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The Cradle of Texas Immigration



OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE DIOCESE OF VICTORIA IN TEXAS

VOL. 37, NO. 3

www.victoriadiocese.org



July 2023



Brothers Alan and Aaron Kuntschik receive roses fashioned from the salvaged metal of the Queen of the Holy Rosary church building that was destroyed in a fiery explosion on June 9, 2022. Their mother, Verlene, was the only person in the church when it exploded. She died from her injuries about three weeks later. (Janet Jones/The Catholic Lighthouse)

Hostyn parish marks 1-year anniversary of fire with special Mass

JANET JONES

The Catholic Lighthouse

HOSTYN – Where Queen of the Holy Rosary Church once stood is now a level dirt field like a clean canvas ready for the brush strokes of an inspired artist. The parish has hired an architect and is in the process of finding a contractor to rebuild.

On the one-year anniversary of the explosion and fire that destroyed the church, Father Felix Twumasi told the crowd gathered for a memorial Mass that June 9, 2022, “was a bad dream. And I wish it never happened to us.”

“We did not only lose our church,” he said, “we lost an active and very faithful person. Yes, indeed, the Lord never made a promise that the journey is easy, but he does promise he will be good and faithful to us.”

Though it was a memorial Mass recalling the loss of the church and especially the loss of Verlene Kuntshik, who succumbed to injuries suffered in the fire it was full of hope and also gratitude for the community that offered everything they could to help with the healing that was needed.

“So in the midst of all this, we are marching forward and the ashes, as we know, will be turned into something great and powerful,” Father Felix said.

As a token of this hope, roses fashioned from pieces of the metal roof that was mangled in the explosion and fire were given to the sons of Verlene – Alan and Aaron – who later placed them on her gravestone in the cemetery on the church grounds.

“Thank you to the family of
See Hostyn parish, pg. 20

IWBS marks 70- and 50-year jubilees – and new beginnings

JANET JONES

The Catholic Lighthouse

VICTORIA — Sister Emilie Eilers and Sister Kathleen Goike of the Incarnate Word and Blessed Sacrament celebrated 70 and 50 years, respectively, in the religious community during a jubilee celebration June 10. And after all those years, there are still new beginnings on

the horizon for the Sisters.

Bishop Brendan Cahill celebrated the Mass. “When we’re called by God we don’t know the future, right? The two of you had no idea of God’s calling you to so many different ministries ...,” he said during his homily. “Our Lord Jesus is always creating

*See IWBS marks 70- and 50-year jubilees,
pg. 10-11*



Sisters Emilie Eilers and Kathleen Goike in the opening procession for a Mass to celebrate their jubilee anniversaries.



Father Kram's words, story a timeless inspiration

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Every now and then I'll read the previous letters I've written for the *Lighthouse* and sometimes I re-print one of them. As I was looking through some of these letters recently, I ran across the first letter I wrote about Father Charles Kram in January 2016. I know that many of you join me each month in reading his homilies in the *Lighthouse*, and I find his practical spirituality pretty inspiring. Here is what I wrote back in 2016:

"Forty years ago, on Dec. 5, 1975, Father Charles Kram Jr. was ordained a priest in his home church of Sts. Cyril and Methodius in Shiner. Since I've been in the diocese of Victoria, I've met many people who personally knew Father Kram and his family and, it seems to me, thousands who may have been at that Ordination Mass! The testimony to his holiness and the holiness of his family, friends and home communities of Shiner and Yoakum have been beautifully recorded in the book *Gladly Will I Glory in My Infirmities* by Deacon Anthony Warzecha. Having read the book and listened to many stories of his ministry, I felt called to encourage devotion and prayer to him as part of our diocesan celebration of the Jubilee Year of Mercy. Let me share with you this month a couple of the reasons that I think his witness continues to be so timely for us today.

"First, Father Kram conscientiously chose to radiate the love and joy of Jesus each day. As a person begins to read and

A Shepherd's Message

By Bishop Brendan Cahill



listen to his story, this simple fact takes on heroic proportions. As a young man in the 1950s, Charles Kram suffered a serious form of polio. When he suffered this, he was in the final stages of his preparation to become a priest for the Archdiocese of San Antonio. Because he suffered this, he spent over a year in intensive physical therapy and rehabilitation with his parents faithfully by his side. After the year, he was physically limited, so he wasn't able to be ordained to the priesthood. In the midst of what could have been devastating circumstances, he and his parents maintained their love for one another and become strong witnesses of the power of faith, hope and love.

"Second, Father Kram helped others grow in holiness each day. After this initial setback, his friends and family continued to keep in touch and care for him. Many of his friends from the seminary kept a hope alive that one day he may be ordained to the priesthood. They commented on his joyful witness in the midst of his suffering, and thought that this could be such a powerful

witness in a priest. For over 20 years they faithfully kept in touch, and I'm sure that each person who visited the Kram household in those years would share how they felt uplifted by the Holy Spirit in the presence of the Kram family. Eventually the day would come when he would be ordained to the priesthood, and that must have been one of the most joyous, holy days in the history of this area!

"There is so much more to share from his life that can be an inspiration for our faith. In this day, when we seem to have a tendency to judge one another on what we can get out of them, it's beautiful to be reminded that it's so much more about what we can give."

Let's keep one another in prayer.

+Brendan

Please continue to pray for his beatification!

Heavenly Father,
I praise you, I adore you, I glorify you and I thank you for all the gifts you have given to me. Your priest, Father Charles Kram, left me a wonderful example of pastoral charity and patient suffering. He is for me a perfect model of your Divine Mercy. May I accept your divine will in the adversities I now encounter, offering them up in union with the silent suffering of Jesus on the cross and Mary at the foot of the cross. If it be your will and by your Divine Mercy, grant the petition I present to you this day _____ and may Father Kram be raised to the altar as a saint in Heaven. I pray for this in the name of Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior in union with the HOLY Spirit, one God, forever and ever. Amen.

Bishop Cahill's Schedule

July

- 1 45th Anniversary Mass for Father Gabriel Maison at St. Mary; Praha
- 3 4:30 p.m. meal with Healthcare Sisters at IWBS Convent
- 4 St. John's Picnic
- 8 Father Peter's Anniversary Mass at Nativity of the Blessed Virgin; Nada
- 9-15 Vacation
- 16 11 a.m. 75th Anniversary Mass for Our Lady of Mt. Carmel; Wharton
- 17 Noon Mass with Missionary Catechists
- 6 p.m. Catechists Rally at St. Andrew's Hall; Hillje
- 18 6:30 a.m. Morning Air Radio interview
- 9 a.m. Legion of Mary Praesidium meeting; Cathedral Center
- Noon Pension Board Meeting; Chancery
- 19-23 National Black Catholic Congress XIII; Washington, D.C.
- 24 Confirmation Mass at Stevenson Unit; Cuero
- 25 9 a.m. Legion of Mary Praesidium meeting; Cathedral Center
- 26 Annual Courage and Encourage Conference; Atchison, KS
- 27 Knights of St. Gregory Bishop's Charity Dinner; Victoria Country Club
- 28 Serra Club Mass and Dinner with Seminarians
- 29 10 a.m. Certification Mass for Hispanic Ministry; The Cathedral of Our Lady of Victory
- 5:30 p.m. Installation Mass for Father Chase Goodman at St. Michael; Weimar
- 30 9:30 a.m. Mass for 100th Anniversary of Knights of Columbus; Yorktown

August

- 1-11 World Youth Day Trip



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USPS-001015 (ISSN 0894-7740)

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*To be Christ-like
people who
work together
to serve the Church
so that every person
encounters the
love of Jesus.*



Established 1987
Published Monthly

1505 E. Mesquite Lane, Victoria, TX 77901
(361) 573-0828

Office Hours: 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m.

Publisher:

The Most Rev. Brendan J. Cahill

Managing Editor:

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Deadline for advertising and news items is the 15th of the preceding month.

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Periodical postage paid at Victoria, TX and additional Entry Offices

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to
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Victoria, TX 77903

Subscription rates are: \$7 per year within the diocese / \$10 outside the diocese.

Diocese staff welcomes new HR coordinator

Ledie Cheramie joined the chancery's Business Office staff June 12 as the human resources coordinator for the Diocese of Victoria.

She will be the liaison with the third-party HR business partner as well as the coordinator and support person for the daily inquiries related to diocesan health insurance and wellness programs, payroll processing, policies and procedures, recruitment and employment/volunteer concerns.

Cheramie has focused her career in higher education for about 15 years. She holds a bachelor's degree in University Studies with the University of Houston-Victoria and she has served at Our Lady of Victory in different ministries for the past 12 years. She is passionate about her family, her faith and helping others.

When she is not busy working, Cheramie enjoys spending time with her four boys and family. She believes in the power of education, is a life-long learner and is continuing on in hopes to receive her master's degree in education in the near future. She also enjoys reading, traveling and experiencing new cultures on her time off. She said she is looking forward in starting this new chapter in her life and expanding her knowledge.

Cheramie's email address is LCheramie@victoriadiocese.org. Her office number is 361-573-0828, Ext. 2252. Her office will be located on the first floor in the Office of Business and Finance/Human Resources at the DOV Chancery Offices.



Ledie Cheramie

In Memoriam

Sr. Claudia Klesel, IWBS, passes away

Sister M. Claudia Klesel, 97, died on May 27, 2023. She was born on March 11, 1926, in Schulenburg, Texas, to the late Edmund and Annie (Till) Klesel. She was blessed with six sisters and four brothers, one of whom was her twin.

Sister Claudia received her elementary education at St. Edward School in Dubina and graduated from Nazareth Academy. She entered Nazareth

Convent and became a Novice of the Sisters of the Incarnate Word and Blessed Sacrament on September 1, 1946, and professed her first vows on September 2, 1947. She received a BS Degree with a major in Elementary Education and a minor in Social Science from Incarnate Word College in San Antonio.

During her 75 years as a professed member of the Congregation, Sister Claudia taught on the elementary level and served as a CCD teacher. Her teaching experiences took her to Our Lady of Perpetual Help School in Selma, St. Michael School in Weimar, Holy Cross School in Bay City, Sacred Heart School in La Grange, Immaculate Conception School in Sealy, St. Leo School in San Antonio, Sacred Heart School in Floresville, St. Edward School in Dubina, Sacred Heart School in Hallettsville, Nazareth Academy in Victoria, Sacred Heart School in Crosby, and St. Ludmila Academy in Shiner. Sister Claudia served as a receptionist, secretary, and office manager at Blessed Sacrament Academy in San Antonio before retiring to Incarnate Word Convent in 2012. For the last years, Sister was residing in Incarnate Word Convent Health Care where she generously

continued sharing her gifts as she entered into her apostolate of Prayer and Suffering. Her cell phone became one of her good friends as she enjoyed keeping in touch with family and friends. She spent her days in prayer time, visiting, and listening to recorded books.

Sister Claudia was preceded in death by her parents and her brothers and their wives; Alfonse (Margaret), Hugo (Alice), her twin Henry (Virginia), and Edmund Jr. (Dolores) and by her sisters; Hedwig Berger (Frank), Mary Berger (Alfonse), Dorothy Janacek (William), Gertrude Ohnheiser (Paul), Erna Respondek (Vincent), and Edna Bludau (Bernard). Sister Claudia is survived by many nieces including Sister Mary Jean Bludau, IWBS, nephews, relatives and friends.

On Friday, June 2, the Mass of Christian Burial was held at Incarnate Word Convent. Burial will follow at Catholic Cemetery No. 3.

Memorial donations may be made to Incarnate Word Convent, Blessed Sacrament Academy, Nazareth Academy, Hospice of South Texas or donor's choice.



Sr. Claudia Klesel,
IWBS



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Join us for lunch at our Monthly Travel Meeting to learn more on Thursday, August 24, 2023

Sky Restaurant in Victoria (77904)
11:30 a.m. -1:00 p.m. Dutch Lunch

We look forward to seeing you!

Visit our website and sign-up for our newsletter to stay current on all trips.

June 1-8, 2024

8 day / 7 nights

Inter-Island Hawaiian Cruise



April 10-20, 2024
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Patti Fitzpatrick and Laurie Eder
Port Lavaca, TX Victoria, TX
361-552-2695 925-285-6658

For Trip Details See Website:
pathwayswithpatti.com or
Email: gowithlaurie@gmail.com

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, fellow laborers with Christ to spend and consume 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.

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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

Monroe & Mary Margaret Rieger

In memory of Myrna Bednorz

Acolyte

Candidate

Transitional Deacon

Priest

To contribute to the Education of
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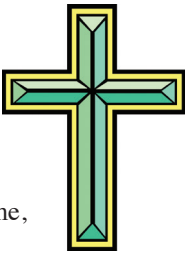
Diocese Of Victoria
Education of Seminarian Fund
P. O. Box 4070
Victoria, TX 77903

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

Rev. Gabriel Maison	07/01/1978	St. Joseph Church, Moulton
Rev. Charles E. Otsiwah	07/07/1985	Holy Cross Church, East Bernard
Rev. Peter Yeboah-Amanfo	07/10/1983	Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Nada
Rev. Dominic Antwi-Boasiako	07/11/1981	Queen of Peace Church, Sweet Home
Rev. Gabriel Bentil	07/14/1984	Holy Family of Joseph, Mary and Jesus Church
Rev. Gabriel J. Mensah	07/15/1990	St. Peter Church, Blessing
Rev. Augustine Owusu-Pepurah	07/16/2016	St. Robert Bellarmine Church, El Campo
Rev. Samuel Appiasi	07/17/1983	Holy Family Church, Wharton
Rev. Clement Quainoo	07/17/1982	Retired
Rev. Felix Twumasi	07/17/2004	Queen of the Holy Rosary Church, Hostyn
Rev. Peter Nimo	07/17/2004	Victoria
Rev. Augustine Nsiah Asante	07/18/1998	MDA, Houston
Rev. Charles Owusu Dwomoh	07/19/1986	St. John the Baptist Church, Hungerford
Rev. Albert Yankey	07/20/1980	Incarnate Word Convent, Victoria
Rev. Johnson Owusu-Boateng	07/27/1985	St. John Bosco Church, Vanderbilt
Rev. Barnabas Kyeah	07/29/1995	St. Joseph Church, Inez

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

Rev. Alfred Hoenig, OSB	07/12/1994
Rev. Msgr. Gerard Cernoch	07/23/2020
Rev. Msgr. Stanley Petru	07/25/2013



Jesus said to her, “I am the resurrection and the life; whoever believes in me, even if he dies, will live, and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?” (John 11:25-26)



Do you have a vocation to the
priesthood or religious life?

Contact:
Father Kristopher Fuchs
Director of Vocations
361-73-4328
vocations@victoriadiocese.org

Deacon Charles Glynn
Associate Director of Vocations
979-253-9616
cglynn@svictoriadiocese.org

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 >.**

June 16, 2023

• **Rev. Msgr. John C. Bily Seminary
Burse #3**

Acolyte

In honor of Rev. Msgr. John Bily’s 90th
Birthday by Kelly and Karen Mudd

• **Rev. Dan Morales Seminary Burse in
Honor of his Work for Vocations**

Acolyte

In loving memory of Rev. Dan Morales
by Court Daughters of the Holy Family
#2665, Victoria

• **Rev. Msgr. John C. Peters Seminary
Burse #8**

Acolyte

In honor of Rev. Msgr. John Peters for
Pastor Appreciation Day by Sacred Heart
School Faculty, Staff and Students
In honor of Rev. Msgr. John Peters for his
journey toward retirement by Gladys
McMasters

Candidate

In honor of Rev. Msgr. John Peters for his
retirement by Friends

• **Rev. Michael Rother Seminary Burse**

Lector

In honor of Rev. Michael Rother for his
service to St. Philip the Apostle Church
by Arliss Treybig
In honor of Rev. Michael Rother as Pastor
of St. Philip the Apostle Church by:
John and Cathy Hrcir
Jeanette Stock

Acolyte

In honor of Rev. Michael Rother as Pastor
of St. Philip the Apostle Church by:
Ralph and Carol Novosad
Michael and Linda Bolcik
In honor of Rev. Michael Rother as
new Pastor of Sacred Heart Church,
Hallettsville by Gladys McMasters

Candidate

In honor of Rev. Michael Rother as Pastor
of St. Philip the Apostle Church by a
friend

• **St. John the Baptist Church, St. John
In Memory of Rev. Brian Crookes
Seminary Burse #2**

Lector

In memory of Stuart Krischke by:
Dan and Loretta Henneke
Andrew Besetzny
Wesley and Virginia Holub
Cindy and Ralph Kalina
Leo and Joyce Janda
Arnold and Dorothy Berger
Donnie and Shirley Machicek
Allen and Arlene Becan
Janet Spies
Donald and Karen Kutac
Grace Lebeda
Anthony and Joyce Bludau
Brian and Lori Popp
M/M Scotty Brossman
Aaron and Sheila Etzler
Lorine Kubenka
Marcus and Sharon Bujnoch
Slade and Sandy Kusy
Perry L. Krupala
Pam Besetsny
Laura W. McGrew
Sherry Hale
Eugene and JoMarie Krupala
Alphonse, Jr. and Donna Hermis
A Friend

Acolyte

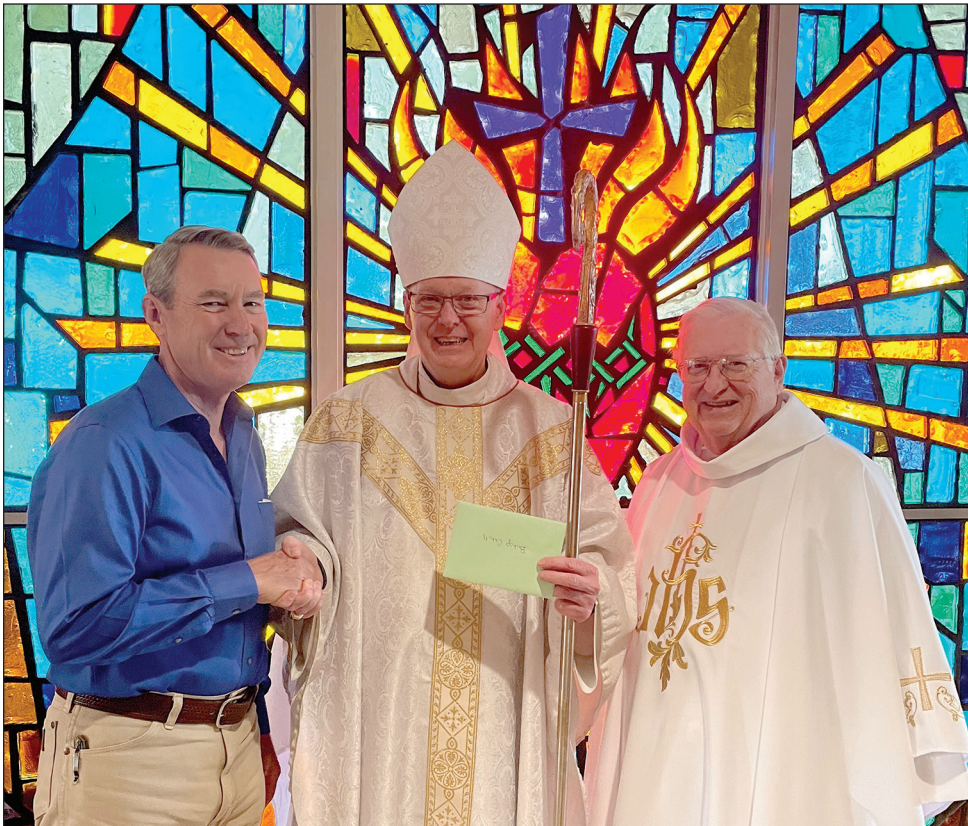
In memory of Stuart Krischke by:
Ken and Louise Berger
Joan Prihoda
Bubba and Mary Akes, Jackson and
Lindsey Watkins, Zach and Reagen
Akers
Milton and Diane Holub
Laurel and Mark Arnold

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

*“You are a priest forever accord-
ing to the order of Melchizedek.”*

Hebrews 7:17



HALLETTSVILLE — Bishop Brendan Cahill accepts a monetary gift from Hallettsville Knights of Columbus Council 2433 in appreciation of him celebrating the mass for their recent 100-year celebration. Representing the council is Tommy Grahmann along with the council chaplain Msgr. John Peters. (Contributed Photo)

‘Betake yourself to a teacher’ to understand Bible, faith

We hear various parts of the Bible during Mass. Many of us have Bibles in our homes. Some of us have tried reading the stories, sometimes leaving us a bit confused.

In the book, *A Year with the Church Fathers*, Mike Aquilina quotes St. John Chrysostom in *Four Discourses* (3.3), “Don’t let the obscurities and difficulties in Scripture keep you from reading. Keep trying, and ask for help when you need it.” St. John continues, “How can you ever understand, which you are not even willing to look (at) carefully. ... Take the book in your hand, and if you are unable to understand what is said, go to someone wiser; betake yourself to a teacher.”

Bishop Brendan Cahill is committed to making adult education a high priority in the Diocese of Victoria by providing a solid curriculum of basic courses pertaining to the Catholic faith, which will be offered once again through the Pastoral Institute.

Beginning Aug. 22, Father Jacob Koether, pastor at Our Lady of Sorrows in Victoria, will teach “Introduction to the Bible and the Pentateuch” through the

Pastoral Institute. This six-week course will be offered in three locations: the chancery office in Victoria; God’s Embrace in High Hill; and St. Andrew Catholic Church in Hillje. The in-person classes are 9:15-11:30 a.m., but classes are offered synchronously and asynchronously, too, for those who cannot attend in person. The cost is \$30.



Father Jacob
Koether

“Today, there are positive changes in Catholic attitudes toward reading the Bible. There is an interest, curiosity, maybe a hunger, in some people who want to know what the words in Scripture mean for us today. Some join Bible study groups in parishes, some try Bible apps on their smart phones, and some read the Bible cover to cover. This interest is one that

See ‘Betake yourself to a teacher’, pg. 16



Knights of Columbus celebrate new officers

VICTORIA — Newly installed officers for Knights of Columbus Council 1329 are, from left, front row, Zachary Kainer, advocate; Juan Lara, financial secretary; Daniel Perez, inside guard; Father Tran Dihm, parochial vicar at St. Mary’s Catholic Church in Victoria; Outgoing Grand Knight Donald Shellenbarger, three-year trustee; and, back row, Jeremy Martin, assistant diocesan deputy; Ernest Rosas, chancellor; Michael Nevlud, recorder; Kevin Ruiz, grand knight; Allen Rather, deputy grand knight; John Zarbock, warden; Gary Rangnow, lecturer; Richard Lerma, outside guard. Others who are not pictured are Deacon Matthew Schaffer, associate chaplain; Chris Krejci, treasurer; Joseph Janas, two-year trustee; and Mike Merritt one-year trustee. There were 31 members attending the Mass and ceremony on June 20 at the Knights of Columbus Hall. (Contributed Photo)

St. Joseph Parish YOAKUM, TEXAS

Picnic

SUNDAY, AUGUST 6, 2023

**AIR CONDITIONED
Yoakum Community
Center
Picnic Stew,
Sausage & Trimmings**

TICKETS: \$12.00
Serving Begins at 10:30 a.m.

Drive-Thru or Dine-In

**Register for
Raffle Prizes**

15 Raffle Prizes Totaling:
\$20,600.00 in value

Top Prize
\$10,000 VALUE

AUCTION

12:30 P.M.

Pyramid of Cream Cheese and Poppyseed Rolls
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* Antique Furniture *
* and Many More Items *

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Bibles for the girls

WEIMAR — Catholic Daughters of America, Court St. Michael #559 presented Catholic Bibles to graduating eighth-grade girls at St. Michael Catholic School. This year's recipients, from left, are Madelyn Rerich, Emma Koeth and Brinson Huette. The Bibles were presented by Mary Jane Berger, CDA regent. *(Contributed Photo)*



A feast of gratitude

The Serra Club of Victoria, which supports vocations in the Diocese of Victoria, provided meals to the religious Sisters in the diocese on May 27, and the priests of the diocese on June 15 during World Day for the Sanctification of Priests. *(Regina Janak/The Catholic Lighthouse)*



Legion of Mary annual visit

VICTORIA — Deacon Luan Tran, far right, spiritual director of the Praesidium of the Legion of Mary for the Diocese of Victoria made his annual pastoral visit recently in Victoria. With him, from left, are front row, Lorena Knezek of Our Lady of Victory, legion treasurer; Judy Saddler of OLV, legion secretary; Most Rev. Bishop Cahill, legion chaplain; Sandy Munoz of OLV; and, back row Mamie Morales, Legion of Mary vice president from Our Lady of Guadalupe in Bay City; Mary Rangel, Legion of Mary vice president, OLV; Maria Forr, OLV; Ofelia Lara, Legion of Mary president of curia, OLG; Thau Nguyen, legion vice president of curia of OLG; and Marcela Hernandez, legion president of Curia, OLV. *(Contributed Photo)*

Annual conference has new format

VICTORIA — The 35th Annual Catholic Conference will take place Sept. 23 at St. Joseph Catholic High School in Victoria and will feature two keynote speakers.

First, Father Juan Molina will discuss synodality and the Eucharist, two of the main focuses of the Church this year. In a second keynote, Bishop Brendan Cahill discuss human sexuality and issues that many people are not sure how to address.

The format will be different this year. It will begin with Father Molina's keynote and then break into a first round of workshops. Then the second keynote with Bishop Cahill will take place, followed by a second round of workshops.

Finally, the event will offer roundtable discussions. "That's something new. They'll

be able to meet and share their thoughts," said Christella Alvarez, director of the Office of Catechetical Ministry for the Diocese of Victoria.

The list of workshops has not been announced at this time, but will be coming soon and registration will be announced and offered on the DOV website. *The Catholic Lighthouse* will follow up in August with a complete list of workshops available.

The conference is open to anyone who wants to learn more about his or her faith. For more information, contact Alvarez at calvarez@victoriadiocese.org or Alicia Olive in the Office of Catechetical Ministry, Alicia@victoriadiocese.org. Or call the chancery at 361-573-0828.





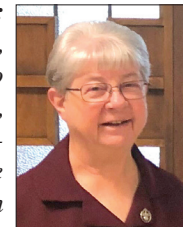
The priests of the Diocese of Victoria participate in Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament on June 15, World Day for the Sanctification of Priests. They gathered at Holy Family Catholic Church in Victoria and their day was completed with a meal provided by the Serra Club of Victoria. (Regina Janak/The Catholic Lighthouse)

“The earth is the Lord’s and all that is in it, the world, and those who live in it.” (Psalm 24:1)

“Climate change is a global problem with grave implications: environmental, social, economic, political, and for the distribution of goods. It represents one of the principal challenges facing humanity in our day.” (Laudato Si’, #25)

Protecting Earth a duty shared by all humanity

EDITOR’S NOTE: Sister Marian Sturm, IWBS, guest columnist to The Catholic Lighthouse, has written a series of articles about seeing climate change through a faith lens. This is the seventh in a 10-part series that will appear monthly.



Sister Marian Sturm, IWBS

At the end of 2011, the human population reached 7 billion, with a prediction of 8.6 billion by 2030. Environmental scientists estimate that the earth presently has the capacity to supply resources for between 9 to 10 billion people. With population growth, beef and poultry industries, dairy and fish farms and commercial fishing will exploit the animal kingdom.

Not blaming population growth, rather “extreme and selective consumerism on the part of some, is [...] an attempt to legitimize the present model of distribution, where a minority believes that it has the right to consume in a way which can never be universalized...” (Laudato Si’)

There have been five extinction events in the last 450 million years in which all life was wiped out. Scientists tell us that we are now in the sixth extinction of life on Earth. Since the two industrial revolutions in the 19th and 20th centuries, massive amounts of CO₂, methane and nitrous oxide in the atmosphere have blocked the sun’s heat from leaving the planet, thus heating the Earth. For every 1 degree rise of temperature on Earth, the atmosphere absorbs 7 percent more of the precipitation, thereby changing its water cycle. Increasing evaporation causes more severe winter storms, dramatic spring flooding, more prolonged summer droughts, category 3, 4 and 5 hurricanes, tsunamis and typhoons. This dramatic shift of the water cycle cannot sustain our ecosystems.

The pandemic has shown us that we are all interconnected on planet Earth. What we do on one side of the planet affects other human beings near and far, as well as the earth, water and air. Because the U.S. has the greatest ecological and carbon footprint, it is a matter of justice that we help reverse climate change internationally. Pope Francis

says, “Inequity affects [...] entire countries; it compels us to consider an ethics of international relations.” (Laudato Si’)

Concerned about climate change since the 1970s, the international community has been engaged in two main tasks: (1) drafting agreements and guidelines for all countries to at least slow down, if not reverse, global warming; (2) addressing the new reality of refugees and migrants fleeing their countries because of climate change.

The “Earth Charter” (1997- 2000) was created to build a just, sustainable, and peaceful global society in the 21st century by inspiring in all peoples a sense of global interdependence and shared responsibility. It attempts to address environmental protection, human rights, equitable human development and peace.

The “Universal Declaration of the Rights of Mother Earth” (2010) was formulated in Cochabamba, Bolivia, by 29,000 mostly indigenous people from 125 nations. It made a direct link between respecting Earth’s rights and the rights of human beings.

In Rio de Janeiro (2012) 192 U.N. member states renewed their commitment to an economic, social and environmentally sustainable future for our planet and for present and future generations, drafting the “17 Sustainable Development Goals.”

The “Paris Agreement” (2016) was a direct response to global warming, following the Kyoto Protocol of 2005, urging participants to slow down the rise in temperatures by reducing emissions. It set a global goal to which 196 state parties agreed to contribute, though each would establish its own targets. All were to create processes holding themselves accountable, and enhancing action over time to reduce global warming.

This is a way in which all countries can recognize the laws and wisdom of nature, guarantee the rights for all human life and dignity, abide by common standards and collectively act to transform structures and systems that cause climate change and threaten Mother Earth.

Contact Sister Marian at maristurm@yahoo.com.

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Faith helps us see the beauty in God's mysteries

EDITOR'S NOTE: Father Kram wrote this sermon for the 21st Sunday in Ordinary Time. He titled it "The Risk of Faith."

We can know things in either of two ways: One is by personal experience, and the other is by faith.

Faith means that we take something on the testimony of someone else. Faith has to rest on two things: first, that the person who tells us knows what he is talking about, and, second, that he is not deceiving us.

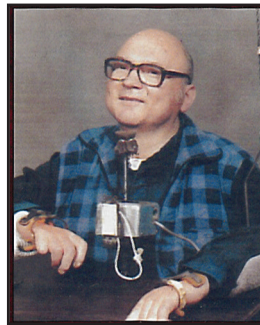
Thus, if our faith rests on a firm basis, we can know by faith just as surely as we can know by sight.

For example, we know that the world is round, even though we have never reached the East by sailing west. We know that it is raining outside when someone tells us, even though we have not seen it. We take our medicine with confidence, even though we are not trained in pharmacy. All these things are natural to us because of faith.

Sometimes faith involves a certain quality of mystery. Why, for example, do a boy and girl who have known each other for years suddenly fall in love and entrust themselves to each other in marriage without really being able to say why?

Sometimes we even refer to the feminine mystique—that certain mysterious quality about womanhood. I once told a girl that I did not

know how to deal with women, and she replied that even women do not understand



Father
Charles Kram
Corner



talked like her, she walked like her, she acted like her, she was just like my mother, but I couldn't marry her either, because my father hated her."

If we can live by human faith, even when it often involves a mystery or meets with obstacles, then how much more can we live by the truths revealed by God. For God knows all things. He cannot deceive or be deceived.

So, what if many ridicule the power of the sacraments or the real presence of Christ in the Holy Eucharist, or the resurrection of the body on the last day?

Or as one woman whose dad had died lamented, "What if there is no soul? What if there is no Heaven? What if I will never see my daddy again?"

Although unbelievers deny and the faithful sometimes falter, still God is real, our Savior lives, and truth survives.

God is the same yesterday, and today and tomorrow, and 1,000 difficulties do not make a doubt.

And, in the face of mysteries, we do not behave like the man who tore a rose apart because he had to see what made it fragrant and destroyed it in the process, but rather, we accept and we LIVE by faith.

So today, we, who, without hesitation, believe in those we love and that the world is round and in the rain, lovingly rededicate ourselves to firmly accepting the truths that God has revealed, especially those we would otherwise never have known.

Lord Jesus, thank you for all you have taught us to believe. Help us always to accept firmly and live faithfully up to what we have received. Grant that, one day, our faith will be confirmed by seeing God face to face. Amen.



25 years of goals met

WEIMAR — The Texas State Knights of Columbus recognized the Weimar Knights of Columbus Council 2153 for meeting their charity goal for 25 consecutive years. Pictured at the awards presentation are, from left, Kenny Trochta, Victoria diocesan deputy; Jack Muggli, district deputy; Delphin Bartek, Council 2153 grand knight; Francis Janacek, Council 2153 treasurer; and Herb Ulbrich, Council 2153 financial secretary. (Contributed Photo)

women.

And sometimes our attempts at faith come up against obstacles. For example, at a class reunion, one classmate asked another, "Frank, why didn't you ever marry?" and Frank replied, "I brought home five wonderful girls and showed them to my parents, but my mother hated every one of them. Finally, I found a girl who looked like my mother, she

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Burger fan's delight a taste of how evangelism works

Have you ever come across something so great that you just want to share it with everyone? Like you want everyone to feel what you felt when you came across it? It's something so awesome you can't keep it to yourself, so you go around like a lighted billboard telling everyone about it, but few seem interested in what you have to share.

For example, a friend of mine was always insisting how great Five Guys burger place is and would always say how delicious the burgers are, telling me that I needed to try it. (I'll call him "AC.") I'm a Whataburger girl myself, so it was not easy to convince me that anything would be better than Whataburger. Still, he insisted and insisted until finally the opportunity arose and a few of us went to Five Guys to experience it with him.

The first thing I noticed was we shouldn't have ordered fries, because they practically gave us the whole potato field. Then came the moment of truth, the burger. I ordered it the exact way I order my burger at Whataburger and bit into it. I bit into it again and then gave my verdict: Whataburger is better. I was not impressed, neither was my other friend, who is also a Whataburger fan. (I'll call her "MP.") Now this is only my opinion and that of MP, and we respect the opinions of others. We watched how happy AC was with his burger and how much he enjoyed it and, therefore, still enjoyed the outing.

Finding Beauty in Mystery

By Sister Rosario Resendez, TWBS



This whole event reminded me how we evangelize. We should be so excited about the Good News that we want to share it with everyone. We should want to shout it from the rooftops, and we would want everyone to experience the love of Jesus. Once we have an encounter with Him, how can we keep from telling everyone about Him?

In telling AC about this burger incident and how I could see it as a theological reflection, he reminded me that the reason we agreed to go in the first place was because we are his friends. If a random person would have invited us to Five Guys telling us it was the best thing ever, we would have not gone and, instead, would have gone to Whataburger. But, because we have built a friendly relationship with him, and we trust him, we agreed to share this experience with him. Thus, in evangelizing, there is an importance in building a relationship of

trust with the people before they take what we have to say into consideration.

Once I was in San Antonio with my niece, who was about 4 years old at the time. We were near the Alamo, and there was a street preacher there yelling over a loudspeaker about Jesus. (I think, because that was the only word I understood in all the yelling) My niece was watching him intently and then asked me if he was crazy. I told her that he wasn't crazy, he was preaching about what he believes in. She kept looking at him and then looked at me and with her right index finger she made air loops over her ear telling me that he was indeed crazy. Now I didn't write this here in agreement that the street preacher was crazy. Obviously he was very passionate about his preaching. I wrote this to show how, if someone doesn't know us, they will not listen to us and instead may think we are crazy.

Now I agree, we should be crazy in love with Jesus, but if we want to present Him to others, we need to do so in a way that people will want to meet Him. I have written before that we can preach with our actions. When people see us, they should see that there is another way of life available for all, no matter what vocation they choose. They should see so much joy and excitement in our very selves that they want to know what we know and, also, the One that lives within

us. In building this relationship, we can bring them to know the One who loves us all. We need to be genuine and authentic to the point that people will be willing to hear what we have to say.

As with the burger episode, when AC asked us if we liked it, we were honest. But he was not discouraged and remained excited about this burger place to the point that MP and I both said we would eat there again. It wasn't that we didn't like it, we just liked our place better. Could he bring us to his side? Who knows? Maybe.

So we also need not be discouraged if people don't accept the Good News right away. They, too, would have to have their encounter with Christ. We just have to let them know where to look, encourage them, and Christ will take care of the rest.

And Jesus came and said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, to the close of the age." (Matthew 28-18-30)

• Contact Sister Maria del Rosario Resendez by e-mailing her at bishopsecretary.dov@gmail.com.

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IWBS marks 70- and 50-year jubilees – and new beginnings

Continued from pg. 1

something beautiful and new. The second we think we've got it all together, God puts a surprise in our way."

In fact the Sisters are now awaiting the celebration of the reunification of all IWBS communities worldwide. The official decree will be read on July 2 during a Mass in Lyon, France, where the order was established by Venerable Jeanne Chezard de Matel. Those who wish to join in the celebration can view the Mass on the order's Facebook page at 10 a.m. Texas time.

"It's hard to believe 50 years have happened. I've been blessed to experience a lot."

Sister Kathleen Goike

According to Goike, the superior general for the Victoria convent, the event fulfills the wishes of their foundress.

"From July 2, 2023, our separate constitutions become null and void and we will live out the new constitution. The next three years will be an experiment to see how it works, if we have to make any changes at the chapter when we officially approve it," Goike said.

Initially, she said, the IWBS international headquarters will be in Madrid, Spain. The



Sister Emilie Eilers, front, and Sister Kathleen Goike celebrate 70 and 50 years, respectively, of consecrated life with the IWBS Sisters during a Mass with Bishop Brendan Cahill as celebrant. Also pictured is Father Brian Eilers of Bryan, Sister Emilie's nephew. (Photos by Janet Jones/The Catholic Lighthouse)

Victoria IWBS will become a chapter that combines the Sisters in Corpus Christi and chapters in five Mexico cities. The Victoria convent has 46 sisters currently, and after their new chapter is formed, they will be "very roughly" 350 in number, Goike said.

Sister Kathleen Goike visits with other Sisters of the Incarnate Word and Blessed Sacrament from the Corpus Christi area after a Mass celebrating her 50th anniversary as a professed Sister of the IWBS.



The local IWBS also has revamped its vocations and recruitment program and, instead of one person being in charge, they have five Sisters working as a team, meeting periodically throughout the year.

A Come and See event on July 22 is for single Catholic women who are high school seniors through age 40 to experience a taste of consecrated life.

"It's exciting. I'm hoping that we do get a number of women ... at least exploring and asking questions and not just writing off religious life," Goike said. "This is an exciting time in the church for us as a congregation becoming an international order."

The new opportunities that could come with being an international order might benefit recruitment as well, she said. Many years ago the Sisters chose either education or healthcare as their ministry, but now



Sister Emilie Eilers, daughter of the late Joseph and Elizabeth Grafe Eilers, was born in Hallettsville, the eldest of 10 children with four sisters and five brothers. She completed grade school and one year of high school at Sacred Heart in Hallettsville, and graduated high school from Nazareth Academy in Victoria.

She entered the postulancy of the Sisters of the Incarnate Word and Blessed Sacrament at Nazareth Convent on Dec. 2, 1951, became a novice on June 2, 1952, and pronounced first vows on June 3, 1953.

Sister Emilie received a Bachelor of Arts degree with a major in biology and a minor in chemistry from Incarnate Word College in San Antonio and a master's degree in educational administration from Southwest Texas State University in San Marcos.

During her 70 years as a professed member of the congregation, she taught at Holy Cross School, Bay City; Assumption School, Ganado; Our Lady of Victory, Victoria; St. Leo School, San Antonio; and St. Michael School, Cuero. She served as principal at St. Michael School, Cuero, and Our Lady of Victory School and St. Joseph High School in Victoria. Sister Emilie was a member of the Congregational Leadership Team for 18 years.

After a year's sabbatical at Berakah in New Hampshire in 2002, Sister Emilie received certification in spiritual direction and served as on-going formation director for the Sisters. She also ministered in the Incarnate Word Convent Health Care as director of spiritual and recreational activities and as a dietary consultant. For a time, she served as president of the board of the Amor Meus Spirituality Center, which she helped to organize. Throughout her life, Sister Emilie has enjoyed traveling, fishing, boating, gardening, cooking and socializing. In recent years Sister Emilie has resided in the Health Care at Incarnate Word Convent enjoying time in prayer in the health care chapel or in company with others.

Continued on pg. 11



Sister Kathleen Goike is the daughter of the late Edward W. and Telete Kathryn VanDusen Goike and sister of the late Joseph M. Goike. Born in Castlepollard, County Westmeath, Republic of Ireland, she was adopted when she was 2 years old. She attended San Jose Mission School, St. Lawrence Catholic School and Blessed Sacrament School in San Antonio.

Upon entering the Sisters of the Incarnate Word and Blessed Sacrament at Incarnate Word Convent in 1968 as an aspirant, she completed her high school education at Nazareth Academy in Victoria. Sister became a novice in 1972, professed first vows in 1973, and made her final profession in 1978. Sister Kathleen holds a Bachelor of Arts in elementary education from Incarnate Word College and a master's degree in administration from Southwest University.

During her 50 years as a professed member, Sister Kathleen taught at Nazareth Academy in Victoria, St. John the Evangelist in San Antonio, Sacred Heart in Hallettsville, Blessed Sacrament School in San Antonio and Our Lady of Victory in Victoria.

She was Principal at Nazareth Academy and St. Michael in Weimar. Sister Kathleen was appointed Novice Directress in 2010, a position she held for eight years. In 2012, she was elected to the Congregational Leadership Team, and in 2018, she was elected Superior General of the Sisters of the Incarnate Word and Blessed Sacrament, and is currently serving in this position. She also is a mentor for Hopkins Elementary School Reading program and currently serves on the corporate boards as president of Blessed Sacrament Academy in San Antonio and Nazareth Academy.

Sister Kathleen has had opportunities to travel abroad to Italy, Mexico, Ireland, the Holy Land, as well as interstate. Reading, visiting with friends, traveling and movies are some of her past times.



Sister Emilie Eilers is shown here with many members of her family who came to celebrate her 70th anniversary as a Sister of the Incarnate Word and Blessed Sacrament.

have more ways to serve. "It's just opened up to allow our charism to spread in various ways," Goike said. "That's been exciting."

The Come and See day is at the convent, 1101 E. Water St. in Victoria. Anyone with questions should email sister.mariadelrosario@gmail.com or call 361-575-7111 for more information. Registration for the event is at <https://iwbsvictoria.org/>.

When Sisters Emilie and Kathleen joined, there were many more choosing to join religious communities. Over the last few decades there has been a decline in numbers. A report from the Center for Applied Research in the Apostolate showed that there were 168 nationwide who made their perpetual vows last year. The IWBS in Victoria had its first in several years – Sister Rosario Resendez.

Bishop Cahill said the religious give everyone hope, and celebrating their jubilees is an opportunity for all – conserved, lay, married or priests – to again say, "Lord Jesus, I give my heart to you."

"They teach us so much about Jesus each and every day of our lives," Bishop Cahill said. "We can always grow, we can always learn."

"It's hard to believe 50 years have hap-

pened," Goike said. "I've been blessed to experience a lot."

Eilers is now in the Sisters' heal care wing. "She's very grateful for her family and

for her sisters that have been part of her journey...and part of her religious life," Goike said. "I can walk by the healthcare on any given day and she's in the chapel praying."



Father Kristopher Fuchs, vocations director for the Diocese of Victoria, plays the organ while the IWBS Sisters sing during the jubilee celebrations on June 10 at the convent chapel. Sister Kathleen Goike celebrated 50 years and Sister Emilie Eilers celebrated 70.



We don't need a mountain to make it 'to the heights'

NOTE: In mid-June, my wife and I made a more than 3,000-mile journey through six states to visit several national and state parks. What began as an exploration of visible, natural wonders of God's creation led to new discoveries of the invisible and supernatural Creator. What follows is a reflection written during that trip. — Deacon Tankersley

July 4 is designated as the feast day of Blessed Giorgio Frasseti (April 6, 1901-July 4, 1925). His short, but dynamic, life captured the imagination of many including those in both the Vatican and the USCCB. A website dedicated to him by the USCCB declared him to be “a significant global patron for youth and young adults -- and has a special place in the hearts of young people across the United States.”

St. John Paul II declared him a patron for World Youth Days and called him “the man of the beatitudes.”

Frasseti was an avid lover of the outdoors and spent weekends climbing mountains with his friends. After what would become his final climb before his death by polio, he wrote a simple note on a photograph of himself while climbing: “Verso L'Alto,” which means, “To the heights.” This phrase captured both his philosophy of mountaineering and his appreciation that God continuously calls us to be raised up to a higher level of divine life. This unofficial motto of Frasseti's (“To the heights.”) echoed in my mind as I sat at the feet of the Grand Tetons of Yellowstone National Park and was awed by the otherworldly features of Moab, Utah, ... when riding alongside the rapids or hiking through the magnificent forests ... when watching the new day dawn or the radiant sunset sign off on that day. I could not help but see in the visible beauty of God's creation the invisible beauty of the Creator himself and feel God's peaceful embrace in the natural masterpiece of His creation.

As I contemplated my encounters with the wonders of God's creation, I realized several wonderful paradoxes. The Teton Range began forming between 6 and 9 million years ago and is the youngest mountain range in the Rocky Mountains. Its tallest peak rises to almost 14,000 feet. I was formed 73 years ago and am 5'10" and shrinking.

Standing below these mountains, I was reminded of both my own smallness and the shortness of my life on earth. At the same

At Your Service

By Deacon Michael Tankersley



“Jesus left there and went along the Sea of Galilee. Then he went up on a mountainside and sat down. Great crowds came to him, bringing the lame, the blind, the crippled, the mute and many others, and laid them at his feet; and he healed them.” (Matthew 15:29-30)



Art By Carl Bloch -

(<https://freechristimages.com/bible-stories/sermon-on-the-mount.html> and Carl Bloch, p. 313, ISBN 9788798746591, Public Domain, <https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=186837>)

time, I realized that the same God who created these magnificent mountains not only also created me; He created me in His own image and calls me to everlasting life.

While hiking in the dense forest, I felt swallowed up ... alone ... wary of being lost. At the same time, there was an unexplainable sense of being connected to God ... connected to others and other things ... connected to myself.

Witnessing the wondrous beauty of a river basin or mountain range triggered a sense of satisfaction and completion as if this is the finest work of natural art which nothing could surpass. Yet that same beauty of nature awakened in me a greater longing for the Infinite Beauty of Christ Jesus Himself. At the same time, I found comfort in the quiet of nature and a relief from the drive of being on the go, and I relished in sensing His encouraging words calling me “to the heights.”

Mountains were often portrayed as the place where heaven and earth touch, and that imagery is woven throughout Sacred Scripture. In Matthew alone there are six significant mountain “scenes” including the temptations of Christ, the Sermon on the Mount, the Transfiguration, and where the Apostles were given their commission. It was also on Mount Nebo that God informed Moses that he would not be allowed to cross over into the Promised Land but instead

would die on that mountain. It was also on the hill called Golgotha that Jesus was crucified. Such are the variety of our own “mountain top experiences.” They are times in which we are on top of the mountain and feeling intimately connected to God. But then problems arise or tragedy hits. We no longer feel we are on the mountain with Him, but are falling off and falling away from Him.

During times in which we feel as if God has given us mountains of troubles instead of mountains of graces, it might be worthwhile to revisit the 15th chapter of Matthew. In a brief scene prior to the “Feeding of the Four Thousand,” Jesus heals a group of followers. Notice, however, that before Jesus healed “the lame, the blind, the crippled, the mute and many others” he first “went up on a mountainside and sat down.”

He certainly could have healed them on the level plain where He and they had been. Instead, He climbed the mountain, which required them to do likewise if they wished to be healed. This was not an act of insensitivity but an invitation “to the heights” of a new spiritual awareness and healing.

As it was for them, so, too, it is for us. I suspect that there are times that our own faith has become lame. Perhaps we have become stagnant and unmoved pew-sitters dressed with the symbols of faith but not living the substance. We may be spiritually blinded by a sin un-repented or forgiveness unoffered. At times, our faith can be crippled by tragedy or sickness or suffering. At every mountain -- those of grace and challenge, good times and bad -- God continues to draw us “to the heights” of His healing love.

Paul wrote of this invitation in his letter to the Ephesians: “But God, being rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, ... raised us up with Him [Christ Jesus], and seated us with Him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus.” (Ephesians 2:6)

We need not put on a backpack and hike through national parks to experience this call to rise. We can just as well put on pajamas and kneel bedside in prayer. You need not travel thousands of miles to appreciate what God can put in your heart wherever you are. Wherever we may be, you and I are not meant to be basement dwellers. We are called to live in His high rise. We were not created to remain in the lowlands of life, but to ascend “Verso l'alto” ... “to the heights” of Divine Life.



True freedom is found in the Eucharist

In Communion

By Very Rev. Jacob Koether



A couple of months ago, I had the opportunity to travel with Nazareth Academy's eighth-grade class to Washington, D.C., to visit the sites and learn a little more about our nation. I had been before but never with a guide, so I looked at everything with fresh eyes.

The buildings and architecture were impressive, the history deeply interesting and the sacrifices of countless men and women represented in the many beautiful memorials, inspiring. I felt so small standing in the shadows cast by the giants that were our founding fathers and all who have contributed to our nation's growth, health, reform and vitality.

As I look back to reflect on our nation's origins, especially with Independence Day this month, what I see running through it all is an intense passion for the right to be free.

As Americans, freedom strikes us to the core. Freedom is what unleashed the energies that eventually defeated the British Army in the Revolutionary War. Freedom is what gave courage and fortitude to the abolitionist cause to correct the terrible scourge of slavery. Freedom is what roused the young men and women of the greatest generation to fight our adversaries during the Second World War and defeat the evils of Nazism. Freedom is heroic, personal and actualizing, enabling us to be fully human.

But with our intense concern for freedom, I also see a tendency in our American subconscious to fundamentally misunderstand

freedom's true nature and take it to extremes. Our rebellious spirit against any perceived violation of freedom has influenced us to look for injustice where it is not so that we can claim a kind of freedom that actually is not freedom at all. I think licentiousness is the proper term for it – a disregard of accepted morals and behaviors, a lack of any legal or ethical restraint. We all want to do whatever we want to do. But that's not true freedom. It's more like selfishness, which is an abuse of freedom, and the more selfish we are, the less heroic and human and fully alive we can be.

Jesus put it this way, "Whoever sins is a slave to sin." (John 8:34) Or we could say, "Whoever abuses their freedom becomes a slave to their abuse." How? Because sin replicates itself; it multiplies like a virus; it takes control and feeds off of us, undercutting our intentionality, making us weak and leading us to more sin. Evidence of this is everywhere. Watch practically anyone with a smartphone try to engage reality – they get sucked into the infinite scroll, unable to look up. Think of everyone you know who might struggle with an addiction. Are they free? Do

corrupt leaders strengthen our institutions by their selfishness?

This is an essential component of freedom that we ignore as Americans. It's not the ability to do whatever we want. True freedom is the ability to choose the good and make the decisions that lead us to our total flourishing. In Jesus, we have access to this kind of freedom. Actually, it's even better. In Jesus, our freedom is healed, supported, infused with and lifted up by His FREEDOM, a

supernatural gift that makes us like Him on the cross – selfless, intentional, conscious, awake, virtuous, strong, unable to be conquered by evil.

Don't let yourself be influenced by any false form of freedom that actually limits or enslaves you. Hear Jesus' invitation to receive something better. In fact, in the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass, this invitation happens again and again, and our renewal in it happens with every reception of Holy Communion.

In that host is found the true power to be set free, with a freedom greater than anything any nation could give.

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

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Moravia Ascension Parish Picnic

MORAVIA, FM 957 & FM 532

SUNDAY, JULY 16, 2023
PICNIC MASS 9:30 A.M.

DINNER 11:00 A.M.

STEW & KETTLE FRIED CHICKEN

& TRIMMINGS

ALL PLATES \$12.00

Drive-thru Plates To Go From 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

**COUNTRY
STORE**

**BINGO
100-500 p.m.**

**Kids Foam Machine
& WATER FUN**



**Cake Walk
12:00 Noon**

**GAMES | Cornhole
Tournament
11:00 a.m.**

Auction Sale at 1:00 p.m.

HAMBURGERS, REFRESHMENTS AND ENTERTAINMENT ON THE

MORAVIA PARISH PICNIC GROUNDS

- Auction & Activities under the Pavilion -

- Prize Drawing at 7:00 p.m. -

**Music During The Day
And Night By:**

**Mark Halata & Texavia
Texas Sound Check**



EVERYBODY WELCOME - FUN FOR ALL!



Las palabras y la historia del padre Kram son una inspiración eterna

Queridos hermanos y hermanas,

De vez en cuando leo las cartas anteriores que he escrito para el Lighthouse y, a veces, reimprimo una de ellas. Mientras revisaba algunas de estas cartas recientemente, encontré la primera carta que escribí sobre el Padre Charles Kram en enero de 2016. Sé que muchos de ustedes me acompañan cada mes leyendo sus homilías en el Lighthouse, y encuentro su práctica espiritualidad bastante inspiradora. Esto es lo que escribí en 2016:

“Hace cuarenta años, el 5 de diciembre de 1975, el Padre Charles Kram Jr. fue ordenado sacerdote en la iglesia de Sts. Cirilo y Metodio en Shiner. Desde que estoy en la diócesis de Victoria, he conocido a muchas personas que conocieron personalmente al Padre Kram y su familia y, me parece, ¡miles que pudieron haber estado en esa Misa de Ordenación! El testimonio de su santidad y la santidad de su familia, amigos y comunidades de origen de Shiner y Yoakum han sido bellamente registrados en el libro Gladly Will I Glory in My Infirmities (Con mucho gusto me gloriaré en mis enfermedades) por el diácono Anthony Warzecha. Habiendo leído el libro y

escuchado muchas historias de su ministerio, me sentí llamado a alentar la devoción y la oración a él como parte de nuestra celebración diocesana del Año Jubilar de la Misericordia. Permítanme compartir con ustedes este mes un par de razones por las que creo que su testimonio sigue siendo tan oportuno para nosotros hoy.

“Primero, el Padre Kram eligió conscientemente irradiar el amor y la alegría de Jesús cada día. Cuando una persona comienza a leer y escuchar su historia, este simple hecho adquiere proporciones heroicas. Cuando era joven en la década de 1950, Charles Kram sufrió una forma grave de polio. Cuando sufrió esto, estaba en las etapas finales de su preparación para convertirse en

Mensaje del Pastor

By Obispo Brendan Cahill



contacto y cuidándolo. Muchos de sus amigos del seminario mantuvieron viva la esperanza de que algún día pudiera ser ordenado sacerdote. Comentaron su testimonio gozoso en medio de su sufrimiento, y pensaron que este podría ser un testimonio tan poderoso en un sacerdote. Durante más de 20 años se mantuvieron fielmente en contacto, y estoy seguro de que cada persona que visitó la casa Kram en esos años compartiría cómo se sintió edificado por el Espíritu Santo en presencia de la familia Kram. Eventualmente llegaría el día en que sería ordenado al sacerdocio, ¡y ese debe haber sido uno de los días santos más alegres en la historia de esta área!

“Hay mucho más para compartir de su vida que puede ser una inspiración para nuestra fe. En este día, cuando parece que tenemos una tendencia a juzgarnos unos a otros por lo que podemos obtener de ellos, es hermoso recordar que se trata mucho más de lo que podemos dar.”

+Brendan

Conferencia anual tiene nuevo formato

VICTORIA – La 35.ª Conferencia Católica Anual se llevará a cabo el 23 de septiembre en la Escuela Secundaria Católica St. Joseph en Victoria y contará con dos oradores principales

En primer lugar, el padre Juan Molina hablará sobre la sinodalidad y la Eucaristía, dos de los ejes principales de la Iglesia este año. En un segundo discurso de apertura, el obispo Brendan Cahill habló sobre la sexualidad humana y los problemas que muchas personas no están seguras de cómo abordar.

El formato será diferente este año. Comenzará con el discurso de apertura del padre Molina y luego se dividirá en una primera ronda de talleres. Luego tendrá lugar la segunda conferencia magistral con el obispo Cahill, seguida de una segunda ronda de talleres.

Finalmente, el evento ofrecerá mesas redondas. “Eso es algo nuevo. Podrán reunirse y compartir sus pensamientos”, dijo Christella Alvarez, directora de la Oficina del Ministerio Catequético de la Diócesis de Victoria.

La lista de talleres no ha sido anunciada en este momento, pero llegará pronto y la inscripción se anunciará y ofrecerá en el sitio web del DOV. El Faro Católico hará un seguimiento en agosto con una lista completa de talleres disponibles.

La conferencia está abierta a cualquiera que quiera aprender más sobre su fe. Para

obtener más información, comuníquese con Álvarez a calvarez@victoriadiocese.org o Alicia Olive en la Oficina del Ministerio Catequético, Alicia@victoriadiocese.org. O llame a la cancillería al 361-573-0828.



Holy Family K of C Council #9088

Presents the



TWENTY FIRST ANNUAL

FISHING TOURNAMENT

AUGUST 4 & 5

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AND PAVILLION

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FOR INFORMATION ON ENTRIES, CONTACT:

REX MAYES AT 361-649-2475

SISTER ANN MELETIO AT 361-485-2044

TONIA FOJTIK AT 361-649-3317

ALL PROCEEDS BENEFIT

NAZARETH ACADEMY SCHOOL, VICTORIA



A Prayer on Our Nation's Independence Day

Almighty and eternal God, Your Son Jesus Christ has revealed Your glory to all nations. Preserve the works of Your mercy, that Your Church, being spread through the whole world, may illuminate our hearts, minds and souls.

We pray You, O God of might, wisdom, and justice, to assist with Your holy spirit of counsel and fortitude the President of the United States, that his administration may be conducted in righteousness, and be eminently useful to Your people over whom he presides.

Let the light of Your divine wisdom direct the deliberations of Congress, and shine forth in all the proceedings and laws framed for our rule and government, so that they may preserve the peace, promote national

happiness, increase industry and knowledge, and perpetuate the blessing of equal liberty.

We pray for the governors of our states, for all the legislative members, for all judges, magistrates, and other officers who are appointed to guard our political welfare, that they discharge the duties of their respective stations with honesty and ability.

We recommend likewise to Your unbounded mercy all fellow citizens throughout the United States, that they may be preserved in union and in Your merciful peace which the world cannot give.

Amen.

From www.catholicruralife.org



A Note of Gratitude

One year ago on June 9, 2022, our church building was destroyed. We continue to mourn the loss of our parishioner and friend, Verlene Kuntschik, who succumbed to injuries sustained that day. While our hearts are heavy with the loss, we still exalt God in all His glory. We thank God daily for being part of a community who supported us in many ways.

To the first responders who risked their lives and health to battle the fire, you have our eternal love. To the Diocese of Victoria and our faithful parishioners, your leadership and steadfast faith continues to give rise to hope within the devastation, you will forever remain in our prayers and in our hearts. To the multitude of churches across denominations, businesses and organizations whose fundraisers will help us rebuild, may God always bless you for aiding us in the rebuilding process. To the families and individuals who gave tirelessly of their gift of time, talent and treasure, you are the salt of the earth and may God reward you.

Above all, to all those who offered prayers and continue to pray for our parish family, your love of God and neighbor shines like a beacon that lights up the world.

We may have faced tragedy, but you have deepened our relationship with God. You strengthen our faith in humanity, you provide hope for the future, and the love you share with us gives us courage to move forward. It is not possible to thank everyone enough for supporting us. We ask that God Bless you and keep you all the days of your life.

God is Good!

With Love.

THE PARISH FAMILY OF THE QUEEN OF THE HOLY ROSARY CATHOLIC CHURCH
HOSTYN, TX

Sunday Readings from July 2 to August 6

July 2 ~ Thirteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time
2 Kings 4:8-11, 14-16a
Psalms 89:2-3, 16-17, 18-19
Romans 6:3-4, 8-11
Matthew 10:37-42

July 9 ~ Fourteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time
Zechariah 9:9-10
Psalms 145:1-2, 8-9, 10-11, 13-14
Romans 8:9, 11-13
Matthew 11:25-30

July 16 ~ Fifteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time
Isaiah 55:10-11
Psalms 65:10, 11, 12-13, 14
Romans 8:18-23
Matthew 13:1-23

July 23 ~ Sixteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time
Wisdom 12:13, 16-19
Psalms 86:5-6, 9-10, 15-16
Romans 8:26-27
Matthew 13:24-43

July 30 ~ Seventeenth Sunday in Ordinary Time
1 Kings 3:5, 7-12
Psalms 119:57, 72, 76-77, 127-128, 129-130
Romans 8:28-30
Matthew 13:44-52

August 6 ~ Feast of the Transfiguration of the Lord
Daniel 7:9-10, 13-14
Psalms 97:1-2, 5-6, 9
2 Peter 1:16-19
Matthew 17:1-9

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

Brought to you by: Catholic Communications Campaign



Sts. Peter & Paul Catholic Church - Frelsburg

COUNTRY FESTIVAL

On the Church Grounds ♦ Sunday, August 6

Holy Mass 8:30am ♦ Traditional Latin Mass 10:30am

Very Rev. Robert E. (Bob) Knippenberg, V.F., Celebrant

Frelsburg's Delicious Fried Fish Meal - \$15

with Buttered Potatoes, Hush Puppies, Cole Slaw, Pinto Beans, Bread, Pickles & Tea

Dine-In 11:00am until 1:00pm (Kids 12 and Under \$10)

Drive Thru Line 10:30am until 1:00pm

Fun for all ages
begins at 11am

Kids Games

Toy Raffle

Ring Toss

Cake Walk

Country Store

Religious Articles

Live Auction

1pm

followed by a
Free Dance

featuring

**BLUE DENIM
BAND**

Bingo

Starting at 1pm

Raffle

Silent Auction

Hamburgers,
Nachos & Snacks

available after 3pm

1031 Church Lane, New Ulm TX 78950

For more information, please visit www.peterandpaulparish.com, find us on Facebook, or call (979) 732-3430.



‘Betake yourself to a teacher’ to understand Bible, faith

Continued from pg. 5

should not be ignored. It is one that points to God calling us to know Him better,” Christella Alvarez, director of the Office of Catechetical Ministry, stated.

“Scripture, St. Basil tells us, gives us an example for every occasion. When we want to learn how to live a good life, we should turn back to the great examples we find in the Bible,” it states in the book by Aquilina.

According to Alvarez, adult Catholics need to ask themselves, “How well do I know Scripture? Which parts of the Bible are most difficult for me? Where can I go for help in understanding them better? Do I even know where my Bible is at home?”

Registration for the Pastoral Institute is on the Victoria Diocese website. Those interested also can contact Alvarez, or Alicia Olive, assistant for the Office of Catechetical Ministry, at 361-573-0828 for more information.

For all involved in the faith formation programs offered in the parishes, the Church makes it clear that we need to be formed and have knowledge of the Scriptures. The new Directory for Catechesis states, “All catechesis comes from the Word of God found in the Scriptures and the tradition of the Church. Sacred Scripture, which God has inspired, reaches the depths of the human spirit better than any other word.”

In the words of St. John Chrysostom, “Lord, let your Scriptures be my chaste delight; and let me neither be deceived in them, nor deceive others out of them.”

Different PI classes will follow this one, in a three-year cycle. Those who finish all of the courses are presented with a certificate of completion. Some people have even completed it twice.

This past December, more than 40 people received their certificate of completion, presented by Bishop Cahill.

“I can’t thank Chris Alvarez enough for her organizational skill in putting together this program,”

“Learning about my faith makes me want to know more.”

Melissa Arellano of Victoria

Bishop Cahill said. He also credited Sister Digna Vela, who worked on the program for many years to get it started, calling her the “quarterback of this team.”

Alvarez said there are 13 six-week courses in all. The diocese finds various instructors and adds new classes occasionally. “Over the years, thousands of people have participated in the Pastoral Institute” she said.

When COVID hit, it seemed like a bad sign for the program, but the opposite was true. People were able to tune in virtually or watch the recorded classes on their own time. Participation doubled for the next course, then tripled thanks to technology.

Ann Martin, one of the people who received her certificate of completion for the PI series said, “One of the promises I made to myself was that, upon retirement, I would take one of the PI courses. I made good on that promise, in fact taking the PI twice,” she said. “I’ve always believed in being a lifelong learner and continuing about my faith is part of that journey.”

Martin said the classes are logical and easy to follow so anyone can take them without any prerequisite learning. “This is a blessing for those of us without degrees in theology,” she said.

Taking the series of classes twice was good, Martin said, because she was exposed to different teachers who “gave different perspectives on the same topic.”

Sharon Jamelka a member of Queen of Peace in Sweet Home and St. John the Baptist in Koerth said she signed up herself and dragged a friend along, not knowing that they were in for a three-year journey. But she said she enjoyed it. “It just filled my heart with so much joy and, really deepened my spiritual relationship with God. And I am forever grateful for that.”

Audrey Loos, Jamelka’s friend who took the classes with her said,

“I’m so glad that she did drag me. I come from a very, very religious family. I took 12 years of faith formation, but to learn as an adult at this age is so much different than learning as a child. You are so much more enlightened and blessed.”

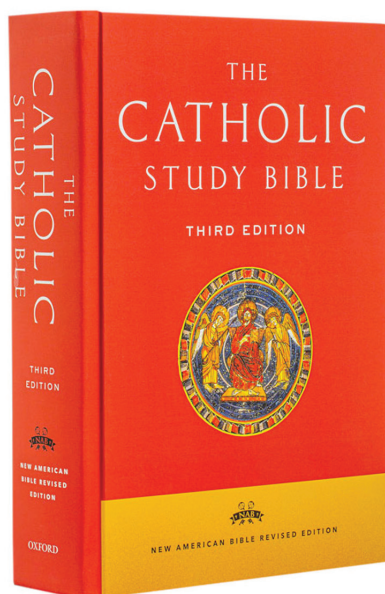
Joe Ryan from Our Lady of Lourdes in Victoria and his wife, Suzie, took the classes together. “I attended this course as a non-Catholic,” Joe said. Suzie is a devout, lifelong Catholic. “I’ve had a desire to convert to the Catholic church for many years but there was some beliefs I had trouble with,” Joe said. “It was through the PI classes that I came to understand and believe.”

And he did convert to the Catholic faith. Suzie said, “I prayed for that for so many

years.” She got Joe to the first class because it was on the Bible. “I know he loves the Bible,” she said. “He came and he stayed and he loved it.”

“Learning about my faith makes me want to know more,” Melissa Arellano of Victoria said. She took classes with her husband, Richard. “We got out of sync with the classes, Thanks to Chris, we were able to finish it because it was recorded. My husband and I enjoyed lots of discussions on the classes.”

Understanding and living the Catholic faith is a lifelong commitment. Each person is called to grow continually and to respond openly to Christ in his/her life, according to Alvarez.



Bishop Brendan Cahill presents Joe and Suzie Ryan with their certificates of completion of the Pastoral Institute. Both have taken all the six-week classes that are spaced out over a three-year period of time. The classes cover the New Testament, the Old Testament, morality, prayer and more. The next three-year cycle begins on Aug. 22 with a class on the Old Testament, taught by Father Jacob Koether. (Janet Jones/The Catholic Lighthouse)



USCCB welcomes *Instrumentum Laboris*

WASHINGTON – On June 20, the Holy See's General Secretariat of the Synod issued the *Instrumentum Laboris* for the First Session of the 2021-2024 Synod: For a Synodal Church: Communion, Participation, and Mission. The *Instrumentum Laboris* will form the basis for the discernment and discussion for the participants of the first session of the XVI Ordinary General Assembly of the Synod of Bishops to be held in October 2023 in the Vatican.

This document comes after the first two stages of the 2021-2024 Synod, the first consisting of local listening sessions held across the world followed by discernment from local bishops' conferences; and a second stage where continental groupings of episcopal conferences conducted discussion and reflection that concluded with the production of seven continental reports that were submitted to the Holy See in March of 2023.

Bishop Daniel E. Flores of Brownsville, chairman of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops' (USCCB) Committee on Doctrine, who has been shepherding the synodal process in the United States, welcomed the document saying, "The *Instrumentum Laboris* presents the People of God with a remarkable opportunity to reflect on what we have learned thus far about the nature of a synodal Church and how we might embrace that more fully. While this document's main purpose is to form the basis of the discernment taking place in Rome this October, I encourage everyone to read, pray and discuss this important document, and to see it in relation to the insights and fruits of their local, national, and continental Synodal consultations."

The *Instrumentum Laboris* consists of two main sections that will guide the discernment of those present at the first session of the Synod in October 2023: a reflection on the experience of a synodal Church thus far; and the articulation of three main priorities for a synodal Church. Centering on the main themes of the Synod, communion, participation, and mission, these three main priorities are then explored in greater detail through a series of fifteen worksheets aimed at supporting the discernment of possible next steps for the Church.

More information regarding the 2021-2024 Synod, including the U.S. National Synthesis and North American Final Document, is available at usccb.org/synod.

From the USCCB Office of Public Affairs

U.S. bishops discuss 'Eucharistic missionaries,' synodality at spring meeting

By LAURETTA BROWN
Catholic News Agency

During the first public session of their spring meeting in Orlando, Fla., the U.S. bishops discussed spreading the love of the Eucharist as part of their three-year Eucharistic Revival initiative, the Holy Father's emphasis on synodality, and the ways in which the two are connected as they heard updates on both efforts.

Synodality and the Eucharist

The morning opened with an address from apostolic nuncio to the United States, Archbishop Christophe Pierre, who told the bishops assembled that "the synodal path is less about a 'program' and more about a way of being Church."

Pierre said synodality is not like GPS technology with turn-by-turn directions but more like a compass where "Jesus Christ and his kingdom are the 'true north,'" and "to find the proper path, we have to immerse ourselves in the reality of our people and listen carefully to the questions and concerns of their hearts."

He also referred to "living the Eucharist as mission" as a guideline for understanding "the synodal style that Jesus has modeled for us, and which the Holy Father is calling us to adopt." He called the Eucharist "a dynamic

sacrament, imbuing everything we do with the character of Christ's outgoing love for his people" because it is Christ's real presence.

Pierre said that the Eucharistic Revival "is a call to let the entirety of our lives be an expression of the Lord's presence among us: a living-out of the union that exists between our humanity, which Christ has taken to himself, and the divinity into which he leads us." He also emphasized the need for the revival to have a missionary character. "To teach the doctrine of the real presence, to promote Eucharistic adoration, and to take Our Lord in procession: These initiatives will undoubtedly bear fruit in the lives of the faithful," he said, "but the fruit will multiply only if the faithful learn that the Eucharist which they receive is meant to make them missionaries — who take the presence of Christ, which is now in them, to people who do not yet know the Lord."

Update on Eucharistic Revival

Bishop Andrew Cozzens of the Diocese of Crookston, Minn., who is heading up the Eucharistic Revival effort, provided the bishops with an update on the initiative Thursday morning. He named some of the successes of its first year, including that 81 percent of dioceses have designated a point person for the revival, Eucharistic preachers have held

over 100 revival events in dioceses across the country, and almost 11,000 prayer partners have committed to praying for the revival.

Cozzens also discussed the planning of a two-month National Eucharistic Pilgrimage starting in May 2024 with four major pilgrimage routes ending at the National Eucharistic Congress on July 16, 2024, in Indianapolis, which will be the culmination of the three-year effort. The bishop called the revival "a generational moment for us," saying the effort is "really a moment where we can call the Church from all corners of the United States together to be set on fire for mission." His image of the event, he said, was people coming in from all over the country "and then being set on fire by their experience here and then those torches going back to parishes across the country."

Cause of the Shreveport Martyrs

In other business, the bishops voted unanimously in favor of advancing the cause on the local level of the beatification and canonization of the Shreveport Martyrs, five French Roman Catholic priests who died ministering to the sick in Shreveport, La., amid the 1873 yellow fever epidemic.

Safe Environment

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

Contact:

- The Texas Department of Family and Protective Services, within **48 hours**, at (800) 252-5400, www.txabusehotline.org, 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 assistance contact Shannon Thomas at (361) 827-7186 or pastoralcare@victoriadiocese.org.



*Assumption of the
Blessed Virgin Mary*

Feast Day Picnic

August 13
10:30 am - 4 p.m.
Ganado

Parish Hall and Grounds

Country Market 10:30 am	Kids Zone 11:00 am
Cake Walk 10:30 am	Live Auction 12:00 pm
Beer Garden 11:00 am	Wine Wheel 11:00 am

Fun for the Whole Family!

BBQ Pork Steak, Sausage & Trimmings
All Plates \$12 Each
Dine in the Parish Hall or Drive Thru
11am-1pm

Raffle Drawing 3 pm
Concession Stand 11 am-3:00 pm
For More Info Call 361-771-3425



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 July puzzle forms to arrive in The Catholic Lighthouse office, P. O. Box 4070, Victoria, TX 77903 by July 31 to be entered into a drawing for a chance to win one of the following books:

For 2023, the monthly winner of the puzzle contest will receive a sampler copy of *Elie’s Spiritual Treasures, Volume 2 – The New Testament: Matthew and Mark* and the monthly winner of the youth contest will receive a sampler copy of *Elie’s Spiritual Treasures, Volume 2 – The New Testament: Matthew and Mark, Children’s Series*.

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

Lucille Klekar from Hallettsville was the May 2023 book winner.

JULY 16, 2023
15TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
READING I – ISAIAH 55:10–11

A **reading** from the **Book** of the **Prophet Isaiah**: **Thus** says the **LORD**: / **Just** as from the **heavens**
/ the **rain** and **snow** come **down** / and do not **return** there / **till** they have **watered** the **earth**, /
making it **fertile** and **fruitful**, / **giving seed** to the **one** who **sows** / and **bread** to the one **who eats**,
/ so **shall** my **word** be / **that** does **forth** from my **mouth**; / my word shall **not** return to me **void**, /
but shall do my **will**, / **achieving** the **end** for **which** I **sent** it.

B	T	D	L	L	I	T	B	L	O	R	D	D	L	O	O	R
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D	O	D	M	I	T	Z	A	F	S	X	F	D	H	I	E	D
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U	I	R	S	U	K	R	C	X	N	U	O	V	H	T	B	N
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L	C	U	F	Z	M	B	N	R	U	T	E	R	L	Q	D	N
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R	K	L	Z	G	N	I	V	E	I	H	C	A	T	A	H	L

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone number: _____

Parish: _____

Age, if 12 or younger _____ Age, if 13 or older _____



Bishop from Goaso visits

VICTORIA -- Bishop Peter Atahuene from the diocese of Goaso in Ghana concelebrated Mass with Bishop Brendan Cahill at the chapel in the Diocese of Victoria chancery recently. He was visiting Victoria and Hostyn where priests from his diocese are currently serving. Bishop Atahuene is wearing the image of Our Lady of Guadalupe while Bishop Cahill is wearing his chasuble with African fabric and symbols. (Janet Jones/The Catholic Lighthouse)

10 Years of Journeys of Faith with Ceci of Pilgrimages!

For details on any of the listed trips, and for online registration, go to www.selectinternationaltours.com!



Mexico City with Bishop Cahill,
August 25-31, 2023
Limited space available!



Italy with Fr. Gabriel Bentil,
September 1-10, 2023
Includes Assisi, Cascia, Siena, Loreto

Marian Pilgrimage with Fr. Nicholas Akindle,
October 1-14, 2023
Travel through France, Spain, and Portugal

Holy Land Pilgrimage with Fr. Oscar Amo,
November 10-20, 2023
Walk with Jesus as we retrace His life from Annunciation to His Birth through His Ministry that leads to His Crucifixion and Resurrection!



Pilgrimages in 2024:

- **Holy Land Pilgrimage with Bishop Cahill**, February 23-March 4
Join our Bishop as we walk with Jesus as we retrace His life from Annunciation to His Birth through His ministry that leads to His Crucifixion and Resurrection!
- **A Lenten Pilgrimage to Holy Land** through the Mysteries of the Holy Rosary with **Fr. Tommy Chen** and **Fr. Kristopher Fuchs**, March 8 - 18
Prepare for the joyous Easter Season with a Lenten pilgrimage to Holy Land!
Online registration is now open!



Meals • Picnics and More

July

Dubina—Sts. Cyril and Methodius Church Feast July 2, Mass at 9 a.m. A fried-chicken and sausage dinner begins at 11 a.m. for \$12 per plate dine in or take out available.

St. John—St. John Parish Picnic, Tuesday, July 4, with Mass at 9 a.m. followed by a flag raising ceremony. A stew and fried-chicken dinner at 10:30 a.m. for \$12 per plate dine in or take out available.

Wharton — CDA Annual Fundraiser, Saturday, July 15, 8 p.m.-midnight (doors open at 7) at the Hungerford Community Center (235 Cypress, Hungerford). Live and silent auctions, raffle and dance to the music of Legacy Band. Tickets are \$10 (single) and \$15 (couple), public is invited. For more information, call 979-532-1466. Proceeds benefit local charities, scholarships and Seminary Education Fund.

Moravia — Ascension Parish Picnic July 16, a fried chicken, stew dinner for \$12 a plate. Music by Mark Halata and Texavia and Texas Sound Check. There will be a cakewalk, auction, games and much more. See ad on pg. 13.

Victoria — Incarnate Word and Blessed Sacrament Convent is having a Come and See on July 22, for ladies to come experience a small piece of religious life. There are NO STRINGS ATTACHED. This event is for single, Catholic women, who are high school seniors and older. Come and see if Jesus is calling you. Be not afraid. If you have any questions please email sister.mariadelrosario@gmail.

com or call 361-575-7111 for more information. You may register for the event by visiting our web site at: <https://iwbsvictoria.org/>

August

Port O'Connor — Knights of Columbus #9088 and Nazareth Academy Annual Fishing Tournament Aug. 4-5. See ad on pg. 14.

Frelsburg — Sts. Peter & Paul Country Festival, Aug. 6, on the church grounds. A fried fish dinner will be served. See ad on pg. 15.

Yoakum — St. Joseph Picnic, Aug. 6, at the Community Center. A stew and sausage dinner will be served. See ad on pg. 5.

Ganado — Assumption of the BVM Feast Day Picnic, Aug. 13 on the parish and hall grounds. See ad on pg. 17.

Victoria — KJZT Society #101 will have a Mass for living and deceased memmber on Aug. 13, 7:30 a.m. at the Cathedral of Our Lady of Victory. A breakfast will follow at the Cathedral Center (St. Gabriel Hall). RSVP by calling Irene at 361-573-2669.

Weimar — St. Michael Harvest Feast, Aug. 13, at Veterans Hall.

Praha — 167th Prazska Pout/Praha Picnic Tuesday, Aug. 15. Mass will be at 10 a.m. Starting at 11 a.m., a stew and fried chicken dinner will be served, dine-in or plates-to-go available. Music starting at 11 a.m. There will be

a cakewalk, games, country store, bingo (2-6 p.m.), and more throughout the day. Auction at 1 p.m. Food available throughout the afternoon and evening.

Hillje — St. Andrew Summer Festival, Aug. 20

Cistern — Sts. Cyril and Methodius Church Picnic, Aug. 27, on the parish grounds.

September

Cuero — Our Lady of Guadalupe Jamica, Sept. 3

Hallettsville — Sacred Heart Fall Picnic, Sept. 3

High Hill — St. Mary's Parish Picnic, Sept. 3

Nada — St. Mary's Parish Festival and Homecoming, Sept. 3

Shiner — Sts. Cyril & Methodius Fall Picnic, Sept. 3

Vanderbilt — St. John Bosco Fall Festival Sept. 3

Yorktown — Holy Cross Church annual festival, Sept. 10, at the Yorktown Community Hall (60 Community Hall Rd.). Mass will begin at 9:30 a.m. in the church (1214 Zorn Rd.). Lunch and activities in the air-conditioned hall at 10:30 a.m. Famous homemade Polish sausage and BBQ beef shoulder clod with trimmings will be served until 2 p.m. The snack bar will then be opened. Also featuring the country store, cakewalk and children's activities, including games. Musical entertainment — polkas, waltzes and classic country will be provided. There will be two raffles and tickets \$5 each or five for \$20. Prizes include various gift certificates. Live auction begins at 1 p.m. in the dance hall. Many handcrafted and unique items will be featured. Those interested in the auction are encouraged to sign up early.

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 — 2023 Dates: 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 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. 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. July 11 in the parish hall at Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary Catholic Church, 108 6th St. in Ganado. The meeting is open to anyone who has experienced the death of a child at any age. For more information, contact Pat Hoelscher 979-257-9984 or phoelscher@victoriadiocese.org.

Healing Through Grace grief support group — Please join us at the Emmaus Center in Victoria on the first and third Wednesdays of each month at 9 a.m. at the Cathedral Center (St. Raphael meeting room). Please call 361-212-0830 for more information and to register.

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.

Ministry of Love Caregiver Support Group — Come to the Emmaus Center on the first Tuesday of each month at 9 a.m. in the Cathedral Center (St. Gabriel Hall.) Please call 361-212-0830 for more information and to register.

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 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 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.helpourmarriage.org>



From left, Father Felix Twumasi, Father Steve Saucer and Father Luke Prihoda pray the rosary with the Hostyn parish family and friends prior to a memorial Mass on June 9.

A few items salvaged from the church fire remain in storage. The only statue from the church to survive is the scorched image of St. Pope John Paul II.

Hostyn parish marks 1-year anniversary of fire with special Mass

Continued from pg. 1

Verlene for being with us through all of this,” Father Felix said. “We have never stopped praying for you, because I know that this is very hard.”

Bishop Brendan Cahill was given a cross fashioned from the ruins as a memento and token of gratitude from the parish. “Ever since we were hit by this tragedy, you have never left us,” Father Felix told him. “You have been a wonderful shepherd.”

A similar gift was given to Father Steve Sauser from St. John parish in Fayetteville (Diocese of Austin), not far from Hostyn. He was one of many priests who came to offer help the day of the fire and continued to be a support to the parish. Father Felix called him “our angel.”

“The day after this incident, we had a meeting here in this room (the parish hall) and we wanted to remain on our grounds here to fight forward,” Father Felix explained. “Father Steve ... brought everything that we needed to say Mass on the 10th of June. And consistently he has been with us.”

The parish fellowship hall has been appropriately arranged and adorned for Masses and has served as a makeshift church since the fire.

For the parish families, bricks that survived from the church building were stamped with an image of the now-gone church and the family names. They were given after the

rosary and Mass at the pavilion where a hamburger supper was served at the end of the evening gathering.

“My wonderful parishioners here: Ever since this happened, you have not only shared ideas with me, but you have committed to all the ideas you have shared, and that makes a difference,” Father Felix said after Mass. He said he offered a survey to the parish so they had a way to share their vision and hope for the building to come, and almost everyone completed the survey.

Bishop Cahill, who celebrated the Mass, acknowledged the sufferings of the church and the Kuntschik family but also the healing that comes from letting other people act as the hands and feet of Jesus to accompany those in need. He said as he and Father Felix considered readings for the Mass, the reading for the day from the Book of Tobit was as appropriate as any. It showed how Tobit was healed from blindness when his son, whose actions were guided by the Angel Raphael, applied fish gall on his eyes.

“What they’re trying to say is something deeper and something true,” Bishop Cahill said. “God is always at work even if we don’t realize it, and bringing healing on the other side.

“We bring healing to each other,” he said. “I can’t heal myself. (The reading) reminds us of the need we have for each other.”

Second-place winner



Response to tragedy keeping hope alive

By JANET JONES
The Catholic Lighthouse
HOSTYN — The Rev. Felix Twumasi and his parishioners of Queen of the Holy Rosary suffered a great loss, but on June 9 when the church was destroyed in an explosion and fire, and on June 20 when parishioner Yelene Kuntschik died from injuries suffered in the tragic fire.

The Catholic Media Association announced this photo, published in the July 2022 edition of *The Lighthouse* as the second-place winner for Spot News Photography for 2022. The association awards are given yearly for a variety of media categories to Catholic publications and other media in the United States and Canada.

See thank you letter
from the parish on pg. 15



A couple walks around the dirt lot where the Queen of the Holy Rosary church building stood until it was destroyed by an explosion and fire on June 9, 2022,



Photo of Queen of the Holy Rosary church building prior to fire in 2022.