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brings relic to DOV

The Catholic Lighthouse

The Cradle of Texas Immigration

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October 2022

So many miracles

Blessed Carlo Acutis' mission carrying on in Victoria



The Eucharistic Miracles panels were set up for the first-ever Hispanic Conference on Saturday, Sept. 24. The miracles are available in Spanish and English to serve the diocese. (Janet Jones/The Catholic Lighthouse)

JANET JONES

The Catholic Lighthouse

A Eucharistic Revival had already begun in the Diocese of Victoria before its official start on Corpus Christi Sunday this year. Even before Pope Francis

made it known.

For Sharon Thomas of Yorktown, it started during the pandemic lockdowns. “It really devastated me,” she said. “I wasn’t going home and locking my door, I was trying to get into church.”

She missed the Sacrament so much that she promised herself she was going to start going to daily Mass when the churches reopened. “I felt the need to receive the Eucharist for strength and nourishment,” she said.

The time she spent finding spiritual resources and viewing Mass online, however, was not in vain. That’s when she met Blessed Carlo Acutis, known as the first

*See So many miracles,
pg. 20*

Widowed and elderly often feel forgotten

EDITOR’S NOTE: This is the third of a four-part series that looks a little further into the prominent themes that emerged from the Diocese of Victoria’s listening sessions for the Synod on Synodality. This month concerns the needs of the elderly and widowed. Synthesis reports for the diocese, the region and the U.S. are available at www.victoriadiocese.org.

JANET JONES

The Catholic Lighthouse

A few months ago, Carolyn Rutledge of Edna sent a printout of a blog about widowhood to The Catholic Lighthouse, and suggested it should be shared.

The blog, which had been shared on Facebook, came from author and blogger Alisha Bozarth (www.alishaboarth.com) and talks about the pain of losing your identity and facing a world that is at once familiar and not familiar at all. Widowhood, the blog says, turns happy moments into “bittersweet” ones. It is trying to move forward

while looking behind you.

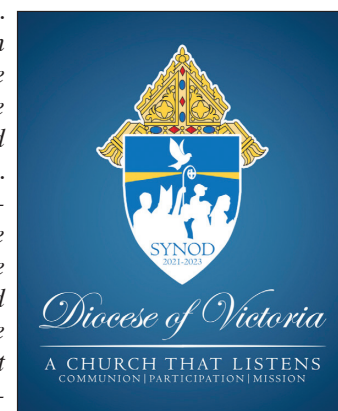
Jenny Vincent, who chaired the Diocese of Victoria’s synod committee, said she has heard from many widows before that there is a great need for help

in healing and feeling connected again. And some notes from the parishes that held listening sessions indicate the Church could do more to keep the elderly

and widowed connected.

“After years of volunteering and serving in the parish, the elderly and homebound feel disconnected from the parish and ‘forgotten’ by the priests,” the synthesis report for the Diocese of Victoria states. “Family members shared that most receive Holy Communion from visiting extraordinary ministers of Holy Communion to the Sick, but these visits are quick and their loved ones are seldom visited by the clergy unless they specifically ask for them.

*See Widowed and elderly,
pg. 6*





‘Keeping our eyes fixed on Jesus’ (Hebrews 12:2)

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

In last month’s *Lighthouse*, I wrote about the speeches of St. John XXIII in the summer of 1962 as the Church prepared for the start of the Second Vatican Council. St. John XXIII opened the council on Oct. 11, 1962, with a speech titled “Gaudet Mater Ecclesia.”

Throughout those months of 1962, bishops and theologians were preparing for the discussions that would take place during the sessions of the council.

One of the conclusions that I reached in studying much of the correspondence among the bishops and theologians noted the divisions among them. For example, Father Karl Rahner and Father Joseph Ratzinger (future Pope Benedict XVI) wrote a theological document together, but by November 1962 they seemed to be going in different directions. In Chapter 4 of my thesis, I wrote, “For his

part, Rahner wrote in a letter to Vorgrimler on November 5 ‘I also notice here that I’m not yet all that old, even when I sit at a table with Daniélou, Congar, Ratzinger, Schillebeeckx and so on. I find that these still do not realize clearly enough how little, e.g. a Christology «from above», which simply declares that God has become man, can be understood today.’”

Another conclusion that I ultimately reached demonstrated that Cardinal Jean

A Shepherd’s Message

By Bishop Brendan Cahill



is present and listens to our prayer, and He is the source of healing and salvation for the world. We commit ourselves to keep our eyes fixed on Jesus with Mary.

The petitions I’ve asked us to present to Jesus in this time of prayer from October 2-9 are:

I. In reparation for the sins of bishops and priests.

II. An increased awareness of the true presence of Jesus in the Holy Eucharist.

III. For the gift of peace, especially in the Ukraine.

IV. For an increase in vocations to the priesthood and consecrated life from our families.

May God bless you and your families with a deep sense of faith in Jesus, trusting in His mercy and love for ourselves and for the whole world. Let’s keep each other in prayer.

+Brendan

Diocese’s 2022 Rosary Congress Oct. 2-8

Bishop Brenda J. Cahill will open the 2022 Rosary Congress in the Diocese of Victoria when he celebrates Mass at 6 p.m. Oct. 2 at the Cathedral of Our Lady of Victory.

From that time and continuing for seven days, the rosary will be recited during adoration each hour somewhere in diocese. Each deanery in the diocese is coordinating efforts with the parishes within those deaneries. Anyone who wants to be a participant should check with their church, or can visit the Parish Finder on the DOV website, www.victoriadiocese.org.

Nationally, many dioceses are participating in the Rosary Congress beginning Oct. 1. The national theme chosen for this year is “Mary, Mother of the Eucharist, lead us to Him!”

Bishop Cahill announced the intentions for this year are:

1) In reparation for the sins of bishops and priests;

2) For an increase and awareness of the real presence of Christ in the Holy Eucharist;

3) For the gift of peace, especially in Ukraine;

4) For an increase of vocations to the priesthood and consecrated life from our families



According to Diocesan Rosary Congresses website, “The Rosary Congress is an intense week of prayer that hastens the triumph of the Immaculate Heart of Mary. This truly spiritual experience is a foretaste of how beautiful the world will be when humanity returns to the love and service of God. It will be that period of peace foretold by Our Lady of Fatima wherein the Eucharistic Heart of

Jesus will be the center of our lives and the Holy Spirit will fill our hearts with the fire of his love to renew the face of the earth.”

More information on the national Rosary Congress can be found at www.rosarycongressusa.org.

Danielou and the other theologians with whom Father Rahner disagreed ended up being some of the most influential theologians of the Second Vatican Council.

I’ve been thinking these thoughts, as this year is the 60th anniversary of the opening of the council.

In our diocese, we are celebrating the Rosary Congress in which we acknowledge and experience how necessary a “Christology from above” is for us today. In spiritual union with one another, we lift up our prayer with the Rosary and Eucharistic Adoration. Jesus



KCs host Public Servants Dinner

VICTORIA — Dignitaries at the annual Public Servants Appreciation Dinner at Holy Family Catholic Church, from left, are Bishop Brendan Cahill, Mike Gonzales, grand knight of Knights of Columbus Council 9088; State Rep. Geanie Morrison; and Victoria Police Chief Robert Arrendondo Jr., guest speaker. Chief Arrendondo addressed the crowd of approximately 300 public servants and their spouses as well the KC members and their spouses who hosted the event. After two years of serving in his position, he has seen some very good working relationships with all of the other local law enforcement agencies, he told the gathering, and he thanked them for that support. He said he was very proud of the hard work from the VPD officers. In August 2021 they began using some very effective tactics and follow-ups in identifying and targeting certain crime areas focused on people, persons and their behavior. This strategy has resulting in a decrease of crime in the city of Victoria, he said. In the future, they plan to utilize a search & rescue division, build a crime center and bring on five canines to assist in drug detection. Further, he said it is a great time to become a Victoria Police Officer and they are working on recruiting and retention. (Contributed Photo)



Bishop Cahill's Schedule

October

- | | | | |
|----|--|---------|--|
| 2 | • 9 a.m. Confirmation Mass for St. Joseph Church; Inez
• 6 p.m. Opening of Rosary Congress at the Cathedral of Our Lady of Victory; Victoria | 18 | • 6:30 a.m. Morning Air Radio Interview
• 9:30 a.m. Legion of Mary Praesidium meeting; Cathedral Center; Victoria
• 5:30 p.m. White Mass at the Cathedral of Our Lady of Victory; Victoria |
| 4 | • 9 a.m. Legion of Mary Praesidium meeting; Cathedral Center; Victoria
• 3 p.m. Blessing of Pets at Our Lady of Victory School; Victoria | 19 | 4 p.m. Building Board meeting; Chancery |
| 6 | 6 p.m. Serran Mass and Dinner for Deacons at Holy Family Church; Victoria | 20 – 22 | National Catholic Partnership on Disability Conference at St. Ignatius; Spring |
| 7 | 8 a.m. School Mass and Visit at Our Lady of Victory School; Victoria | 23 | 9 a.m. Mass at the Cathedral of Our Lady of Victory; Victoria |
| 8 | 10 a.m. Parish Catechetical Leader Gathering at the Chancery; Victoria | 24 | Holy Trinity Board Meeting; Dallas |
| 9 | 7:30 a.m. Mass for Kolbe Retreat at Stephenson Unit; Cuero | 25 | Collegial Sharing for Rural Bishops at Sacred Heart Seminary; Milwaukee |
| 10 | 2:30 p.m. Communities of Faith meeting | 30 | 11 a.m. Installation Mass for Father Eliecer Patiño at St. Anthony Church; Palacios |
| 11 | 9:30 a.m. Legion of Mary Praesidium meeting; Cathedral Center; Victoria | 31 | 6 p.m. Healing Mass and Confessions at Holy Cross; Yorktown |
| 14 | Noon Mass with Missionary Catechists; Victoria | | |
| 15 | • Fullness of Truth Conference at the Cathedral Center; Victoria
• 5:30 p.m. Mass for closing of Fullness of Truth Conference at the Cathedral of Our Lady of Victory; Victoria | | |
| 16 | 10 a.m. Mass and dedication of Family Life Center at St. Mary Church; Nada | | |
| 17 | • Noon meal with IWBS Sisters at | | |

IWBS Convent; Victoria
• 6 p.m. First Class Education Awards at the Cathedral Center; Victoria

• 6:30 a.m. Morning Air Radio Interview
• 9:30 a.m. Legion of Mary Praesidium meeting; Cathedral Center; Victoria
• 5:30 p.m. White Mass at the Cathedral of Our Lady of Victory; Victoria

4 p.m. Building Board meeting; Chancery

National Catholic Partnership on Disability Conference at St. Ignatius; Spring

9 a.m. Mass at the Cathedral of Our Lady of Victory; Victoria

Holy Trinity Board Meeting; Dallas

Collegial Sharing for Rural Bishops at Sacred Heart Seminary; Milwaukee

11 a.m. Installation Mass for Father Eliecer Patiño at St. Anthony Church; Palacios

6 p.m. Healing Mass and Confessions at Holy Cross; Yorktown

November

1 10:15 School Mass and Visit at St. Joseph High School; Victoria

3 5 p.m. St. Mary's Seminary Alumni Day Mass and dinner; Houston

4 8 a.m. Mass for the Anniversary of the dedication of the Cathedral of Our Lady of Victory; Victoria



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.

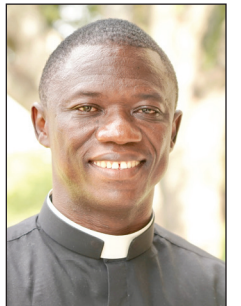
Relevant Radio® has been helping people bridge the gap between faith and everyday life through informative, entertaining, and interactive programming twenty-four hours per day, seven days per week. The Relevant Radio network is currently serving the Church with 127 stations reaching 39 states, with a potential listening audience of 133 million people. Programming can be heard worldwide via streaming audio at relevantradio.com and on the mobile app.

Holy Family Church in Victoria welcomes Rev. Jonas Kuubeta

VICTORIA – Holy Family of Joseph, Mary and Jesus Church welcomed its new parochial vicar, the Rev. Jonas Kuubeta, who arrived from Ghana this summer.

Father Jonas will help Very Rev. Gabriel Bentil, VF, Holy Family pastor, minister to the parishioners of the church.

Father Jonas can be contacted at 361-573-5304, Ext. 232, or by email at jkuubeta@hfccvic.org.



Rev. Jonas Kuubeta



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

General Admission - \$55 • Family Pass - \$150

Priority Seraphim Pass - \$110**

**(Includes VIP seating & Q/A luncheon with speakers)

Youth Pass - \$20 • Clergy/Religious Admission Pass - FREE

One Day (Friday Only 6:30-9:30 p.m.) - \$30

One Day (Saturday Only 9 a.m.-5:30 p.m.) - \$30

*Lunch is included with all tickets

Mass at 5:30 p.m. with Bishop Cahill and Bishop Janak



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



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(361) 573-0828 / (361) 573-5725 FAX • www.victoriadiocese.org

DEADLINE IS THE 15th OF THE PRECEDING MONTH

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POSTMASTER: Send address changes to P.O. Box 4070, Victoria, TX 77903

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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

Court Our Lady Queen of the
Clergy, #1990
In memory of Santos Sanchez Suast

Murlene Enke
Dan & Barbara Respondek
Hardy & JoAnn McCullough
Ed Lehnert
Frank & Renee Hlavinka
In memory of Rev. Donald Ruppert

James & Olivia Holland
In memory of Bernice Krueger

Acolyte

Barbara Wilcox
*In memory of Bernice Krueger
Rev. Donald Ruppert*

JoAnn Jalufka
In memory of Rev. Donald Ruppert

Gail Janecka
In memory of Bernice Krueger

IWBS
In honor of Sr. Rosario Resendez, IWBS

Candidate
Transitional Deacon
Priest

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 >.**

September 23, 2022

• General Seminary Burse
Acolyte

In memory of Leo and Cleo Janicek, Ruby
Billeck, Steve Morris, Thomas Billeck
and Danny Ivy by John and Hazel
Kobersky
Donation by Southern Liturgicals LLC Dr.
Richard Luplantis, Lafayette, LA

• Rev. Charles Kolek, OSB & Parents,
John and Marie Kolek Seminary
Burse

Acolyte
In memory of Rev. Charles Kolek, OSB and
John and Marie Kolek by
the Kolek Family Reunion

• Rev. Theophil Okruhlik Seminary
Burse

Transitional Deacon
In memory of Rev. Theophil Okruhlik by
Laddie and Evelyn Okruhlik and Family

• Rev. Roman M. Janak & Rev. Msgr.
Hubert J. Janak Seminary Burse
Lector

Donation by Joseph & Cecilia Fikac Family
Reunion

To contribute to an existing Seminary
Endowment Fund, send contributions with
the appropriate fund designation to:

Diocese Of Victoria
Seminary Endowment Fund
P. O. Box 4070
Victoria, TX 77903

Happy birthday to
our seminarian

Shane Goertz is in his pastoral year at Our
Lady of Sorrows Church,
Victoria. Shane's home-
town is Spring Prairie,
Texas. His birthday is
Oct. 28. Write to Shane
at: Our Lady of Sorrows
Church, 208 W. River St.,
Victoria, TX 77901.



Serra Prayer for Vocations
O God, Who wills not the death of a sinner,
but rather that he be converted and live, grant
we beseech You through the intercession of
the Blessed Mary, ever Virgin, St. Joseph, her
spouse, St. Junipero Serra, and all the saints,
an increase of laborers for your Church, fel-
low laborers with Christ to spend and con-
sume themselves for souls, through the same
Jesus Christ, Your Son, Who lives and reigns
with You, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God
forever and ever. Amen.

In Memoriam

Deacon Kubala's mother passes away

EL CAMPO — Dorothy Marie Nohavit-
za Kubala, 92, of El Campo, passed away
peacefully surrounded by family on Aug.
19, 2022. She was born on Sept. 8, 1929, at
Gobbler Creek in El Campo, to the late John
and Katherine Wendel Nohavitza.

Dorothy was a 1947 graduate of El Cam-
po High School. She married her sweetheart,
Robert Victor Kubala, of Louise, on Oct. 24,
1949, at St. Philip Catholic Church. Before
settling in El Campo, they also lived in New
Gulf and Hamshire while Robert worked for
Texas Gulf Sulphur.

Dorothy was a member of St. John
Catholic Church and Altar Society of New
Taiton. She was also a member of the St.
Philip Catholic Daughters, St. Philip ACTS,
El Campo Ricebird Booster Club, St.
Philip's Booster Club, a lifetime member of
the Wharton County Youth Fair & Exposi-
tion, and the Taiton Education Extension
Club. Through Dorothy's support of clubs
and organizations throughout the Wharton
County community, she was a true example
of what being a community ambassador of

service and generosity should be. She was
presented the El Campo Citizen of the Year
Award in 2010.

Dorothy retired in 2006 but remained
active in the community and at home.

She was preceded in death by her parents
and husband, two sisters, Ruth Schafer and
Rita Kresta; and three brothers, John No-
havitza, Jr., Deacon Jarrel Nohavitza and
Donald Nohavitza; and daughter-in-law
Rebecca (Becky) Kubala.

She is survived by her children: Diann
and Andrew Srubar, Jr., Deacon Patrick
Kubala, and Wayne and Darlene Kubala
all of El Campo, also many grandchildren
and great-grandchildren. Dorothy is also
survived by her sister Kathryn Ann Sellers,
brother-in-law Stanley Sellers, and sister-in-
law Irene Nohavitza, all of El Campo.

Funeral Mass was held at St. John Church
in New Taiton followed by burial at St. John
Cemetery.

Memorial donations in memory of Doro-
thy may be made to St. John Church in New
Taiton or St. Philip Church in El Campo.

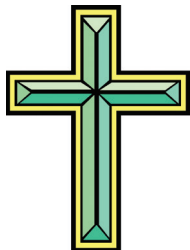
Please remember in prayer the priests of the Diocese of Victoria,
who were ordained during the month of October:

Rev. Jonas Kuubeta	10/16/2010	Holy Family, Victoria
Rev. John Affum	10/26/1996	Sacred Heart, Hallettsville
Rev. Frank B. Lenz	10/29/1994	Retired

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

Rev. Charles Carolan	10/09/2009
Rev. Joseph Vrana	10/10/2016
Rev. Msgr. Julius Petru	10/15/2001
Rev. Joseph Pham duc Trinh	10/16/2007

Even though I walk through the darkest valley,
I fear no evil for you are with me
your rod and your staff, they comfort me.
Psalms 23:4





Bishop Brendan Cahill, center, shown in February 2020 during the filming of *The Chair*, a project of DeSales Studios of Brooklyn, N.Y. He and the Victoria Diocese are featured during a 22-minute episode, one of many in a series about bishops across the U.S. (Janet Jones/The Catholic Lighthouse)

‘The Chair’ tells story of Catholicism in our area

In February 2020, a crew from DeSales Media, based in Brooklyn, N.Y., arrived in Victoria to film an episode of *The Chair* an innovative and insightful program featuring the bishops of the United States, their cathedrals and their dioceses.

The Catholic Lighthouse published a photo of the filming and teased that a story would be coming soon. Then COVID and a lot of other things happened in the process and the project, like many things, was delayed.

But now *The Chair* episode featuring Bishop Brendan Cahill and the Diocese of Victoria is complete and available for viewing at <https://thechair.vhx.tv/the-chair/season:1/videos/the-chair-victoria-tx>.

“We created *The Chair* because we wanted to tell the story of the Catholic Church in America. There is so much to learn about our faith across our diverse nation and the beautiful cathedrals throughout. We are excited to share the perspectives of so many of our bishops, and we hope that the faithful around the country celebrate with us the past, present, and future of the Church,” said Bill Maier, CEO of DeSales Media and Secretary for Communications

for the Diocese of Brooklyn.

The title of the series refers to the cathedra, the bishop’s chair in the cathedral. Bishop Cahill said his favorite part of the Cathedral of Our Lady of Victory is the chair over which is the word, “mercy.”

The 22-minute episode takes as its starting point the cathedra -- from which we get the name “cathedral.” It is the symbolic heart of the diocese, representing the Bishop’s authority to sanctify, preach and govern as a true successor of the Apostles.

From the exquisite details and symbolism of the cathedra chair and the church building, *The Chair* goes on to explore the human side of our area. Bishop Cahill talks about some of the challenges facing the diocese today, and how he is working to improve the lives of his flock and the wider community. From start to finish, the program shows the 65-year-old cathedral, and the millenia-old Catholic faith, in a fresh, modern light.

The trailer and all episodes of the show featuring other Texas diocese and diocese around the U.S. is available for viewing at thechair.com/watchnow.



Annual meeting and investiture

HOUSTON — The Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre of Jerusalem, Southwestern Lieutenancy, U.S., held its 2022 meeting and investiture Sept. 16-19 in the Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston. Some 900 members and guests attended. There were 119 promotees at the Saturday Mass. There were 132 investees at the Sunday Mass, including the Rev. Kristopher Fuchs, pastor of St. Mary Catholic Church in Victoria, right. Representing the Diocese of Victoria in Texas were eight members, two guests and one investee. Those attending were: the Most Rev. Brendan Cahill, KC*HS; Sir Joseph J. Morris Sr., KGCHS; Dame Joyce B. Morris, DGCHS; Deacon Richard A. Evans, KCHS; Dame Karen E. Evans, DCHS; Dame Jo Ann Jalufka, DGCHS; Dame Janet L. Holub of El Campo, DHS; and Dame Irene Nohavitza of El Campo, DGCHS. Guests for the Saturday night banquet were DOV seminarians Deacon

Ryan Kapalvik and Deacon Luke Prihoda. During the Sunday Mass, Dame Lois K. Folger was installed at the new Lieutenant of the Southwestern Lieutenancy. On Monday, Bishop Cahill celebrated the Travelers Mass to close the weekend. The 2023 meeting and investiture will be Oct. 20-23 at the Omni Hotel in Oklahoma City. (Contributed Photos)



St. Theresa, La Salle Annual Turkey Dinner/Picnic

**Sunday, October 16
at La Salle Hall**

Turkey and Dressing Dinner ~ \$12 p/p

Catered by Werner's of Shiner

11:00 a.m. ~ 2:00 p.m.

Dine-in or Drive-thru Plates-To-Go Available

Raffle

Tickets : 1 For \$2 ~ 6 For \$10 • Value Of Prizes \$6,425

Live Auction @ 12:30 p.m.

Kids Games • Cakewalk • Country Store





Priests' gathering

The priests of the Diocese of Victoria gathered for their 2022 Fall Convocation at Lost Pines near Bastrop Sept. 25-28. The time away helps them focus on reflection and fellowship. Bishop Brendan Cahill said they should return energized and ready to evangelize. *(Contributed Photo)*

Widowed, elderly often feel forgotten

Continued from pg. 1

“One pastor shared that he was unaware of the depth of loneliness his widows and widowers were feeling after the death of their spouse. It prompted him to consider programs to address their needs.”

One thing Rutledge said she knows for sure is that no one feels the same as the next person after losing a spouse, and that’s where people get disconnected and too self-conscious to speak up. “They think they’re weird because of the way they feel,” she said, adding that no one should assume they understand another person’s grief.

When Rutledge’s husband died, she went through a “very angry stage,” she said. “Lots of things went wrong” during her husband’s illness and death. That anger kept her away from church for a while. But she has since returned.

It can even be hard to be around friends, she said. “It’s almost like you’ve become a threat.” She explained that you become a third wheel that your friend fears might steal the attention or affections of their own spouse. “It’s just the truth,” she said.

It’s not just losing a spouse that can cause isolation. The elderly were particularly affected by the pandemic lockdowns.

The synod report published by the US-CCB states, “The pandemic itself ‘has led to the fraying of our communities in some ways, accelerating a trend towards disengagement and intensifying the isolation and loneliness of many, youth, and the elderly in particular.’”

And though much of the world has reopened and returned to normal, those in assisted living or nursing homes are still at risk of being isolated if the virus is present in their communities.

The Very Rev. Matthew Heuhlefeld, pastor of St. Joseph in Yoakum, had to discontinue having Mass for the residents of the local long-term care facilities for a period while the residents were isolated to keep the virus at bay.

He said the nursing residences were good with allowing him to minister in case of emergencies, but for the most part the residents spent the majority of times in their rooms. That was the case for most, if not all, senior living facilities during the pandemic as the elderly are a high-risk group.

He said it was “painful” to see the isolation that occurred during that time and recalled a particularly poignant moment when a bride came by wearing her bridal gown and stood outside in front of the glass door so her grandmother could see her in it.

Though Masses have resumed for the residents, it’s not quite the same, he said, they are still discouraging large groups coming in. For now, they do not have the “team” helping with music and liturgy that they had before. But the residents are happy to attend and happy to see a visitor and have a conversation with him.

Father Matthew said he calls to check on the widows who don’t have family nearby to keep them company. He recalled trying to get in touch with one woman several times and could not get through. He found out that there is a circle of friends, all widows, who call each other each night at a certain time to check in on one another.

Ministry to the home bound, Father Matthew said, resumed a year ago to the delight of those who depend on extraordinary ministers to bring Communion. They not only missed the Eucharist but also the company.

PARISH OF THE NATIVITY



Roman Catholic Church of Victoria Diocese
545 S. Austin Rd - Eagle Lake, TX
Pavilion Across from the Hospital



Annual Fall Festival

Sunday, October 16th, 2022
Eucharist



308 N Stevenson St.

Spanish 8:00 am

English 10:00 am



MEAL

BBQ Chicken & Sausage,
Buttered Potatoes & Green Beans

\$12.00 per plate

Serving from 11:00 am until 1:00 pm

CURB SERVICE WILL BE AVAILABLE

Live Auction 1:00 pm

RAFFLE DRAWING (AFTER THE AUCTION)
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Sins are sins no matter how we disguise them

EDITOR'S NOTE: This sermon was written for the 26th Sunday in Ordinary Time, Cycle A. Father Kramm titled it, "Responsibility."

In the world today, there is raging a great war against personal responsibility. Never before has there been so little regard for honor and integrity.

Even in the Church, some have emphasized love so much that one would think there is no longer any such thing as sin. Some have discouraged children's confessions as though children don't know what sin is.

Even if we deny the notion of sin as such, we all have a basic conscience. We all know the meaning of a broken relationship. Sin is a broken relationship with God. ... When I was a child, I knew without being told that it was wrong to hit my sister or throw a rock at my dog. You should have seen my list when I went to confession for the first time.

Lawyers have changed sins into felonies and misdemeanors. Criminals are treated as victims. An often-used defense in court today is the temporary insanity plea. Defendants are let go, not because they are found innocent, but because they have not been legally proven guilty.

A recent news report even showed a man who stated in court, "I'm guilty. I did it. I'm ready to take my punishment." He was overruled on the grounds that such an attitude was too abnormal to be admissible.

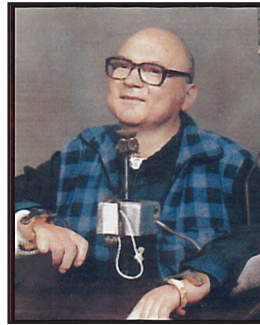
Psychiatrists have destroyed the concept of sin and, with it, the notion of guilt. They have changed penitents into patients.

Some years ago, a bright theologian came up with a new idea about sin called "The Fundamental Option." According to this theory, we can't lose our souls through sin unless we reject God as our final goal – like saying to Him, "I don't need you; I don't want you; get out of my life."

Before long, my fellow priests and I received a letter signed by our bishops, rejecting the "Fundamental Option" theory and restating the ancient teaching of the Church that any gravely sinful act, knowingly and willfully done, indeed separates us from God, and if not repented of, will leave us separated from Him forever.

The letter also included a plea urging us to re-instill in our people the sense of sin and encouraging us to promote the frequent use of the sacrament of reconciliation.

No matter how hard we try to explain



1929-2000

Father Charles Kram Corner

sin away, it will remain until it is forgiven. Without repentance, there is no forgiveness. The denial of sin is worse than sin itself because it makes repentance impossible and our sins unforgivable. Nevertheless, we can come up with all kinds of ways to explain our guilt away.

For instance, one mother I know of taught her children that it's all right to steal as long as you don't get caught. Workers rationalize about stealing from their employers. "They don't pay me enough;" "They have a lot more money than I've got." A man convicted of burglary said, "I was just moving some VCRs," which is true. He did get caught moving some VCRs out of someone else's store into his truck.

Have you heard about how one day a mother asked her little son how her kitchen window has gotten broken? "It was my slingshot, Mom," he said. "The darn thing went off while I was cleaning it."

A more adult version of the slingshot excuse is the case of the public official who has been caught in some irresponsible activity. He will surround himself with a host of camera-toting reporters and say, "I take full responsibility for what happened." This usually solves the public relations problem but does little else to restore the damage.

Or what about those who, when asked about questionable affairs with which they are well acquainted, say, "I don't remember;" "I can't recall;" "Not to my recollection."

Let's not leave out of our discussion the question of Dr. Kevorkian, the doctor who helps people commit suicide. He claimed in a recent TV interview that it was not his intention to help cause death but merely to alleviate suffering. When asked whether there is not a higher authority by which one must abide, he said that he didn't know of any and that man is free to do anything he wants any time he wants.

said.

And just recently a young man came to see me to tell me about how he had turned his life around. "I used to smoke and get drunk and talk bad to my parents," he said. And, as he spit into a Styrofoam cup, he added, "I've managed to get my dipping habit down to a can a week."

He told me that his middle-aged dad has worked so hard, day in and day out, for so many years that he now had the body of a 60-year-old man. This young man is growing into a responsible adult who will live in moderation and whose example will help many others.

In conclusion, let us consider that we can learn much from the rights and wrongs we observe around us. We accept the things that bring out the best in us; we reject the ones that bring out the worst in us. We call sin "SIN." We repent of it when we are guilty of it. When God asks anything of us, we say yes, and then do it.

Lord Jesus, thank you for teaching us always to accept our responsibilities. Help us never to shrug off on others the duties that are meant for us. Grant us the grace always to carry out faithfully what we say we will. Amen.

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Feedback during synod shows church is ‘alive,’ yearns for Gospel, panel says

CAROL GLATZ
Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY -- The input and feedback coming from those taking part in the synodal journey underway around the world have inspired feelings of gratitude, hope and deeper faith for the many people involved with the process, said a panel of officials and organizers for the Synod of Bishops.

Cardinal Mario Grech, secretary-general of the Synod of Bishops, said organizers are seeing “a church that is alive, in need of authenticity, healing and that increasingly yearns to be a community that celebrates and proclaims the joy of the Gospel, learning to walk and discern together.”

He and others spoke to reporters at a Vatican news conference Aug. 26, updating the results of the concluded first phase of the synodal process.

Cardinal Jean-Claude Hollerich of Luxembourg, relator general of the synod, said that reading the syntheses from the episcopal conferences and other major organizations

representing the church “has produced in me, as a disciple of Christ and as a bishop, a great spiritual consolation that opens up to a great hope. This hope must now be transformed into missionary dynamism.”

The Synod of Bishops’ office has received the summaries from more than 100 of the world’s 114 bishops’ conferences, “and they are still arriving. This incredible figure tells us that yes, the church is in synod!” he said.

The world’s bishops’ conferences were asked to send in reports by mid-August synthesizing the experiences, questions, discussions and insights that emerged from their parishes and dioceses.

The “second” or “continental phase” of the process has begun, in which the Synod of Bishops’ office will group together the bishops’ conferences’ reports by continent, then draft a document that highlights the priorities and core issues that emerge on a broader, more “continental” scale.

Each continental document will go back to the bishops’ conferences in that area so they

can be sent to the local, parish and diocesan levels for a period of reflection, listening, dialogue and discernment that responds to and enriches the document from the synod office. Those responses will be returned to the Synod of Bishops’ office and will form the foundation for building the working document for the general assembly of the Synod of Bishops in October 2023.

Italian Jesuit Father Giacomo Costa, adviser to the secretary-general of the synod and head of the task force on drafting the document for the continental phase, said he has heard people are concerned their voices will “get lost” in all the compiling and paring down involved in producing these summarized reports.

There will be “gaps,” and it is impossible to cover in the month-long general assembly “everything” that emerges, he said, so the focus will be on finding the essential elements and priority issues to be addressed at the 2023 synod.

However, the most important part of the synod, Father Costa said, is the actual process itself: a church that reaches out to its members, to those on the peripheries, and that learns to do more than ask questions but also to promote actual dialogue.

Xavière Missionary Sister Nathalie Becquart, one of two undersecretaries of the Synod of Bishops, said she has seen the local churches really want the synodal journey to continue.

“There was an impressive mobilization around the world to Pope Francis’ call,” she said through an interpreter. The mobilization included the many nations that are experiencing enormous hardship and difficulties, like Ukraine and Congo, to name a few, she said.

Challenges still remain for the continental phase, she said, because there still needs to be better formation on how to work as a team and how to listen as well as a “change in mentality,” she said.

There needs to be a “mindset” that sees everyone having equal dignity, and, therefore, needing to be included and listened to, she said. That would mean there needs to be much more input from young people, women, those who experience great suffering and hardship, and victims of abuse, she added. They must also “be part of the process.”

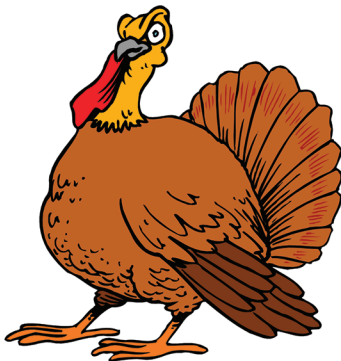
In the question-and-answer portion of the conference, Cardinal Hollerich spoke about the purpose of the synod in listening to everyone and the importance of respecting church doctrine.



Onboard for Mass

POINT COMFORT — Apostleship of the Sea celebrated the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary by having the Rev. Tommy Chen, pastor of Our Lady of the Gulf Catholic Church in Port Lavaca, celebrate Mass for 11 Filipino crewmen on the Denmark flagged vessel *BALEARIC GAS* during cargo operations. Seminarian Caleb Krischke assisted. They are shown here setting up the altar before Mass. Father Chen is the Stella Maris port chaplain for the Diocese of Victoria and is always happy to work with the Point Comfort Seafarers Center. The celebration was particularly special because Mary is so important to seafarers. The captain and gas engineer attended the Mass before departing for the Houston Intercontinental Airport to catch a flight home. During the homily, Father Chen discussed the importance of Mary’s birth, but also the birth of each individual. “God creates each of us as one-of-a-kind. There are no clones,” he said. After Mass, crewmembers wanted to take photos to remember the day. Father Chen gave them prayer cards and offered extra blessings for the travelers on their way home to their families. Dropping by the Cargo Control Room, he blessed two crewmembers who were unable to attend because of their duties. (Contributed Photo by Rhonda Cummins)

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Retired Archbishop Fiorenza was tireless social justice advocate

HOUSTON (CNS) — Retired Archbishop Joseph A. Fiorenza, the longtime bishop of Galveston-Houston and a tireless social justice advocate throughout his priesthood, episcopacy and in retirement, died Sept. 19. He was 91.

He lived at the Archbishop Joseph A. Fiorenza Retirement Residence, a priest retirement home of about 18 residents.

The Beaumont native served as bishop of the Diocese of Galveston-Houston from 1985 to 2006 and was made archbishop in 2004, when the diocese was elevated to the status of archdiocese by St. John Paul II.

Archbishop Fiorenza also was a former president of the National Conference of Catholic Bishops-U.S. Catholic Conference, now called the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, serving in the role from 1998 to 2001.

“Archbishop Fiorenza was known to be a champion of civil rights and a tireless worker in overcoming the presence of racism in our community. He was also known as a great promoter of genuine renewal in the church, and in making the teachings of the Second Vatican Council known,” said Cardinal Daniel N. DiNardo.

Archbishop Fiorenza also served on the U.S. bishops’ Administrative Committee in the mid-1990s, and was conference vice president for a three-year term, 1995-1998, before he was elected to a three-year term as conference president.



Retired Archbishop
Joseph A. Fiorenza

He also served as a member of a bishops’ committee on Black Catholics, was on the board member of the Catholic Near East Welfare Association and was a trustee of the University of St. Thomas in Houston.

During his years as a bishop and archbishop and in retirement, Archbishop Fiorenza was an advocate for social justice issues and a supporter of inter-faith collaboration for positive social change across all social and economic borders.

He often spoke out against the death penalty -- in a state with a high number of executions.

In a 2001 report at the end of his term as bishops’ conference president, Archbishop Fiorenza said he was gratified about the increasing Catholic opposition to the death penalty,

especially among young people.

He also praised the bishops for approving a document supporting the renewal of the criminal justice system, with a special focus on capital punishment.

He was “a pastoral bishop who, through his example, mentored many to work toward justice,” said Karen Clifton, founding executive director of Catholic Mobilizing Network and currently executive coordinator of Catholic Prison Ministries Coalition.

He led “with a prayerful, courageous stance for the least among us without fear of opposition,” she told the Texas Catholic Herald, the archdiocesan newspaper, in an interview in February 2021.



Confirmed

The Victoria Deanery held an Adult Confirmation Mass on Sept. 20 in The Cathedral of Our Lady of Victory, with Bishop Brendan Cahill presiding, the Very Rev. Kirby Hlavaty, pastor of OLV, concelebrating and the Rev. Dalton Ervin, parochial vicar for OLV as master of ceremonies. Pictured from left are, front, Kevin Perez, ghVirginia De La Garza, Alyssa Camacho, Bishop Cahill, Holly Rosales, Maria Medina and Stephanie Morales; and, back, Alan Perez, Karina Silva, Chloe Morales, Rev. Hlavaty, Cierra Torres, Joshua Medina and Catechist Jenny Vincent. (Contributed Photo)

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!

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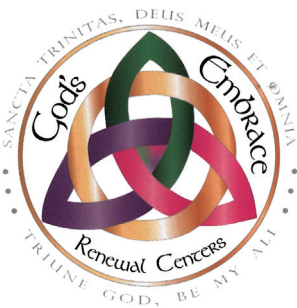
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Welcome Father Jasper

SCHULENBURG — Bishop Brendan Cahill celebrated Mass at St. Rose of Lima on Sept. 24 and installed the Rev. Jasper Liggio as the pastor (left). For those who don't know, Father Jasper is an identical twin. He is pictured above with his twin brother, Vincent. (Photos: Janet Jones/The Catholic Lighthouse)



God's Embrace plans silent retreats

SCHULENBURG — God's Embrace Ministries is hosting a Men's Silent Retreat starting at 7 p.m. Oct. 20 and ending Sunday Oct. 23. A Women's Silent Retreat is planned for Nov. 17-20.

Retreats take place at their local retreat house in Texas, and silent retreat weekends offer participants an opportunity to enter deep into the heart of our triune God. A theme for the weekend and spiritual material is provided. Participants receive individual spiritual direction throughout the weekend by a trained GEM spiritual director and participate in an opening and closing group session. Some meals are provided.

There is no charge for the retreat but donations to God's Embrace Ministries are appreciated.

For more information, e-mail info@godsembrace.org. The website is <https://www.godsembrace.org/silent-retreats>



Sister Kathleen Goike gives each of the new Associates of the Incarnate Word and Blessed Sacrament a lapel pin with a cross and crown of thorns, an emblem of the Incarnate Word and Blessed Sacrament Sisters. (Janet Jones/The Catholic Lighthouse)

IWBS accepts new associates

VICTORIA — The Sisters of the Incarnate Word and Blessed Sacrament welcomed seven new members as Associates of the Incarnate Word on Sept. 18. The Rev. Albert Yankey, chaplain at Incarnate Word Convent, presided at the 2 p.m. Mass, and the Rev. Michael Petering, an Associate of the Incarnate Word and pastor of St. Agnes in Edna, con-celebrated.

After the homily, Sister Kathleen Goike, Superior General, and Sister Emiliana Grafe, Director of the Associates, presided at the Ceremony of Consecration.

In addition to the seven making their consecration as new members, two members made their perpetual consecration. Thirty other members renewed their consecration for one year or five years. A reception followed.

Those making their perpetual consecration were Alice Escobar and Joyce Kubala. The seven new members of the Associates of the Incarnate Word are Darryl and Nancy Stefka of Cuero, Dayna Zahradnik of Wharton, Barbara Boehm of Cuero, Deacon Bruce and Pam Turner of Wharton and Katie Kelly of Victoria.

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If person is in immediate danger call 911.

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

or

- Bishop or Chancellor of the Diocese of Victoria, (361) 573-0828
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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.

God's Word, like the Precious Body, must be consumed reverently

“Receive the Gospel of Christ, whose herald you now are. Believe what you read, teach what you believe, and practice what you teach.” (Rite of Ordination of Deacons)

In the daze of my ordination (and in the days since), there was a specific moment of clarity that has remained with me. Flushed in the supernatural aura of the ordination rite, I was led to the bishop for the final part of the rite. Kneeling before the bishop, he placed the Book of the Gospels in my hands and said: “Receive the Gospel of Christ, whose herald you have become. Believe what you read, teach what you believe, and practice what you teach.”

In those words of prayerful admonition he spoke the heart of diaconal identity – to be Servant of the Gospel and to be Servant to the Gospel. This “four verb” directive – to receive, believe, teach and practice – is not the exclusive mandate for the deacon, but should be the desire and result of all who are fulfilled by the Word.

This month, I offer another reflection on the liturgy of the Mass, contending that the more informed we are of the life, spirit and meaning of Sacred Liturgy, the more Sacred Liturgy can inform the spirit and meaning of our life.

At Your Service

By Deacon Michael Tankersley



This month: **The Proclamation of the Gospel.**

Last month we looked at how the truths of the liturgical readings are “fulfilled” in our hearing. All that has come before in the liturgy – from the procession through the introductory rites and the opening readings where “God himself speaks to his people” – has prepared us to now feed from the central part of the Liturgy of the Word when “Christ, present in his word, proclaims the Gospel.” (GIRM 29). *The General Instructions of the Roman Missal* (GIRM) provides specific stipulations through symbol, gesture, and mechanics that announce and promote the elevated importance of the gospels.

Recall that the Book of Gospels (the good news of the Risen Lord) was brought in procession and enthroned on the altar of Christ – the same altar from which we will be fed first the Word and later the Body. The opening chords of the Gospel Acclamation call for us to stand physically and rise spiritually as we sing a joyous alleluia – the great victory cry of God in the world over sin and death. The proclamation of the gospel is reserved to an ordained minister – firstly to the deacon or, in his absence, to a concelebrating priest. The celebrant priest proclaims the gospel only in the absence of both. The deacon presents himself before the celebrant priest and bows to receive a blessing so to be cleansed in mind and heart. This blessing, “*May the Lord be in your heart and on your lips, that you may proclaim his Gospel worthily and well. In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit,*” purifies the deacon in the same manner by which the priest purifies his hands before beginning the Eucharistic narrative.

Then, just as the Body of Christ in the Eucharist will be brought from the altar to the sanctuary for distribution to the people, so to the Gospels are brought from the altar to the ambo for distribution to the people. This procession is fittingly accompanied with candles, as Christ is Light of the World. The Gospel is the only reading that begins with a greeting:



The Rev. Richard Barfield receives the Book of the Gospels from Bishop Brendan Cahill during his ordination as a deacon in 2021.

“The Lord be with you.” And the deacon makes the sign of the cross on the book, and then over his forehead, lips and heart. In this way, he seeks to bless the words on the page where all will encounter the Word of God, and the minds, lips, and hearts of all who receive, believe, teach and practice. In the typical Mass, when the reading is over, the deacon kisses the book in love and reverence, and says this silent prayer: “*Through the words of the Gospel, may our sins be wiped away.*”

While these signs and gestures symbolize importance, the real importance bursts forth in the revelation of a Person – Who He is and Why He is. While the gospels were written by human hands and expressed by human voice, they are the expression of Divine life and Divine presence. Never should they be regarded as simply moral lessons or historical accounts. They are the contemporary call from Christ drawing us nearer to Him, instructing our hearts and minds, shaping and healing and uniting us with Him. This is true whether you are deacon or laymen.

For the deacon, the role as *herald* (messenger) is not fulfilled when he takes hold of the gospels, but when he allows the gospel to take hold of him. Proclaiming the gospel, then, is not one of the duties the deacon has, but rather is fulfilled only when the gospel has the deacon. Taken by the gospels, the deacon recognizes that he is the messenger not the author or editor. By following the four-verb directive, the deacon will recognize that his

diakonia is not carried out through his own initiative or personal merit, but is guided by the Holy Spirit to announce to the world the word of the One much greater than he.

For the layperson, the call to *receive, believe, teach and practice* is as applicable as it is to the deacon. When you rise to hear the Gospel of the Lord, know that you are not just hearing stories about Him, but are hearing from Him. Receiving Christ in the Gospels is not a communication from “mouth to ear” but from “heart to heart.” When you consume His words and deeds, your life becomes more aligned with His, and increasingly becomes a reflection of Him. You become Who you eat.

We are called to receive the gospels; to enthrone them on the altar of our hearts. We are called to believe that even the confusing and challenging passages are a call to share in Christ’s mercy and love. So too, we are all called to teach and practice the gospel. And, if those latter two parts seem beyond you, consider the words of Pope Francis: “Anyone who has truly experienced God’s saving love does not need much time or lengthy training to go out and proclaim that love.” *Evangelii Gaudium* (The Joy of the Gospel, No. 120).

Receive and believe in Him, and your life will become an imitation of Christ and a living Gospel.

Pax tibi,
Deacon Michael



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Sometimes we realize God's work the moment it's happening

Many times I have heard the words “divine intervention,” and I have seen divine intervention many times -- usually when reflecting back on the event, but I can say it's limited the amount of times I have seen it while going through the event. At least not as clear as in the story that I'm about to tell you.

This past August, I was blessed to travel to Rome on a pilgrimage with Bishop Cahill. This was a 10-day pilgrimage, during which we had one free day. My sister and friends decided that we would go to Assisi that day.

Before we went on the pilgrimage I was in the dining room in the Chancery talking about the trip and how excited I was to go to Rome and Assisi. Wendy, our Youth Office director overheard the conversation and told me that she was wanting a relic of Blessed Carlo Acutis but was told that it could not be mailed, it had to be picked up in person. She asked me if I would be willing to pick it up and bring it back for the diocese. Thinking it would be an easy task I agreed.

I arrived in Assisi with my sisters and friend and visited St. Francis' Church first and attended Mass. And then went to St. Clare's where we met our tour guide who would help us get to where we were going. She had

Finding Beauty in Mystery

By Sister Rosario Resendez, IWBS



arranged for us to have a taxi take us up the mountain to a monastery where St. Francis would go and spend time alone in prayer. Upon arrival at the monastery, Elizabeth (our tour guide) translated for me to the brothers and I showed them the letter from the diocese signed by the bishop to receive the relic. I was told we were in the wrong place and they had nothing to do with the relics. The church that we needed to go to was actually a short five-minute walk from the church of St. Clare. The day was getting away from us as we had to be back at the train station by 6:15 p.m. to catch the train back to Rome at 6:30 p.m. Luckily our taxi driver had agreed to wait for us and we rushed back down the mountain.

I get to the church that had the body of Blessed Carlo Acutis and see that he is exposed when we were previously told he

wouldn't be. I went to him a bit frustrated and a little discouraged and lit a candle. I told him that if he wanted to come back to Victoria, he was going to have to make it happen because it didn't look good. The odds were not in my favor, so I was going to need his help.

During this time, Elizabeth was speaking with a young brother and she told me to come out and talk to him. I came out and gave him the whole story and presented the letter. He would not even look at the letter but told me that I would absolutely not be getting a relic of Blessed Carlo. That they do not give out relics like candy and it was not for personal devotion. I tried to explain to him that it was not personal devotion but for the diocese he would not listen to me, yet at that moment the pastor of the church just happened to walk by. The young brother told me that if there was anyone I needed to speak to it was the pastor, so Elizabeth rushed after him and I followed.

Elizabeth told me that the pastor spoke Spanish and he was from Brazil. I smiled but asked if he spoke English as I knew I could explain myself better in English. It happened to be that the parochial vicar was with him and he told me that he spoke English. A small bit of hope sparked inside of me and I told him everything and presented the letter. He

made a phone call and started talking Italian so quickly that my Spanish couldn't decipher anything. He took a picture of the letter, sent it to someone, and then told me that if I would come back at 5:30 p.m. the lady in charge of the relics would give me one. I almost jumped up and down in joy but then I remembered that 5:30 was when we were supposed to go back to the train station. Elizabeth told us that if we left the church no later than 6:10 p.m. we would still catch the train.

When 5:30 came around my sister and I were there waiting by the door like the vicar told us. No one was coming to the door. The young brother I had first spoken to saw me and turned away, leaving me there. Time was ticking and no one was coming to the door. Then a young sister came by and greeted me as she walked to the church. She then came out from the back of the church and kept looking over at me and I kept looking over at her. She then made a phone call on her cell phone and after a few moments came up to me, speaking Italian but I understood something that sounded like relic so I excitedly said yes. She took me over to the Bishop's Palace where the gate was locked and the lady that

See Heaven helped us!, pg. 13

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Heaven helped us!

Continued from pg. 12

was supposed to meet us came down. I gave her the letter and she said that she had never received it -- doubt and disappointment began to set in again. She spoke Italian to the young sister and I would speak to her in Spanish yet somehow we understood each other. The sister told me to wait for the lady there by the gate and I did, but I knew that time was of essence. Finally, I just resigned myself to the idea that I would miss the train and wait for the last one that would get us back to Rome after midnight, even if we would be leaving our hotel for the airport at 3 a.m. Then, five minutes before 6 p.m., I see the lady coming and waving the padded envelope in her hands. My sister and I started clapping and jumping up and down. Since the gate was locked she had to give it to us through the bars which was significant to me as it was a sign tone can break through the bars of resistance with the help of those above.

We thanked the lady so much and promised to pray for her, and now we have this

First Class Relic of Blessed Carlo Acutis in the Diocese of Victoria. I think, as my long story tells, everything was against us, but Blessed Carlo wanted to come to Victoria and, therefore, made it happen. The little details that happened after I spoke my prayer and lit the candle -- the determination of Elizabeth, the pastor walking by at that exact moment, the parochial vicar speaking and understanding English perfectly, and the Sister who was determined to help us. It makes me want to cry to think all of those things had to happen with a little nudging from above. I don't know why Blessed Carlo was determined to come to the Diocese of Victoria, but being that he worked so hard to get here, I can only imagine what he may do (with the grace of God) for us now.

The biggest gift that God made to men was to send his only Son, Jesus Christ. ... It is very important to pray that Jesus Christ be loved and known by all peoples throughout the world. — Blessed Carlo Acutis



Sister Norma Pimentel speaks to the 270 or so gathered for the first-ever Hispanic Conference in the Diocese of Victoria. She gained national attention for her work with immigrants on the Texas-Mexico border. (Janet Jones/The Catholic Lighthouse)

Hispanic conference well received in diocese

Some 270 people attended the first Hispanic Catholic conference in the Diocese of Victoria on Sept. 24. After Mass at the Cathedral of Our Lady of Victory, celebrated by Bishop Brendan Cahill, the conference-goers gathered at the Cathedral Center to listen to keynote speaker Sister Norma Pimentel who has gained national recognition for her work helping immigrants at the border of Texas and Mexico.

Aldo Camacho, the coordinator of Hispanic Ministry for the diocese said he spoke to several people who said it was the first Mass celebrated at the cathedral that was completely in Spanish. That could not be confirmed.

"I am very grateful for the great response we had from our Hispanic community, and for all the support we received from the different ecclesial ministries, especially from the Catholic Daughters of Our Lady of Sorrows," Camacho said. "Very proud of the great job the members of the Diocesan Hispanic Min-

istry team did in helping me organize this conference for our Hispanic community. Also, a very special thanks to our Speakers, Father Nelson González, Georgina Labastida, Valeria Dubourdieu and Sister Norma Pimentel who



Valeria Dubourdieu, left, one of the speakers for the first Hispanic Catholic Conference in the Diocese of Victoria visits with conference attendees as they gathered at the Cathedral Center on Sept. 24.

touched the hearts of our attendees. Also, we are very grateful to Bishop Brendan Cahill for all his unconditional support during the planning of this conference. A special thanks to all the deacons and priests who attended the event, especially Father Kirby Hlavaty for his assistance in planning the liturgy and the event. Having celebrated a Mass completely in Spanish at Our Lady of Victory Cathedral and

having a diocesan conference completely in Spanish has been a great blessing and ecclesial experience for our Hispanic community. Much remains to be done, but little by little as a single Church that we are we will be able to achieve it. Happy National Hispanic Heritage Month!"

Hispanic Heritage Month in the U.S. is celebrated Sept. 15-Oct. 15.

ST. PATRICK CATHOLIC CHURCH

FALL FESTIVAL

Sunday, October 30, 2022

Turkey & Dressing with trimmings
Catered by Josie's Mexican Food,
(From Port O'Conner)

\$12 a plate

In Addition Homemade Eggrolls,
Fried Rice, & Bake Sale
HUGE Country Store
Raffle Tickets:

\$2.00 each or 6 for \$10.00

11:00-1:30 PM

Contact
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Sandy Reese 979-541-6881
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Charlene Terrell 713-410-6737
310 Cleveland Ave Seadrift, Tx



Confirmation celebrated in Frelsburg

The Very Rev. Robert E. (Bob) Knippenberg celebrated the holy sacrament of confirmation on Sept. 10 at Sts. Peter and Paul Catholic Church in Frelsburg. From left are, front, Theresa Henneke, Katelyn Krennek, Ezra Ricicar, Estrella Lopez, Emerson Glueck, Alejandra Diaz; and, back, Daniel Cole, Shane Kulhanek, Lane Kulhanek, Will Fitzgerald and Wesley Kulhanek. (Contributed Photo)



Hostyn KJT presents funds to youth

HOSTYN — Hostyn KJT Society #3 officers presented a check to the youth director of the Queen of the Holy Rosary Parish in Hostyn and Sts. Peter and Paul Parish in Plum at the society meeting Aug. 14. The check reflected proceeds from the bake sale held during the society’s annual drive-thru fundraiser in July on the youth’s behalf, and an additional \$250 of matching funds from the KJT home office. Pictured in the presentation, from left, are, front, Hostyn Parish youth members Kirtley, Krislee and Kenlie Jo Kallus. The trio are also members of Hostyn KJT Society #3. Back, from left, are Society Reporter Dianna Kallus, Society Vice-President Benedict Kallus, Society Treasurer Brenda Fietsam, Youth Director Donna Janda, State KJT Secretary/Treasurer Kevin Kana and Society Secretary Joyce Muras. (Contributed Photo)



Ice cream social

FLATONIA — Catholic Daughters of the Americas, Court Sacred Heart of Mother Teresa #2570, began their new year with an ice cream social before their Sept. 6 meeting. Their next meeting is Oct. 3, starting with a rosary at 5:30 p.m. They will serve hot dogs and Frito pie. Any Catholic lady interested in learning about Catholic Daughters of the Americas is encouraged to attend. Pictured from left are Julia Webster, Loretta Freytag, Rosa Velasquez, Cheryl Barnes, LaVerne Syler, Karen Novak, Jeanette Zouzalik, Janet Stanley, Isabel Garcia, Kathleen Svatek, Donna Kozelsky, Olga Salazar, Virginia Olsovsky, Dina Ohnheiser, Gretchen Zapalac and Katrina Grochowski. (Contributed Photo by Louise Barcak.)

St. Michael's Catholic School

FALL FESTIVAL

Sunday, October 30, 2022

10:30 am – 4:00 pm

Mass at 10:00 am

LUNCH

11 am - 1 pm

\$12.00/plate

Home-style Chicken
Fried Steak, Gravy,
Mashed Potatoes,
Green Beans and
Dessert

Indoor Dining and
TO-GO Plates

LIVE
AUCTION

12pm

Bingo 12pm-3pm

Cake Walk

Artisan Table

Raffle Prizes

Silent Auction

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Office of Catholic Schools names F.I.R.S.T.-class teachers of 2022-23

At the end of the last school year, the Office of Catholic Schools initiated a new award for the dedicated teachers in the Diocese of Victoria, calling it the F.I.R.S.T.-Class Education Award.

The award is presented to one deserving teacher from each age group in which they teach — elementary, junior high and high school.

Nominees were selected by their peers based on their demonstration of the pillars that support Catholic education in the Diocese of Victoria — faith, integrity, respect, scholarship and tradition. The winners were chosen by scores determined by a panel of diocesan leadership.

Winners this year are Amy Alegria from Nazareth Academy for elementary, Amy Barrera of St. Joseph in Yoakum for junior high and Geralyn Klimitchek of Sacred Heart in Hallettsville for high school.

The following is from the announcement by the OCS:

Amy Alegria

Amy has given herself to our third graders at Nazareth since 2015. Her love of Christ and the light from that love has shone like a beacon for their religious programming and elementary education. Her peers described her as having a heart of service and being kind and loving in everything she does.



Amy Barrera

In addition to being an incredible junior high math teacher, with former students excelling in their high school math classes, Amy is a faithful and inspiring religion teacher. Her

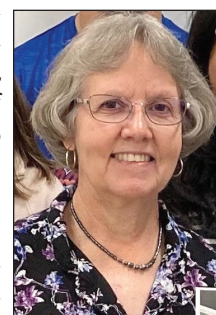


students often come to her for questions about their faith and Mrs. Barrera lifts them up and gives them what they need when they need it.



Geralyn Klimitchek

Geralyn has been dedicated to Sacred Heart since 1981. Yep, that's FORTY years of teaching children to love God and His creation through her remarkable science lessons! She goes above and beyond to ensure her kids are ready to



tackle the world by supporting them through and after high school. Her peers are inspired by her kindness and her love of each and every student. "All our educators in the Diocese of Victoria are outstanding examples of Christ's love on earth. We are thrilled to have these special people encouraging and teaching our children to love God and others. Please extend congratulations to these ladies and pray for all our school staff members each and every day," reads a statement from the OCS.

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Touching Hearts.*

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3 Year ~ 4.00%

5 Year ~ 4.30%

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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

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‘Teniendo los ojos fijos en Jesús’ (Hebreos 12:2)

Queridos hermanos y hermanas,

En *Lighthouse* del mes pasado, escribí sobre los discursos de San Juan XXIII en el verano de 1962 mientras la Iglesia se preparaba para el comienzo del Concilio Vaticano II. San Juan XXIII abrió el concilio el 11 de octubre de 1962 con un discurso titulado “Gaudet Mater Ecclesia”.

A lo largo de esos meses de 1962, obispos y teólogos se preparaban para los debates que tendrían lugar durante las sesiones del concilio.

Una de las conclusiones a las que llegué al estudiar gran parte de la correspondencia entre los obispos y los teólogos notó las divisiones entre ellos.

Por ejemplo, el padre Karl Rahner y el padre Joseph Ratzinger (futuro Papa Benedicto XVI) escribieron juntos un documento teológico, pero en noviembre de 1962 parecían ir en direcciones diferentes.

En el Capítulo 4 de mi tesis, escribí: “Por su parte, Rahner escribió en una carta a

Vorgrimler el 5 de noviembre ‘También noto aquí que todavía no soy tan viejo, incluso cuando me siento en una mesa con Daniélou, Congar, Ratzinger, Schillebeeckx, etc. Encuentro que estos todavía no se dan cuenta con suficiente claridad de lo poco que, por ejemplo una cristología «desde arriba», que declara simplemente que Dios se ha hecho hombre, puede entenderse hoy.”

Otra conclusión a la que finalmente llegué demostró que el cardenal Jean Daniélou y los otros teólogos con los que el padre

Mensaje del Pastor

By Obispo Brendan Cahill



Rahner no estaba de acuerdo terminaron siendo algunos de los teólogos más influyentes del Concilio Vaticano II.

He estado pensando en estos pensamientos, ya que este año es el 60 aniversario de la apertura del consejo.

En nuestra diócesis estamos celebrando el Congreso del Rosario en el que reconocemos y experimentamos cuán necesaria es para nosotros hoy una “cristología desde arriba”. En unión espiritual unos con otros, elevamos nuestra oración con el Rosario y

la Adoración Eucarística. Jesús está presente y escucha nuestra oración, y Él es la fuente de sanación y salvación para el mundo. Nos comprometemos a mantener la mirada fija en Jesús con María.

Las peticiones que nos ha pedido que presentemos a Jesús en este tiempo de oración del 2 al 9 de octubre son:

I. En reparación de los pecados de los obispos y sacerdotes.

II. Una mayor conciencia de la verdadera presencia de Jesús en la Sagrada Eucaristía.

III Por el regalo de la paz, especialmente en Ucrania. IV. Por un aumento de vocaciones al sacerdocio y a la vida consagrada en nuestras familias.

Que Dios los bendiga a ustedes y a sus familias con un profundo sentido de fe en Jesús, confiando en su misericordia y amor por nosotros y por el mundo entero.

Mantengámonos unos a otros en oración.

+Brendan

Conferencia hispana bien recibida en diócesis

Unas 270 personas asistieron a la primera conferencia católica hispana en la Diócesis de Victoria el 24 de septiembre. Después de la Misa en la Catedral de Nuestra Señora de la Victoria, celebrada por el obispo Brendan Cahill, los asistentes a la conferencia se reunieron en el Centro de la Catedral para escuchar al orador principal. Hermana Norma Pimentel, quien ha ganado reconocimiento nacional por su trabajo ayudando a inmigrantes en la frontera de Texas y México.

Aldo Camacho, el coordinador del Ministerio Hispano de la diócesis dijo que fue la primera Misa celebrada completamente en español en la historia de la catedral. Hasta el momento no se ha podido confirmar este hecho.

“Estoy muy agradecido por la gran respuesta que tuvimos de nuestra comunidad hispana, y por todo el apoyo que recibimos de los diferentes ministerios eclesiales, especialmente de las Catholic Daughters of Our Lady of Sorrows. Estoy muy orgulloso por el gran trabajo que hicieron los miembros del equipo Diocesano del Ministerio Hispano en ayudarme a organizar esta conferencia



La Hermana Norma Pimentel habla a los aproximadamente 270 reunidos para la primera Conferencia Hispana en la Diócesis de Victoria. Obtuvo atención nacional por su trabajo con inmigrantes en la frontera entre Texas y México. (Janet Jones/The Catholic Lighthouse)

para nuestra comunidad Hispana. Además, un agradecimiento muy especial a nuestros Conferencistas, Padre Nelson González, Georgina Labastida, Valeria Dubourdieu y la

Hermana Norma Pimentel quienes tocaron los corazones de nuestros asistentes”, dijo Camacho. “También, estamos muy agradecidos con nuestro Señor Obispo Brendan Cahill por todo su apoyo incondicional durante la planeación de esta conferencia. Un agradecimiento especial a todos los diáconos y sacerdotes que asistieron al evento, especialmente al padre Kirby Hlavaty por su asistencia en la planeación de la liturgia y del evento. Haber celebrado una misa completamente en español en la catedral

de Our Lady of Victory y haber tenido una conferencia diocesana completamente en español ha sido una gran bendición y experiencia eclesial para nuestra comunidad hispana. Falta mucho por hacer, pero poco a poco como una sola Iglesia que somos lo podremos lograr. ¡Feliz Mes Nacional de la Herencia Hispana!”

El Mes de la Herencia Hispana en los EE. UU. se celebra del 15 de septiembre al 15 de octubre.



Los asistentes a la conferencia disfrutaron de refrigerios después de la Misa de apertura de la Conferencia Católica Hispana que tuvo lugar el 24 de septiembre en Victoria. El evento fue bien recibido y los asistentes vinieron de todas las áreas de la diócesis. (Janet Jones/The Catholic Lighthouse)



Sunday Readings from Oct. 9 - Nov. 6

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

October 30 ~ Thirty-first Sunday
in Ordinary Time
Wisdom 11:22-12:2
Psalms 145:1-2, 8-9, 10-11, 13, 14
2 Thessalonians 1:11 — 2:2
Luke 19:1-10

October 16 ~ Twenty-ninth Sunday
in Ordinary Time
Exodus 17:8-13
Psalms 121:1-2, 3-4, 5-6, 7-8
2 Timothy 3:14-4:2
Luke 18:1-8

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

October 23 ~ Thirtieth Sunday
in Ordinary Time
Sirach 35:12-14, 16-18
Psalms 34:2-3, 17-18, 19, 23
2 Timothy 4:6-8, 16-18
Luke 18:9-14

November 6 ~ Thirty-second Sunday in
Ordinary Time
2 Maccabees 7:1-2, 9-14
Psalms 17:1, 5-6, 8, 15
2 Thessalonians 2:16-3:5
Luke 20:27-38

For daily and Sunday readings, as well as a daily reflection video, visit
www.usccb.org/bible/readings.

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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**



KJZT #101 in action

VICTORIA – KJZT Society #101 recently made a donation to the Cathedral of Our Lady of Victory towards a TV Mass. Carolyn Nevlud presented the Very Rev. Kirby Hlavaty, pastor/rector, a check for \$525 (top left). Nevlud also presented to Lori Ballard of St. Vincent de Paul Society at Our Lady of Lourdes a check for \$400 (left). KJZT Society presented Caden Mozisek with a \$250 scholarship. Caden is the son of Aaron and Natalie Mozisek. He is pictured with his grandparents, Leon and Frances Mozisek (above). *(Contributed Photos)*



Amor Meus Spirituality Center Presents

“The Gift You Give Yourself”

If you are or anyone is a caregiver and is in need of some spiritual nourishment at this time come

October 15, 10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m., for a Workshop/Retreat

Presented by Deacon Leo Sharron and Terry Robinson

This workshop/retreat will be approached from the understanding that caregiving does not start with getting busy or taking on tasks. Caregiving starts from a place of rest deep within ourselves. Before we can give care that will bring comfort, rest and peace to others, we must know God's rest and peace in our hearts. We do our best work when it comes from a place of stillness and inner quiet. Join other caregivers in experiencing a personal invitation of Jesus: “Come to me and rest.”

A free will offering will be accepted



Deacon Leo Sharron, LPC

NCC is Director of Clinical Service, at Emmaus Counseling Center and a Bereavement Services Coordinator/Chaplain for Hospice of South Texas



Terry Robinson

BS from University of Texas, Galveston; ministered in acute rehabilitation services for 17 years; was CEO of SCCI Hospital, Victoria for 8 years; Executive Director of Hospice of South Texas for 15 years and now provides services to local rehabilitation hospitals



Amor Meus Spirituality Center
Incarnate Word Convent
1101 N. E. Water Street
Victoria, TX 77901



Farm life in keeping with God’s plan

Dear Friends,
The Holy See announced the Season of Creation that began on Sept. 1, World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation, and ends on Oct. 4, the feast of St. Francis of Assisi, the patron saint of ecology. Individuals and communities are invited to participate through prayer, sustainability projects and advocacy. Farmers, both in the U.S. and around the world, play a very significant role in caring for creation.
At the heart of a sound vision of agriculture lies the theology of creation -- the theology of the earth as a gift given by a loving Creator. The land is not a blank slate, a meaningless void, merely waiting for the human being to impose his or her design upon it.



Rather, the entire order of creation is permeated by God’s loving design. Agricultural life unfolds within God’s plan. In particular, the farmer who attends to the soil enters into a relationship with God, an order of creation that is already intelligently ordered by Him. The Creator’s wisdom is the farmer’s norm. One ignores the order of reality at the risk of your own peril, as the farmer’s practical wisdom must submit to the divine plan that lies hidden in the order of things.
During this Season of Creation, let us remember to pray for all men and women involved in agricultural production, that each one exercise a prudential stewardship “to cultivate and keep the earth” in such ways that future generations will inherit an even richer

land than what was entrusted to them. We also can support our local farmers by going to farmer’s markets; asking our local grocers to carry more local products; asking our parishes and churches to purchase locally grown foods when hosting church dinners or events; and highlighting farm families that grow the food.
For more information and ideas about caring for creation, please see Catholic Rural Life’s website at www.catholicruralife.org.
Many blessings,
James Ennis
Catholic Rural Life
Executive Director

A Prayer to Saint Luke for the Family Doctor (Feast, October 19)

GOOD Saint Luke, we are told that before you met our dear Lord and became a follower of His and a writer of His Gospel, you were a doctor. We beg you this day to bless and help and protect our doctor. Obtain for him the graces he most needs to do his work well and serve God generously. Help him to be strong and gentle, prudent and charitable, understanding and self-sacrificing. Give him great skill in the care of our bodies, so that, blessed with physical strength and health, we may more faithfully perform our daily tasks.
Help us all, good Saint Luke, to imitate very closely the life and virtues of our Blessed Mother Mary, about whom you wrote so beautifully, and of Him whom she bore into this world, Jesus Christ our Lord and our God, who lives and is King for ever and ever.
Amen.

(from www.CatholicRuralLife.org)

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National Education Contest winners

National winners of the Catholic Daughters of the Americas Education Contest were announced at the 2022 CDA National Convention in Puerto Rico recently.. Three of the winners represented entries from Court Annunciation #1962 from La Grange and Plum. Placing third in the category of Art, Division III was Aubrie Bernsen, a member of Sts. Peter and Paul in Plum; placing third in the category of Computer Art, Division III was Katelyn Bernsen, a member of Sts. Peter and Paul in Plum; placing third at State in the category of Photography, Division IV was Melinda Dunk, a member of Sacred Heart in La Grange. Pictured from left are Monica Heine, CDA vice-regent; Aubrie Bernsen; Katelyn Bernsen; Melinda Dunk; and Shirley Antosh, CDA regent. (Contributed Photo)



Meals • Picnics and More

October

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.

Palacios – Shrimporee Oct. 8-9 with a golf scramble on Saturday. For information about the golf scramble contact Isidro at 361-972-6006. 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 with dine-in or take-out available. Live auction at 12:30 p.m.

Hallettsville – The Sacred Heart Home & School Association of Hallettsville is hosting their 70th annual Apple Strudel Bake on Oct. 8 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the SH Family Center. Unbaked strudels sell for \$18 each or baked and ready to eat at \$22 each, and will be available for pickup at the Sacred Heart Family Center on the day of the event. To order, call Charlene Bradbury 361-798-6191, Annette Henke 361-772-0929, Barbara Grahmann 361-798-0659 or email shsstrudelbake@gmail.com or online at strudel.shsfundraiser.org order fulfillment.

Columbus – St. Anthony Parish Fall Picnic Oct. 9 at the Columbus Hall. A BBQ beef and sausage meal will be served with dine-in or drive-thru available from 11 a.m.-1 p.m. Auction begins at 1 p.m. Mexican food and hamburgers will be available. Fun, games, and music throughout the day.

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. The auction starts at 12 p.m. Games from 11 a.m.-4 p.m. Music by the Dujka Brothers and Red Ravens from 12 - 6 p.m.

El Campo – St. Robert Festival, Oct. 9 at the Columbus Club Hall. A BBQ brisket and sausage dinner served from 11 a.m.-1 p.m. with dine-in or plates-to-go for \$15 each. Live acution at 12 p.m. Fun and games throughout the day.

Victoria – The Cathedral of Our Lady of Victory Festival, in person on Oct. 9, at the Victoria Community Center Serving BBQ beef and sausage dinner at for \$14 per plate with dine-in or drive-thru plates-to-go. Auction begins at 11 a.m. There will also be a virtual auction. Fun and games for all.

Moulton – Public Rosary, Oct. 15, 9:30 a.m. at the downtown gazebo. Sponsored by Moulton Confraternity of Christian Mothers. All community members are invited to pray for their special intentions. Come early and have coffee donated by Brian's Restaurant in Moulton. In case of bad weather, rosary will be moved to St. Joseph Catholic Church Family Room. For information, call 361-550-5903.

Eagle Lake – Parish of the Nativity Fall Festival, Oct. 16. A BBQ chicken and sausage dinner served from 11 a.m.-1 p.m. at \$12 each plate. See pg. 6 for more information.

Goliad – Immaculate Conception Fall Festival (238 N. Commercial St.) Oct. 16. A BBQ Beef buffet style dine-in or plates-to-go beginning at 10:30 a.m. There will be a big ticket raffle \$100 each with 52 chances to win! Also there will be a country store, bake shop, plants, cakewalk, children's games. The live auction begins at 1:00 p.m.

LaSalle – St. Theresa Annual Turkey Dinner, see ad on pg. 5.

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. 15.

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. 17 for more information.

Cuero – St. Michael School Fall Festival, Oct. 30 on school grounds. A chicken fried steak dinner served from 11 a.m.-1 p.m. See pg. 14 for all the details.

Hillje – St. Andrew Altar Society Turkey Dinner, Oct. 30 at the parish hall. Drive-thru only starting at 11 a.m. See pg. 8 for more information.

Seadrift - St. Patrick Fall Festival, Oct. 30 on the parish grounds. A turkey and dressing dinner served 11 a.m.-1:30 p.m. See pg. 13 for more information.

November

Victoria – Court Daughters of the Holy Family #2665 10th Annual Arts & Crafts Show and Bake Sale, Saturday, Nov. 12, and Sunday, Nov. 13, starting at 8 a.m. in the Activity Center of Holy Family Catholic Church.

Ministries • Ongoing Activities

ACTS Retreats – Anyone needing any information regarding ACTS retreats in the diocese should e-mail 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 – Are you an adult, 18 years or older experiencing the death of a loved one? Grief Group meets on the 1st and 3rd Thursday evenings from 6:45 to 8 p.m.

Victoria – Come Shop in Downtown Victoria - St. Mary's and Our Lady of Lourdes Harvest Bazaars. Both locations will sell handcrafted quilted, crocheted, and embroidered items, holiday decor; raffle tickets; breads, cinnamon rolls, cakes, cookies and so much more...

• **St. Mary's Hall** (401 S. Liberty St.) on Friday, Nov. 11 and Saturday, Nov. 12 from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Featuring Potato Soup to-go Lunch, \$9.

• **Our Lady of Lourdes Hall** (105 N. William St.) on Saturday, Nov. 12 from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Sunday, Nov. 13 from 8:30 a.m. to 11 a.m. Featuring Our Lady of Lourdes Dressing (PRESALE ORDERS ONLY) of 5 lb pans of OLL's unbaked and frozen dressing for \$35, approximately 12-15 servings. To order call Elaine Mayer 361-575-5040, orders and payment due 10/21/2022; pickup at the OLL Bazaar.

at Holy Family Catholic Church. Please call Sharon at 361-578-7572 before attending.

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.

i.d.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.

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.

Mothers of Grace – A mothers' group at the Cathedral of Our Lady of Victory. For information, contact Leslie Book at book.leslie@gmail.com or visit their Facebook page at 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. Also in the Cuero area contact, Ashley Rodriguez at 361-293-0700 or e-mail 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, 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 or 361-580-2770; or call 800-470-2230; or visit <http://www.helppourmarriage.org>

So many miracles

Continued from pg. 1

millennial saint.

Thomas said she first heard of Blessed Carlo on EWTN. His story moved her and she searched the Internet for more information, finding YouTube videos about him and, eventually, to his website. She said she was amazed at how this young person was able to be an example of discipline and faith and watched everything she could find about him. “I couldn’t get enough of him.”

Acutis built a website dedicated to all the Eucharistic miracle stories he could find. He made a virtual museum of the miracles on his website www.miracolieucharistici.com before he died of leukemia in 2006 at age 15. And, thanks to Thomas and others in the diocese who shared her vision, the Diocese of Victoria has its own display to teach about these miracles.

“I wanted to help bring people back to the Catholic faith or rekindle that fire in their hearts through the Eucharistic miracles, which is what Blessed Carlo was trying to do,” she said.

At first, she had no idea how to make the display a reality. She called around and eventually ended up on the phone with Justin Reyes, former director of family evangelization for the Diocese of Victoria who knew how to get things done. He liked the idea and brought it to Bishop Cahill, who gave it his blessing. “That’s what got the ball rolling,” Reyes said.

After that they learned of the Eucharistic Revival and had another goal: Have the project ready for the start of the Eucharistic Revival. And they did, because things kept falling into place.

“It’s a real working of the Holy Spirit,”

Reyes said. “Like, wow, what God can do. Even the timing was amazing.”

To fund the project, letters were sent to the Catholic Daughters of the Americas groups and soon there was \$5,000 to get started.

During the whole process of trying to figure out how to print and display the illustrations and stories, Thomas struck up a conversation with Father Tommy Chen while they were both manning booths at the Men’s Conference in May. He told her she should use the type of pull-down, self-contained screens like he was using that day and offered to help in any way he could.

Nelson Lagos, now a seminarian, was living in Port Lavaca discerning the priesthood and had a knack for graphic design, so Father Chen, pastor of Our Lady of the Gulf in Port Lavaca recruited his help. Turns out, Lagos had a friend in Houston who could do the printing. Lagos and Chen both pitched in on the design of the panels, Lagos doing the legwork and bringing sacred images to Father Chen to approve for appropriateness.

“Even as a kid I’d always been interested in and fascinated by the Eucharistic Miracles,” Father Chen said. He was mostly familiar with two of them, and then Thomas started telling him how many there were throughout the world. “I thought, yeah, I would love to help people know about them.”

They already have been an inspiration. At Camp David this year, the youth were given a “tour” of the miracles.

Wendy Eggert, director of the Office of Youth and Young Adults, and Shannon Thomas, the associate director, said in 2019 they asked their Youth Leadership Team and adult staff for ideas about the 2020 event.

Seventh-graders from Our Lady of Victory School viewed an exhibit on Eucharistic researched and made by Blessed Carlo Acutis during a field trip in October 2021. They also had the opportunity to view his first class relic and attend a Mass in his honor.

Blessed Carlo is the first millennial to be beatified and could become the first millennial Saint. (Contributed Photo)



Sharon Thomas and husband, Ben, set up the Eucharistic Miracles panels at Holy Cross Catholic Church parish hall in Yorktown. The panels belong to the Diocese of Victoria and can be checked out by parishes or groups. Visit www.victoriadiocese.org/eucharistic-miracles. The diocese also acquired a relic of Blessed Carlo through some divine intervention. (See Beauty in Mystery, Page 12) (Contributed Photo)

The idea most were excited about was the Eucharist. “We started dreaming up a theme for the 2020 Camp David of the Real Presence with an emphasis on some of the Eucharistic Miracles. In doing research on these miracles, we came across Blessed Carlo’s website and learned more about his life. Blessed Carlo, if he were alive today, would be a year younger than me, which is just amazing. There are videos of him, his parents are still alive, he played PlayStation. It’s just really amazing,” said Shannon Thomas.

When COVID hit, things were put on hold, but in 2021 Blessed Carlo was a big part of the Youth Spectacular themed, “The Real Presence,” with shirts and a skit about his life.

“Wendy thought how neat it would be for the diocese to have a relic of Blessed Carlo. In her bold faith, she reached out via email to a contact on Blessed Carlo’s website. The person responded to Wendy’s email with positive feedback and indicating that we would need someone to pick up the relic in Assisi, Italy,” according to Shannon Thomas. “Well, we knew that definitely wasn’t going to happen before Camp David, so we just let that dream go by for the time being.”

But gaining the relic became a reality, too, with some divine intervention when Sister

Rosario Resendez took a pilgrimage to Italy.

“Wendy was in the lunch room at the right time and joined in on the conversation about Sister Rosario planning a side trip to Assisi. Wendy explained to Sister Rosario about the desire to have a Blessed Carlo relic and that set a quick plan in motion to get a letter written, approved by Bishop Cahill, and in the mail to Assisi within a few days’ time. We mailed a copy of the letter to Assisi, emailed the person Wendy had initially contacted with the letter and explaining the situation, and sent the original letter with Sister Rosario. Days passed and we never heard back from the contact person in Assisi. We gave Sister Rosario the address that we had and hoped for the best,” Shannon said. (See Beauty in Mystery, Page 12 for more).

The diocese hopes to display the relic for veneration at youth events and well as in the chapel at the chancery.

And Sharon Thomas hopes to get more of the miracles for display. Blessed Carlo researched 132 for his online museum. At first, Sharon was a little disappointed that they only could get 12 miracles at the beginning. Then she was reminded that Jesus started with 12 apostles.