SEADRIFT – Wispy feathergrass, vistas of open ranchland and the San Antonio Bay greet those who come to Our Lady’s Healing Center. The physical setting of the center is just one of the salves offered to retreatants who come here.

This is not an ordinary retreat center. According to the staff, it is the only in-resident Catholic healing center in the nation with an aftercare program. This is where people come to seek solutions for deep pain, brokenness, despair, and redemption in the shadow of a sinful past.

The mission of Our Lady’s Healing Center is, “To bring the Good News of total healing through Jesus Christ to those suffering deep mental, emotional and spiritual pain. This mission is realized through a 12-month journey that begins with an intensive five-day personal sacramental and gospel-based method inspired by the truth of Jesus’ healing powers for the mind and spirit at a beautiful coastal-ranch resort with gourmet cuisine for nourishment of the body.”

The imagery inside the building includes the conversion of St. Paul, the prodigal son falling into the arms of his father, and the image of Mary as Stella Maris, the one called upon to protect and comfort her children who are in stormy waters. Her image is placed on the wall of every private room as a visual reminder of her desire to reconcile the world with her Son.

“It doesn’t matter what you’ve done. It doesn’t matter what others have done to you,” Jesus is the one who can heal the spiritual and emotional damage, said Dr. Michael Fonseca, the center’s director of healing services. “Jesus has a totally different understanding of healing.”

Dr. Fonseca said those who seek this kind of healing are looking for balance in their lives. The center’s goal is to bring peace.
Reflection encourages devotion to Mary’s Immaculate Heart

A Shepherd’s Message

By Bishop Brendan Cahill

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

When St. John Paul II visited Fatima in 2000 he mentioned that Cardinal Ratzinger would write a theological commentary on the secrets of Fatima.

Cardinal Ratzinger wrote the following back in 2000:

The first and second parts of the “secret” of Fatima have already been so amply discussed in the relative literature that there is no need to deal with them again here. I would just like to recall briefly the most significant point. For one terrible moment, the children were given a vision of hell. They saw the fall of “the souls of poor sinners.” And now they are told why they have been exposed to this moment: “in order to save souls -- to show the way to salvation.” The words of the First Letter of Peter come to mind: “As the outcome of your faith you obtain the salvation of your souls.” (1:9).

To reach this goal, the way indicated -- surprisingly for people from the Anglo-Saxon and German cultural world -- is devotion to the Immaculate Heart of Mary. A brief comment may suffice to explain this. In biblical language, the “heart” indicates the center of human life, the point where reason, will, temperament and sensitivity converge, where the person finds his unity and his interior orientation.

According to Matthew 5:8, the “immaculate heart” is a heart which, with God’s grace, has come to perfect interior unity and therefore “sees God.” To be “devoted” to the Immaculate Heart of Mary means therefore to embrace this attitude of heart, which makes the fiat -- “your will be done” -- the defining center of one’s whole life. It might be objected that we should not place a human being between ourselves and Christ. But then we remember that Paul did not hesitate to say to his communities: “imitate me” (1 Corinthians 4:16; Philippians 3:17; 1 Thessalonians 1:6; 2 Thessalonians 3:7, 9). In the Apostle, they could see concretely what it meant to follow Christ. But from whom might we better learn in every age than from the Mother of the Lord?

Thus we come finally to the third part of the “secret” of Fatima, which for the first time is being published in its entirety. As is clear from the documentation presented here, the interpretation offered by Cardinal Sodano in his statement of 13 May was first put personally to Sister Lucia. Sister Lucia responded by pointing out that she had received the vision but not its interpretation. The interpretation, she said, belonged not to the visionary but to the Church. After reading the text, however, she said that this interpretation corresponded to what she had experienced and that on her part she thought the interpretation correct. In what follows, therefore, we can only attempt to provide a deeper foundation for this interpretation, on the basis of the criteria already considered.

“To save souls” has emerged as the key word of the first and second parts of the “secret,” and the key word of this third part is the threefold cry: “Penance, Penance, Penance!” The beginning of the Gospel comes to mind: “Repent and believe the Good News.” (Mark 1:15) To understand the signs of the times means to accept the urgency of penance -- of conversion -- of faith. This is the correct response to this moment of history, characterized by the grave perils outlined in the images that follow. Allow me to add here a personal recollection: In a conversation with me, Sister Lucia said that it appeared ever more clearly to her that the purpose of all the apparitions was to help people to grow more and more in faith, hope and love -- everything else was intended to lead to this.

I wanted to share these words with you as a way of encouraging our devotion to the Immaculate Heart of Mary.

So many of us have consecrated ourselves to Mary, and this consecration leads not only to our salvation but also to the salvation of many others through our prayer and penance. May you and your families have a blessed and joyful Easter, and may we trust in the merciful love that flows from the heart of Jesus.

Let’s keep each other in prayer!

+Brendan

Retreat for grieving parents to be held

HALLETTSVILLE -- The Strength for the Journey ministry will host a one-day retreat for grieving parents, April 15, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Doors open at 9:30 at Sacred Heart Family Center, 306 Glendale. Coping with the death of a child/children is overwhelming and the grief does not end in a prescribed number of days, weeks, months or years. Retreatants will experience presentations by counselor and clergy and meet other parents who have lost a child/children. No one will be required to share anything this day. The ministers understand it takes courage just to come to the day retreat. Snacks and lunch will be provided. There is no charge. Please register at victoriadiocese.org/grief-support, or contact Pat Hoelscher at 979-257-9984 or phoelscher@victoriadiocese.org.

DO YOU HAVE A PASSION FOR CATHOLIC EDUCATION?
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DO YOU LOVE TO SERVE?

The Diocese of Victoria Office of Catholic Schools is hiring for an Executive Assistant to the Superintendent. This position is for dedicated Catholics determined to spread the Good News through ministry to our Catholic schools!

For more information, contact the Diocese of Victoria at 361-573-0828, or go online to www.victoriadiocese.org/employment-opportunities.

KJT supports DOV funds

Margaret Hanslik presents a donation from KJT Catholic Union of Texas to Bishop Brendan Cahill on March 24. Hanslik, of Moulton, is one of the KJT state directors. The organization gave $5,602 for the Priest and Religious Retirement Fund for the Diocese of Victoria and $3,152 for the Seminarian Education Fund of the diocese. The money is from donations made on behalf of KJT societies located in the diocese. (Regina Janak/The Catholic Lighthouse)
### Bishop Cahill’s Schedule

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>April</th>
<th>18</th>
<th>May</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>5:30 p.m. Palm Sunday Mass at the Cathedral of Our Lady of Victory</td>
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<td>3</td>
<td>12:15 p.m. Mass at UHV; Victoria</td>
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<tr>
<td>4-10</td>
<td>Chancery office closed</td>
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<td>6</td>
<td>• Holy Thursday Mass at the Stephenson Unit; Cuero</td>
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<td>7</td>
<td>• 6:30 p.m. Holy Thursday Mass at the Cathedral of Our Lady of Victory</td>
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<td>8</td>
<td>8 p.m. Easter Vigil at the Cathedral of Our Lady of Victory</td>
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<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>9 a.m. Easter Sunday Mass at the Cathedral of Our Lady of Victory</td>
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<tr>
<td>11-14</td>
<td>Bishops in Communion meeting; San Antonio</td>
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<td>14</td>
<td>6 p.m. Confirmation Mass for Our Lady of the Gulf; Port Lavaca</td>
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<td>15</td>
<td>4:30 p.m. Confirmation Mass for high school students at Holy Cross Church; Bay City</td>
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<td>16</td>
<td>• 9 a.m. Confirmation Mass for Holy Cross Church; East Bernard</td>
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<td>17</td>
<td>• Noon meal with IWBS Sisters at IWBS Convent</td>
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<td>18</td>
<td>• 6:30 a.m. Morning Air radio interview</td>
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<td>19</td>
<td>• 9 a.m. Legion of Mary Praesidium meeting; Cathedral Center</td>
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<td>20</td>
<td>• 6:30 p.m. Confirmation Mass for Our Lady of Mt. Carmel, Wharton</td>
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<td>21</td>
<td>8:05 a.m. school Mass and visit with St. Joseph’s School, Yoakum</td>
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<td>22</td>
<td>• 6:30 p.m. Confirmation Mass for St. Mary Church; Nada</td>
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<td>23</td>
<td>7 p.m. Confirmation Mass for Our Lady of Guadalupe Church; Bay City</td>
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<td>24</td>
<td>8 a.m. school Mass and visit with St. Michael’s School; Weimar</td>
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<td>25</td>
<td>8:30 a.m. Mass for Diocesan Women’s Conference at the Cathedral of Our Lady of Victory</td>
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<td>26</td>
<td>• 7:10 a.m. Mass at Kolbe Prison Retreat at the Stevenson Unit; Cuero</td>
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<td>27</td>
<td>• 2 p.m. Confirmation Mass for Our Lady of Victory; Cathedral</td>
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<td>• Noon Mass with Missionary Catechists</td>
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<td>• 6 p.m. Confirmation Mass for St. Joseph’s School, Yoakum</td>
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<td>• 7:10 a.m. Mass at Kolbe Prison Retreat at the Stevenson Unit; Cuero</td>
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<td>• 2 p.m. Confirmation Mass for Our Lady of Victory; Cathedral</td>
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<td></td>
<td>• Noon Mass with Missionary Catechists</td>
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<td>• 6 p.m. Confirmation Mass for St. John Church; Hungerford</td>
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<td>• 9 a.m. Legion of Mary Praesidium meeting; Cathedral Center</td>
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<td>• 11 a.m. visit and Mass with homeschooled students at St. Mary Church; Victoria</td>
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<td>• 1:30 p.m. Pension Board meeting; Chancery</td>
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<td></td>
<td>• 6 p.m. Confirmation Mass for St. Mary Church; St. Mary</td>
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### In Memoriam

**Seminarian’s father passes away**

ST. JOHN -- Stuart Krischke, 63, was born on April 18, 1959, to Norman and Evelyn Krischke, and passed away on March 21, 2023.

Funeral services were held at St. John Catholic Church in St. John, Texas, on Saturday, March 25.

Interment followed in St. John Catholic Cemetery.

Survivors include his wife, Joanne Beavon and their four children: Rebekah Hernandez and husband Joseph of Hallettsville; John; sons, Jared Krischke and wife McKenzey of New Braunfels and Caleb Krischke of St. John; sisters, Carolyn Kahlich of Houston, Valerie Clark and husband Jeff of Buda and Jennifer Cowles and husband Greg of Leander; brother, Travis Krischke and wife Carley of Leander; nine grandchildren; and numerous nieces and nephews.

He is preceded in death by his parents.

The family requests donations be made to St. Rose of Lima Catholic School in Schulenburg, Sacred Heart Catholic School in Hallettsville, St. John Seminary Burse or a charity of one’s choice.
The 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 – $0.01 - $999.99; 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

Joe Staff Estate
In memory of Robert “Bobby” Little

Robert & Carol Jungman
Patricia Ann Hessler
Wayne & Lisa Migura
Lawrence & Carol Bludau
Robert & Terry Hermes
In Memory of Robert Welfl

Catholic Daughters of the Americas
Court Queen of the Clergy
In memory of Janet Gensler

Acolyte
Monroe & Mary Margaret Rieger
In memory of Claud Jacobs

Please remember in prayer the priests of the Diocese of Victoria, who were ordained during the month of April:
Rev. Timothy Kosler 04/23/1971 Retired
Rev. Msgr. John Peters, VG 04/26/1974 Sacred Heart Church, Hallettsville

“Let us pray for more vocations to the priesthood”

Please remember in prayer the priests of the Diocese of Victoria, who died during the month of April:
Rev. Msgr Michael Harrold 04/02/2015
Rev. Henry Kachunek 04/03/2013
Rev. Msgr. Edward Bartsch 04/04/2010
Rev. Msgr. Arnold Anders 04/04/2021
Rev. Peter Kaplinski 04/07/2003
Rev. Michael Malloy, O.Ss.T. 04/12/1986
Rev. Henry Psencik 04/14/1989
Rev. Msgr. Thomas C. McLaughlin 04/17/2017
Rev. Charles Sonnier 04/22/2016

“Eternal rest granted unto them, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them. May they rest in peace.”

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 – $0.01 - $999.99; Acolyte – $100 - $499.99; Candidate – $500 - $1,499.99; Transitional Deacon – $1,500 - $2,499.99; Priest – $2,500 >.

March 21, 2023

• Rev. Msgr. John C. Peters Seminary Burse #8
Lector
In memory of Robert “Bob” Welfl by Gilbert and Mary Rose Schindler

Acolyte
In memory of Rev. Philip Brune by Sts. Peter and Paul Church St. Ann’s Altar Society, Freelsburg

• CDA of the Americas Court Our Lady Queen of Peace #1374 Seminary Burse
Acolyte
Donation by CDA Court Our Lady Queen of Peace #1374, El Campo

• Rev. Wayne Flagg and Rev. Philip Brune Seminary Burse
Lector
In memory of Rev. James Dvorak’s birthday by Mark and Sharon Kubicek

Acolyte
Donation in honor of Rev. Wayne Flagg by Sts. Peter and Paul Church St. Ann’s Altar Society, Freelsburg
Donation in honor of Rev. Philip Brune by Sts. Peter and Paul Church St. Ann’s Altar Society, Freelsburg

• Rev. Kristopher L. Fuchs Seminary Burse
Lector
Donation in honor of Rev. Kristopher L. Fuchs by Mark and Sharon Kubicek

Acolyte
In memory of Rev. Michael Lyons by St. Rose of Lima School, Schulenburg Faculty and Students

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

Pray 4 Vocations

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Christian Store
(979) 543-2850
1603 N Mechanic
El Campo, TX 77437
M-F 9:30-5:30 Sat. 9:30-3:00
www.facebook.com/heavenlyhelpersonline

First Communion, Confirmation, Bibles, Books, Rosaries, Medals, Statues, Baptism & Wedding Items Inspirational Gifts
I really like movies. I like action, historical, drama, comedy, animated, horror, fantasy, science fiction … pretty much all genres. That is my hobby and one of my favorite pastimes. I think I would have enjoyed being a movie critic, so I now critique every movie I watch to my friends and family who may or may not want to hear my long, drawn-out opinions.

A friend of mine kept asking me to watch the movie “Everything Everywhere All at Once.” I tried watching this movie on a flight once, but I have the worst luck when it comes to the screens in front of me when traveling. They never work. So after constant encouragement from this friend, and after it won several awards, I decided to watch it.

I’m glad I watched it, but I don’t think I will ever watch it again. It had the kind of humor I’m not particularly a fan of, so there were several times that I just wanted to switch it off. I am a fan of several of the actors in the movie, and I could appreciate their acting skills, but there were several times I rolled my eyes and groaned out loud. Still, because this friend said this was now his favorite movie, and I believe that when people recommend a book or a movie to you, one should try to read or watch it, I persevered. In the end, it did have a good message -- to be kind.

Back in 1996, a movie came out by the name of “Dragonheart,” that left a lasting impression on me. In the movie, a future king is wounded in his heart. After much persistence from his mother, a dragon gave the prince half of its heart so the prince would live. The now king became a horrible person. A knight of the realm, who didn’t trust the dragon to begin with, blamed the dragon and made it his life’s mission to kill all the dragons. When he got to the last dragon, the knight didn’t kill it because it would end his main source of income -- saving villages from dragons.

We find out that this last dragon is the one that gave the prince half of its heart, and the dragon wasn’t the villain in the movie. The dragon knew the prince was corrupt but hoped its pure heart could sway the prince to be good. The dragons in this fantasy world had always protected the people, and the dragon thought it could save the people from an evil and corrupt king if it could give him half of a good heart. It did not work.

I would recommend “Dragonheart” to pretty much anybody. It does have violent scenes, but I watched it during a class in high school, so it can’t be that bad. “Everything Everywhere All at Once?” I would have to warn people of the crude humor that is not appropriate for a lot of people.

If you have gotten this far, you may be wondering where I am going with this article. To answer that, I will have to tell you of a conversation a sister and I were having over the dinner table. We were talking about how we have no control over the actions of others and the fact that we cannot change people if they do not want to change. This sister told me something that I’m still thinking about: “We cannot change people’s behavior. All we can do is influence them.” How do we influence them? By how we act.

In “Everything Everywhere,” the main protagonist was trying to force change onto others, but it was her husband who taught her that kindness is what can change the world. In “Dragonheart,” the dragon tried to change the king, but the king did not want to change and, therefore, didn’t. The knight did change after spending time with the dragon and realizing that he was the one who had been wrong.

The knight was able to see that he had been killing dragons unjustly, because he was unwilling to believe that the prince was always corrupt.

As the conversation with this sister continued, she said sometimes it’s our prayers that influence change. Through our prayers we ask God to be the influencer, to touch the lives of others and create the change.

As I told my friend, movies are never just movies to me. I will look for a deeper meaning in them, even if what I come up with wasn’t what was intended.

This Easter season we should all take a moment to see how open we are to learning and seeing beyond ourselves and what we think is the truth. Can we be kind, which is different from being nice? Pope Francis says, “Kindness is firm and persevering intention to always will the good of others, even the unfriendly.”

We are in spring, and things are changing all around us. Can we influence with kindness and prayer the changes that we want to see in the world?

* Contact Sister Maria del Rosario Resendez by e-mailing her at bishopsecretary.dav@gmail.com.
Joe Paprocki of Loyola Press to speak at Catechist Rally

“One in Communion, One in Participation, One in Mission” is the expectation for the participants of the 2023 Annual Catechist Rally, which takes place July 17 at St. Andrew Parish Hall in Hillje from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m.

Christella Alvarez, director of the Office of Catechetical Ministry said, “The ministry and journey of a catechist is first an invitation from God to go deeper in their relationship with Jesus, and then to share this good news with others through witness and by accompanying them on the journey of faith.”

The Catechist Rally is an opportunity for Bishop Brendan Cahill, the chief catechist of the Diocese of Victoria, to acknowledge, support and encourage the efforts of all who serve in catechetical ministry, whether in parish faith formation programs or Catholic schools. Pastors, parish catechetical leaders, assistants, Catholic school religion teachers, catechists and aides are invited to register for this event. Space is limited.

Joe Paprocki, DMin, the National Consultant for Faith Formation for Loyola Press, will present “Seeing with the Heart: How Catechists Guide Others to Navigate Life’s Adventures.” Our role as catechists is to present the Catholic tradition, not as an anchor that can immobilize us, but rather as a rudder: something to hold on to as it guides and steers us through the turbulent waters of life.

In this presentation, Paprocki, will share how catechists teach others to “see with the heart” in order to better navigate life’s adventures. The goal is to make participants renewed and empowered to go out and proclaim the Gospel to every person.

More information will be available on the diocesan website, Weekly Flash, Church bulletins, and by calling Christella Alvarez or Alicia Olive in the catechetical office at 361-573-0828. Invitations to register for the event will be coming soon.

We must guard and cultivate the earth to keep it healthy

As human beings, we are a small part of a much bigger ecosystem and universe. We are citizens of the cosmic community as well as the human community. Faith informs us that God is the web, the energy, the space, the light revealed in this vast net of relationships. Everything visible, without exception, is the outpouring of God. God is everywhere in it. God is the author of this cosmic community. Therefore, climate is a common good meant for all and must be preserved by all.

Basically all life on earth is fed by a process in which carbon and other elements in the soil are combined by the energy of the sun through photosynthesis in plants. Every blade of grass, every tree, bush and microscopic organism on this planet lives because of the earth and the rays of the sun. We, too, are dependent on the sun’s rays, the ground of the earth, the oxygen in the atmosphere and on plants and animals for food since God created the universe.

“See, I have given you every plant-yielding seed that is upon the face of all the earth, … you shall have them for food … .” (Genesis 1:29)

Because food, water and energy are central to our existence, our water and food consumption leave a huge ecological footprint on the earth, impacting our environment. The U.S. has one of the largest ecological footprints in the world, mainly due to its use of water and meat consumption. According to some statistics, the average U.S. citizen eats approximately 270 pounds of meat per year. The average daily water use per person is 100 to 175 gallons, while the worldwide average is between 80 and 100 gallons per person. The U.S. has 5 percent of the world’s population, but consumes 24 percent of the world’s energy. We destroy forests to accommodate animals for meat, use our water supply for soy and corn, and lose agricultural land necessary for plants, which absorb carbon and put oxygen into the atmosphere. Farming huge fields with implements and transporting food around the world with non-renewable energy emits carbon. Texas has one of the highest carbon emissions of any state in the U.S. This results in warming the earth, causing the climate to change.

How do we begin the process of reversing global warming so that we have a better future for all of us, with abundant energy resources available to all? We must remove the greenhouse gases from the atmosphere and avoid putting them there. One of the most important things we can do is change our lifestyle choices: reduce the amount of meat we consume, eat foods that are lower on the food chain, reduce the amount of water we use, reduce our travel or use renewable energies and reduce food wastes. Also, managing land and safeguarding and protecting forests and wetlands can expand and create new carbon sinks that directly draw down carbon.

Already, Texas leads in wind energy production with 25,000 jobs in wind and solar energy, providing up to 20 percent of our electricity. Fort Hood is powered by wind energy and is saving taxpayers more than $150 million. The fastest-growing type of new energy today is solar. The sun gives us plenty of solar energy. From Rwanda to Uganda to China and India, billions of dollars are being invested in clean energy and in green jobs.

What about those who do not have the resources that we have, like those in other countries who only have kerosene? Pope Francis said, “I exhort everyone to see the world through the eyes of God, the Creator: The earth is an environment to be safeguarded, a garden to be cultivated.”

Creation is here to sustain us all. Saving our ecosystems and universe depends on all of us working together to benefit us all. We do not have infinite resources.

Contact Sister Marian at maristurm@yahoo.com.
Rhonda Cummins is shown with some crew members who stopped at Point Comfort and were treated to donuts and other snacks. (Contributed Photo)

A sign hanging on the wall of the buildings that are being transformed into a functional center where seafarers can take a break from the ships, grab a book, pick up some necessities, use the internet or pray in the chapel. It will also be a place to keep the hundreds of care packages donated for the Christmas at Sea program. (Contributed Photo)

Seafarer’s Center open house set for May 16

POINT COMFORT — For months, Rhonda Cummins and Tom Wise, who minister to seafarers at the Point Comfort Seafarers Center, have been making two portable buildings into a place where the ships’ crews can rest a while and pick up a few necessities.

The new Point Comfort Seafarers Center building should be mostly functional by the grand opening celebration on May 16, which includes an open house from 1:30 to 3:30 p.m. with music, conversation, tours of the center and food. At approximately 2 p.m. a dedication service will begin, and Bishop Brendan Cahill will bless the new home of the center.

Cummins, the maritime associate for Stella Maris, asked area churches to consider sending a representative or two from their church or organizations.

“If you are an individual curious to learn more about the port and what happens besides the Christmas gifts, this is a great opportunity to come see the hospitality center we have worked hard to build. This center will give the seafarers a place to unwind and relax off their ships when they are in port. If we are lucky, some seafarers will join our celebration. The world comes to Point Comfort and we are there to welcome them,” she stated.

Since the center is located inside the security area of the port, RSVP is required for the gate list. Those who plan to attend will need a driver’s license (or similar ID card) to pass through the security gate at 219 Diebel Lane.

Please notify the center by May 12 if you are planning to attend. They will need your first and last name for the gate list. Please email names to stellamaris@olgulf.org or by text message to 361-987-0569.

Prayer and mysticism workshops planned at Amor Meus

VICTORIA — Amor Meus Spirituality Center at Incarnate Word Convent, 1101 N.E. Water St., is hosting two workshops on prayer and spirituality in April. All are invited.

“Lectio Divina – Conversing With God” will be on Saturday, April 15. It begins with prayer as a relationship with God and continues with a description of the form of prayer prayed in the first centuries of the Church by Christian laypersons and those in convents and monasteries. Workshop attendees will practice reading and listening to the Scriptures at ever deeper levels of attention in order to respond to God and come to a restful presence in God.

Sister Marian Sturm, IWBS, a Sister of the Incarnate Word and Blessed Sacrament and a spiritual director, who has ministered in adult faith formation in the Church, will facilitate this workshop.

“Who is a Mystic? Living Contemplatively in a Busy World” takes place Saturday, April 29. Jeanette Easley, director of Ruah Spirituality Center in Houston, will give a description of a mystic with examples of mystics through the centuries, which promises to be inspiring, attractive and alluring to us for our own spirituality.

Mysticism is any conscious union of God with humans, initiated and sustained by God. Anyone can be blessed with this union in which God seems very present, filling us with His consolation, at the same time moving us to love others.

Easley’s entire adult life has been in service to God and His people. She spent five years as a missionary in South America, 29 years as a pastoral administrator in two large parishes in San Antonio and the past six years in Houston in retreat ministry. Her passion and expertise is in adult faith formation, spiritual development, spiritual direction and contemplative prayer.

Sign-in is at 9:30 a.m. for both workshops. Both workshops are 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Parking is in front of the convent. A free-will offering will be accepted.
Girl Scouts honored
VICTORIA -- Bishop Brendan Cahill celebrated Mass March 11 at Our Lady of Victory in honor of Girl Scout Sunday. The bishop presented religious medals to (from left) Brooklyn Starnes of St. Mary, Victoria, Family of God Award; Mila Aguayo of Our Lady of the Gulf, Port Lavaca, God is Love Award; Arissa Aguayo of OLG, Family of God Award; and Riley Berger from Inez. Adult leaders, from left, are Terry Blevins, Frances Cervantes and Barbara Wilcox. (Contributed Photo)

DOV Conference not just for catechists

By CHRISTELLA ALVAREZ
Office of Catechetical Ministry

VICTORIA -- Lately, we have been reading and hearing much about the need to evangelize. Pope Francis also called us to the Synod on Synodality, which moved us to a place of listening and dialogue with all people on various topics. And the U.S. bishops have directed us to a three-year National Eucharistic Revival.

With all these endeavors, we have so much to be grateful for and to celebrate as the people of God.

Therefore, to continue in this direction, the Rev. Juan Molina, president and CFO of the Mexican American Catholic College in San Antonio, will offer the keynote address: “Synodality and Eucharist” in English and in Spanish at the 35th Annual Catholic Conference, Saturday, Sept. 23, at St. Joseph High School in Victoria. The theme this year is “One in Communion, One in Participation, One in Mission.”

Conference participants can choose from numerous workshops on various topics, which will be offered by pastors, religious sisters and professional laypersons. There will be choices for English and Spanish speakers. Catholic vendors will be on site with religious articles as items for purchase.

As the director of the Office of Catechetical Ministry, I am asked often who can attend this diocesan conference, and I always say the conference is for all adults. I invite all to experience the spirit of fellowship. I encourage couples to attend the event together.

Each year, catechists, parish catechetical leaders, liturgical ministers and others in parish ministries are invited, but this is not an exclusive event. Many appreciate the annual conference because the experience always provides further Church teachings on family, liturgy, prayer, forgiveness and much more.

The full lineup of workshops, schedule and registration information will be available very soon on the diocesan website.

It is important that we recognize and celebrate who we are as the body of Christ so the Church may grow and be a place of joy for all God’s people.

CDA and KCs celebrate 100 years
HALLETTSVILLE — Ricky Steffek, grand knight, welcomes members of the organizations and introduces guests at a Feb. 25 celebration of the 100th anniversary of both The Catholic Daughters of the Americas Court #797 and the Knights of Columbus Father Mathis Council #2433 at the Knights of Columbus Hall. Bishop Brendan Cahill celebrated Mass with the Rev. Msgr. John Peters and Deacon Michael Tankersley. The Knights of Columbus #2433 of was organized on Dec. 17, 1922. The Catholic Daughters of the Americas #797 of was organized on April 8, 1923. At left (RIGHT BELOW) CDA officers pose in front of the celebration banner. They are, back row, Virginia Olsovsky, state secretary; Maureen Grones, vice regent; Janet Spies, regent; Jeanette Henke, treasurer; Rebecca Brown, state regent; and, front row, Dorothy Zabransky, district deputy; Barbara Grahmann, secretary; and Catherine Lyssy, financial secretary. (Contributed Photos)
God’s truths given in writing and tradition

EDITOR’S NOTE: Father Kram wrote this sermon for the third Sunday of Easter, Cycle B. He titled it “Faith in our Lives.”

A mind is a terrible thing to waste. A mind is also an easy thing to confuse, especially when faced with too much information too fast or too soon.

It is a fact that some people with college degrees do not know how to read or how to spell.

We must learn to crawl before we can learn to walk; we must learn reading, writing and arithmetic before we can study more advanced subjects. In college, we must first pass an entrance exam and start with basic courses.

I graduated first in my class in the 10th grade, but it was a class of two in a little country school. Life was simple back then.

We must learn to crawl before we can learn to walk; we must learn reading, writing and arithmetic before we can study more advanced subjects. In college, we must first pass an entrance exam and start with basic courses.

I graduated first in my class in the 10th grade, but it was a class of two in a little country school. Life was simple back then.

But now we are living in the midst of an information explosion and a World Wide Web by way of which anyone who can get online can get access to unlimited sources of knowledge.

There is now so much to know that we need all kinds of experts, specialists and consultants to guide us.

For example, a doctor had a bad wreck one day and, as the EMS men were pulling him out of his crumpled car, one of them asked him, “Are you hurt bad?”

“How should I know,” he replied, “I’m not a LAWYER.”

Or for example, if you call the IRS with a question, they will answer by sending you a publication that only leads to more questions. I once wrote to Social Security for information. They forwarded my letter to the IRS. The IRS sent me a booklet. Then I had to write to the IRS for an interpretation of what the booklet said.

Unfortunately, we can’t always believe what others tell us because through honest mistakes and sometimes even on purpose, we receive information that is incorrect.

We can’t even always believe what we see with our own eyes. The world looks flat, but, actually, it is round. The sun seems to rise and set, but, actually, it stands still and WE turn toward or away from it.

There are two ways to know a fact. One is by sight and the other is by faith. Nowadays, most of what we know, we know by faith. That is, we take someone else’s word for it.

St. Paul defines faith as the evidence of things unseen. This is true of faith in God and of faith in man.

If we can be sure that the one who tells us something is telling the truth and that he knows what he is talking about, then we can be just as sure of a fact as we would be if he had seen it for ourselves.

If we can be sure that God has revealed a truth, then we know that it is true, because God cannot deceive or be deceived.

Divine revelation is found in the Bible, which was written over many centuries by various writers inspired by the Holy Spirit. The first five books of the Bible are attributed to Moses, and the last book, the Book of Revelation, was written by St. John in about the year 100 A.D.

We Catholics believe that not everything revealed by God was written down. We call this unwritten revelation, Sacred Tradition.

There are many disagreements among Christians. Who is right? One of the main teachings of Luther and the Protestant Reformation was that the Bible is the only authority for God’s Word. But soon, without the guidance of the Church, Christianity began to break up into many different denominations, disagreeing with one another, all basing their teachings on the same Bible.

Actually, the Bible that we are all using today comes from the Catholic Church. The Council of Hippo and the Council of Carthage in the early centuries of the Church defined the list of books that the Church regarded as being the true Bible. Christians of all denominations are still using this same Bible as the authority for their teachings. But they seem to forget that if it had not been for the Church and its teaching authority guaranteeing the Bible, the Bible would have no authority today.

So, I regard the Bible as the WRITTEN part of God’s Word, but I also believe in Sacred Tradition as the ORAL or UNWRITTEN part. It is as St. Paul said, “Hold fast to the teachings handed down to you, whether by word of mouth or by the written word.”

And, furthermore, “The Church is the pillar and foundation of truth.”

I must remain a Catholic because my Church is the only one that has a pope, whom I see as the successor of Peter, the Rock upon whom Christ founded his Church, and to whom he gave the keys of the Kingdom of Heaven and the power to bind and to loose.

I take his word as the authentic voice of Christ for our day.

Like a mind, a soul is also a terrible thing to waste, so I prefer to live in a house built on rock.

Lord Jesus, thank you for bringing us saving truths in which to put our faith. Help us to follow you faithfully all the days of our lives. Grant that by the witness we give by word and by deed we may bring many others to serve you. Amen.

Games party April 20

VICTORIA — Holy Family Altar Society will be hosting a games party at the Holy Family Activity Center, 704 Mallette Dr., on April 20 from 6 to 9 p.m. Admission is $8 per person. Activities include raffle drawing, door prizes, games and silent auction. Refreshments will be served. For reservations, call 361-575-4997 or 361-550-0064. Preparing for the games party, front row, from left, are Kay Jasek, Deacon Eddie Huse and Kathy Williams; and, back row, from left, are Jackie Slusher, Mary Jeanson, Becky Blanton, Betty Frederick and Kathy Motley. (Contributed Photo)
I often visit my home church, Sacred Heart in Hallettsville, for the sole purpose of spending some quiet time on holy ground. Usually, I have no menu of routine prayer or a specific agenda; rather, I simply try to still the mind and be in His presence.

For most of the liturgical year, I park myself beside the tabernacle. But, during Lent and throughout Easter, I am drawn to the center aisle from where I can face and be faced by Jesus on the Cross. When I am of quiet mind … when I am in the passive mood to receive rather than actively seeking … when I am most attuned to the Psalmist’s prescription to “Be still and know that I am God” (46:10), this is when I best see and hear. This is when I am bathed in the sights and sounds of the Mystery of the Cross, whereby “dying he destroyed our death, rising he restored our life.”

I have recently been listening to sacred polyphonic music. It is a texture of music that is not only overwhelmingly beautiful to the ear, but has a “both-and” quality that is woven through the fabric of Catholic theology. Music that we are most likely to experience is either monophonic or homophonic. In monophonic music there is one melody without harmony or chords. Think whistling or singing to yourself. Most often, the music we listen to is homophonic -- one melody layered with chords or harmonies that support the single melody line. Think “barbershop quartet” or “pianist.”

In polyphonic music, there are two or more melodies at the same time in the same song. This is not a medley in which one tune follows another; it is the simultaneous playing of two or more independent tunes woven together to create a single song richer and more beautiful than if separated. In polyphony, the separate melodies never clash or compete, but entwine and complement.

You can listen to beautiful examples of sacred polyphonic works on YouTube and in most works of J.S. Bach. For me, the richest fruits of gazing at Christ on the Cross are polyphonic -- when the sights and sounds of tragedy and glory, death and eternal life blend as one picture, one song.

Gazing at the crucifix, I hear myself in the crowd shouting “Crucify him. Crucify him.” At the same time, I speak the words of St. Liquori: “We adore you, O Christ, and we praise you. Because, by your holy cross, you have redeemed the world.”

Gazing at the crucifix, I see myself as the soldier pounding the nails into the hands and feet of Jesus … myself as the disciple who betrayed Him … myself as Peter when denying Him. At the same time, I am the centurion who proclaims, “Truly this is the Son of God,” and the apostle John who remains at the foot of the cross with Mary.

Gazing at the crucifix, I can hear the haunting melody of “It is finished,” overlaid with the song of jubilation: “He is Risen.” The dark colors of failure and despair and death are the background for the bright shades of victory, hope and eternal life. I am both repulsed by the horrible instrument of death and yearning to embrace it in exaltation.

Gazing at the crucifix, I witness a specific historical event occurring at one place and time, while also recognizing it as a universal representation across time and space. I see the death of the human life of Jesus that allows for the birth of eternal life for me. I watch as the wood of the cross that brought suffering and death becomes the wood of the door, through which comes healing and eternal life. I hear the shouts of betrayal and hate being poured onto Him as love and mercy pours forth from Him. I see the dead Christ with wounds in his feet and hands and side, and I see the risen Christ saying, “Peace be with you,” as He shows me those very wounds.

There is a line from Giorgio Tiepolo’s work, “The Practice of the Love of Jesus Christ” that reads, “Anyone who does not fall in love with God by looking at Jesus dead upon the cross will never fall in love.” Looking at the crucified Christ did not come easily for me. There were no crucifixes in any of the Protestant churches that I attended as a youth and only the “empty” cross was acceptable. The justifications for the rejection of the crucifix -- weak though they are -- go beyond the scope of this article; but as Catholics, we should hold dear to the truth of Tiepolo’s words. Gazing on the crucifix should never cause the vision of the resurrection to fade, nor should the truth of the resurrection dilute the relevance of the crucifixion.

The mournful tune of the cross and the death of Christ is woven with the jubilant melody of the empty tomb and resurrection to become twin melodies in the one symphony of salvation. Jesus wills to draw all of us to Himself, and to be drawn is to enter into the mystery of Christ on the Cross. An “empty cross” can serve as a comforting symbol of Christianity, but nail the Savior of the World to it, and the symbol becomes a challenge to all daring to look. It is this “both-and” nature of the cross, this challenge that we face on Good Friday as we dare to sing, “Behold the wood of the Cross, on which hung the salvation of the world.”

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**At Your Service**
By Deacon Michael Tumbersley

Photo by Regina Matus-Janak
Elie Mejia’s passion is to continue to spread God’s Word and is delighted to include a monthly puzzle from the Mass Readings. Please mail all completed April puzzle forms to arrive in The Catholic Lighthouse office, P.O. Box 4070, Victoria, TX 77903 by April 30 to be entered into a drawing for a chance to win one of the following books:


To date, Elie has published 20 books. Most of her books can be purchased at The Inspire Boutique in Cuero, The Pearl Street Market in Goliad, www.searching-for-jesus.com and Amazon. The prices range from $4.99 and $19.99.

### April 9, 2023
**Easter Sunday**
**Reading II – Colossians 3:1-4**

A **reading** from the **Letter of Saint Paul** to the **Colossians**. **Brothers** and **sisters**.

*If then you were raised with Christ,* **seek** what is **above**, **where Christ is seated** at the **right hand** of **God**.

*Think of what is above, not of what is on earth.* For you have **died**, and your **life** is **hidden** with **Christ** in **God**. **When** Christ **your life appears**, then you too will appear with him in **glory**.

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**Journeys of Faith with Ceci**

**Our Lady of Guadalupe Pilgrimage with Bishop Cahill**
**August 25 - 31, 2023**

Spend seven days in beautiful Mexico City with Bishop Cahill as we visit the Shrine of Our Lady of Guadalupe, the Pyramids of the Sun and Moon and enjoy a boat ride at the Xochimilco floating gardens. We will enjoy a special visit to the Sister of the IWBS at Convento de las Hermanas del Verbo Encarnado. This pilgrimage is full of faith and culture of the Mexican people!

**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! **Registration online (or by paper form) is open!**

**Holy Land Pilgrimage with Father Oscar Amos**
**November 10 - 20, 2023**

Pilgrimage to the Holy Land is an experience of a lifetime! Can you imagine walking in the footsteps of Our Lord…to see and touch the places of His birth, life and death? How will you feel as you walk the road of His passion to the place of His resurrection? Join us and see the Gospels come to life! **Registration online (or by paper form) is open!**

Details coming soon! **Bishop Cahill’s Holy Land Pilgrimage February 23 to March 4, 2024**

Information and online fliers are found at www.selectinternationaltours.com or contact me at ceci.triska@gmail.com and I will email it to you.
My favorite liturgical season of the year is the Triduum, from the Latin meaning “three days.” It’s the season made up of Holy Thursday, Good Friday, and Holy Saturday, when we commemorate the Last Supper, the crucifixion, and the first dawning of the light of the resurrection.

On Holy Thursday, the priest washes the feet of 12 people and, after Mass, there is an Eucharistic procession to a place of reposition that reminds us of Jesus in the Garden of Gethsemane. On Good Friday, we have the proclamation of John’s Passion Narrative and the veneration of the cross. And at the Easter Vigil, there is the blessing of the Easter fire, the extended liturgy of the Word, new Catholics receiving sacraments of initiation, the triple Alleluia, the renewal of baptismal promises, and the singing of the Easter Proclamation. If you have never been to the liturgies celebrated during the Triduum, I would highly recommend that you try to go to them. Taking in the Triduum, along with the Easter Triduum, is the night that, even now, throughout the history (the past) as well as the anticipation of their fulfillment at the end of time (the future) are made present in their application to us today (now).

The events of salvation aren’t just stories that we hear about from the Bible. The rituals aren’t just interesting ways to memorialize the cultural practices of our ancestors. They enable us to participate with everyone up and down the generations in the common experience of God’s saving power radiating from His eternity. Nowhere is this clearer than in the Easter Proclamation, or the Exultet, which is sung at the Easter Vigil, in this ancient prayer, as the light from our candles fills the darkened church, Easter’s arrival in our “now” is proclaimed: “Exult, let them exult, the hosts of heaven … sound aloud our mighty King’s triumph! Be glad, let earth be glad, as glory floods her, ablaze with light from her eternal King …”

The Exultet makes it clear, but this happens in every Mass even outside the season of the Triduum. Every time we go to Mass, God invites us to be gathered up into His timelessness and renewed in His saving love.

Every time the priest prays over the bread and wine, Jesus reaches out from His eternity and shines His light into our darkness. Let Him bring you back to life. Jesus is risen! Alleluia!

Women’s Conference April 22

“Shed a sister named Mary who sat beside the Lord at his feet listening to him speak.” (Luke 10:39)

“At His Feet: Finding Blessing in the Busy” is the theme for the upcoming Dioce of Victoria Women’s Conference set for April 22.

Bishop Brendan Cahill will celebrate Mass at 8 a.m. that day at the Cathedral of Our Lady of Victory. Sign in begins at 9:30 at the Cathedral Center and the day includes a slate of four speakers, including:

• Emily Wilson, a speaker, YouTuber, author, wife and mom who travels the world sharing her witness of faith at conferences and events.

• Meg Kilmer, speaker, blogger and Hobo for Christ, who also travels the world telling people about the fierce and tender love of God.

• Dr. Michael Fonseca, speaker, author, program coordinator and president of God’s Embrace Ministries.

• The Very Rev. Jacob Koether, pastor of Our Lady of Sorrows and Capilla de Santisima Trinidad in Victoria as well as episcopal vicar for Evangelization and Catechesis for the Diocese of Victoria.

Registration can be found at www.victoriadiocese.org/2023womensconference. For more information contact Stacy Oeding at stacy.oeding@godsembrace.org.

Safe Environment

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

Contact:

• The Texas Department of Family and Protective Services, within 48 hours, at (800) 252-5400, www.texasshothline.org, or local police department.

If person is in immediate danger call 911.

and

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

or

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

Written allegations can be mailed marked “Personal and Confidential” to Office of the Bishop

P.O. Box 4070

Victoria, TX 77903

If sexual abuse by a member of clergy has occurred in another diocese, the Diocese of Victoria will help bring your concerns to church officials. For information contact Shannon Thomas at (361) 827-7186 or pastoralcare@victoriadiocese.org.
La reflexión anima la devoción al Inmaculado Corazón de María

Queridos hermanos y hermanas,
Cuando San Juan Pablo II visitó Fátima en el año 2000, mencionó que el cardenal Ratzinger escribiría un comentario teológico sobre los secretos de Fátima. El cardenal Ratzinger escribió lo siguiente en el año 2000:

La primera y segunda parte del “secreto” de Fátima han sido ya discutidas tan ampliamente por la literatura especializada que ya no hay que ilustrarlas más. Quisiera sólo llamar la atención brevemente sobre el punto más significativo. Los niños han experimentado durante un instante terrible una visión del infierno. Han visto la caída de las “almas de los pobres pecadores”. Y se les dice por qué se les ha hecho pasar por ese momento: para “salvarlas”, para mostrar un camino de salvación. Viene así a la mente la frase de la Primera Carta de Pedro: “meta de vuestra fe es la salvación de las almas” (1,9). Para este objetivo se indica como camino -- de un modo sorprendente para personas provenientes del ámbito cultural anglosajón y alemán -- la devoción al Corazón Inmaculado de María. Para entender esto puede ser suficiente aquí una breve indicación. “Corazón” significa en el lenguaje de la Biblia el centro de la existencia humana, la confluencia de razón, voluntad, temperamento y sensibilidad, en la cual la persona encuentra su unidad y su orientación interior. El “corazón inmaculado” es, según Matthew 5,8, un corazón que a partir de Dios ha alcanzado una perfecta unidad interior y, por lo tanto, “se a Dios”. La “devoción” al Corazón Inmaculado de María es, pues, un acercarse a esta actitud del corazón, en la cual el fiat —hágase tu voluntad — se convierte en el centro animador de toda la existencia. Si alguno objetara que no debemos interponer un ser humano entre nosotros y Cristo, se le debería recordar que Pablo no tiene reparo en decir a sus comunidades: imitadme (1 Co 4,16; Flp 3,17; 1 Ts 1,6; 2 Ts 3,7,9). En el Apóstol pueden constatar concretamente lo que significa seguir a Cristo. ¿De quién podremos aprender mejor en cualquier tiempo si no de la Madre del Señor?

Llegamos así, finalmente, a la tercera parte del “secreto” de Fátima publicado íntegramente aquí por primera vez. Como se desprende de la documentación precedente, la interpretación que el Cardenal Sodano ha dado en su texto del 13 de mayo, había sido presentada anteriormente a Sor Lucía en persona. A este respecto, Sor Lucía ha observado en primer lugar que a ella misma se le dio la visión, no su interpretación. La interpretación, decía, no es competencia del vidente, sino de la Iglesia. Ella, sin embargo, después de la lectura del texto, ha dicho que esta interpretación correspondía a lo que ella había experimentado y que, por su parte, reconocía dicha interpretación como correcta. En lo que sigue, pues, se podrá sólo intentar dar un fundamento más profundo a dicha interpretación a partir de los criterios hasta ahora desarrollados.

Como palabra clave de la primera y de la segunda parte del “secreto” hemos descubierto la de “salvar las almas”, así como la palabra clave de este “secreto” es el triple grito: “¡Penitencia, Penitencia, Penitencia!”. Viene a la mente el comienzo del Evangelio: “paenitemini et credite evangelio” (Mc 1,15). Comprender los signos de los tiempos significa comprender la urgencia de la penitencia, de la conversión y de la fe. Esta es la respuesta adecuada al momento histórico, que se caracteriza por grandes peligros y que serán descritos en las imágenes sucesivas. Me permito insertar aquí un recuerdo personal: en una conversación conmigo Sor Lucía, me dijo que le resultaba cada vez más claro que el objetivo de todas las apariciones era el de hacer crecer siempre más en la fe, en la esperanza y en la caridad. Todo el resto era sólo para conducir a esto.

Quería compartir estas palabras con ustedes como una forma de alentar nuestra devoción al Inmaculado Corazón de María. Muchos de nosotros nos hemos consagrado a María, y esta consagración conduce no solo a nuestra salvación sino también a la salvación de muchos otros a través de nuestra oración y penitencia. Que ustedes y sus familias tengan una feliz y bendecida Pascua de Resurrección, y que confiemos en el amor misericordioso que brota del corazón de Jesús.

Y mantengámonos unos a otros en oración!
+Brendan

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A Prayer for Easter

Today, dear Lord, we celebrate Your rising from the dead. We are happy with You that You have been victor over death. We look around us at the green fields, filled with new life, and are everywhere reminded of You.

The seeds we plant seem dry and dead, but with the combined wonders of rain and sun, and the powers of the earth, they rise from their death-like sleep and grow green beautiful in our fields. The trees, too, that stood so stark and lifeless through the winter will rise but with the combined wonders of rain and sun, and the powers of the earth, they rise everywhere reminded of You.

We look around us at the green fields, filled with new life, and are reminded of You. The good lives that will merit this new life in heaven forever with You.

Amen.

From www.catholicrurallife.org

Pilgrim Center for Hope

Pilgrim Center for Hope men’s conference takes place April 29

San Antonio —
The Catholic Men’s Conference organized by Pilgrim Center of Hope is now registering for its annual event, which is scheduled for Saturday, April 29, at St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Church located at 8500 Cross Mountain Trl.

Conference founder Deacon Tom Fox began the event in 2004 to help men understand their dignity, under the Scriptural theme of Mark 10:51, “Jesus, I want to see.”

San Antonio auxiliary bishop Most Rev. Gary Janak, who is a licensed professional counselor supervisor, will celebrate Mass and serve as a keynote speaker on the Eucharist. Former businessman, now Father of Mercy, Fr. Ken Geraci, will speak to men about God’s mercy, and will lead a Eucharistic Adoration service specifically to pray for direction, encouragement, and healing for men.

To accommodate men who may not feel able to sacrifice an entire Saturday, this year’s event will provide mid-morning breakfast tacos and end before lunch.

All men interested in participating are encouraged to contact Pilgrim Center of Hope for details and registration: www.CMCSanAntonio.com or 210-521-3377

Sunday Readings from April 2 to May 7

April 2 ~ Palm Sunday of the Lord’s Passion
Matthew 21:1-11 (Procession - Gospel)
Isaiah 50:4-7
Psalms 22:8-9, 17-18, 19-20, 23-24
Philippians 2:6-11
Matthew 26:14—27:66
April 4 ~ Chrism Mass
Isaiah 61:1-3a, 6a, 8b-9
Psalms 89:21-22, 25 and 27
Revelations 1:5-8
Luke 4:16-21
April 6 ~ Holy Thursday - Evening Mass of the Lord’s Supper
Exodus 12:1-8, 11-14
Psalms 116:12-13, 15-16bc, 17-18
1 Corinthians 11:23-26
John 13:1-15
April 7 ~ Good Friday of the Lord’s Passion
Isaiah 52:13 — 53:12
Responsorial: Luke 23:46
Psalms 31:2, 6, 12-13, 15-16, 17, 25
Hebrews 4:14-16; 5:7-9
John 18:1 — 19:42
April 8 ~ Holy Saturday At the Easter Vigil in the Holy Night of Easter
Reading I: Genesis 1:1 — 2:2 or
Genesis 1:1, 26-31a
Psalms 104:1-2, 5-6, 10, 12, 13-14, 24, 35
Reading II: Genesis 22:1-18 or
Genesis 22:1-2, 9a, 10-13, 15-18
Psalms 16:5, 8, 9-10, 11
Reading III: Exodus 14:15—15:1
Exodus 15:1-2, 3-4, 5-6, 17-18
Reading IV: Isaiah 54:5-14
Psalms 30:2, 4, 5-6, 11-12, 13
For daily and Sunday readings, as well as a daily reflection video, visit www.usccb.org/bible/readings.
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St. Mary’s Altar Society Retreat

I Will Go to the Altar of God
Psalm 43:4

Tuesday - May 9, 2023 - 9:00 a.m.
Keynote Speaker: Fr. Kristopher Fuchs
Mass, Lunch

Registration 8:30 a.m.
St. Mary’s Parish Hall
401 S. Liberty St. - Victoria, TX
Reservations – Free, call Anne 361- 648-2008 or Virginia 361-550-3053
Moulton – St. Joseph Easter Picnic April 9. Mass at 10 a.m. followed by an Easter egg hunt. A fried chicken dinner will be served in the Social Center for $12 each. Dine-in or plate-to-go will be available. There will be a live music by Ken Brothers from 10 a.m.-1 p.m. followed by a live auction. Then from 3-7 p.m. music by Texas Legacy Czech Band. Also, there will be a cakewalk, country store, refreshments, hamburgers and more.

Hallettsville – Day Retreat for Grieving Parents, Saturday, April 15, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Doors open at 9:30 at Sacred Heart Family Center, 306 Glendale. See pg. 2 for more detailed information.

Yorktown – Healing Mission conducted by Paul Rymniak will take place April 17-19 at Holy Cross Church, 1214 Zorn Rd. Bishop Brendan Cahill will celebrate Mass at 6 p.m. and the Healing Mission will follow. Rymniak conducts his mission in some 30 church each year. He has been in ministry for 35 years.

Victoria – Holy Family Altar Society Games Party Thursday, April 20. For more information, see pg. 9.

Victoria – Women’s Conference Saturday, April 22 at the Cathedral of Our Lady of Victory and the Cathedral Center. See pg. 14 for more information.

Bay City – Holy Cross School Spring Bazaar April 23 at 2001 Katy Avenue. Will begin at 11 a.m. with a chicken fried chicken, green beans, mashed potatoes and gravy dinner for $12 per plate. There will be an auction, games, country store and fun for all.

Bloomington – St. Patrick’s Spring Fundraiser April 23 at the parish hall. Enchilada Plate and raffle. Serves beginning at 9 a.m. See ad on pg. 6

Yorktown – San Luis Church will host its annual Jamaica on April 23 at the church, 502 E. 2nd St. Mass will begin at 8 a.m. with Mariachis providing the music. Breakfast items and menu will be available after Mass. Throughout the day there will be live music, live and silent auctions, raffle, bingo, country store, vendors, cake walk, children’s games, horseshoes and corn hole tournaments and a carne guisada dinner with beans and rice for $14 per plate, dine in or to go. At noon, the Ballet Folklorico de Goliad will perform in the parish hall. They will also have hamburgers and homemade tamales.

Wharton – Holy Family Church Spring Gala will be held on Saturday, April 29, at the Family Life Center (2009 Briar Lane). The Hawaiian theme event begins at 5 p.m., See ad on pg. 7.

Weimar – St. Michael Springfest April 29 at Veterans Memorial Park. A fried chicken and sausage dinner starting at 11 a.m. See ad on pg. 3 for more information.

Victoria – Holy Family Festival May 7 in the Activity Center (704 Malette Dr.). A pork steak dinner with German potatoes, green beans and cole slaw for $12 each with dine-in only from 10:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Hamburgers available. Online auction bidding opens April 29-May 6 at 5 p.m. Live auction starts at 12:30 p.m. Games and something for everyone.

Victoria – St. Mary’s Altar Society retreat, Tuesday, May 9, with Father Kristopher Fuch’s as guest speaker. See pg. 14 for more information.

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 persons of friends 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.

Emmanua 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 – 2023 Dates: April 21-23, Aug. 4-6 and Nov. 10-12. 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 Bethelhem 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. at Holy Family Catholic Church. Please call Sharon at 361-578-7572 before attending.

Grief Ministry – Please join Strength for the Journey team for their monthly meeting, 6:30-8 p.m. April 11 in the parish hall at Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary Catholic Church, 108th St. in Ganado. The meeting is open to anyone who has experienced the death of a child at any age. A Day Retreat for Grieving Parents is April 15 at Sacred Heart in Hallettsville. For more information, contact Pat Hoelscher 979-257-9984 or phoelscher@victoriadiocese.org.

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.

Incarncate 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/Mothersofgraceoliv/.

Natural Family Planning – NFP is the only church-approved form of family planning. For the CREIGHTON 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 Theresa at 361-258-1514, e-mail raphrelsrefuge@att.net, or visit http://www.Raphelsrefuge.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 jbvjoy@sbcglobal.net or 361-580-2770; or call 800-470-2230; or visit http://www.helpourmarriage.org
light and joy to lives that seem bereft of meaning. They find that meaning, he said, by uniting themselves to Jesus and finding “intimate access to the Holy Spirit.”

When asked about how the program works with people who feel disconnected from God, Dr. Fonseca said, “The very fact that they are here tells us that, deep down, there is a stirring. We will work with them.”

Fonseca, also the founder and president of God’s Embrace ministries in Schulenburg, has worked as a counselor and a spiritual director for many years. He was once a Jesuit priest and, after requesting and being granted laicization, has worked in ministries in Michigan and in the Diocese of Victoria. He wrote the manual for the first healing center to be operated in the Catholic tradition. Although there are other healing centers, he said, they are Protestant programs.

Fonseca is also a popular speaker and retreat master and is scheduled to speak at the Diocese of Victoria’s Women’s Conference on April 22.

The Rev. Scott Francis Binet is the chaplain and spiritual adviser. He is a consecrated priest who founded the Order of Missionaries of Mercy, and a medical doctor who has served in many capacities all over the world.

Kari Ann Beckman is one of the co-founders of the center and serves as its general manager. “It’s been a joy,” she said.

**The program**

Those who seek healing begin with a five-day retreat. “After the retreat we will place them in an aftercare (program) for 12 months,” Dr. Fonseca said.

Each retreatant will be assigned a spiritual companion, someone to walk the journey with them. During the 12 months of aftercare, they will have regular contact with them and help the retreatants develop a long-term lifestyle of prayer and discipleship. When that year is complete, they will return for a two-day Renewed and Restored retreat.

The retreat center already is taking clients, but the staff is training more people to serve as spiritual companions as they prepare to take on more retreatants.

The center, a private institution that has the support of the Most Rev. Brendan Cahill, bishop of the Diocese of Victoria, came into existence because of Ralph and Linda Schmidt who have been involved in retreat and healing ministry with Dr. Fonseca for a long time. They purchased the building formerly known as Falcon Point Lodge and began renovations to make it fit healing center’s purposes and now lease it to Our Lady’s Healing Center.

The layout of the building, the small number of private rooms, the peaceful setting and other aspects of the building already made the lodge a place that seemed destined to be what it is today.

Renovations are ongoing with plans for a chapel in the building with special order stained glass windows and other details that make it unique for their purposes and mission.

Because the staff wants to take care of their retreatants’ minds, souls and bodies, they have their own garden to have fresh produce for healthy meals. There is exercise equipment, a swimming pool and much more. Each private room has the feel of a spa and also has the image of Stella Maris on the wall above the desk.

Sandy Reese, a Seadrift resident who works at the center has a special story to tell about it. God gave her a thought that a retreat center would be built somewhere along the bay. That happened 13 years ago as she was jogging along the bay front. And she had all but forgotten that when it came about, until her husband came home one day and told her the lodge was sold and was to become a Catholic healing center.

Bishop Cahill said the beautiful thing about the healing center is the acknowledgment that it’s God’s healing power working through our humanity. “ ‘The Lord is close to the brokenhearted.’ As human beings we have broken hearts,” he said. “One thing I’ve learned is I can’t heal myself.”

Our Lady’s Healing Center is on the web at www.ourladyshealingcenter.com.