinity Seminary in Irving



William Pettus, IV  
Class: Pre-Theology I  
Hometown: Hallettsville  
Home Parish: Sacred Heart

Throughout much of my youth attending a small-town Catholic school, I desired an ordinary life and future for myself, one that involved marriage, children, and normality. Through my involvement and service at Saint Mary’s Catholic Center (College Station) and its ministry, I received a flourishing of my faith and my interior life and felt a call to the priesthood my senior year. After much prayer, spiritual direction, and peace, I am thankful and blessed to be here in priestly formation at Holy Trinity Seminary.



Nelson Lagos  
Class: Freshman  
Hometown: Port Lavaca  
Home Parish: Our Lady of the Gulf

I grew up in a very Catholic family in Honduras with a very devout grandmother who introduced me to the beauty of our faith. From a very young age I always wanted to be a priest. At the age of fourteen I began to seriously think about my faith and what my calling in life was. Through prayer, discernment, serving and volunteering in the church, I discovered that God was calling me to follow and serve Him in a deeper way. My dream is to become a holy priest to the service of the people of God, like the ones who have inspired me in my journey.



Jacob Pyatt  
Class: Freshman  
Hometown: Victoria  
Home Parish: The Cathedral of Our Lady of Victory

I grew up Catholic, but I struggled in junior high with my faith. It wasn’t until my freshman year, when I went through a Marian Consecration that I began to pray to Mary. She introduced me to Jesus Christ, who truly loves me. He saved me from a low point in my life, “[because] the God of the mountain is the God of the valley” (Elevation Worship, “Graves into Gardens”). Bishop Gary Janak was my pastor and his “Yes!” to becoming a bishop inspired me to the priesthood. In prayer, I felt God say, “Be bold in obedience.” So, here I am, Lord!



Alex Woods  
Class: Freshman  
Hometown: Houston  
Home Parish: St. Mary, Victoria

I always wanted to be a priest and this call was strengthened by daily recitation of the holy rosary and frequent holy hours. My parents encouraged me to respond to this call and have supported me throughout my discernment. I have been blessed to discern with two religious orders, but I feel called to diocesan life.

## Gabriel Project seeks volunteer

The Gabriel Project of the Crossroads is looking for a special volunteer to help coordinate volunteer activities.

The person needed would be responsible for the database of volunteers and would help recruit and train new volunteers.

This is currently one of the greatest needs of this pro-life non-profit that has been helping mothers and their babies for more than 20 years. Anyone who wants to help the organization with this type of work and also help convey the Gabriel Project’s purpose to the public – standing up for a woman in a crisis and protecting the unborn – can find more information on the website [www.victoriagabrielproject.org/volunteer](http://www.victoriagabrielproject.org/volunteer). If filling out the online form, check “other, refer to the volunteer coordinator opportunity, and the executive director will contact you.

## Shroud of Turin sculpture exhibited at Sts. Peter and Paul in Frelsburg



The Shroud of Turin sculpture exhibited in front of the rectory is a sculpture created by Michael Fuller and installed with the help of his wife, Tammy. The sculpture was created from a digital image of the Shroud of Turin and formed through multiple methods of clay forming including 3D digital printing methods. Maintaining the authenticity of the original image of the Shroud was first and foremost in creating the sculpture, there were no modifications made to the image except those needed for constructing. Both the front and back images of the Shroud are part of the sculpture. The overall sculpture was created from 48 smaller blocks that were joined together to make 12 larger blocks that make up the whole. An iron oxide wash was manually applied to create the highlights of the image. The materials and overall sculpture are very rough, but the roughness of the sculpture fits with the roughness of the of the body in the image. The plan is to share this sculpture with other parishes throughout the Diocese as a traveling artwork. The work will be moved next to St. Roch after several months of being on display here at

Frelsburg. We will see where it will go from there. Please keep in mind that the Shroud of Turin has never officially been disproven despite many studies that have tried, it is still a mystery. It is believed by many of the faithful to be the burial cloth of Jesus Christ and that the image of the man in the Shroud is that of Jesus. Please be respectful when viewing the artwork.

## Upcoming Event

**Goliad:** Immaculate Conception Fall Festival on parish grounds (238 N. Commercial St.) on Sunday, Oct. 16. BBQ beef buffet style and plates-to-go beginning at 10:30 a.m. There will be a Big Ticket Raffle \$100 each with 52 chances to win! country store, bake shop, plants, cakewalk, children’s games and a live auction at 1 p.m.