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The Cradle of Texas Immigration

OLMC celebrates its 75th year

By JANET JONES
The Catholic Lighthouse

WHARTON – The parish of Our Lady of Mount Carmel celebrated its 75th anniversary on her feast day, June 16. Before the 11 a.m. Mass, celebrated by Bishop Brendan Cahill, the parishioners gathered to share their joy with the rest of the community with a procession through the heart of downtown Wharton.

Father Antonio Perez, their pastor, led the procession in a decorated truck carrying a statue of Our Lady of Mount Carmel and was followed by a trailer with mariachis who played in honor of the occasion and other cars decorated with bright flowers, balloons and streamers.

Special recognition was given to the Missionary Catechists of the Sacred Heart Sisters who have been a significant part of the faith community since their convent there was completed in 1952. They came from Mexico to teach and serve the needs of the Hispanic community and have since been an integral part of the community.

Gloria Rodriguez Lopez was baptized in the church in 1948. She may have been the first child baptized there. When she married, she moved to Richmond, but these days she comes to Mass with her sister, Eva Rodriguez, every week.

Gloria said it was a special day for her. “We loved seeing everybody, especially seeing the Sisters.” She recalled helping the Sisters teach catechism under a shade tree when she was young. She said the parish is “home” to her and Eva.

Bishop Cahill, during his homily said,

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Dear Brothers and Sisters,

As I’m writing this article, I’m preparing to go to World Youth Day with a group of about 30 pilgrims from our diocese. This year, the World Youth Day will be in Lisbon, Portugal. Our pilgrimage will include a visit to the Shrine of Our Lady at Fatima and also a visit to Avila and Madrid in Spain.

Preparing for this trip brings to mind memories from a previous World Youth Day in 2003.

St. John Paul II visited Toronto, Canada, for that World Youth Day. I travelled with a group of young people from The Woodlands. My clearest memory is the moment we heard the helicopter approaching the field where the Holy Father would be celebrating the Mass for the hundreds of thousands of young people who had gathered. It was like a bolt of energy passing through the crowd when we heard the sound that indicated the Pope was about to arrive.

Up to that point, the trip had become a challenging journey. We had walked a few hours with just a few things on our backs to get to that field. I think it was hot and sunny on the hike. Once we got to the place, we set out sleeping bags and prepared the places where we would spend the night. That evening we prayed and sang; there was a large concert and people offered testimony about their faith. We believed that Jesus Christ rose from the dead, sent the Holy Spirit on the Apostles to establish the Church and promised that the gates of hell could not destroy His Church. To be in a field with hundreds of thousands of other believers and then to be able to celebrate the Holy Eucharist with the Successor of Peter powerfully intensified that expression of faith.

This year, I won’t be sleeping out in long lines for the restroom and the hard ground on which I was trying to sleep. When we heard the sound of the helicopter I was snapped out of my querulous mood and brought back to the reality we were blessed to experience. We believe that Jesus Christ rose from the dead, sent the Holy Spirit on the Apostles to establish the Church and promised that the gates of hell could not destroy His Church. To be in a field with hundreds of thousands of other believers and then to be able to celebrate the Holy Eucharist with the Successor of Peter powerfully intensified that expression of faith.

To the hard ground – that you may be comforted in times of sorrow and strengthened by the love of God that has given us. May God bless you and your families with peace and the joy of the Holy Spirit.

Let’s keep each other in prayer.
+Brendan

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Happy birthday, Bishop Emeritus David Fellhauer! August 19

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Bishop Cahill’s Schedule

**August**

1-11 World Youth Day Trip

12 5 p.m. Mass for Catholic Daughters Leadership Workshop at the Spiritual Renewal Center

13 9 a.m. Mass at the Cathedral of Our Lady of Victory

14 2:30 p.m. Communities of Faith meeting

15 Chancery Office Closed for the Holy Day of Obligation: Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary

16 6:30 a.m. Morning Air Radio interview

10 a.m. Praha Picnic Mass

16 5:30 p.m. Installation Mass for Father Dalton Ervin at St. Philip’s Catholic Church; El Campo

18 Noon Mass with Missionary Catechists

19 6 p.m. Installation Mass for Father James Dvorak as pastor of St. Anthony in Columbus and St. Roch in Mentz held at St. Anthony Church; Columbus

20 Candidacy Mass at St. Mary’s Seminary; Houston

21 Noon lunch with IWBS sisters at Incarnate Word Convent

22 5 p.m. Liturgical Commission; Chancery

23 9 a.m. Legion of Mary Praesidium meeting; Cathedral Center

24 6 p.m. Deacon’s Community Board meeting; Hallettsville

25 National Catholic Partnership on Disability Board Meeting; virtual

25 6 p.m. Mass and Confessions at Sacred Heart Catholic Church; Hallettsville

25-31 Pilgrimage to Our Lady of Guadalupe Basilica; Mexico City

**September**

1 Mass and celebration for Bishop Guillory’s 50th anniversary of ordination to the priesthood and 80th birthday; Beaumont

2 4 p.m. Confirmation Mass for Sts. Peter and Paul and St. Roch at St. Roch; Mentz

3 9 a.m. Mass at the Cathedral of Our Lady of Victory

4 Chancery Office Closed for Labor Day
Sister Louise Miksch, CDP, passes away

SAN ANTONIO — Sister Louise Miksch, CDP, also known as Sister Henry Louise or Earline Louise, entered eternal life on July 13, 2023, at the age of 81. She was the fifth of 14 children born to Henry and Louise (Lobpries) Miksch on Nov. 5, 1941, in Schulenburg. She answered God’s call to become a Sister of Divine Providence on Sept. 7, 1960, and professed first vows on June 22, 1963.

Sister Louise’s life was dedicated to faith, service, and education. Growing up in a family where faith, work, and play were valued, Sister Louise developed a deep understanding of the importance of these aspects. Education held a special place in Sister Louise’s heart. Her journey in education began as a Catholic school student from grades one to 12, where she admired the Sisters of Divine Providence who taught her and inspired her to follow in their footsteps.

Sister Louise embarked on a lifelong journey of service and teaching. She received her degree in education and also received a master’s degree in guidance and counseling, from Our Lady of the Lake, followed by a master of theology from St. Mary’s University.

Over the years, she served in various schools across Texas. From 1964, when she began teaching first grade at Sts. Peter and Paul School in New Braunfels, to 1983, when she served as a program director for Continuing Religious Education at St. Mary’s University in San Antonio, Sister Louise’s dedication and love for teaching were unwavering.

From 1985 to 2010, she extended her reach beyond the classroom, including serving as Pastoral Associate in Hostyn, Cistern, and Plum from 1994 to 2003. From 2010 to 2022, Sister Louise served as co-director of pastoral care at Our Lady of the Lake Convent Center.

Beyond her professional contributions, Sister Louise was deeply committed to her faith and found solace in prayer. Growing up, she cherished moments of quiet reflection on the farm and recognized the presence of God in every aspect of her life. Sister Louise’s faith was the foundation that guided her actions, and she viewed each day as a precious gift from Providence.

Music was another cherished aspect of Sister Louise’s life. She grew up in a musical family that loved to dance, and her appreciation for music continued throughout her life, bringing joy and inspiration to those around her.

Sister Louise Miksch’s life was a testament to her unwavering faith, her commitment to education and her compassionate service to others. She will be deeply missed by her siblings, extended family, her Sisters and Associates of Divine Providence, and the countless lives she touched throughout her journey.

She is survived by her siblings Alvin (and Irene), Leroy (and Pat), Henry (and Gloria), Vernell Beran (and Tony), Sister Helen Marie, CDP, Linda Doster, Harlen (and Jane), Diane Cox (and Mike), David (and Karen), Dennis (and Debbie) and all her Sisters and Associates of Divine Providence. She is also survived by numerous nieces, nephews, cousins, and their families. She was preceded in death by her parents; siblings Clarence Miksch, Carolyn McCoy and Larry Miksch; brothers-in-law Fredie Doster, Mike McCoy, Jack Frewick; and sister-in-law Bernice Miksch; nephews Tony Beran Jr. and Clarence Miksch Jr.

Her Mass of Resurrection took place July 21 at Annunciation Chapel at Our Lady of the Lake Convent Center. In lieu of flowers, memorial gifts may be made to the Sisters of Divine Providence, 603 S.W. 24th St., San Antonio, TX 78207-4619.

Sister Paschaline’s brother Albert Kutac dies

YOAKUM: Albert V. Kutac, age 70, passed away Tuesday, July 18. He was born April 23, 1953, in Yoakum to Louis and Anna Marie Honc Kutac.

He worked in bridge construction and was owner of Corner Stop and was a member of St. Joseph Catholic Church. He was a graduate of St. Paul High School. He enjoyed tending to his cattle and ranch. When he worked in bridge construction he would fly his own plane home on weekends so he could spend time with his family. He supported St. Joseph Catholic Church and Sts. Cyril & Methodius Catholic Church parishes. He also supported FFA and 4-H.

Survivors: sisters, Sister Paschaline Kutac of Yoakum along with nieces and nephews, is the brother of Betty (and Loyd) Mihalis, Lucille (and Robert) Kinnard, Virginia (and Estell) Doster, Barbra (and Fred) Doster, Joan (and Robert) McCutcheon, Carol (and Bob) Steiner, Lois (and Fred) Goss, Sharon (and Lee) Rau, Laurette (and Fred) Hoss, and Doreen (and Jim) Lochhead; brother, Robert (and Nancy) Kutac; nieces and nephews; aunts, uncles, cousins and their families. He was preceded in death by his parents; siblings Clarence Kutac, Everton Kutac and Aurelius Kutac.

Memorial contributions may be given to St. Joseph Catholic Church, Incarnate Word Convent in Victoria or donor’s choice.

Msgr. Thomas Palmer, 92, former associate pastor at Our Lady of Victory, dies

SAN ANTONIO — Msgr. Thomas Palmer, 92, a native of Ireland who served in active ministry in the priesthood in the Archdiocese of San Antonio for more than five decades and was associate pastor at Our Lady of Victory in the 1960s, died at the Padua Place residence for retired priests in San Antonio on July 15.

Msgr. Palmer was born on July 24, 1930, in Ballyonskill, Attanag, County Kilkenny, Ireland. Upon his ordination to the priesthood at St. Kieran’s College in Kilkenny on June 8, 1958, he came to serve the Catholic Church in South Texas in September of that year.


He was named a monsignor by Pope John Paul II in 1989, and later appointed dean of the Hondo Deanery by Archbishop Patrick Flores in 1992. During his priesthood, he also served as Scout chaplain for the Hondo Deanery, moderator for the Council of Catholic Youth in the Hondo Deanery, director of Sodalities for the Hondo Deanery, spiritual director for the Victoria Curia of the Legion of Mary, and assisted in offering the sacrament of reconciliation for the Sisters of Divine Providence and the Missionary Servants of St. Anthony.

“I am grateful to him and his family, and to all of the priests from Ireland who have ministered so well in this archdiocese through the years. We have been truly blessed through their presence,” said Archbishop Gustavo García-Siller, MSpS.

The funeral Mass was July 22 at Blessed Sacrament Church in San Antonio with Auxiliary Bishop Gary Janak presiding. Burial will be in Ireland.
Please remember in prayer the priests of the Diocese of Victoria, who were ordained during the month of August:

Rev. Antonio Perez  08/18/90      Our Lady of Mount Carmel Church, Wharton

Rev. Donald Ruppert       8/23/2022
Rev. Msgr. Celestino Say   8/04/2015
Rev. James Kelly          8/20/1986
Rev. Alphonse Padalecki   8/24/1992

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)
FATHER PHILIP BRUNE
Special to the Lighthouse

“Healing.” “Life-changing.” “I grew closer to God this week.” These are some of the phrases used by those who went to Antigua, Guatemala, on the Coram Deo Texas Missions trip in July.

A group of 27 people, led by the Coram Deo board, went to Las Obras, the largest healthcare provider in Guatemala that was established and is run by the Franciscans to do whatever was needed and to be and see the face of God (Coram Deo) in everyone we met.

In 2008, when Father Dan Morales started these trips, he made sure that the group specialized in responding to the needs of Las Obras and did not impose our own ideas on our hosts. The group came to serve whatever needed to be done, no matter how mundane.

We helped by pulling weeds, painting break room walls, visiting with the elderly and disabled, creating a jungle scene mural with a zebra wearing a priest’s collar for the new children’s malnutrition center, participated in a Eucharistic procession with the residents, prayed with them, and did whatever else needed to be done -- all of this to show our solidarity and friendship with our brothers and sisters in Guatemala. In return we received so much more than we could have ever offered and discovered that it is the “poor and disabled” who ministered to us in our own emotional, psychological and spiritual poverty.

Another happy part of the trip consisted of a presentation by Teddy Hawes of a $6,000 dividend check on behalf of the Father Dan Morales Endowment to Las Obras to help pay for their operating expenses. It was a real joy to be able to present these first fruits from the endowment after being fully invested for a year. The goal of the endowment is to be able to cover the $9 million in annual operating expenses for Las Obras, and this will become reality through the international coalition that has come together to support the mission of Las Obras. If you would like to learn more about the Father Dan Morales Endowment, please visit frdanendowment.org.

Along with our support for Las Obras, another part of the trip was a pilgrimage. We prayed at the tomb of Santo Hermano Pedro, a third order Franciscan who only spent the last 15 years of his life in Antigua, but because of his service to the poor and sick forever changed the city and became a saint in the process.

We also took a trip to Lake Atitlan where Blessed Stanley Rother, a diocesan priest from Oklahoma, served the Mayans and had the New Testament and Mass translated into their native language, even though he couldn’t master Latin in the seminary. In 1981, he was martyred by the U.S.-backed Guatemalan government for burying the bodies of his parishioners whom government assassins had kidnapped, tortured, killed and thrown into the ditches in order to suppress the rebellion. We offered Mass in the room where, to this day, you can see the bullet hole in the floor and the bloodstain on the wall where Blessed Stanley Rother gave his life for his people.

The Coram Deo mission trip changed the lives of Father Dan and so many people who have made the journey over the past 15 years to encounter the face of God in others. It is a time of service, solidarity and synodality in listening to the needs and experiences of those we served. Sharing the graces we received and listening to one another’s experiences brought great consolation and healing to all of the members of the group so that we could come back and better live our vocations.

Looking back on this experience, we have come to realize that it was a microcosm of what the Lord asks the Church to be here on earth, so that we may prepare ourselves for how we shall live eternally in heaven -- Coram Deo -- before the face of God.

* Father Philip Brune is pastor of St. Robert Bellarmine Catholic Church in El Campo and spiritual director for the Father Dan Morales Endowment.

St. Mary’s Church – Nada, TX
(Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary)
Festival & Homecoming
Sunday, September 3, 2023

RAFFLE DRAWING
Kid Games & Fun
Bingo 1–7 PM
BBQ Beef & Sausage Dinner / 11 am – 1:30 pm
Admits & Plates to go / $12 – Children under 12 / $6
BBQ Sandwiches, Nachos, Sweets & More 1:30 – 7 pm
Auction 1:00 PM
Dancing / Listening Music Inside Hall
A decade of planning, fundraising, and building came to fruition on July 29 as St. Mary’s Catholic Center, which serves Catholic students of the public Texas A&M University in College Station, dedicated a new church.

With a student population of nearly 75,000, Texas A&M is the largest university in the United States, with about a quarter of its students identifying as Catholic. Bishop Joe Vásquez of Austin was the principal celebrant of the dedication Mass with eight other bishops in attendance.

Among the eight bishops scheduled to attend were Cardinal Daniel DiNardo of the Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston as well as Bishop of San Angelo Michael Sis and Bishop of Tulsa David Konderla, both of whom are former pastors of St. Mary’s.

“We’re very excited as the building of this church has been 10 years in the making,” said Father Chris Smith, outgoing St. Mary’s associate pastor and a 2010 Aggie graduate. “We anticipate this church will be a beacon of light in the midst of a dark culture, a well-spring of hope.”

The center is located across the street from Texas A&M on property owned by the Diocese of Austin. Ministering to its Catholic population has long been a focus of the region’s bishops; three priests (two of whom are Aggie graduates), as well as deacons, consecrated women of the Apostles of the Interior Life, campus ministers, FOCUS missionaries, and other important support staff are all in place to serve students. And, as students are typically of modest means, a five-member development staff works to raise funds for this crucial ministry as well as the capital campaign to raise $33 million to build the new church.

The new church is the third built to serve Aggie students. The first was constructed in 1927 and the second in 1958. In recent years, its nine weekend Masses were often “standing room only,” Smith reported, making it clear a new church would be needed.

At 1,500, the seating capacity is nearly double of the previous church, and, Smith continued, it was built to be both beautiful and traditional “so that it will be a place where students can encounter Christ through art and architecture.”

According to the dedication booklet, the new church:

— Is oriented to the East, as Catholic churches have been traditionally built, a practice rooted in Scripture. “For as the lightning comes from the east and flashes as far as the
We shouldn’t demand more than the earth can provide

**EDITOR’S NOTE:**
This is the eighth in a 10-part series by Sister Marian Sturm, IWBS, about seeing climate change through a faith lens. The series will appear monthly through October.

Our Creator has made a magnificent, complex world, and it is affected by what we humans do to it. Our use of a vast majority of its resources not only harms us, but also deprives people in other countries of the food, healthcare and education they need as ecosystems are failing.

When something old falls apart, change happens. In the spiritual life, the pain of something old falling apart invites us to listen at a deeper level, which can force us to go to a place we usually would not go. The mystics tell us that this place does not feel good because as Jesus said: “It is a narrow gate and a hard road that leads to life, and only a few find it.” (Matthew 7:14).

He says this after saying that we must “treat others as you would like them to treat you.” (Matthew 7:12), knowing how difficult it is to change our reference point from ourselves as the center of the universe.

While our consumer society usually considers more as better, Meister Eckhart said, “The spiritual life is more about subtraction than it is addition.” When we let go of wanting more, we become free for what is real, true and what works, now and in the long run. Our freedom lies in realizing that everything is a gift from God and must be returned to God. “The land must not be permanently sold because the land is mine. You are just immigrants and foreign guests of mine.” (Leviticus 25:23) We accomplish this by giving to others what rightly belongs to them, as well as to us.

Because of the destruction of natural ecosystems by overgrazing, deforestation, unsustainable agricultural land conversion and dependency on fossil fuels, the water cycle of the earth is changing, causing droughts, melting glaciers, rising sea levels and ocean acidification. We are simply demanding more than the earth can provide.

Reducing our personal and collective carbon footprint is the most essential step we can take so all can live within the means of our planet. International environment agreements have prompted others to begin working towards this goal.

Denmark has been replacing its coal energy with wind and biofuels since the 1970s. In 2014, their carbon dioxide emissions dropped by 6.7 metric tons. In 2019, a new climate law was passed to reduce the country’s 1990 carbon emissions level to 70 percent by 2030. A combination of wind, sun, water, biomass and geothermal heat will be used for carbon neutrality by 2050. Every five years, new emission targets will be set, holding the Minister for Climate and Energy accountable.

Iceland, under the Kyoto Protocol, provided almost all heating and electricity by renewable hydro and geothermal energy. Under the Paris Agreement, Iceland aims to cut its greenhouse gas emissions by utilizing biofuel, hydrogen, methane, electric power and other means to decrease their dependence on fossil-fuel-run planes, ships and cars. A radical method, called “Carb Fix,” captured and sequestered 90 percent of 2018 CO2 emissions, causing a one-third reduction of them. This action aims to make Iceland carbon neutral before 2040. All companies plan to work as a cooperative of diverse industries committed to becoming carbon neutral.

In 2003, San Francisco set a goal of Zero Waste by 2020. In 2009 the city implemented a residential and commercial curbside program, collecting recyclables, compostable materials of food scraps, food-soiled paper and yard trimmings, and any remaining trash with no landfill or incineration technology. More than 2 million tons of food scraps, yard trimmings, and other compostable materials were collected for compost and used by local farmers and wineries in Napa and Sonoma counties. There was nearly an 80 percent diversion by 2012.

Pope Francis says, “The effects of the present imbalance can only be reduced by our decisive action, here and now. We need to reflect on our accountability before those who will have to endure the dire consequences.” (Laudato Si’ #161)

Contact Sister Marian at maristurm@yahoo.com.
The Kingdom of God is worth more than all we possess

EDITOR’S NOTE: This is an untitled sermon written for the 17th Sunday of Ordinary Time. The parables mentioned in this sermon are found in the Gospel of Matthew, Chapter 13, Verses 44-50.

When Jesus asked his hearers whether they had understood him and they said yes, he said, “Every scribe who is learned in the reign of God is like the head of a household who can bring from his store both the new and the old.”

The meaning is that one who already has a fine heritage of knowledge of the law and prophets can understand much more easily the teachings of Christ … he still knows what he knew before, but now he has received additional knowledge, which, furthermore, illuminates his old knowledge.

When a person follows Christ, his gifts and talents are not left behind, but rather, fulfilled and enriched.

Certainly, the reign of God is here, like a buried treasure or a priceless pearl. It is God’s plan quietly working in a world full of sorrow and sin. His reign is present everywhere where Christ’s love is practiced:
• in the misery and filth of India where Mother Teresa ministers to the poor;
• in our own hospitals and nursing homes where our cheer breaks up the loneliness;
• in the middle of a quarrel where one party ends it with a hug.

We have come to the possession of the reign of God through the happy providence of being born into a Christian family and a Christian world.

Regardless of how far along each of us is right now on the way to the fulfillment of God’s kingdom, or how often we ask, “Are we almost there?” every sign that points the way reads “love.”

Anyone who has ever traveled with a young child knows that the question that the child will ask the most is, “Are we almost there?” There is no way around it. You can answer the question in miles or minutes, or you can say we’ll be there by dinner, you can snap or lose your temper, but the same old question will surface again and again – “Are we almost there?”

Of course, a child’s ideas of space and time are very limited. We adults can tell much better how far along we are; still, we check the map and the road signs and the landmarks. We haven’t really stopped asking; we just keep it to ourselves.

In this life, as a pilgrim people, we are always on a journey. We never know how many more years or months or days it is to the Kingdom of Heaven. But we are already in the earthly phase of the kingdom, where we must let God show us the way.

Some individuals come across the reign of God by happy coincidence, like the man who found the buried treasure while working in the field, while others find it only after diligent search, like the merchant looking for fine pearls.

The parables about the buried treasure and the fine pearls are two more fine examples of how Jesus used familiar experiences to teach sublime truths.

Palestine was one of the most fought over and most invaded countries on earth, and it was not unusual for those fleeing an invasion to bury their valuables in the hope of digging them up again on their return. The earth was considered the safest bank of all.

The parable about the pearl was also very appropriate because, in the ancient world, pearls had a special place in the hearts of men. People enjoyed pearls not just because of their dollar value, but they loved to handle and contemplate them. A pearl was regarded as the loveliest of all possessions.

In both parables, the point is that the reign of God is to be treasured above everything else and is worthy of every effort and sacrifice.

The parable about the net teaches that God’s kingdom, while it is on its pilgrimage, includes unworthy members who will be dealt with at the judgment.

Lord Jesus, thank you for bringing into being the reign of God among us. Help us to make every sacrifice to possess it securely. Grant that, at the end of our struggles, we might come to the fulfillment of all your promises in the Father’s kingdom. Amen.
A friend and I were out of town celebrating her birthday. We went to check in to our hotel, and I was so amazed by the beauty of the landscaping and the design it had on the outside. We walked in and, again, the beauty of the decor kept me in awe — in so much awe that I didn’t notice it was a tad bit warm in the lobby area.

My friend did notice and immediately asked if the air conditioning was broken. We were told that it was broken in the lobby area, but that the rooms were not affected.

This was a lie.

When we got to our room, we noticed it was very warm, and my friend went to complain to the front desk. She came back and said we were given another room where she was assured the air conditioning was working. We moved all our items to the other room and were once again met with a warm room. By then we were both tired, so we decided just to accept it and go to bed.

When I went to lock the room door, I noticed the door did not lock. Again we were given another chance. If they had told us the A/C was broken and wouldn’t be fixed that night, giving us the choice to stay or not instead of having us run around the building under false pretenses, then I would have appreciated their honesty and known this was a business with integrity. Things break when we least expect, and we have no control over that. I would have understood had the people been honest with us to begin with.

This whole experience made me think of how often we are concerned about our appearances and what others see than what is really on the inside. Does our outside match our inside? Are we more concerned about our reputation than our character?

How do we know if we are being authentic?

Part of the charm of the Sisters of the Incarnate Word is that we be like crystal vases, that people may see Jesus through us. We must be close to Him and know Him so that we are able to show Him to others.

We all have chapters in our book of life that we wouldn’t want to read aloud. We all have scars inside and our hearts have been broken; just because we may have done things we regret in the past, it does not mean we can’t be authentic or that we can’t show others the love Jesus has for them.

It is up to us to do the inner work -- to overcome what is broken on the inside -- to grow in our relationship with Jesus Christ. As our relationship with Jesus grows, we will see His love for us, then have the need to show how much He loves everyone. His love would shine through us even without us realizing it. Just like the song says, “They will know we are Christians by our love.” When we have a close relationship with Jesus, it shows in how we treat others.

Just like with the hotel, it was their responsibility to make sure the doors lock and it was their responsibility to be honest. It is our responsibility to heal the wounds we have and it is our responsibility to be genuine. The hotel staff would probably call their maintenance personnel or a handyperson to fix their A/C and their doors; we call upon the Divine Physician to help us heal.

St. Teresa of Avila said that knowledge of oneself is like the bread that we are to eat with every meal. This was her way of saying this is an ongoing project: We work to understand ourselves better so that we can better understand our relationship with God. Always remember that, while you are doing your interior work, the only approval you should seek is that of our God. God is the only one who knows you inside out. He knows if we are wearing masks, He sees us when we take them off and He still loves us.

If what you are doing, if what you are working on is bringing you closer to God, if you are changing and becoming Christ-like, let no one’s opinion or judgment stop you from stepping out on the water to walk with Jesus. Once you are out there with Him, let nothing distract you, and never let go of His hand.

“An authentic faith – which is never comfortable or completely personal – always involves a deep desire to change the world, to transmit values, to leave this earth somehow better than we found it.” - Pope Francis.

Contact Sister Maria del Rosario Resendez by e-mailing her at bishopsecretary.dov@gmail.com.
Second Hispanic Conference set for Sept. 16

Father Torres is a priest of the Franciscan Friars of the Renewal based in the Bronx, N.Y. He is the founder of Corazón Puro, an organization dedicated to the formation of young people. In addition, he has been a host on EWTN and is one of the official preachers of the National Eucharistic Revival.

Finally, Sister Miriam Perez, who for many years guided the Hispanic Ministry in the Diocese of Victoria and was the coordinator of the V Encuentro for the diocese, bringing many fruits for our Hispanic communities, will talk to us about “Mary Mother of the Eucharist.”

Aldo Camacho, director of the Office of Hispanic Ministry said, “This conference is the time of the year where all the Hispanic communities of the diocese come together to celebrate our faith together as brothers and sisters. This year with the Eucharistic theme, Jesus Christ invites us to return to the source and summit of our faith in the Eucharistic celebration. It is a moment to revive our faith, understanding and adoration in the real presence of Christ in the Eucharist.”

Cost is $25 before Aug. 31 (early registration), and $35 from Sept. 1 to 11. You can register on the website at victoriadiocese.org/conferencia-hispana. For more information please call Camacho at the Office of Hispanic Ministry at 361-573-0828, Ext. 2227.

Aggies celebrate new church

Continued from pg. 6

Where do you find rest in Jesus?
“"I slept in the chapel"

When St. Mary’s Catholic Center was still a mission parish of St. Joseph’s, the Blessed Sacrament was always removed after Sunday Mass and returned to the St. Joseph’s Church in Bryan until the next Sunday. Fr. Gleissner decided that the Eucharist needed to be closer to his Aggies and so in he asked the Bishop for permission to leave the Blessed Sacrament in the Chapel.

There was no one living at the chapel and the Bishop said that this could only be done if someone would spend the night in the side room off the altar.

Vaclav “V.T.” Kallus (Aggie Class of 1929) who was from the Wied and Victoria, wrote in his memoirs, “Fr. Gleissner approached me and I was ready to do that, so my junior year I slept in the chapel. Of course, I still belonged to the Corps of Cadets on the campus but at night I was there. This had a big impact on me. My room was right next to the altar. You do get a different feeling when you feel you are that close to the Blessed Sacrament. And that’s what I really appreciated.”
IWBS Victoria joins others in U.S. and Mexico

By SISTER KATHLEEN GOIKE, OVISS
Special to the Lighthouse

July 2, 2023, marked a historical date for seven independent Incarnate Word and Blessed Sacrament Congregations in the U.S. and Mexico who joined together to form one Order of the Incarnate Word and Blessed Sacrament. The seven Congregations who make up the new Order are the following:

• Sisters of the Incarnate Word and Blessed Sacrament, with its central government in the Diocese of Corpus Christi;
• Religious of the Order of the Incarnate Word and Blessed Sacrament, with its central government in the Diocese of Gómez Palacio (Mexico);
• Religious of the Order of the Incarnate Word and Blessed Sacrament, with its central government in the Archdiocese of Guadalajara (Mexico);
• Order of the Incarnate Word and Blessed Sacrament of Mixcoac, with its central government in the Primate Archdiocese of Mexico (Mexico);
• Order of the Incarnate Word and Blessed Sacrament of Teziutlan, with its central government in the Diocese of Papantla (Mexico);
• Congregation of Religious of the Incarnate Word, with its central government in the Primate Archdiocese of Mexico (Mexico), and
• Sisters of the Incarnate Word and Blessed Sacrament, with its central government in the Diocese of Victoria.

The formal Decree from Rome granting permission for the above seven Incarnate Word and Blessed Sacrament groups to form one Order was read publicly in French, Spanish and English in Lyon, France, at a Mass celebrated in the Chapel of Fourvière on July 2.

Sister María de la Paz Padilla Rendón, OVISS, superior general, in an official communication to the archbishops and bishops where the seven congregations reside and work stated, “The Dicastery for Institutes of Consecrated Life and Societies of Apostolic Life approves and confirms the union of our seven religious Institutes to form a single religious institute of pontifical right, which now has the name of Order of the Incarnate Word and Blessed Sacrament, with its central government in the Archdiocese of Madrid, Spain.”

The Sisters of the Incarnate Word and Blessed Sacrament of Victoria, Texas rejoice and give thanks to God for this momentous time in our history and to our Foundress, Venerable Jeanne Chezard de Matel, who centuries earlier said in prayer to the Incarnate Word: “I have always rejoiced in being a daughter of your Church. I beg you that all the daughters of your Order may rejoice in this blessed filiation.” We join our Mother Foundress in rejoicing also as daughters of our Church.

Sister María de la Paz Padilla Rendón urges all to support this Order as she writes, “‘With these sentiments, we ask your blessing and your prayer for each of the religious of our Order in this new journey as one, so that we may faithfully live our charism and be before the world ‘a living memorial of Jesus’ way of living and acting as the Incarnate Word.’”

Together as one voice, we proclaim in jubilation, “Praised be the Incarnate Word and the Most Blessed Sacrament.”

• Sister Kathleen Goike is superior general for the Victoria congregation of the Incarnate Word Sisters.

Celebrating many years

John McQuillen, long tenured chair of the Diocese of Victoria’s Lay Pension Plan retired recently. His last meeting was July 18 and the board celebrated his 30 plus years of service at the meeting. McQuillen, left, is pictured with Bishop Brendan Cahill and Billie Macha, the newly appointed DOV Lay Pension Chair. In the photo on the right, Bishop Cahill imparts some words of appreciation for McQuillen’s service. (Photos: Regina Matus-Janak/The Catholic Lighthouse)
VICTORIA – The Office of Catechetical Ministry has released the lineup of workshops for the 35th Catholic Conference, “One in Communion, One in Participation, One in Mission,” which takes place Sept. 23 at St. Joseph High School.

The conference is for anyone who is interested in learning more about the Church and its teachings. Registration opens Aug. 1 and participants may register at www.victoriadiocese.org. Cost is $35 per person and the deadline to register is Sept. 14.

This year’s conference also includes time for round-table discussions for participants to meet and share their thoughts after the workshops. And Mass will be celebrated at 4 p.m. by Bishop Brenan Cahill.

For more information, contact Christella Alvarez, director of the Office of Catechetical Ministry, at calvarez@victoriadiocese.org, or Alicia Olive, OCM assistant, at alicia@victoriadiocese.org. Or call the chancery at 361-573-0828.

There are two keynote addresses. First Father Juan Molina, in his keynote address, will focus on the three words we have been given for the synod (communion, participation and mission) and how they relate to our identity as a Eucharistic people called to be the salt of the earth and the light of the world.

Bishop Brendan Cahill will give the second keynote titled “Gender and Faith: The Good news of our Bodies.” In today’s world filled with competing perspectives and many voices, who are we and what we believe can get confusing. He will explore the questions, What is a man? What is a woman? What is Love? He also will reflect on some insights from “What it Means to be Human,” by O. Carter Snead.

Below is the list of the English and Spanish workshops from which participants can choose. Workshops designated with “A” take place during the first part of the day, and the “B” workshops are after lunch.


We have all struggled to adapt sacramental preparation for persons with learning difficulties and often offer the very basics as a result. How do we begin to rethink what it means to accompany persons among us who have learning differences? And what does that look like to offer resource for all?

A2: Youth Ministry and Discipleship – Michael Gormley

Youth ministry is not about making Catholic kids feel good about Catholicism while they are in junior high or high school. It is about forming lifelong disciples of Jesus Christ. This workshop will talk about evangelizing students, accompanying them to Christ, and common obstacles to discipleship for young people. (Repeated)

A3: Lord, Teach Us to Pray – Sister M. Clare Underbrink

This is a new look at a traditional prayer. In this workshop, we will explore deeper levels of meaning in the Our Father, and discover creative ways to pray with it and share it with students and others. (Repeated)

A4: Eucharistic Adoration and the Liturgy – Kirby Hlavaty

There is a movement in which more and more of the faithful are drawn to Eucharistic Adoration. Is Adoration connected to the Liturgy? Should we do one or the other? In this workshop, Father Kirby will offer insight into the history of Adoration, and expound on the meaning of Eucharist as sacrifice, relationship and encounter.

A5: What is the Kerygma, and What Difference Does it Make? (Sponsored by Our Sunday Visitor) – Dr. Joseph White

Wondering how to help learners and their families understand why faith formation is so important? Want to instill learners with a desire to grow closer to Christ and his Church? The Directory for Catechesis places kerygma, the essential core of the Gospel message, front and center in our catechesis. In this session, we’ll explore the kerygma and discuss practical ways to share it with our learners.

A6: The Gospel of the Family (Sponsored by Bayard) – John Osman

Not all families and parents are the same. Learn how to proclaim the “Gospel of the Family” to the wide variety of families in our community. In this session you’ll learn about six different types of religious education parents, how to foster their strengths and improve their ability to serve as the main faith formators of their children. (Repeated)

A7: Getting Ready for the Year of Mark (Sponsored by Loyola Press) – Bill Smith

The Gospel of Mark will be proclaimed in our coming liturgical year. Mark lets Jesus’ actions show us who Jesus is rather than his teachings. We’ll take a few moments to talk about the Gospel and then open our Bibles and look at Mark’s main themes. Please bring your own Bible and a highlighter, too.

A8: The Eucharist – Jesus’ Gift of Himself to Us – Father Greg Korenek

Among the sacraments in the Catholic Church, the Eucharist is the Most Blessed Sacrament, for in it, Jesus is present to us body, blood, soul and divinity. With the Last Supper being a Passover meal celebrated by Jesus with his apostles, in this workshop, we will explore some of the Old Testament connections with the Eucharist which Jesus instituted at the Last Supper. This workshop will also expound on basic truths of the Eucharist as found in the Church’s theology of the Eucharist. (Repeated)

A9: Prayer: Communicating with God – Sister Digna Vela

Good communication is one of the most important aspects of any marriage, friendship or other relationship. This also applies to the most important relationship of all – our relationship with God. Thus, understanding prayer as personal communication in our relationship with God is key. Come to this workshop to get a deeper understanding of what this means to your spiritual life.

A10: Making Good use of a Parish’s “Digital Church” – Helen Osman

In the “Digital Continent,” a parish’s website is as essential as its church building. This workshop offers a road map for a parish, regardless of its resources or current digital state, to make its website a hub, or a digital church, from which information can flow (both outward and incoming) via various channels (i.e. bulletins, social media, emails), always referring back to the parish website.

A11: The Body of Christ Gathered and Sent – Leontia Roesch

This workshop will invite participants to consider how the Introductory Rite gathers us as the Body of Christ and how the parallel Dismissal Rite concludes our communal celebration with a mission that we may become what we have received. (Repeated)

A12: Music for Liturgy – Greg Benz

B13: Learning Differences and How to Implement Helpful Resources into Your Classroom: Pt. 2 – Melissa Alvarez

Planning and implementing lesson plans takes time and preparation. We’ll dive into some of those techniques and facilitate how to transfer those skills into every classroom.

B14: Eucharistic Ministry for the Sick – Laurie Baustista

This workshop focuses on the practical, theological and medical aspects of bringing the Eucharist to hospital patients, nursing home residents and the homebound; qualities of Eucharistic Ministers for the sick; and, when/how to contact a priest. Workshop is for anyone interested in this ministry, and for caregivers of the sick.

B15: Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion – Deacon Chuck Glynn

Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion have a very important role in the liturgical life of the Church. This workshop will review the rite and focus on what to do, why to do it, and certainly what not to do.

B16: A repeat of workshop A8

B17: A repeat of workshop A6

B18: A repeat of workshop A11

B19: Synodality From the Prison Ministry – Hermes Silva

When he commenced the Synod on Synodality in October 2021, Pope Francis called on dioceses across the globe to center the voices of those pushed to the margins. He warned of elitism and abstractions and stressed the importance of pastoral care and labor in this synod’s mission of communion and inclusion. “All the baptized are called to take part in the Church’s life and mission,” Francis said. Inside the prison, church exists. There is an authentic community of faith. We are called to be one in participation, one in communion and one in mission with those who are incarcerated and formerly incarcerated seeking justice, equality and a community for all.

B20: Signs and Symbols Speak Where Words Fall Short (Sponsored by Loyola Press) – Bill Smith

We are challenged to prepare people for full, conscious and active participation in the liturgy. Consciously understanding the sign, symbols and rituals that are central to our celebration of the Mass is necessary for that participation. We will look at them and at how we can share their meaning.

B21: A repeat of workshop A3

B22: Engaging Children for First Penance and First Communion (Sponsored by RCL Benziger) – Jennifer Vargas-Stolper

Come learn crafts and experience engaging prayer services to help you prepare your students for First Penance and First Communion.

B23: Accompanying those who Accompany Others: What the new Directory for Catechesis Says about Formation of Catechists (Sponsored by Our Sunday Visitor) – Dr. Joseph White

The new Directory for Catechesis provides fresh insights and guidance for those who form catechists. This session will examine what the new directory says about catechist formation
and reflect on how catechetical leaders can make this vision a reality.

B24: A repeat of workshop A2

TALLERES EN ESPAÑOL
Hay dos discursos de apertura.
El primer, padre Juan Molina, en su discurso de apertura, se centrará en las tres palabras que nos han dado para el sínodo (comunión, participación y misión) y como se relacionan con nuestra identidad como pueblo eucarístico llamado a ser la sal de la tierra y la luz del mundo.
El obispo Brendan Cahill dara el segundo discurso de apertura titulado “Género y fe: Las buenas noticias de nuestros cuerpos”. En el mundo de hoy, lleno de perspectivas contrapuestas y muchas voces, quiénes somos y qué creemos puede resultar confuso. Exporará las preguntas, ¿Qué es un hombre? ¿Qué es una mujer? ¿Qué es el amor? También reflexionará sobre algunas ideas de “¿Qué significa ser humano”, de O. Carter Snead.

AS27: Comunión, Participación y Misión: Avivamiento Eucarístico – Dr. Gerardo Salazar
En este taller abordaremos el camino sinodal de nuestra Iglesia Católica y la manera en que confluye con el avivamiento eucarístico de nuestra espiritualidad católica. Este taller, ayudará a ministros, catequistas y líderes a colaborar juntos como Iglesia en este momento coyuntural pero ante todo, un tiempo de gracia y discipulado. (Patrocinado por William H. Sadlier)

BS29: Recibiendo la Eucaristía como un antecipo de Cielo (patrocinado por William H. Sadlier) – Dr. Gerardo Salazar
La Eucaristía es para el católico el alma de su espiritualidad pues el cielo y la tierra se unen. En este taller reafirmaremos la importancia de la Eucaristía en la espiritualidad de todo catequista o ministro pastoral. Para la Iglesia y los santos, la Eucaristía ha sido la fuente y culmen de su vida, y podremos estudiar algunas maneras pastorales de cultivar cada día mas el amor por Cristo en la Eucaristía.
SISTER MARTHA ANN KIRK, CCVI
Special to the Lighthouse

“Sixty-nine percent of the children in the village are malnourished. Literacy is very low. Come Incarnate Word students,” Edwin Mendoza Hipp and Darlene Jasso Mendoza told me. I had taught them Religious Studies classes in 2013.

When University of Incarnate Word nutrition professor Dr. Beth Senne-Duff, who has a strong commitment to global nutrition, agreed to go, I began to search for generous students willing to serve.

One of them was Carley Petru of Victoria, a graduate of Our Lady of Victory School who is currently an elementary education major at UIW.

“When I went to Guatemala in 2013, it was my first time working with children in the community. I had no idea what to expect. Seeing the children’s faces, it was clear that they needed help. That’s when I knew I wanted to come back.”

When Carley returned, she brought with her a new perspective on life. “I realized how lucky I am to have the things I have. The children in Guatemala don’t have even half of what I have, yet they seem so happy and kind.”

Darlene Jasso, from New Braunfels, married Edwin, a Guatemalan, and they have felt a strong call to help where there is great need. They founded the Little Angels of Mary (www.LittleAngelsofMary.org) a non-profit organization promoting nutrition and literacy.

They are sponsoring a preschool so that indigenous children may get a good start, have a sense of pride in their Kaqchikel language and culture and at the same time learn Spanish so that they will have opportunities in society.

Dire poverty has persisted from generation to generation because of lack of opportunity. Among countries of the world Guatemala is sixth in chronic malnutrition. Many children are stunted because they have not gotten adequate nourishment before five years of age. Darlene and Edwin have been inviting mothers to monthly nutrition workshops. Their children under 5 are weighed and measured, and mothers are guided in how to help their children get the nourishment they need to grow.

If a mother will come regularly, she has an opportunity to get a garden plot for her family. In the Lake Atitlan area of Guatemala, a gardening method that promotes intensive growth, but only takes a small plot of land, had been developed by Cultiva International (https://www.cultivainternational.org/).

The UIW group helped build eight garden plots for families.

Andrea Guzmán, a respected nutrition consultant has been giving guidance and has educational materials to help families learn “to eat the rainbow” -- a variety of vegetables. She is the co-founder of ProyectoCAN (Cooking, Agriculture, Nutrition) (https://proyectocan.org/) and has an online resource center with more than 100 posters and guides. Carolina Ajozal, the preschool teacher, also assists giving the nutrition workshops in Kaqchikel and visits the families to see how the gardens are doing and to encourage them.

The social structures of Guatemala since the time of the Spanish invasion have not given descendants of the original people, the Mayans, equal opportunity. Edwin and Darlene took the UIW group to the Casa de la Memoria Museum in Guatemala City (https://nisgua.org/step-into-the-house-of-memory/) where they saw an image of Bishop Juan José Gerardi who was a main person speaking for the human rights of the people during the period of armed internal conflict, 1960 to 1996, when more than 200,000 were killed. He assisted with the report on human rights violations that estimated that over 90 percent of the violations were by the government. Two days after the report was released in 1998, Bishop Gerardi was assassinated by undercover government forces.

When Edwin was a child, his father took him to Mass at the Chapel of the Eternal Father every Wednesday to pray. This was by the home where Bishop Gerardi lived and was martyred.

• Sister Martha Ann Kirk, CCVI, grew up in Cuero and serves at the University of the Incarnate Word, San Antonio.

Carley Petru of Victoria assisting in the pre-school started by the Little Angels of Mary Nonprofit in Guatemala. (Photo: Darlene Jasso Mendoza)
Visitors and blessings

VICTORIA – Ladies from Holy Cross Parish in East Bernard recently visited Sister Carola Hajdik, who served their church for many years, and other retired sisters at the Incarnate Word and Blessed Sacrament Convent in Victoria. Picture, from left, are Rita Johchec, Shirley Karasek, Lyn Wicke, Sister Carola Hajdik, Carolyn Janak, Mary Ann Morse and Cindy Pribyl. All of the sisters were pleased with the bounty of goods they received from the Catholic Daughters of the Americas Society No. 1108 and the East Bernard community. Items included homegrown eggs, a variety of cookies, peanut butter crackers, granola bars, cream cheese rolls, poppyseed rolls, cinnamon rolls, jelly, sauerkraut and homemade sausage. The women of the East Bernard parish made 35 individual gift bags with various personal products donated by the CDA. They said, “It felt like Christmas in April.” While in Victoria, the ladies treated Sister Carola to a Mexican lunch, and Sister Carola gave them a tour of the convent. Together they prayed the rosary in the convent chapel before returning home. (Contributed Photo)

Vocation donation

The KJZT Society No. 1 of Yoakum donated $300 recently to the education of seminarians in the Diocese of Victoria. The check is being presented to Father Kristopher Fuchs, vocation director for the diocese, by, from left, Helen Manning, Judy Balzer and Elaine Dornak of the KJZT. (Regina Matus-Janak/The Catholic Lighthouse)

Pathways with Patti

Join us for lunch at our Monthly Travel Meeting on Thursday, August 24, 2023
Sky Restaurant in Victoria (77904)
11:30 a.m. -1:00 p.m. Dutch Lunch
Visit our website and sign-up for our newsletter to stay current on all trips.

June 1-8, 2024
8 day / 7 nights
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For Trip Details See Website: pathwayswithpatti.com or Email: gowithlaurie@gmail.com

HOLY CROSS CATHOLIC CHURCH – YORKTOWN FESTIVAL

@ The Yorktown Community Hall ♦ Sunday, September 10
Festival Mass 9:30 am ♦ Father Roger Hawes, Celebrant

Famous Homemade Polish Sausage & Shoulder Clod Meal - $15
with Potato Salad, Cole Slow, Pinto Beans, Pickle & Cake

Dine-In or Take-Out 10:30 am until 1:00 pm (Kids 12 and Under $8)

Cake Walk Country Store
Children's Games Inflatable Obstacle Course
KofC Calf Raffle Tickets $5/ea or 5/$20
Pure bred Charolais Bull Calf

LIVE AUCTION 1PM IN
AIR CONDITIONED HALL!
Festival Raffle Tickets $5/ea or 5/$20
Drawing begins at 3pm

Entertainment
11:00am - 1:00pm
Rusty Stein Band (hall)
DJ Val Mungia (outside)

60 Community Hall Rd, Yorktown, TX 78164 For more information, please find us on Facebook, or call (361) 564-2893
The Scandal of God’s Mercy, Part 1

Note: This is the first of two parts of that story -- the Saint and the Kommandant. Aug. 14 is the Memorial of St. Maximilian Kolbe, Polish priest and martyr. His Christ-like offer to die for another was a powerful testimony to love and mercy, but it was far more than a singular act of heroic witness to the Gospel of Life. It is a story of angels and beasts, of the cruelty of man and the love of God and of “treasures of darkness, riches hidden away.”

THE SAINT

On Aug. 14, 1941, Nazi guards entered Cell 18 in the basement of Block 11, known as the Death Block of Auschwitz. They brought with them a box containing a syringe and vial of carbonic acid to inject into the veins of the condemned prisoner who had failed to comply with his sentence of “death by starvation” in a timely fashion. The nine others who had been likewise sentenced had died quickly enough, but this prisoner seemed to be nourished by a source stronger than earthly food. And so by orders of the kommandant, Rudolph Höss, the lethal injection was given and an earthly life ended.

Each month on the 14th day, members of the Missionaries of the Immaculata return to Auschwitz and re-enter Cell 18, now known as the “Cell of Love.” They also bring a box, but this box doesn’t contain death-inducing instruments. It contains the life-affirming prayer requests received from all over the world for the intercession of the former prisoner. At his birth in 1894 this prisoner/priest had been given the name Rudolph. He died as “Prisoner No. 16670.” He was canonized as St. Maximilian Mary Kolbe on Oct. 10, 1982, by St. Pope John Paul II. Considering his works of mercy during his confinement, perhaps he never was truly a “prisoner” in Auschwitz; for, although he died in a dark place built from hate, he lived there radiating the light of God’s love and mercy.

“Greater love has no one than this, that a person will lay down his life for his friends.” (John 15:13) And, certainly, St. Maximilian displayed this “greater love” at Auschwitz. But, his display of greater love was not exhibited in only one dramatic act. Rather, the gift of his life to save another prisoner’s life might be seen as the crown on a life spent devoted to “greater love.” Maximilian is celebrated for his missionary work and founding of several monasteries. Interestingly, one such monastery was in Nagasaki, Japan, which connects him to two of the most infamous sites of destruction of World War II. (The Nagasaki monastery was shielded by a mountain and survived the atomic blast.)

Early in his life he developed a strong devotion to the Virgin Mary under her title of Immaculate Conception (Immaculata). He later formed the Militia of the Immaculata, founded on the premise that there is no better way to be formed into the image of Christ than to invest one’s life into the life of the Woman who formed Christ in her womb. Later he established Niepokalanów (the City of the Immaculata) where more than 700 friars consecrated to Mary devoted themselves to evangelization, primarily through the apostolate of the printed word. Kolbe’s publishing house issued many anti-Nazi German publications and his monastery was the refuge for 2,000-plus Jews hiding from persecution. Maximilian’s body was cremated on the day following his execution. Appropriately, it was Aug. 15, on the Feast of the Assumption of Mary. There is a comfort to be found in hearing the story of Maximilian. This is particularly true when our lives may be nightmarish or we find ourselves in dangerous places and dark times. It is a story that reassures us that what we trust in is true — that the mercy of God cannot be starved out, nor the fire of his love extinguished.

If one was in search of the antithesis of St. Maximilian, the “Martyr of Charity,” then Rudolph Höss, the “Butcher of Auschwitz,” would be a prime candidate. Höss designed the extermination processes at Auschwitz and led it to become the deadlest and most efficient killing factory in the Nazi lineup.

Höss himself estimated that 3 million died on his watch, including both Kolbe and Edith Stein (Saint Teresa Benedicta of the Cross, who was killed on Aug. 9, 1942). Following the fall of Nazi Germany, Höss was hunted down, arrested and tried. He showed no remorse at his trial offering as his defense that he followed orders, that he loved his family, and had once shown mercy by releasing a Catholic priest from the camp. He failed to mention that he had arrested and killed the other members of that released priest’s order.

Höss was found guilty and sentenced to death by hanging ... at Auschwitz.

On April 16, 1947, he spent his last morning in Block 11, the same block in which Maximilian Kolbe had been executed, until he was led to the gallows. He was the last man killed at Auschwitz. I confess that my own blemished humanness pulls me to a degree of satisfaction in this part of the story; a sense that justice had been served, a wrong now made right; that he got what he deserved, or the bad guy was defeated and Kolbe and millions of others avenged.

But, as usual, there is more to this story, and what will follow next month will challenge our sense of forgiveness. “Treasures of darkness, riches hidden away” will be revealed when what was a story of the scandal of man’s cruelty to others will be rewritten by the scandal of God’s mercy for all.
There have been many times in my life when I have been sitting in Mass wondering what it was all about. As a child, I always went to Mass, and I really enjoyed altar serving but, to be honest, I don’t think I knew what really was happening most of the time. I didn’t think about it too deeply, but if pressed, I’m sure I would not have been able to answer any question about what I was doing.

What is the Mass for? What is the Eucharist? What were the readings about? Who’s the Lamb of God, why does He take away the sins of the world, and why am I blessed to be called to His Supper?

I think there are others who have similar experiences and questions. It seems like there is something significant happening, but you think you’re missing out while everyone else seems to know exactly what to do. There’s a language being spoken that you’re not used to and so are unable to pick up on the deeper meaning of things. You get lost fumbling through the missalette, struggling with distractions, and getting impatient, looking forward to it all being over with so you can get to your next thing on the schedule.

I wonder if there might be a majority of Catholics who experience Mass this way. This is why the U.S. bishops have called us to a National Eucharistic Revival. We are being invited to rediscover the incredible gift that Jesus left us in the Eucharist, so we can appreciate it more deeply and be transformed by it more fully.

There are many things that we can do to renew our Eucharistic spirituality – bible studies, adoration, personal prayer, confession, works of mercy, feeding the poor, Sunday and daily Mass. But if you are already going to Sunday Mass every week, one thing I would highly recommend is reading (or rereading) Jesus and the Jewish Roots of the Eucharist by Brant Pitre. In it, Pitre systematically and compellingly shows the biblical and ancient Jewish foundations of this central mystery of Christian life and worship. It’s an exciting and eye-opening exploration of where the Eucharist comes from.

Looking back to the time of Moses and the Exodus, Pitre traces connections between the Passover, Manna and Showbread in the Wilderness Tabernacle, showing how these Old Testament mysteries are all fulfilled in Jesus and His gift of the Eucharist.

Why is Jesus called the Lamb of God? Because a lamb was commanded to be sacrificed at the Passover to save the Israelites from death and deliver them from slavery in Egypt. And now Jesus is the New Lamb whose death saves us from eternal death and delivers us from slavery to sin.

Why do we have to go to Mass every week and receive the Eucharist frequently? Because God gave the Israelites manna from heaven to help them daily through the desert as they journeyed to the Promised Land.

And now Jesus gives us a greater food for the journey, the True Bread from Heaven, His Living Body and Blood, that helps us through this life and prepares us for the greater Promised Land in heaven. In fact, He taught us to pray for it when we say, “Give us this day our daily bread.” In the original Greek, the word translated as “daily” literally means “super-substantial” and would have made His audience think of the manna in the desert.

The mystery of the Eucharist is rich and profound, and we will grow in appreciation and understanding of it our whole lives. Don’t worry if you get distracted at Mass or don’t know everything that’s happening. The Mass can really be summarized in that last promise of Jesus: “Behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.” He is with us in the Eucharist.

• 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.
Las luchas en el viaje se desvanecen a la luz de las recompensas

Queridos hermanos y hermanas,
Mientras escribo este artículo, me estoy preparando para ir a la Jornada Mundial de la Juventud con un grupo de unos 30 peregrinos de nuestra diócesis. Este año, la Jornada Mundial de la Juventud será en Lisboa, Portugal. Nuestra peregrinación incluirá una visita al Santuario de Nuestra Señora en Fátima y también una visita a Ávila y Madrid en España. La preparación para este viaje trae recuerdos de una Jornada Mundial de la Juventud anterior en 2003.

San Juan Pablo II visitó Toronto, Canadá, para esa Jornada Mundial de la Juventud. Viajé con un grupo de jóvenes de The Woodlands. Mi recuerdo más claro es el momento en que escuchamos el helicóptero acercándose al campo donde el Santo Padre estaría celebrando la Misa para los cientos de miles de jóvenes que se habían reunido. Fue como un rayo de energía que atravesó la multitud cuando escuchamos el sonido que indicaba que el Papa estaba a punto de llegar.

Hasta ese momento, el viaje se había convertido en un viaje desafiante. Habíamos caminado algunas horas con solo algunas cosas a la espalda para llegar a ese campo. Creo que hacía calor y sol en la caminata. Una vez que llegamos al lugar, preparamos sacos de dormir y preparamos los lugares donde pasaríamos la noche. Esa noche rezamos y cantamos; hubo un gran concierto y la gente dio testimonio de su fe.

En medio de la emoción de esa noche, creo que hubo un punto en el que comencé a sentirme cansado y agotado. Tal vez por la gente literalmente cantaba toda la noche en docenas de idiomas diferentes, pero en algún momento, recordé que comencé a concentrarme más en mí incomodidad que en la realidad espiritual que éramos experimentando. Todavía recuerdo las largas filas para ir al baño y el suelo duro sobre el que intentaba dormir.

Cuando escuchamos el sonido del helicóptero, me sacaron de mi estado de ánimo quejumbroso y me trajeron de vuelta a la realidad que tuvimos la suerte de experimentar.

Creemos que Jesucristo resucitó de entre los muertos, envió el Espíritu Santo sobre los Apóstoles para establecer la Iglesia y prometió que las puertas del infierno no podrían destruir Su Iglesia. Estar en un campo con cientos de miles de otros creyentes y luego poder celebrar la Sagrada Eucaristía con el Sucesor de Pedro intensificó poderosamente esa expresión de fe.

Este año no estaré durmiendo en el campo, pero estaré recordando que cada peregrinaje espiritual implica una cierta cantidad de lucha y sufrimiento. El viaje enseña que nunca estamos solos; Jesús camina con nosotros y la Iglesia nos eleva en oración. Estaré orando por todos ustedes en este viaje, para que puedan ser consolados en tiempos de dolor y fortalecidos por el amor de Jesús que es la fuente de nuestra alegría y comunión. Oren por nuestros jóvenes (y nosotros los mayores) en el camino hacia la Jornada Mundial de la Juventud, para que podamos estar abiertos al Espíritu Santo y crecer más fuertes en el don de la fe que Dios nos ha dado.

Que Dios los bendiga a ustedes y a sus familias con la paz y el gozo del Espíritu Santo.
Mantengámonos unos a otros en oración.
+Brendan

Conferencia Católica Hispana 2023 se enfoca en la Eucaristía

“Yo soy el pan de vida. El que viene a mí nunca tendrá hambre y el que cree en mí nunca tendrá sed” Juan 6, 35.

Con la gracia y bendición de Dios se llevará a cabo este 16 de septiembre de 2023 (inicial del mes hispano) de 8 a.m. a 4 p.m. la Segunda Conferencia Católica Hispana en la Diócesis de Victoria con temática Eucarística en el espíritu del Reavivamiento Eucarístico Nacional. El lugar del evento será nuevamente en el Centro de Catedral, iniciando con misa a las 8 a.m. con Monseñor Brendan Cahill.

Este año contaremos con la participación especial de Monseñor Gustavo García-Siller, MSpS, arzobispo de la Arquidiócesis de San Antonio, quien nos hablará sobre “¿Qué es y porque es importante una Cultura Eucarística?”

También contaremos con la presencia del Padre Agustín Torres, CFR, quien nos hablará sobre “Prendan fuego a todos los corazones”. El padre Agustín es sacerdote de los Frailes Franciscanos de la Renovación con sede en el Bronx, Nueva York. Es el fundador de Corazón Puro, una organización dedicada a la formación de jóvenes. Además, ha sido conductor en EWTN y es uno de los predicadores oficiales del Avivamiento Eucarístico Nacional.

Finalmente estará con nosotros, nuestra muy querida Hermana Miriam Perez quien por muchos años guio el Ministerio Hispano en nuestra diócesis y fue la coordinadora del V Encuentro para nuestra diócesis sacando muchísimos frutos para nuestras comunidades hispanas. La hermana Miriam Perez nos hablará sobre “María Madre de la Eucaristía”.

Aldo Camacho, director de la Oficina del Ministerio Hispano dijo, “Esta Conferencia es el momento del año donde todas las comunidades hispanas de la diócesis nos unimos para celebrar juntos como hermanos y hermanas nuestra fe. Este año con la temática Eucarística, Jesucristo nos invita a volver a la fuente y cumbre de nuestra fe en la celebración Eucarística. Es un momento para avivar nuestra fe, comprensión y adoración en la real presencia de Cristo en la Eucaristía”.

SHS puts SHINE in classrooms this year

HALLETTSVILLE — Sacred Heart Catholic School is welcoming a new program called SHINE (Sacred Heart Individual Needs Education) that will accommodate children with special learning needs, open the doors for more students who want to attend a Catholic school and keep siblings together when their needs differ.

The school is hosting a meet and greet for families who want to hear more about the program from 6 to 7 p.m. Aug. 7 at the parish’s Family Center.

“Our school has a vision to provide a Catholic education for children with special needs. It is ultimately our desire — and we believe God’s desire — to reach out and serve all the children that we can, including those with learning challenges,” according to a press release from the school.

Dr. Christy Gregory, a new staff member has been hired to direct the program. She comes to Sacred Heart with 28 years of experience in both public and Catholic schools, most recently serving as a counselor at St. Laurence Catholic School in Sugar Land. She received her bachelor’s and master’s degrees from the University of Houston and her doctorate degree from Baylor University.

Dr. Gregory said she has 28 years of experience and many opportunities to work with students who have learning challenges. She spent most of her career in public education before going to St. Laurence, and said she is grateful for the opportunity to continue working in Catholic schools and serve students with disabilities, which has been a passion of hers.

“This will be a rewarding school year for our students, families and staff. As we embark on an amazing journey of educating more students with disabilities, we will see many positive outcomes for Sacred Heart Catholic School and the entire community. It is an honor to be part of such an important time for Catholic Schools in the Dioceses of Victoria,” she stated.

In addition to serving students with accommodations, the SHINE program will offer more opportunities for students with greater needs. It is unique in that it supports students who have diverse learning needs and allows them to learn in a Catholic setting. SHINE offers services for children with Down syndrome, autism, Asperger syndrome, ADHD and dyslexia.

SHINE services and accommodations are individualized per child and can include pull-out support for certain subjects, a para-professional within the regular classroom, and/or a specialist trained to support students with specific learning needs.

Sacred Heart Principal Kevin Haas said the school wants keep siblings together if one has special instructional needs that, until now, might have required attending a public school.

“SHINE will not only help children with special needs but also help our general education students become more empathetic toward students who require special help. Sacred Heart is the first Catholic school in the diocese to offer the full range of services for children with special instructional needs...”

Principal Kevin Haas

Sacred Heart Catholic School and the entire community. It is an honor to be part of such an important time for Catholic Schools in the Dioceses of Victoria,” she stated.

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Haas said Sacred Heart is the first Catholic school in the diocese to offer the full range of services for children with special instructional needs and are still planning for future growth with “perhaps a new facility” for instruction in the future. They are continuing to work with the DeWitt-Lavaca Special Education Cooperative, which exists to “provide a continuum of special education services to students from ages 3 to 21,” according to their website. The cooperative has been instrumental in helping provide assessments and collaboration with other resources for children who have had unique learning needs.

“Our teachers, aides and support staff love children and feel called by the Lord to serve Him in this area. It is the school’s desire to help each student reach his or her potential while minimizing the amount of time the child is out of his or her regular grade level classroom,” according to the press release.

Haas said Dr. Gregory has a friend in Hal- lettsville and, when visiting, really enjoyed the small-town environment. She called the school just to inquire about positions just as the school was preparing to implement the SHINE program.

“That’s how the Holy Spirit works,” he said.

“As many discussions and research regarding funding and resources, we are thrilled to finally announce that the new SHINE program will be making its debut in the upcoming school session,” said Dr. John Quary, superintendent of Catholic schools for the Diocese of Victoria. “Our hope is that Sacred Heart’s SHINE program will illumine the hearts and minds of all who participate and will serve as the catalyst for other schools in our diocese to explore more offerings to address students with unique learning needs to ensure all students receive a F.I.R.S.T.-class education for life.”

In the Diocese of Victoria Office of Catholic Schools, F.I.R.S.T. stands for faith, integrity, respect, scholarship and tradition.

When does school start?

The following is a list of start dates for Catholic schools in our diocese:

**Aug. 8 – St. Michael in Weimar**
**Aug. 9 – Holy Cross in Bay City; St. Anthony in Columbus; Our Lady of the Gulf in Port Lavaca; St. Rose of Lima in Schulenburg; Our Lady of Victory in Victoria; Nazareth Academy in Victoria; St. Joseph High School in Victoria; and St. Joseph in Yoakum**
**Aug. 10 – Shiner Catholic Schools; Sacred Heart in Hallettsville; and St. Philip in El Campo**
**Aug. 14 – St. Michael’s in Cuero**

Prayer to Begin a School Year

“God of wisdom and might, we praise you for the wonder of our being, for mind, body, and spirit. Be with our children in the Diocese of Victoria as they begin a new school year. Bless them and their teachers and staff. Give them the strength and grace as their bodies grow; wisdom and knowledge to their minds as they search for understanding; and peace and zeal to their hearts. We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.”

Principals of Catholic Schools in the Diocese of Victoria meet at the chancery in Victoria and learn about the new Safe Environment database from Stephanie Morales (shown facing away from the camera). The first day of classes start Aug. 9-14, depending on the school. (Janet Jones/The Catholic Lighthouse)
New KC Members

WEIMAR – Knights of Columbus Council 2153 recently held a Degree Exemplification for four new members. These new Knights became 3rd Degree Members of the Order. From left are Herb Ulbrich, financial secretary; David Hessel, recorder; Delphin Bartek, grand knight; Mike Koeth Sr., sponsor; Mike Koeth Jr., new KC member; Brett Sestak, new KC member; Kenneth Sestak, sponsor; and Larry Kana, field agent. Not pictured: Waylon Schimeck and Buck Rerich. (Contributed Photo)

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Sunday Readings from Aug. 6 to Sept. 10

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

August 13 ~ Nineteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time
1 Kings 19:9a, 11-13a
Psalms 85:9-10, 11-12, 13-14
Romans 9:1-5
Matthew 14:22-33

August 20 ~ Twentieth Sunday in Ordinary Time
Isaiah 56:1, 6-7
Psalms 67:2-3, 5, 6, 8
Romans 11:13-15, 29-32
Matthew 15:21-28

August 27 ~ Twenty-first Sunday in Ordinary Time
Isaiah 22:19-23
Psalms 138:1-2, 2-3, 6, 8
Romans 11:33-36
Matthew 16:13-20

September 3 ~ Twenty-second Sunday in Ordinary Time
Jeremiah 20:7-9
Psalms 63:2, 3-4, 5-6, 8-9
Romans 12:1-2
Matthew 16:21-27

September 10 ~ Twenty-third Sunday in Ordinary Time
Ezekiel 33:7-9
Psalms 95:1-2, 6-7, 8-9
Romans 13:8-10
Matthew 18:15-20

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

ST. MICHAEL CATHOLIC CHURCH
Harvest Feast
SUNDAY, AUGUST 13, 2023
VETERAN’S MEMORIAL HALL - WEIMAR, TEXAS

Fried Chicken & Stew Dinner
(DRIVE-THRU PLATES AVAILABLE AT ST. MICHAEL’S FAMILY CENTER)

ALL PLATES $12.00
SERVING STARTS AT 11:00 AM
PICK-UP & PICNIC DRIVE-THRU & GO

POLKA MASS
SUNDAY - 10:30 A.M. (THE LOST CAUSE BAND)

AUCTION (1:00 P.M.) • BINGO (2:00-4:00 P.M)
COUNTRY STORE • TREASURE CHEST • RING TOSS
ANTIQUE & CLASSIC CAR SHOW
FAMOUS PICNIC BURGERS • SNOW CONES • SNACK BAR
FISH POND • TRAIN RIDE • PLINKO • BALL THROW & MORE!

CORNHOLE TOURNAMENT
BEGINNS AT 4:30 P.M.

FREE DANCING & MUSIC
11:30 A.M. - 9:00 P.M.

SHINER HOBO BAND
THE LOST CAUSE BAND
THE WREN’S & FRIENDS

Drawing for Sweepstakes Prizes

Fun for the Whole Family!
Happy retirement, Deacon
COLUMBUS — Deacon Charlie Novosad is surrounded by family as he shows off his cake during his retirement party to thank him for his years of service. He was ordained on July 29, 2006, and has served at St. Anthony Catholic Church for 17 years. He is surrounded by his wife, Lorraine and their family. (Contributed Photo)

KC's introduce 2023-24 officers
WEIMAR — The officers for the Weimar Knights of Columbus Council are, from left, front Buddy Hudec, inside guard; Bill Clifford, outside guard; Father Chase Goodman, chaplain; Delphin Bartek, grand knight; Leo Hoelscher, warden; Charlie Herzik, publicity; and, standing in back, Herb Ulbrich, financial secretary; Doug Berger, trustee; Mike Riha, trustee; Bill Briscoe, advocate; Joe Jimenez, chancellor; David Hessel, recorder; Francis Janacek, treasurer; Jack Muggli, deputy grand knight and district deputy; James Polk, trustee; and Raymond Prihoda, lecturer. (Contributed Photo)
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:


To date, Elie has published 20 books. Most of her books can be purchased at www.searching-for-jesus.com, Amazon or by calling 361-648-5832. The prices range from $4.99 and $19.99.

Mary Ann Pavliska from Hallettsville (adult) and Brooklyn Starnes from Victoria (youth) were the June 2023 book winners.

AUGUST 15, 2023
ASSUMPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY: VIGIL
READING II – 1 CORINTHIANS 15:54-57

A reading from the first Letter of Saint Paul to the Corinthians, Brothers and sisters: / When that which is mortal clothes itself with immortality, / then the word that is written shall come about; / Death is swallowed up in victory. / Where, O death, is your victory? / Where, O death, is your sting? / The sting of death is sin, / and the power of sin is the law. / But thanks be to God who gives us the victory / through our Lord Jesus Christ.

A Prayer on the Feast of Mary’s Assumption
(August 15)

HOLY Mother Mary, we all rejoice with you today on the feast of your glorious Assumption into heaven.

Long ago in the Garden of Eden, our first parents, Adam and Eve, were told that they would have to earn their bread in the sweat of their brow and that the earth would be cursed, bringing forth thorns and thistles.

Now, after Christ our Redeemer has come, and taught us how to make use of the thorns and thistles of this life, and turn them into blessings, you, like Him, have been taken up body and soul into heaven. There, with your divine Son, you await our coming, and prepare a place for us.

Mother Mary, it is a great comfort to us to realize that your precious body, the tabernacle of the infant Christ, is now in heaven with Him. Your being taken into heaven is also, like the resurrection of Christ’s body, a pledge to us of the resurrection of our own bodies. It is wonderful to think that these hands, with which we earn our bread now in the sweat of our brow, will, because of the merits of Christ, one day, with our bodies, be glorified forever in heaven.

Most pure Virgin Mary, help us to realize this as we go about our work from day to day. Help us to have great respect for these bodies of ours, and for those of others because we recognize in them the temple of the Holy Spirit, and because we look forward to seeing each other, body and soul, with you and your Son Jesus Christ forever in heaven. Amen.

A Prayer to the Immaculate Heart of Mary
(August 22)

HEART of Mary ever Virgin, you are full of grace. You are the dearest daughter of the heavenly Father, the tabernacle of the Word made Flesh, and the beloved home of the Holy Spirit. You are the wonder and delight of angels, of saints, and of men. I offer you my deepest reverence. With great love and thanksgiving I consecrate myself, body and soul, to you this day, and will never take back my word.

You are the marvel of God’s creation; a Virgin’s heart, yet a Mother’s too, with a mother’s love of Jesus and of men. Dear Mother, fashion in my heart a child’s true love of you. Fill me with your own bright virtues: simplicity and innocence, meekness and courage, and unfailing devotedness to Jesus Christ.

Since I belong to you then, holy Mother, save me from my enemies, from the world, from Satan, from myself. Keep me always in your sinless Heart to make my poor heart more and more like your Heart and the Heart of Jesus.

Dear, merciful Mother, look with a mother’s love and pity on the poor, sinful, suffering children of the whole human family. Our Holy Father Pius XII has consecrated them to your Immaculate Heart. Do not turn them away. Remember the cruel pain your heart suffered for their salvation with Jesus Christ on Calvary. Save them by His precious Blood. Draw them out of the darkness and despair of their sin and misery into the light, peace, and holiness of the Church.

Then with the angels and saints, may they join us in singing the everlasting Magnificat of praise, gratitude and love to your tender and Immaculate Heart, and to the adorable and merciful Heart of Jesus. Amen.
**EVENTS**

**Port O'Connor** – Knights of Columbus #9088 and Nazareth Academy Annual Fishing Tournament Aug. 4-5.

**Fredericksburg** – Sts. Peter & Paul Country Festival, Aug. 6, on the church grounds. A fried fish dinner will be served.

**Yoakum** – St. Joseph Picnic, Aug. 6, at the Community Center. A stew and sausage dinner will be served.

**Galena** – Assumption of the BVM Feast Day Picnic, Aug. 13 on the parish and hall grounds.

**Victoria** – KIYT Society #101 will have a Mass for living and deceased members 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. See ad on pg. 20.

**Praha** – 167th Przezkau 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. See ad on pg. 21.

**Cistern** – Sts. Cyril and Methodius Church Picnic, Aug. 27, on the parish grounds. See ad on pg. 10.

**September**

**Hallettsville** – Indian Open Golf Classic Sept. 2. See ad on pg. 23 for more information.

**Cuero** – Our Lady of Guadalupe Annual Jamaica, Sept. 3 on the parish hall grounds. For all the details, see ad on pg. 7.

**Hallettsville** – Sacred Heart Parish Fall Picnic, Sept. 3 at the KC Hall. See pg. 14 for more information.

**High Hill** – St. Mary’s Parish Picnic, Sept. 3 on the parish grounds. For more details see ad on pg. 13.

**Nada** – St. Mary’s Parish Festival and Homecoming, Sept. 3. For more information, see ad on pg. 5.

**Shiner** – Sts. Cyril and Methodius Fall Picnic, Sept. 3 at the KC Park. See ad on pg. 6.

**Vanderbilt** – St. John Bosco Fall Festival Sept. 3 at the Trinity Family Center. See ad on pg. 21.

**Inez** – St. Joseph Church Annual Picnic at the Inez Community Center on Sept. 10. See ad on pg. 4.

**Yorktown** – Holy Cross Festival at Community Hall on Sept. 10. See ad on pg. 15 for more information.

**Holman** – St. Wenceslaus Annual Feast (9937 FM 155, between Weimar and La Grange) is on Sept. 17. There will be a drive-thru only meal of fried chicken, sausage and all the trimmings beginning at 10:30 a.m. Also, there will be an online auction at www.charity-auction.bid/HolmanPicnic.

**Port Lavaca** – Our Lady of the Gulf Fall Festival at Bauer Community Center on Sept. 17. See ad on pg. 6 for more information.

**Meyersville** – Sts. Peter and Paul BBQ and Raffle on Sept. 24. A BBQ meal will be served 11 a.m.-1 p.m. at $12 per plate for dine-in or to-go. There will also be a country store.

**Sweet Home** – St. John the Baptist (Koerth) Fall Picnic, Sept. 24, at the Sweet Home Community Center. Stew and sausage dinner available with dine-in or plates-to-go. Raffles, live and silent auctions, cakewalk, country store and activities for the children.

**Indian Open Golf Classic**

**Benefits Sacred Heart Catholic School Teachers**

**Saturday, September 2**

**Tee Time: 9:30 a.m.**

Hallettsville Municipal Golf Course

3-person scramble @ $60 per person / Silent Auction: 9:30 a.m.-4:00 p.m.

For more information contact:

Hallettsville Golf Association at 361-798-9908 or Aaron Chovanetz at 281-750-9279; Pete Murphy 832-817-8147

**August**

**ACTS Retreats** – Anyone needing any information regarding ACTS retreats in the diocese should e-mail dovactsshopther@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.courager.net.

**Crisis Pregnancy Center of Victoria** – A sister organization to the Gabriel Project staffed by volunteers that offers hope 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: 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. August 8 in the parish hall at Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary Catholic Church, 108 6th St. in Galena. 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 amorneus@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 Boek 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 raphaelsrfrugee@att.net or visit http://www.raphaelsrfrugee.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 jbjov@sbcglobal.net or 361-580-2770; or call 800-470-2230; or visit http://www.helpourmarriage.org
Catechism more than information sharing

Continued from pg. 1

ing them for the hours they spend learning for themselves so they can share the Good News of Jesus with others. It was also about fellowship and getting to network with other catechists and share ideas. And Bishop Brendan Cahill, the chief catechist for the diocese, sent the group off with a special commissioning as they prepare themselves for a new school year.

“It was great to see other catechists gather together. All were excited about Jesus and about helping youth and adults encounter Christ,” said Mandi Jean Monk from Queen of Peace in Sweet Home. “The commissioning from the bishop topped the evening off. I truly felt the Holy Spirit working throughout, and I felt rejuvenated. I’m so thankful our diocese coordinated this rally -- a rally for Jesus and rally for encountering Christ.”

Paprocki’s presentation focused on themes from the book “Seeing with the Heart: A Guide to Navigating Life’s Adventures” by Father Kevin O’Brien, SJ. Each catechist was given a copy of the book when they arrived, along with other tokens of appreciation from the diocese.

The students need people who “embody the fire of the Holy Spirit” and whose being “exudes the joy of teaching the Gospel,” according to Paprocki. The Catholic tradition, he said, quoting Father O’Brien, “should act more like a rudder than an anchor” because it helps learners of the faith navigate through often-choppy waters in life that can easily lead to getting lost.

Paprocki broke the main idea into more detailed thoughts. Such as:

• Living with a purpose. People can easily lose hope and fall into despair. Catechists can help them recognize the meaning and purpose of life. “That’s why we need human beings, not robots to share the faith,” he said.

• Living the questions of life. Paprocki said when young people ask questions that stump the catechist, it should be a time to get excited about learning something new. “Encourage them to ask questions. It is how faith is formed,” he said.

• Struggle with doubt. Each person will struggle with some doubt, but Paprocki reminded them of the Apostle Thomas whose conclusion, “My Lord and My God,” began with doubt. “Ask the Holy Spirit to see you through it,” he said.

• Living with depth. Paprocki encouraged the catechists to “dig deep” into mysteries and also allow their students to explore the depths of their hearts. “They spend so much time in noise. Do we give them time to digest what we’ve offered?” he asked.

• Living in freedom. “This is the good news folks,” Paprocki told them. “We have been liberated from the chains of sin… We no longer have to be slaves to sin… I think a word in scripture that we don’t pay enough attention to is deliverance….” And that’s the good news that you want to share with the people you are teaching -- to live in the love of Jesus.”

• Pursuing desires. Though some desires should be disciplined or might even be disordered, human beings’ deepest desire is God. Paprocki said teachers should encourage people to venture out into the world and bring their desires to God and ask God to help them discern what desires will draw them closer to HIM.

• Living with compassion. He encouraged the catechists to show the young people how to participate in corporal and spiritual works of mercy by creating opportunities to do so. Service projects, he added, will be the most memorable parts of their learning, he said.

OLMC celebrates its 75th year

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“The day when you think of 75 years of history, you think of all the men and women that have helped guide our faith on our journey through these years.”

The bishop urged the congregation to remember that it is they who will pass the faith on to future generations. “One of the things I’m learning is maybe try to preach less with very simple themes and pass it on in a very complicated world. … Love the Lord your God, give thanks to God at every moment of life. Even the hard times, you find God’s blessing, and come to the church to thank Him. Also, love your neighbor as yourself. … I’m sure as we celebrate the Mass today, that’s what we’re doing. I serve God with my life and bring Him into the future.”

The congregation got its start when a Basilian congregation of priests sent Father Joseph Dillon to the area in the early 1940s to minister to the mostly Hispanic population in and around Wharton and Newgulf. Their needs were assessed and led to plans for a church. That was interrupted for a few years during World War II, but in 1945 a parcel of land was purchased near the Colorado River and plans were made for the church.

Gary Nunez, a parishioner for more than 60 years, wrote down a brief history to share at the celebration. He said the church build-

Bishop Cahill said celebrating on the Feast of Our Lady of Mount Carmel and the anniversary of Our Lady of Mount Carmel is an occasion to remember “that Mount Carmel is the place where Mary’s ancestors had experienced God and … the faith that was handed on to her.”

Rev. Anthony Perez drives through downtown Wharton with the statue of Our Lady of Mount Carmel. Many members of OLMC Catholic Church in Wharton followed in decorated vehicles. The procession around town was to celebrate the church’s 75th anniversary.

(Janet Jones/The Catholic Lighthouse)