



Janet Jones/The Catholic Lighthouse

Danette Cantu, assistant principal for St. Anthony Catholic School in Columbus, introduces the schools 2024 F.I.R.S.T.-Class alumnus award winner, John O'Leary, retired principal of the school. With her is Principal Shawna Collins, right, Bishop Brendan Cahill and Superintendent of Catholic Schools Robert Whitworth. Both Cantu and Collins spoke to the gathering about how much O'Leary has done for the school.

Teachers, alumni take home F.I.R.S.T.-Class awards

Catholic school teachers and distinguished alumni from Diocese of Victoria Catholic schools were honored by the DOV's Office of Catholic Schools at a special dinner at Club Westerner on Oct. 14.

The annual event, the F.I.R.S.T.-Class Education Awards, highlights those who embody the pillars of Catholic education – faith, integrity, respect, scholarship and tradition. Bishop Brendan Cahill and Superintendent Rob Whitworth presented the awards.

The first awards went to outstanding

teachers.

KAREN FRAZIER of Our Lady of Victory was named the 2024 elementary school teacher F.I.R.S.T.-class award winner. She has been teaching almost 50 years, 22 of them at OLV. She teaches math and social studies to fifth-and sixth-graders at the school.

Frazier is known for holding students to a high standard, challenging them to new lengths and staying true to the school's mission and vision. Each year, Frazier transforms her classroom for Patriots Day,

so her students experience a day in the life during the Revolutionary War. She made many of the costumes herself and enlisted the help of parents each year to lead the students in the daily activities of a child living in 1776. Many of Frazier's former students have frequently named her as the teacher that made the biggest difference in their lives. She was most recently honored with the Titan Impact Award by a former student. The top 10 graduates from East

See Teacher, alumni, pg. 8

'Dilexit Nos'

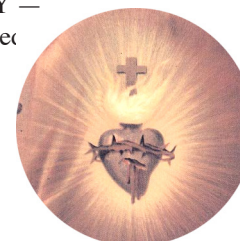
Sacred Heart devotion helps in modern era

AC WIMMER

Catholic News Agency

VATICAN CITY —

Pope Francis releases a new encyclical *Dilexit Nos* ("He Loved Us") on Thursday, calling for a renewed understanding devotion to the Sacred



Heart in the modern era and its many pressing challenges. In the document, the pope argues that the spirituality of the Sacred Heart offers a vital response to what he calls a "liquid society" dominated by technology and consumerism.

Pope Francis writes: "Living as we do in an age of superficiality, rushing frenetically from one thing to another without really knowing why, and ending up as insatiable consumers and slaves to the mechanisms of a market unconcerned about the deeper meaning of our lives, all of us need to rediscover the importance of the heart."

Subtitled "Letter on the Human and Divine Love of the Heart of Jesus Christ,"

See 'Dilexit Nos,' pg. 11

6 Gratitude needs to be nurtured

10 Writer gets focused on the Eucharist

15 Blessing of the food

17 Letters to the Editor

Always remember God as our nation’s source of blessing

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

On Nov. 23 our local chapter of Catholic Rural Life will be celebrating a Harvest Mass of Thanksgiving at the Whistling Duck Winery in Weimar. This occasion of giving thanks to God aligns with our National Day of Thanksgiving on Nov. 28. I’ve written before about the determined mission of Sara Josepha Hale to convince a president of the United States of the need to determine a national holiday to recognize God as the source of every blessing.

Her fear back in the early and mid-1800s was that, as the nation became more prosperous, we seemed to be forgetting the



Janet Jones/The Catholic Lighthouse

Sharon Thomas holds a red, white and blue rosary during a Patriotic Rosary at the Field of Honor in Victoria on Oct. 10. The attendees prayed for the whole nation, and each state by name. Bishop Cahill blessed the group at the conclusion of the rosary.

A Shepherd’s Message

By Bishop Brendan Cahill



Thanksgiving in November. In the proclamation he wrote:

Needful diversions of wealth and of strength from the fields of peaceful industry to the national defence, have not arrested the plough, the shuttle or the ship; the axe has enlarged the borders of our settlements, and the mines, as well of iron and coal as of the precious metals, have yielded even more abundantly than heretofore. Population has steadily increased, notwithstanding the waste that has been made in the camp, the siege and the battle-field; and the country, rejoicing in the consciousness of augmented strength and vigor, is permitted to expect continuance of years with large increase of freedom.

No human counsel hath devised nor hath any mortal hand worked out these great things. They are the gracious gifts of the Most High God, who, while dealing with us in anger for our sins, hath nevertheless remembered mercy.

It has seemed to me fit and proper that they should be solemnly, reverently and gratefully acknowledged as with one heart and one voice by the whole American

People. I do therefore invite my fellow citizens in every part of the United States, and also those who are at sea and those who are sojourning in foreign lands, to set apart and observe the last Thursday of November next, as a day of Thanksgiving and Praise to our beneficent Father who dwelleth in the Heavens. And I recommend to them that while offering up the ascriptions justly due to Him for such singular deliverances and blessings, they do also, with humble penitence for our national perverseness and disobedience, commend to His tender care all those who have become widows, orphans, mourners or sufferers in the lamentable civil strife in which we are unavoidably engaged, and fervently implore the interposition of the Almighty Hand to heal the wounds of the nation and to restore it as soon as may be consistent with the Divine purposes to the full enjoyment of peace, harmony, tranquility and Union.

As I’m writing this article in October, I imagine that there will be tension and debate about the outcome of our presidential election. Whatever the outcome and whatever the debate, we should never forget the source of every blessing is Almighty God.

May the Lord bless our nation to a deeper sense of unity and purpose and commitment to fulfill His will each day, and may the Lord bless you and your families with a beautiful Thanksgiving to God for many blessings received.

Let’s keep each other in prayer.

+Brendan

Bishop Cahill’s Schedule					
November					
1	Victoria – 8:15 a.m. Mass for Nazareth Academy and St. Joseph High School and school visit with Nazareth Academy	6	Victoria – 10 a.m. Presbyteral Council at the Chancery	23	Weimar – 10 a.m. Catholic Rural Life Harvest Mass at Whistling Duck Winery
•• Chancery Office is closed ••			Victoria – 6 p.m. Confirmation Mass for St. Mary’s Church	24	Victoria – 9 a.m. Mass at the Cathedral of Our Lady of Victory
3	Victoria – 9 a.m. Red Mass at the Cathedral of Our Lady of Victory	7	Houston – St. Mary’s Alumni Day	25	Schulenburg – 7 p.m. Mass at St. Rose of Lima Church
4	Port Lavaca – 8 a.m. school Mass and visit with Our Lady of the Gulf	8-20	Trip to Ghana with Catholic Relief Services	26	Victoria – 9 a.m. Legion of Mary Praesidium meeting; Cathedral Center
	Victoria – 6 p.m. CDA Memorial Mass at St. Mary’s Church	21	Victoria – 6 p.m. Serra 65th anniversary celebration at Holy Family Church		Victoria – 6:30 p.m. Truth on Tap speaker at Aerocrafters
5	Victoria – 9 a.m. Legion of Mary Praesidium meeting; Cathedral Center	22	El Campo – 8:15 a.m. school Mass and visit with St. Philip School	27-29	** Chancery Office closed for Thanksgiving holiday **
			Houston – Irish Gala		
			December		
			30	Hillje – 6 p.m. Mass at St. Andrew’s Church (Feast Day Visit)	
			1	Frelsburg – 8:30 a.m. Mass and then CCD visit with Sts. Peter and Paul	
			2	Victoria – 6 p.m. Adult Confirmation Mass for Our Lady of Sorrows	
			3	Victoria – 9 a.m. Legion of Mary Praesidium meeting; Cathedral Center	
				Victoria – 6 p.m. Knights of St. Gregory Christmas dinner at Colony Creek	

Note: Calendar is subject to changes.



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



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St. Patrick's new pastor

BLOOMINGTON – Father Tran Dinh was installed as the new pastor of St. Patrick's Catholic Church during a Mass celebrated by Bishop Brendan Cahill on Oct. 13. Father Tran was ordained in January 2022 and has served at St. Mary's until he was assigned to the Bloomington church. Father Oscar Amo, the previous pastor, was assigned to the Parish of the Nativity in Eagle Lake after the retirement of Father Robert Guerra. Father Tran's installation was followed by a reception and luncheon. Pictured at left is Deacon Fred Soto.

Christmas at Sea gift collection

As the holiday season comes again, please consider helping with the Christmas at Sea program at the port in Point Comfort. Your gifts can brighten the life and console a seafarer far away from their family. While these gifts are not fancy or expensive, they are so important to those who receive them. The gifts are a reminder to the seafarers that someone cares about them.

Please do not include bar soap in any packages that contains food. The soap will "flavor" the food.

Pack your gifts of love inside a shoe box (no boot or children size boxes, please) or a drawstring ditty bag (about 12" w by 15" h). If the packages are roughly all the same size, hopefully the gifts will be of approximately equal value.

Then wrap boxes securely as one unit in Christmas paper. As there are very few women onboard the ships, we would request that the gifts be packed for male seafarers.

Completed packages can be dropped off between Nov. 1 and Dec. 15 at these locations:

- Diocese of Victoria Chancery, 1505 E. Mesquite Lane, Victoria
- Holy Family Church, 704 Mallette Dr., Victoria
- Our Lady of the Gulf Church, 415 W. Austin St., Port Lavaca
- Russell Cain Real Estate, 2025 TX – 35, Port Lavaca
- Mikes on Main Café, 458 Main St., Palacios
- St. Robert Bellarmine Church, 512

Tegner St., El Campo

- Packard Law Center, 523 N. Main St., Schulenburg

- Point Comfort Seafarers Center – reservations required to pass through port security.

Visit their webpage www.ptcomfortsc.org/christmas-at-sea/ to learn more.

If you would rather just donate items (from anywhere in the world) you can shop their Amazon list <https://a.co/4nTGRVN> and they will add your donated items to the gifts they are packing in November.

For more information email Rhonda at stellamaris@olgulf.org or text her at 361-987-0569 for any questions, other arrangements, or reservations to visit the Seafarers Center inside the Port in Point Comfort.

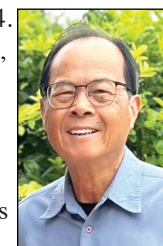


Suggested gift items are: Band-Aid; shampoo; body wash; deodorant; tissues; Q-tips; ChapStick; lotion; powder; razors; shaving cream; toothbrush; toothpaste; dental floss; nail clippers/files; hairbrush/comb; wet wipes; Texas souvenir; sewing kit; ink pens; crew socks; T-shirts (medium or large); ski or ball cap; small games; gloves; picture postcards; snack crackers; non-perishable snacks; chips; nuts; M&M candies; trail mix; chewing gum; hard candies; microwave popcorn; cheap sunglasses; bait rigs; playing cards; flashlight w/batteries; fridge magnets.

In Memoriam

Father Tommy Chen's father passes away

Kun-Ming Chen, 75, of Port Lavaca passed away Oct. 11, 2024. He was born Dec. 2, 1948, in Taiwan to Min Chen and Fu-Ron Lin Chen. Mr. Chen worked as an engineer for Formosa and was a member of St. Ann's Church in Point Comfort and Our Lady of the Gulf Church in Port Lavaca.



He is survived by his wife, Hsiu-Hung "Lucy" Chen; daughters, Wendy Chan (Stanley), Katie Chong (John); son, Fr. Tommy Chen; grandchildren, Andrew Chong (Soon), Anna Farlow (Jeff), Alexander Chong, Caleb Chan, Kolbe Chan, and Bella Grace Chan; and great-grandchildren, Cayden and Luka Chong.

He was preceded in death by his parents.

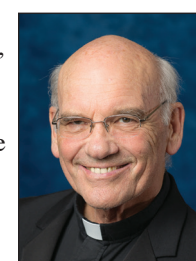
Burial was held at Resurrection Cemetery in Victoria.

In lieu of flowers memorial donations may be made to Our Lady of the Gulf Catholic Church, 415 W. Austin St., Port Lavaca, TX 77979.

Words of comfort and special memories may be shared with the family at www.richardsoncolonial.com.

Father Cris Janson passes away

Father Christian Aloysius "Cris" Janson, of the Marianist Residence Community of San Antonio, died in the service of the Blessed Virgin Mary on Sept. 14, in San Antonio, at the age of 83 with 64 years of religious profession.



Father Cris" Janson

Father Cris was a beloved teacher, pastor, chaplain, campus minister, and vocation director who considered learning "the core passion" of his life. As a young man in formation, Father Cris noted to a superior that he had "no special desire to be sent to the missions." Still, his priestly ministry would eventually take him to Mexico for 16 years — where he served in four different cities.

Prior to commencing seminary studies, Brother Cris taught Latin and English for several years, serving first at St. Joseph's School in Victoria.

Seminary Endowment Fund

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

October 22, 2024

• **Donald F. McDonald Sr. Seminary Burse #6**

Priest

Donation in memory of Arthur Bluntzer by Olivia McDonald
Donation in memory of my brother, Charles Bluntzer by Olivia McDonald

• **Rev. Msgr. John C. Peters Seminary Burse #10**

Lector

In honor of Rev. Msgr. John Peters’ celebration of priestly service and retirement by Gilbert and Mary Urbish
In memory of Deacon Sonny and Elaine Rogers by Gilbert and Mary Urbish
In honor of Rev. Msgr. John Peters’ 50 years of priesthood by Larry and Doris Grubert
In honor of Rev. Msgr. John Peters’ 75th birthday, 50th anniversary of ordination, 30 years as pastor of Sacred Heart Church, Hallettsville, and his retirement by:
Vernell Macik
Victor and Mary Ventura
Patrick and Theresa Brewer
Patricia Brewer
Raymond and Virginia Steffek
Jim and Bea Jakubek
Andrew James Pesek
Georgie Cerny
Acolyte
In honor of Rev. Msgr. John Peters’ retirement by Gladys McMasters
In honor of Rev. Msgr. John Peters’ 75th birthday, 50th anniversary of ordination, 30 years as pastor of Sacred Heart Church, Hallettsville, and his retirement by:
Arnold and Dorothy Berger
Laverne Trojcek & Susan Herrington
Bill and Virginia Grafe
Sacred Heart School faculty and students
Charles and Sharon Leopold
Monica Stock

• **Rev. Luke Prihoda Seminary Burse**

Acolyte

In memory of Sir Knight Hebert C. Ulbrich Jr. by K of C Council St. Michael Assembly #1527 of Flatonia, Schulenburg and Weimar

• **Rev. Michael Rother Seminary Burse #2**

Lector

In memory of Thelma Orsak by Bernard and Madeline Rother
In memory of Marjorie Allums by Bernard and Madeline Rother

• **Rev. Joe Vrana Seminary Burse, in honor of his Golden Jubilee Year**

Acolyte

In memory of Rev. Joseph Vrana by CDA Court Our Lady of the Rosary #1595, Nada

• **Rev. Msgr. James C. Brunner Seminary Burse**

Transitional Deacon

In memory of Rev. Msgr. James Brunner by Leroy Brunner

• **Rev. Joseph Koebel Seminary Burse**

Acolyte

In memory of Rev. Joseph Koebel by CDA Court Our Lady of the Rosary #1595, Nada

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

Acolyte

Donation by the Kolek Family Reunion

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

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

Education of Seminarian Fund

The Education of Seminarian Fund is a fund in which **all of the monies** donated to this fund, as well as the earnings, are available to cover the cost of educating seminarians. The proceeds of the special collection on Holy Thursday are deposited into the Education of Seminarian Fund. Publication of this fund will appear when new contributions are received. **Donation categories: Lector – \$.01 - \$99.99; Acolyte – \$100 - \$499.99; Candidate – \$500 - \$1,499.99; Transitional Deacon – \$1,500 - \$2,499.99; Priest – \$2,500 >.**

Lector

Ralph Besetzny
In memory of Frank Bludau

Dan and Barbara Respondek
In memory of Kun-Ming Chen

Catholic Daughters of the Americas
Court #1990, Wharton
In memory of Berta C. Garcia

Acolyte

Knights of Columbus Council #1329
In memory of Victor Arnold

Candidate

Catholic Daughters of the Americas
Court Sacred Heart #797, Hallettsville

Transitional Deacon

David and Sherry Heyer

Priest

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

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

Happy birthday to our seminarian

Deacon Aaron Padilla is in Vocational Synthesis Stage this year at Sts. Cyril and Methodius Church in Shiner. His birthday is Nov. 15. Aaron’s home parish is Our Lady of Sorrows in Victoria. Write to Deacon Aaron at: Sts. Cyril and Methodius Church, 306 South Avenue F, Shiner, TX 77984.



Serra Prayer for Vocations

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



Please remember in prayer the priests of the Diocese of Victoria,

Prayer from St. Augustine

Breathe in me, O Holy Spirit, that my thoughts may all be holy.
Act in me, O Holy Spirit, that my work, too, may be holy.
Draw my heart, O Holy Spirit, that I love but what is holy.
Strengthen me, O Holy Spirit, to defend all that is Holy.
Guard me, then, O Holy Spirit, that I always may be holy. Amen.

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

Rev. Msgr. Benton Thurmond	11/07/2009
Rev. Godfrey F. Kuratko	11/18/1983
Rev. John Kollannur	11/19/2017
Rev. Peter Higgins	11/20/2012
Rev. Msgr. Joseph Hybner	11/23/2019
Rev. Msgr. Anthony Matula	11/26/1994
Rev. Gregory O’Connor	11/26/1986
Rev. Raphael Baidoo, O.Ss.T.	11/30/2016

“May their souls and the souls of all the faithful departed rest in peace”



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

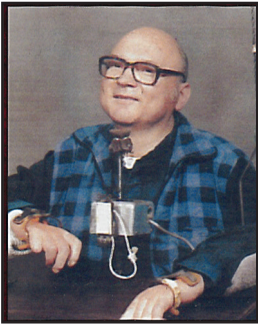
Contact: Father Kristopher Fuchs • Director of Vocations and Seminarians
361-573-4328 • vocations@victoriadiocese.org

God kindly prepares His people for their ultimate journey

EDITOR’S NOTE: *Father Kram wrote this sermon for the 33rd Sunday of Ordinary Time. He titled it “Hope for a Brighter Future.”*

God has surrounded us with so many reminders of our mortality and of the fact that one day all things will pass away -- the buds of spring growing to maturity, and then the harvest time and finally the dead of winter; the infant growing into childhood, then youth, then maturity and finally old age; the decay and disintegration of things that were once new. All these things keep before our minds the thought of how one day all things will come to an end, and so will we.

Such realizations can make one angry or frustrated or anxious, but, rather than say, “What’s the use?” we Christians say, “Death is the gateway to life,” and, “Thanks be to God for the many blessings he hides in our trials.”



1929-2000

Father Charles Kram Corner

If we have no secure existence here, it is so much better to learn not to hold on too tightly to anything God has given us and to learn to love and cherish HIM above all things.

When Pope John was nearing death, he said, “My bags are packed.” He got ready, and soon he died. One cancer patient I visited in the hospital kept saying, “I’m so ready,” and soon she died. Many a faithful soul has seen God’s hand preparing him for his departure.

God has a kind way of preparing his

children for their exit from this world. When the time comes, they are ready and can leave gracefully without any regrets.

So what if in the meantime many of our plans fail? What if happiness seems always to be just around the corner? What if we see the innocent suffer and the guilty prosper? God does not balance his books once a month, but there will one day be a day of reckoning for us all, when all our hopes will be fulfilled and every wrong made right.

But when will the end come for each of us? When will Jesus return and the world come to an end? Every now and then someone comes up with a prediction. You probably noticed a book on the market recently, again setting the time. As with other such predictions, the date came and went and life goes on.

The fact is that no one knows, and Jesus wouldn’t tell, even when asked.

Meanwhile, we Christians, striving to persevere to the end, and to be always ready, struggle on in full confidence that

no man will be able to frustrate the final achievement of God’s saving purpose, and that it will all be fulfilled.

Lord Jesus, thank you for bringing us such bright hopes for a happy future sooner or later. Help us wisely to heed every sign that can guide us. Grant that after all the disappointments of this life are over, we may be found worthy to begin our lives anew with you. Amen.

The Father Charles Kram Project, a non-profit corporation devoted to preserving the memory of Father Charles Kram Jr. and encouraging the promotion of his cause for sainthood, has begun filming interviews with people who knew Father Kram. To see one of the videos, use this link: www.youtube.com/watch?v=yw57J1TnepY



www.swlc.org/study-week-2025 swlc.org/study-week-2025

Save the Date

Friday, Feb. 7, is Clergy Day at the
2025 Southwest Liturgical Conference
at Holy Family in Victoria. Priests are admitted free.

Watch for more information to come.





Contributed Photo

Fun for fall
YORKTOWN – Holy Cross Catholic Church’s Giving Garden sponsored its third annual Fall Family Fun Fest on Oct. 5. Jose, Dalia and Angela Rivera of Rivera’s Best Produce, Inc., of Houston have donated pumpkins for the event ever since worms infested the Holy Cross Pumpkin Patch. Adelyne Foegelle won the Jumbo Pumpkin donated by the Riveras, and about 30 parish families participated in fall themed games.

The spirit of gratitude must be nurtured

Finding Beauty in Mystery

By Sister Rosario Resendez, OVISS



One year we were having our international reunion in Victoria with our Sisters visiting from different parts of the world. A few of our Sisters wanted to go to the beach while they were here, so we made a trip and took them to the beach. They were so happy and in total awe of the beach. On the way back home, they asked us how often we go to the beach since we are so close. They were surprised when we told them years could go by and we would not visit the beach. They thought it was beautiful and we were so fortunate to have it near us. I guess we just got used to it. Like the saying goes, “Familiarity breeds contempt, while rarity wins admiration.”

Here in the United States we are blessed with freedom of religion. Many cities have their own Catholic church with several Masses offered on Sundays and during the

week. We have priests available to offer sacraments, almost to the point we forget there are other countries where priests are rare; where people might have Mass once a month; how Catholicism in Japan survived 250 years without Mass.

When COVID struck, we had a taste of what it was like to be without easy access to the sacraments. The churches were closed, there were no religious education classes, no public Masses, no confessions heard, no confirmations, no baptisms. That is not as difficult as waiting 250 years, but still difficult. We realized what it was like to have something precious so close yet so far away. It was a sad time, but now we have public Masses back.

In May, we had a citywide procession in Victoria showing everyone we believe the Lord is with us. There was a huge gathering in Indianapolis where more than 50,000 Catholics came to be near the Eucharist. Everything is getting back to “normal” in the United States. Will we remember the precious gift we have, or will we once again start to think we will always have the ability to go to Mass and receive the sacraments?

Many times I believe we get stuck in the cycle of thinking we have more time -- to travel, to visit, to sit at the beach. More time to be angry because we have time later

for reconciliation. More time to study for that degree we’ve been putting off. More time to consider our vocation. More time to forgive and/or ask for forgiveness. More time to play with the children. More time to visit the Blessed Sacrament. More time to deepen our relationship with God.

Now I am thinking about November; how in this month we reflect on what we have to be thankful for. Many times I say I am thankful for everything, but do I really appreciate everything, or is it only until it is taken away that I realize how much I took it for granted? I say I thank God for breathing, but only when I am fully congested with a cold or allergies do I realize how grateful I was to be able to breathe.

I invite you this November to really reflect on the things in our lives or the people in our lives we have gotten used to always being there. And, also, what in our lives are we putting off because we are under the impression there is more time?

In November, we also remember the souls of our dearly departed. Let us take the time to be with those we love now and make beautiful memories before the memories are all we have.

Nov. 3-9 we celebrate Vocation Awareness Week. Have we been considering our vocations but leaving this at the back of our

minds? Let’s take time this month to bring it to the front. If we have chosen our vocation, let us thank God for it. Let us thank God for calling us to the religious life or priesthood. Let us thank God for calling us to be married. And, if we have children, let us thank God for them. If God has called us to the single life, let us thank God for that, because every vocation is important, and God has called us to it to bring His Kingdom to Earth. Therefore, the people who are the closest to us in our vocation are the gift God has gifted us. Let us treat them as such.

In November, let us truly be thankful for all God has given us. Which is much more than we can imagine.

“Above all, let us not forget to give thanks: if we are bearers of gratitude, the world itself will become better, even if only a little bit, but that is enough to transmit a bit of hope. The world needs hope. And with gratitude, with this habit of saying thank you, we transmit a bit of hope.” -- Pope Francis, General Audience Homily, Dec. 31, 2020

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



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Contributed Photos

Life Chain

The annual Life Chain event was held Oct. 6 in the Diocese of Victoria and many other places in the country. It includes an hour of being a visible, prayerful supporter of the protection of all life, especially unborn children. Photo at right, members of Holy Family in Wharton stood for the unborn by participating in the Life Chain. The above photo, shows parishioners from Catholic churches in Louise, Hillje, Nada, New Taiton and El Campo who gathered in El Campo.



Blue Mass
Bishop Brendan Cahill poses for a photo with representatives from area law enforcement agencies who attended the Blue Mass on Sept. 29, the feast day of St. Michael the Archangel, who is the patron of first responders. Also shown are Father Kirby Hlavaty, rector of The Cathedral of Our Lady of Victory where the Mass was celebrated, Father Samuel Asantey and Father Jonas Kubeeta, parochial vicars of the parish, and members of the Fourth Degree Knights of Columbus who served as honor guard.



Contributed Photo

The Red Mass will be held Sunday, Nov. 3 at the Cathedral of Our Lady of Victory at the 9 a.m. celebrated by Bishop Brendan Cahill. Join us in prayer for the guidance of the Holy Spirit and to honor all who work in the legal profession or justice system.

The Chancery will be closed for All Saints Day, Nov. 1
The Chancery Offices will reopen Nov. 4 at 8:30 a.m.

The Chancery will be closed for the Thanksgiving Holidays, starting Nov. 27 at noon - Nov. 29.
The Chancery Offices will reopen Dec. 2 at 8:30 a.m.

For Victoria Catholic Cemeteries Office hours please call 361-573-0828 ext. 2233.

CDA donations
Brenda Hanselka, vice regent of Catholic Daughters Court St. Ann #369 in Victoria, and Maryellen Delagarza, Court St. Ann treasurer, recently presented donations from the CDA to Our Lady of Victory, St. Joseph High School and Nazareth Academy library fund. Each school received \$200 from the organization.

Contributed Photos

Maryellen Delagarza and Brenda Hanselka are shown here giving a check to Sister Liliane Janda, Nazareth librarian.

Brenda Hanselka and Maryellen Delagarza are pictured here with John Gilley, president of St. Joseph.

Maryellen Delagarza and Brenda Hanselka are pictured with Nancy Ives, Our Lady of Victory librarian.

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Teachers, alumni take home F.I.R.S.T.-Class awards

Continued from pg. 1

Bishop Brendan Cahill
congratulates
Karen Frazier.



High School each selected one of their former K-12 teachers who made a lasting impact on their life.

DORIS FENNER, who teaches junior high math and social studies at Sacred Heart Catholic School in Hallettsville, was named the Junior High Teacher of the Year. She has been a part of Sacred Heart School all her life, graduating in 1977 from the school.

Fenner has taught at Sacred Heart since 1981. Throughout the years she has volunteered to help out where needed in the classroom and with many other extracurricular activities. She is currently in charge of the Sacred Heart Elementary and Junior High Academic Meet while heading up the

three children all attended and graduated from Sacred Heart School.

RUTH BARTON, also from Sacred Heart, was named the High School Teacher of the Year. She has been an educator for the last 40 years, 38 years teaching Catholic school with the last 24 being at Sacred Heart. She has taught all levels from elementary, junior high and high school while also being the schools dual credit proctor for many years. Over the years, Mrs. Barton has overseen so many different organizations from Yearbook, Student Council, National Honor Society, Senior Class Sponsor, Senior Scholarships, and coordinator of Veterans Day Program, Beginning of the School year assembly,

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From left are Bishop
Cahill, Doris Fenner,
Rob Whitworth and
Kevin Haas, Sacred
Heart principal.

Ruth Barton is shown
with Bishop Cahill,
Superintendent
Whitworth and
Principal Haas.



school's PSIA team. She has high expectations for her students, ensuring students learn the fundamentals of math and a solid knowledge of history. Former students are always appreciative of the skills they have learned from Fenner. Her standardized test scores are always some of the highest in the school. Fenner can be seen at almost every school volleyball and basketball game running the scoreboard and/or managing the books. Throughout her years, she has also served on numerous accreditation teams within the Diocese of Victoria. Her

Stations of the Cross, May Crowning, Graduation and more. Barton is also very involved in the Sacred Heart Parish. Her family of four children have all graduated from Sacred Heart School.

DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI
Robert Allison † Holy Cross Catholic
Robert Allison of Bay City is a devoted alumnus of Holy Cross. He and his five siblings all attended Holy Cross School

See Teachers, alumni, pg. 20



**Our Lady of Sorrows
Knights of Columbus Coat Drive**

VICTORIA — During the month of November (Nov. 2-Dec. 4) the Our Lady of Sorrows Knights of Columbus will be collecting new and gently used coats of all sizes for children and adults. Coats for ages 6-18 may be dropped off at Our Lady of Sorrows Church, 208 W. River St., Trinity Hall, the CCD Education Center, and Nazareth Academy. Contacts are the OLS office, 361-575-2293, or Deacon Frank Tilley, 361-649-2167.



Contributed Photos

Blessing of the Pets

Diocese of Victoria Catholic schools celebrated the Feast of St. Francis of Assisi with the tradition of blessing of the pets. Very Rev. Matthew Huehlefeld blesses a lamb at St. Joseph Catholic School in Yoakum, and Rev. Stephen Vacek is surrounded by children with pets of all kinds at Holy Cross Catholic School in Bay City.



Teachers, alumni take home F.I.R.S.T-Class awards

Continued from pt. 8

in the 1950s and 1960s. He has also been a parishioner at Holy Cross Church his entire life. His only child, Leslie, continued the tradition by being a student at Holy Cross. Allison was chosen because he is always ready and available to help in any way he can with driving a float for a parade or working the festivals and fundraisers. Prior to accreditation in 2024, Allison brought a crew of helpers to make minor repairs around the campus to make it shine for the accreditation visit. Recently, he has helped during morning drop-off, unloading and assisting the students upon arrival.

John Gilley † Nazareth Academy

John H. Gilley IV, a 1999 graduate of Nazareth Academy, was chosen as their winning alumnus. He currently serves as president of St. Joseph High School in Victoria. Prior to that, he had a prosperous career in banking while also serving on the board of directors at St. Joe. Gilley has served many community organizations, including Victoria Fine Arts Association, United Way of the Crossroads, Victoria County Navigation District, St. Mary's Catholic Parish, Nazareth Convent Restoration Capital Campaign and the Leo J. Welder Center for the Performing Arts. As a product of Catholic education himself, Gilley now cherishes the rewards that come along with molding students into young adults while witnessing firsthand the growth and maturation in their life and faith. He is the son of Howland and Judy Gilley and is married to Amanda Berger Gilley, also a proud graduate of Nazareth Academy and St. Joseph High School. They are parents to 3-year-old Jude.

Robbie Lauger † Our Lady of Victory Catholic School

Robbie Lauger was named by Our Lady of Victory as a distinguished alumni for her lifelong dedication and commitment to the school, the church and the community. she attended OLV through the seventh grade and has been a member of OLV Cathedral since 1959. She has been married to Craig Lauger for 43 years and has three children and 10 grandchildren. All of her children attended and graduated from OLV. Lauger served as a room mother and helped coach in preparation for school track meets. Since then she has served on the OLV Festival Auction committee for 10 years, has been a Citizens Hospital Eucharistic minister since 2010, and the Funeral Meal Ministry organizer since 2011. She and Craig are currently Witness to Love mentors for engaged couples that are preparing for marriage and serve many other community and parish

organizations and committees.

Barbara Tankersley † Sacred Heart Catholic School

Barbara Tankersley, a 1971 graduate of Sacred Heart in Hallettsville, has been dedicated to Sacred Heart school and parish for decades. From 1975 to 1991 she taught and coached at Sacred Heart School. After 16 years at Sacred Heart, she taught and coached at Hallettsville ISD for 16 years and then came back to Sacred Heart School for another nine years. She retired in May 2024, having taught religion, science and English. Her three children attended and graduated from SHS. Additionally, all of her grandchildren were attending SHS during her last year of teaching. She spent many weekends assisting with ACTS and prison retreats and other retreats and events. She has always be truly dedicated to Sacred Heart Church and School and the Catholic Faith. She went through the permanent diaconate program with her husband, Mike, who serves the parish. She has poured her heart out to her students while being a true example of Christ to everyone around her. She is able to engage class participation and “out of the box” thinking while still instilling high moral values and responsibility.

John O'Leary † St. Anthony Catholic School

John O'Leary has been a constant at St. Anthony Catholic School for more than 20 years. He joined the school as principal but he has fulfilled almost all the possible roles on this campus, willing to do whatever it takes to better the campus he attended. In 2014, O'Leary, a group of SAS parents and the advisory council began a self-study to layout the plan to bring SAS to the 21st century. After three years of work, the new two-story building was completed. Another great blessing for him occurred when SAS received a new 2020 school bus. It was donated by a family wanting to express thanks to the school for aiding in the education of their child. The mother approached O'Leary and said, “Go pick out a school bus.” O'Leary has been driving that bus ever since and prays for the family along the way. He is still an extraordinary minister of the Eucharistic, a bus driver for ACTS retreats and youth conferences in Dallas, a lector and a volunteer for many needs.

Father Bryan Heyer † St. Joseph High School

Father Bryan Heyer, a 1991 graduate of St. Joseph High School, was named their



Janet Jones/The Catholic Lighthouse

New vicar general

VICTORIA – Very Rev. Jasper Liggio, pastor of St. Rose of Lima in Schulenburg, was installed Oct. 1 as the vicar general of the Diocese of Victoria in Texas. Rev. Msgr. John Peters served as vicar general from 2012 until Sept. 30 this year, after which he retired. Bishop Brendan Cahill presided over the short ritual at the diocesan chapel in the chancery building. Vicars general of a diocese can make executive decisions in a diocese when necessary and serve as a consultant for the bishop.



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The journal in the photo was produced by Cindy Brewer, a member of St. Mary’s in Victoria who wanted to provide people who like to journal when they pray a way to bring their spirit closer to Jesus in the Eucharist. She self-published the journal, for which there are several versions. It is available online at Amazon.com in regular paperback and on Lulu.com in a spiral-bound paperback. She will also have them available at the St. Mary’s Altar Society Harvest Bazaar on Nov. 8 (See ad on Page 17).



Prayer journal focused on Jesus in the Eucharist

JANET JONES
The Catholic Lighthouse

VICTORIA — Not long ago Cindy Brewer, a parishioner at St. Mary’s, created prayer journals that reflected the Catholic faith — one that fit well with her own faith and her love of journaling. She now has narrowed the focus by creating a new journal that is dedicated to Eucharistic Adoration, *Discovering Jesus in the Holy Eucharist*.

“I started writing this because people didn’t believe in the Eucharist. A lot of people don’t. But mainly because, although I believe in the Eucharist, it’s so hard for me to realize that, when you’re in adoration, you’re actually in the presence of Jesus.”

She said it was hard to make the mental shift from believing in the Eucharist to realizing the physical presence of Jesus and she wanted to find Scriptures that would help her meditate on the Eucharist during adoration and help her feel Jesus’s presence in a deeper way.

That was the original inspiration she said. But her idea became more solidified when Pope Benedict XVI broke his silence about the clergy abuse scandals and encouraged people to go back to the source and summit of the Catholic faith -- to the Eucharist.

She collected writings for the journal from the Bible, the Catechism of the Catholic Church and the writings of saints in order to create a 20-minute-a-day reflection with pages for writing. Each quote is followed by a short reflection that she wrote during Eucharistic adoration and a writing prompt. The prompt is the same for every day and is simply asking the reader what Jesus is saying to them and what they want to say to Jesus. Brewer said she was advised

at one point to make the writing prompts different. But she didn’t want to put words in people’s mouths (or minds). She wanted the Holy Spirit to guide the thoughts of the person who uses the journal.

She organized the journals in different ways according to the sources she uses for educating and inspiring. One includes the saints only. Another includes the Bible and the Catechism. She has one book that includes all of the sources and is more than 500 pages. The books are available on Amazon.com and Lulu.com. She has two printers because Amazon does not print spiral bound books and Lulu.com does. Brewer prefers using spiral bound books when journaling. One of the books is printed without the lines for those who want to write their thoughts in a separate notebook.

Brewer said she got help from Catholic friends including Bishop Emeritus David Fellhauer who advised her on a few things. She reached out to the Catholic Writers Guild to find some kind of art, and eventually found Susan Sheffer, an employee of the Diocese of Biloxi’s Office of Vocations who had drawn some unique monstrances, which are now part of the journal. The vocation director there bought copies of the large edition for each of the seminarians and an apostolate and sent her a group photos of each one holding the book the day they received it.

For Brewer, the journal brought what she needed spiritually. “When I was reading for the Blessed Sacrament, it really touched me. I could kneel right before the Blessed Sacrament, and I could finally talk to the Eucharist as Jesus. So it works. The Holy Spirit through the book, works. That’s what I needed to experience.”

‘Dilexit Nos’

Continued from pg. 1

the document is the first papal encyclical dedicated entirely to the Sacred Heart since Pope Pius XII’s *Haurietis Aquas* in 1956.

Archbishop Timothy Broglio, president of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops reflected on *Dilexit Nos* in a press release, stating, “The ills of modern society can read like a litany of incurable diseases: consumerism, secularism, partisanism. Today, Pope Francis offers a



Pope Francis

simple and powerful cure: the Sacred Heart of Jesus. In his latest encyclical *Dilexit Nos*, the Holy Father teaches us that devotion to the heart of Jesus can open our own hearts to renewed ways we can love and be loved. We need this timely counsel.

“Within this devotion, we encounter the living heart of Jesus and the power to bring us together as children of God. Pope Francis writes, ‘love, in the end, is the one reality that can unify.’ This is why he says, ‘all of us need to rediscover the importance of the heart.’ Our Holy Father’s message affirms a message of our own National Eucharistic Revival that in the Eucharist we discover ‘the immense love of the heart of Christ.’”

Throughout the document, Francis weaves together traditional elements of Sacred Heart devotion with contemporary concerns, presenting Christ’s heart as the principle unifying reality in a fragmented world.

From Scripture to AI

The approximately 30,000-word encyclical draws extensively from Scripture and tradition, featuring insights from St. Thérèse of Lisieux, St. Francis de Sales and St. Charles de Foucauld.

Released as the Synod on Synodality is concluding its month-long deliberations in Rome, the document emphasizes both personal spirituality and communal missionary commitment.

Francis develops his vision across five chapters, beginning with a philosophical and theological exploration of “the importance of the heart” before moving through reflections on Christ’s actions and words

of love, the theological meaning of Sacred Heart devotion, its spiritual dynamics and social implications.

Algorithms in the digital world

“The algorithms operating in the digital world show that our thoughts and will are much more ‘uniform’ than we had previously thought,” Francis writes, arguing that technological solutions alone cannot address the deeper needs of the human heart.

He emphasizes that the meaning of the word “heart” is not sufficiently captured by biology, psychology, anthropology, or any other science.

“In this age of artificial intelligence, we cannot forget that poetry and love are necessary to save our humanity. No algorithm will ever be able to capture, for example, the nostalgia that all of us feel, whatever our age, and wherever we live,” Francis writes.

The encyclical builds on centuries of Catholic devotion to the Sacred Heart while offering fresh insights for modern challenges. Francis cites extensively from previous papal teachings, particularly from St. John Paul II.

“Devotion to the Sacred Heart, as it developed in Europe two centuries ago, under the impulse of the mystical experiences of St. Margaret Mary Alacoque, was a response to Jansenist rigor, which ended up disregarding God’s infinite mercy,” the late pope writes.

“The men and women of the third millennium need the heart of Christ in order to know God and to know themselves; they need it to build the civilization of love.”

The path forward

“The heart is also capable of unifying and harmonizing our personal history, which may seem hopelessly fragmented,” the pope writes, “yet is the place where everything can make sense.”

“The Gospel tells us this in speaking of Our Lady, who saw things with the heart.” The document calls for a renewal of traditional Sacred Heart practices on this understanding while emphasizing their contemporary relevance.

“Our communities will succeed in uniting and reconciling differing minds and wills, so that the Spirit can guide us in unity as brothers and sisters. Reconciliation and peace are also born of the heart. The heart of Christ is ‘ecstasy,’ openness, gift, and encounter.”

• Hanna Brockhaus contributed to this report.

National Vocation Awareness Week



Photo by Taylor Janak

National Vocation Awareness Week (NVAW), celebrated Nov. 3-9 this year, is an annual celebration of the Catholic Church in the United States, dedicated to promoting vocations to the priesthood, diaconate and consecrated life through prayer and education. It is also a time to renew our prayers and support for those who are considering one of these particular vocations. NVAW began in 1976 when the U.S. bishops designated the 28th Sunday of the year for NVAW. In 1997, this celebration was moved to coincide with the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord. Beginning in 2014, it was again moved to the first full week of November. Currently, the Diocese of Victoria has seven men in priestly formation and one woman in formation for consecrated life. See next month’s story about some of the changes in the formation steps for seminarians. Pictured in the back row center is Father Kristopher Fuchs, vocation and seminarian director for the Diocese of Victoria. From left are seminarians Colin Schuetze, William Pettus, Deacon Caleb Krishke, Deacon Aaron Padilla, Deacon Shane Goertz, Nelson Lagos and Alex Woods.

Prayer for Vocations

God our Father, we thank you for calling men and women to serve in your Son’s Kingdom as priests, deacons, and consecrated persons.

Send your Holy Spirit to help others to respond generously and courageously to your call.

May our community of faith support vocations of sacrificial love in our youth and young adults.

Through our Lord Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever. Amen.

Breve oración por las vocaciones

Padre Nuestro, te damos gracias por llamar a hombres y mujeres a servir en el Reino de tu Hijo como sacerdotes, diáconos y personas consagradas.

Manda tu Santo Espíritu para ayudar a que otros respondan con generosidad y valentía a tu llamado.

Que nuestra comunidad de fe apoye las vocaciones de amor sacrificial en nuestros jóvenes y jóvenes adultos.

Por nuestro Señor Jesucristo quien vive y reina contigo en la unidad del Espíritu Santo, un solo Dios, por los siglos de los siglos. Amen.

Do you have a vocation to the permanent diaconate?

Contact: Deacon Chuck Glynn • Director of Formation for the Permanent Diaconate
979-252-9616 • cglynn@victoriadiocese.org

The Ends of the Earth have come back around to here and now

NOTE from Father Jacob: Last month, participants in the Eucharistic Congress from the diocese were invited by Bishop Cahill to a reunion at St. Philip's in El Campo. We reconnected by celebrating Mass together, spending time in Eucharistic Adoration, and talking about how the Congress has continued to impact us. Speakers were chosen from among the participants to share short reflections on the themes of the Congress, which were different for each day. The last day's theme was "To the Ends of the Earth" and our presenter for it was Ross Allen Tieken, a religion teacher for Shiner Catholic School. I would like to share a shortened version of his talk with you. Hopefully, it will be as inspiring for you as it was for me. Enjoy.

The last day of the Congress was themed: "To the Ends of the Earth." That phrase seems to conjure up images of darkened souls in far-flung jungles, or in godless metropolises, or in dusty desert hovels. And to be sure, great foreign mission work is always being accomplished.

But there is an embarrassing irony to this image: These places, as bleak or dangerous as they may be, are receiving the Gospel and acting upon it – not just the clergy, but as lay men and women. The sobering fact is that our own communities, our own people, historically Christian, have neither the courage nor the conviction to compare with these jungles and cities and deserts. If anything, the "Ends of the Earth" could come here and set *our* hearts aflame.

In some ways, that is exactly what the National Eucharistic Congress wanted to accomplish – to set our hearts aflame for mission. But the question remains, what mission? Botswana? Beijing? Baghdad? What about our own community? What about Victoria? Let us examine our situation.

In Communion

By Very Rev. Jacob Koether



An analogy comes to mind: that of a grand mansion, once strong, proud, and full, but now in ruins. Our society lives in the ruined remains of Christendom's mansion, a mansion that was built by the Church. But our nihilist society is demolishing everything it can smash, so as to erect a new and brutal structure; a temple to money, sex, power, and death. Meanwhile, Catholics in America are scrambling timidly around, to preserve a window here, a column there. We feel secretly guilty about preserving anything because we've been told that the mansion is outdated. Some even assist the demolishers, and justify themselves by twisting terms like "*justice*" and "*love*" and "*freedom*" to ideological ends, while crying "Lord, Lord" to save face.

This may be a bleak image, but it is one that kept coming up at the Congress. Monsignor James Shea called us to abandon "business as usual" and recognize that we are living in a new apostolic age, requiring new dedication and tactics. Sister Josephine Baker called us all to deep personal repentance and reflection, and even Bishop Barron, usually so chipper, called us all out: We are lukewarm, deluded, and divided.

So what do we do, we who are called to mission?

Firstly, we cannot compromise with the vandals, nor can we hide and mourn, nor especially, can we assist in the demolishing. No. We must rebuild, along God's plan, starting with the foundation. Sometimes that will involve sneaking behind the demolition crew. Sometimes it will involve converting the destroyers, helping them see God's design. Often, though, it will mean fighting like cornered animals. In C.S. Lewis's

analogy, when the Apostles were converting the pagans, it was like courting a young and beautiful bride. But now, in this post-Christian age, it is more like convincing a cynical divorcee to give her old marriage another chance. That takes patience and grit and fight deep in our bones. *Do we have it?*

In some ways, our job is more difficult than the apostles. It requires more sophistication and contemplation. It also requires fervor, absolute trust in the will of the Father and in the victory of His Son and the guidance

of His Spirit. Do we have it?

I grew up, not as a Catholic, but as a Protestant, and then an angry atheist. The Catholics I grew up with were largely hypocritical and un-catechized. The Protestants were either sentimental and cynical or apocalyptic and anti-intellectual. I had no interest in Christianity. I turned first to atheism, and then quickly to paganism and the occult, in order to escape the shallow, the uninformed, the cloying, the therapeutic, the plastic cheapness of modernity. I wanted magnificence and challenge and holiness. Finally, in a Catholic parish in Houston, I found what I had been searching for my whole life – a wholesale rejection of this Godless culture, and a wholesale embrace of beauty, goodness, and truth; radical forgiveness, genuine community, and sincere love.

I fell in love first with the Church, but then – wonder of wonders – I found that I had fallen in love with Christ. I would never have found Christ *at all* had it not been for my love of the Church. I had been searching in vain for magic, for an enchanted world, for a real promise and participation

in eternity. And I found it in the Eucharist. I found it in Christ's Incarnation. I found it at the foot of the altar. And I am not the only one. Right now, hundreds, thousands, of young people, like me, are turning away from the City of Man, searching for something eternal. And even in the midst of our weakness, many of these are turning to the Catholic Church.

I had been living in an empty, cruel, random universe – but the Church offers redemption, sacrifice, and wholeness; the body and blood of the very Author of Being. We have something here that the hearts of all people long for. We don't need to look to the world; the world is empty; we need to look at Him.

If what the Church teaches is true, then it is the only thing in the world that matters. If what the Church teaches is false, then nothing matters at all. If the Eucharist is true, our mouths should drool for Him. If the Eucharist is true, our bodies themselves are transforming into God. If Christ is the only living thing in existence, then our only possible hope is to graft ourselves onto Him and let our old selves die.

This is what I heard at the Eucharistic Congress, from every speaker. If we want the world to come to Jesus, first we must die to ourselves and live in Christ. In good Christian hope, we can say this with perfect surety: What is revival if not the new life of something once dead? We were dead before, now we are alive in Christ Jesus. We were gangrenous, and now we have the transfigured flesh of God inside us. We were the corroded Adam, and when baptism drowned him, we came out like new beaten copper. Our whole faith is founded on this: When the world thought they had killed him, "Lo, He is Risen."

Our Church has her patrimony of more than 2,000 years of the greatest philosophers, scholars, artists, musicians, writers, scientists, workers, and saints that the world has ever seen. We have the blueprints. We have the foundation, upon the rock of Peter. We have Christ, the cornerstone, the man who will not die. We have the bread of heaven and the wine of the new covenant. Let us gnaw on His flesh, then, and guzzle His blood, let us shake the dust from our feet and cast the logs from our eyes, and let us get to work building the Kingdom again first in our hearts, and then, my brothers and sisters in Christ, to the ends of the Earth.

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Get the truth from the Truth

At Your Service

By Deacon Michael Tankersley



So Pilate said to him, “Then you are a king?” Jesus answered, “You say I am a king. For this I was born and for this I came into the world, to testify to the truth. Everyone who belongs to the truth listens to my voice.” Pilate said to him, “What is truth?” Jn. 18:37,38

I was gifted a still picture from Mel Gibson’s *The Passion of the Christ* which features Jim Caviezel as Jesus standing before Pontius Pilate (Hristo Shopov). It is the scene in which Pilate -- representing the might of the world’s greatest empire and backed by its most powerful army --faces Jesus who is shackled in chains, beaten by the outsiders and abandoned by his insiders. It is then, in one of history’s greatest ironies, that Pilate asks the question, “*What is Truth?*” to the One who is Truth standing before his eyes.

The last week of November we will celebrate the Solemnity of Our Lord Jesus Christ the King. The Gospel reading for the day does not contain a miraculous feat by Jesus or a triumphant display of divine power. Rather, the One who is “the way, the truth, and the light” is held captive and chained and put on trial. As I revisit that picture, I see beyond a historical scene into a present reality ... a present challenge ... a present question: *Who is my King?*

Looking at the picture, I am reminded of how truth is taking a real beating today. It has been increasingly whipped in these last weeks of the election campaign with half-truths, no truth and an increasing barrage of nonsense. There are many people who, like Pontius Pilate, have (or want) civil authority but lack the concern for truth and we can too easily listen to them and make them our kings. The “news” is full of people blaring rubbish at top volume and setting fire to those who disagree. Time and again our attraction to influencers and politicians and the powerful and wealthy becomes so great that it seems as if we have issued the collective cry: “We have no king but Caesar.” Truth be damned, our guy or our girl has to win at any cost ... even if it means that truth is sacrificed to the god of electability ... even if it means to hunker down in our little tribal allegiances and see everyone else as the enemy. It happens between nations and

within nations. It happens along political, ethnic, socio-economic and religious lines where rich is pitted against poor, red vs. blue, left against right. All the while, truth takes a beating, and the unity of the human race, the coming together of all people as one, becomes more distant. But still He stands before us ... no matter how many times we’ve beaten Him ... ready to deliver us from the battles of clenched fists and closed hearts into the truth of His peace.



By Antonio Ciseri - [https://it.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ecce_Homo_\(Antonio_Ciseri\)](https://it.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ecce_Homo_(Antonio_Ciseri)), Public Domain, <https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=10356430>

disastrous results of relativism by likening it to a river: As long as the banks of truth are strong, there will be drive and energy and direction to human life. But, if those banks of truth are taken away or flattened out, then the result is a “lazy lake” without direction, without drive, without purpose. But still he stands before us ... no matter the chains we’ve placed on him ... ready to deliver us into divinely, purposeful lives.

Looking at the picture, I see how the Truth has been shackled in the chains of relativism where truth is in the eye of the beholder. You can have yours, and I can have mine, and we can all dance to our own truth song. Now the truth of the Tooth Fairy or the Flat Earth Society or the Holocaust denier is as valid as the Truth of Christ Jesus. Having our own “truth” allows us to enthrone ourselves as rulers of our own lives. St. John Henry Newman wrote of the

Jesus in the hopes that it will satisfy the Sanhedrin, but it doesn’t. Pilate wants Jesus to give him a way out, but Jesus doesn’t. Pilate throws the question out to the people, but they choose Barabbas, and, still, the ultimate choice is his.

I, too, am forced to choose the king of my life. Too often I’ve chosen Barabbas over carrying the cross of Christ. Too often I’ve decided that doing a little wrong is easier than living the difficult right. Too often I’ve tried to send Jesus away from my personal and business life and allow him to come out on Sundays. Too often I’ve tossed the question of right and wrong out to the crowd to see what everyone else is doing. But He always stands in before me offering choice – a choice of my will or His will, of my “truth” or The Truth, of my kingdom or Thy Kingdom.

As we approach the end of our liturgical year, it is good to meditate on who or what we have made our king -- to consider the ways that we have tried to limit the reign of Christ in our lives and the ways to open our hearts to He who is Truth. As I revisit the picture, our faith does not lie in a set of principles or debating points or moral codes. Our faith is in the Person of Truth who stood before Pilate then and who stands before each of us today. He fronts us not as accuser but as a merciful and forgiving King. He offers us graces of strength and courage to go out into the world bold and brave and eager to lift high the cross and proclaim Him as our King. Our faith is in He who stands before us with patience and mercy to lead us down the narrow path of truth, even when the road is rocky and we can’t quite see the end. There is an incredible beauty in the mystery that we can know of the lowliness of our failures and yet know the highest truth of Christ’s love. This is our choice: to live as Pilate, asking, “What is truth?” or as the Roman soldier at the foot of the cross who proclaimed, “Truly this was the Son of God.” (Mt. 27:54)

Spiritual Renewal Center

NOTICE
The Spiritual Renewal Center
finally has a phone line and a
NEW PHONE NUMBER!!!

361-579-2022

Looking for a place for your family reunion or Christmas party?

The Spiritual Renewal Center (SRC) is located along the banks of the San Antonio River and about a 25-minute drive from Victoria.
The SRS is open for small or large groups, which can be a one-day or overnight stay with a kitchen staff to provide meals. There is also an open pavilion for outdoor activities. Handicap accessible.
For more information or to reserve the SRC contact Matthew Boyle, director, by email src@victoriadiocese.org or call 361-579-2022.

Recuerde siempre a Dios como la fuente de bendición

Mensaje del Pastor

By Obispo
Brendan Cahill



Queridos hermanos y hermanas,
El 23 de noviembre, nuestro capitulo local de Vide Rural Catolica celebrara una Misa de Cosecha de Accion de gracias en Whistling Duck Winery in Weimar. Esta ocasion de dar gracias a Dios se alina con nuestro Dia National de Accion de Gracias el 28 de noviembre. He escrito antes sobre la decidida mision de Sara Josepha Hale de convencer a un president de los Estados Unidos de la necesidad de determinar un feriado nacional para reconocer Dios como fuente de toda bendición.

Su temor a principios y mediados del siglo XIX era que, a medida que la nacion se hacia más próspera, parecíamos estar olvidando la fuente de nuestras bendiciones. Escribio cartas a lideres politicos durante años. Finalmente, dos meses despues de la horrible Batalla de Gettysburg, el president Lincoln emitió una proclama para que la nación tomara un día de oración en Acción de Gracias en noviembre. En la proclama, escribió:
Las necesarias desviaciones de riqueza y fuerza de los campos de la industria pacífica hacia la defense nacional no han detenido el arado, la lanzadera or el barco; el hacha ha ampliado las fronteras de nuestros asentamientos, y las minas, tanto de hierro y carbón como de metals preciosos, han dado rendimientos aún más abundantes que hasta ahora. La población ha aumentado contantemente, a pesar del

desperdicio que se ha causado en el campamento, el asedio y el campo de batalla; y al país, regocijándose en la conciencia de una fuerza y un vigor aumentado, se le permite esparar la continuidad de años con un gran aumento de libertad.
Ningún consejo humano ha ideado ni mano mortal ha realizado estas grandes cosas. Son los dones misericordiosos del Dios Altísimo, quien, aunque nos trata con ira por nuestros pecados, se acordó de la misericordia.
Me ha parecido adecuado que todo el pueblo Estadounidense los reconozca solemne, reverente y agradecidamente como si fueran un solo corazón y una sola voz. Por lo tanto, invito a mis conciudadanos en todas partes de los Estados Unidos, y también a los que están en el mar y a los que residen en tierras extranjeras, a apartar y observar el último jueves del próximo noviembre, como día de Acción de Gracias y Alabanza a nuestro Padre benéfico que habita en los Cielos. Y les recomiendo que, al tiempo que ofrecen las atribuciones que justamente se le deben ofrecen las atribuciones que justamente se le deben por tan singulares liberaciones y bendiciones, también, con humilde arrepentimiento por nuestra perversidad y desobediencia nacional, encomienden a su tierno cuidado a todos aquellos que han quedado viudos, huérfanos, dolientes o que sufren en la lamentable lucha civil en la que inevitablemente estamos involucrados, e imploramos

fervientemente la interposición de la Mano Todopoderosa para sanar las heridas de la nación y restaurarla tan pronto como sea compatible con los propósitos Divinos para el pleno disfrute de paz, armonía, tranquilidad y unión.
Mientras escribe este artículo en octubre, imagino que habrá tensión y debate sobre el resultado de nuestra elección presidencial. Cualquiera que sea el resultado y el debate, nunca debemos olvidar

que la fuente de toda bendición es Dios Todopoderoso.
Que el Señor bendiga a nuestra nación para que tenga un sentido mas profundo de unidad, propósito y compromiso para cumplir Su voluntad cada día, y que el Señor los bendiga a ustedes y a sus familias con un hermoso Día de Acción de Gracias a Dios por las muchas bendiciones recibidas.
Oremos unos por otros.
+Brendan



PASTORAL BÍBLICA 2024

INTRODUCCIÓN A LA BIBLIA

2024
-Introducción a la Biblia
2025
-Historia de la Salvación
-Libros proféticos
2026
-Evangelios Sinópticos
-El Discipulado
2027
-Cartas Apostólicas
-Apocalipsis

16 y 17 de Noviembre, 2024
St. Joseph, Yoakum

Les invitamos a nuestro curso de introducción a la Biblia, donde exploraremos los fundamentos de este libro sagrado.
Descubriremos juntos quiénes escribieron la Biblia, cómo se formó el canon, y su impacto en la historia y la cultura.
El Padre Manuel Villalobos será nuestro guía en este viaje a través de las Escrituras, ayudándonos a comprender mejor su mensaje y significado. Este curso es perfecto tanto para principiantes como para quienes desean profundizar su conocimiento bíblico.

Para reservar su lugar y para más información favor de hablar a la oficina del Ministerio Hispano al 361-573-0828 x 2246 con Bianca Estrada o código QR



www.victoriadiocese.org/pastoral-biblica

Impartido por el Padre Manuel Villalobos, CMF
Doctor en Sagrada Escritura y fundador del Instituto Bíblico Claretiano

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2024

Catholic Rural Life

Harvest

Mass

10 a.m., November 23

at Whistling Duck Winery

1211 CR 273, Weimar, TX 78962

Celebrant: Bishop Brendan Cahill

All are invited to join the celebration!



Whistling Duck Winery is located at 1211 County Road 273, Weimar

Blessing of Food

Harvest festivals are an ancient practice. The great American feast of Thanksgiving follows that tradition. It reminds us that another year’s work of growing food is over. We are thankful for all we can store to get us through the winter and continue to enjoy our land’s abundance and variety. We also take time to remember God who has given us so much.

As all are seated at table for this meal of giving thanks, we begin with prayer.



OPENING PRAYER

Let us pray: Creator who sustains all your creatures with food, drink and friendship, we enjoy this moment of special pleasure. We acknowledge your gifts and your goodness. We thank you this day, for you have blessed us beyond measure. From us as people filled with praise, filled with faith in you, filled with the generosity you have shown to us. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

SONG OF PRAISE: PSALM 65:10-14

Response: To you we owe our hymn of praise, O God of Zion.

You visit the earth and water it, make it abundantly fertile.
God’s stream is filled with water; you supply their grain. *Response*

Thus do you prepare it: you drench its plowed furrows, and level its ridges.
With showers you keep it soft, blessing its young sprouts. *Response*

You adorn the year with your bounty; your paths drip with fruitful rain.
The meadows of the wilderness also drip; the hills are robed with joy. *Response*

The pastures are clothed with flocks, the valleys blanketed with grain;
they cheer and sing for joy. *Response*

Reading: Leviticus 26:2-6: The Reward of Obedience

Other Selective Readings from Scripture: Exodus 34:22, Leviticus 19:9-10, Deuteronomy 16:14-15, Amos 9:13, John 4:36, Revelation 14:15
Silent Reflection, or invite sharing of thoughts.

CLOSING BLESSING

(Each person lifts a dish of food or glass of drink.)

Blessed are you, Lord our God. You have lavishly provided for us the fruits of the earth. As you have always promised your faithful people, you fill us with good things. Bless us as we share this food, knowing that we will share with you in the eternal celebration one day. We prayer to you as one voice: “Bless us, O Lord, and these Thy gifts, which we are about to receive from Thy bounty, through Christ our Lord. Amen.”

Sunday Readings from Nov. 1 to Dec. 1

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

Nov. 3 ~ Thirty-first Sunday
in Ordinary Time
Deuteronomy 6:2-6
Psalms 18:2-3, 3-4, 47, 51
Hebrews 7:23-28
Mark 12:28b-34

Nov. 10 ~ Thirty-second Sunday
in Ordinary Time
1 Kings 17:10-16
Psalms 146:7, 8-9, 9-10
Hebrews 9:24-28
Mark 12:38-44 or 12:41-44

Nov. 17 ~ Thirty-third Sunday
in Ordinary Time
Daniel 12:1-3
Psalms 16:5, 8, 9-10, 11
Hebrews 10:11-14, 18
Mark 13:24-32

Nov. 24 ~ The Solemnity of Our Lord
Jesus Christ, King of the Universe
Daniel 7:13-14
Psalms 93:1, 1-2, 5
Revelation 1:5-8
John 18:33b-37

Nov. 28 ~ Thanksgiving Day
Sirach 50:22-24
Psalms 145:2-3, 4-5, 6-7, 8-9, 10-11
1 Corinthians 1:3-9
Luke 17:11-19



Dec. 1 ~ First Sunday of Advent
Jeremiah 33:14-16
Psalms 25:4-5, 8-9, 10, 14
1 Thessalonians 3:12—4:2
Luke 21:25-28, 34-36

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



Young adults to talk friendship with the Bishop



VICTORIA — The Diocesan Office of Youth and Young Adult Ministry will host a Truth on Tap social gathering on Nov. 26 from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. at Aerocrafters on Crestwood St. behind Wendy’s.

The gathering is designed for young adults from their late teens to age 39 and is a chance for a social and a presentation. Bishop Brendan Cahill who will speak on the topic of “friendship” during the Nov. 26 event. It is the first of three that are planned.

Anyone who is interested in attending is asked to register by Nov. 19 by using the QR code provided with this article or by going to <https://www.victoriadiocese.org/young-adult-ministry>.



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Contributed Photo

Maritime ministers

NEWARK, NEW JERSEY – Sept. 26 was World Maritime Day. Bishop Brendan Cahill attended the North American Maritime Ministry Association conference in Newark that day. Bishop Cahill is the bishop promoter of Stella Maris in the U.S., a Catholic port ministry for seafarers. This photo was taken after Mass that morning. He is pictured with a group involved in Catholic chaplaincy at ports across the U.S., Canada and the Caribbean (St. Thomas, Virgin Islands). NAMMA is the ecumenical Christian Ministry Organization with whom the diocese works in the ministry. Christmas at Sea is one way that people of the Diocese of Victoria can show their support for seafarers. For more information on Christmas at Sea, see Page 3.

Lavaca Catholic women’s group

Lavaca County Catholic Women’s Group will meet Nov. 11 at St. Mary’s in Hallettsville. They meet every second Monday of the month at different locations. See your parish bulletin for location. There are monthly speakers, fellowship and adoration from 6 to 7:30 p.m. For more information contact, Patty at 361-293-1665 or Theresa at 361-293-1967.

Save the Date:
DOV Women’s Conference

Theme: Hearts of Mercy:
Embracing Love for Our Enemies

Feb. 22, 2025

Scan the QR Code for more information.

Safe Environment

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

Contact:

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

If person is in immediate danger call 911.

and

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

or

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

Written allegations can be mailed marked “Personal and Confidential” to

Office of the Bishop

P.O. Box 4070

Victoria, TX 77903

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

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 May puzzle forms to arrive in The Catholic Lighthouse office, P. O. Box 4070, Victoria, TX 77903 by Nov. 30 to be entered into a drawing for a chance to win one of the following books:

For 2024, the monthly winner of the puzzle contest will receive a sampler copy of *Elie’s Spiritual Treasures, Volume 2 – The New Testament: Matthew and Mark* and the monthly winner of the youth contest will receive a sampler copy of *Elie’s Spiritual Treasures, Volume 2 – The New Testament: Matthew and Mark, Children’s Series*. To date, Elie has published 20 books. Most of her books can be purchased at www.searching-for-jesus.com, Amazon or by calling 361-648-5832. The prices range from \$4.99 and \$19.99.

NOVEMBER 2, 2024

COMMEMORATION OF ALL THE FAITHFUL DEPARTED

OTHER READINGS MAY BE USED IN PLACE OF THE ONES SHOWN HERE.

READING II – ROMANS 6:3–9

A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Romans: Brothers and sisters: / Are you unaware that we who were baptized into Christ Jesus / were baptized into his death? / We were indeed buried with him through baptism into death, / so that, just as Christ was raised from the dead / by the glory of the Father, / we too might live in newness of life. ¶ For if we have grown into union with him through a death like his, / we shall also be united with him in the resurrection. / We know that our old self was crucified with him, / so that our sinful body might be done away with, / that we might no longer be in slavery to sin. / For a dead person has been absolved from sin. / If, then, we have died with Christ, / we believe that we shall also live with him. / We know that Christ, raised from the dead, dies no more; / death no longer has power over him.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone number: _____

Parish: _____

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

Letters to the Editor

Reader says voting Republican is protecting life

To the Editor:

Recently Pope Francis made national news criticizing Vice President Harris’s pro-abortion position likened to “assassination” and former President Trump’s illegal immigration plans as “grave” sin. The pope spoke of the necessity for Americans to vote in the upcoming election with an informed conscience. The Catechism of the Catholic Church (CCC) states “Submission to authority and co-responsibility for common good make it morally obligatory to ... exercise the right to vote, and to defend one’s country.” (2240)

American Catholic voters recognize human rights belong to human nature and are inherent in the person by virtue of all human life being created “in the image and likeness of God.” The Church teaches life and physical health are precious gifts from God. As members of the church and citizens of this country, we have the responsibility to exercise our right to vote to protect the most vulnerable of the human community.

Today, the most vulnerable are the innocent unborn. The CCC states, “Human life must be respected and protected absolutely from the moment of conception ... and recognized as having rights of every innocent being to life.” (2270) The Harris/Walz presidential campaign has vowed, if elected, they will promote the legalization of killing more unborn in the name of reproductive freedom. (Abortion is the opposite of reproduction!) Abortion kills. Reproduction happens in any species when more of that species is re-produced. Renaming abortion as reproductive freedom doesn’t change the act. In their campaign, they also support destroying unborn humans in the name of women’s healthcare. The “baby women” aborted receive no healthcare during an abortion, while the mother of the aborted child risks many medical complications. Abortion guarantees mental health issues as a side effect. Abortion has nothing to do with healthcare unless you consider the treatments needed after the abortion. The mother and baby are both vulnerable and need protection from the intrinsic evil act Pope Francis called “assassination.”

Many of the illegal immigrants invading our country are vulnerable to physical and mental abuse. Lies from evil terrorists, felons, and politicians have encouraged immigrants to illegally cross the border of our country. Tens of thousands of frightened innocent children have disappeared after illegally crossing our border. Are they dead or alive sold into sex slavery? There

is no safe place for many unsuspecting foreigners to stay and no jobs for these displaced people when they arrive illegally. The Trump/Vance plan to stop illegal immigration will make our country safer, while the natural right of the innocent is respected and protected. “Immigrants are obliged to respect with gratitude the material and spiritual heritage of the country that receives them, to obey its laws and to assist in carrying civic burdens.” (CCC 2241) Through enforcement of laws, the Trump Administration will stop the abuse of using foreigners to remake the citizenry of the United States. To not stop illegal entry into our country (the destruction of our country’s sovereignty) and to not stop the abuse and disrespect of immigrants’ human lives would be a “grave” sin. Our Catholic church teaches all life must be protected from conception to natural death.

My “informed conscience” will vote Republican all the way down the ticket. Please vote.

-- Janice Ohrt,
Victoria, Texas

Laudato Si’ shows concern for spiritual and physical lives

Dear Editor,

I am responding to the writer of the letter, written in the October issue entitled “Climate change not a crisis, reader says,” who asked anyone who was anticipating going to the workshop The Spirituality of Creation in which Everything is Inter-Connected to do some research first, giving a reference to which the writer seems to give more significance than Pope Francis’ letter, *Laudato Si’*. The writer claims that Pope Francis is “pushing a climate crisis” and seems to not “believe and trust in the Creator” or seemingly is not concerned for the “salvation of souls and calling them to repentance.”

With this claim, I believe the writer has not read *Laudato Si’* because, if the writer had, Pope Francis’s deep concern for the spiritual as well as physical lives of all people in the world would have been recognized. Having been chosen by the Holy Spirit to be the pastor of the whole

Church, Pope Francis is in touch with what all human beings in the world are experiencing today. As a person of faith, of great intelligence and wisdom and of proven moral accountability, he has not only the insight to recognize what is happening in our physical, natural, spiritual, economic and political environment today, he is aware of his responsibility to call us to recognize how this environment is affecting all people in every circumstance of their lives, which is to concern us. Therefore, in conscience, applying his spiritual, theological and moral background, he talks honestly about what is happening to the world, showing great love and concern for all people, especially for the poor and for our responsibility.

Pope Francis’s message in *Laudato Si’* is based on the spirituality of Saint Francis of Assisi. St. Francis came from a wealthy family and was a very spoiled person until he experienced a conversion. Through his conversion he recognized the dignity of a leper whom he had detested and avoided. He then continued to minister to other lepers, gave up the wealth he could have inherited, and grew to see the importance of living a simple lifestyle, free of material wealth so that it would not possess or control his life. He recognized himself as connected in communion and in love to all creation and other human beings as a part of God’s plan.

In *Laudato Si’* Pope Francis looks at what the reality is in our environment today, the ecological systems of human beings, plants and animals with whom we interrelate as well as the earth with its minerals, air and water. In conversation with 80 eminent mathematicians and experimental scientists in their fields from all over the world, Pope Francis uses his spiritual and theological background, pointing out that we are choosing to not follow the laws of nature and balance, avoiding our leper. Our choices are harming the earth, plants, animals and human beings. He uses Scripture, particularly the book of Genesis, to point out when, how and why this destruction came about and is still taking place. In Genesis we see humans claim dominance over the earth and nature, failing to recognize God as the Creator and acting as if we are in control like Adam and Eve in the garden. They were asked to not eat of the tree of good and evil for their

See *Laudato Si’*, pg. 18

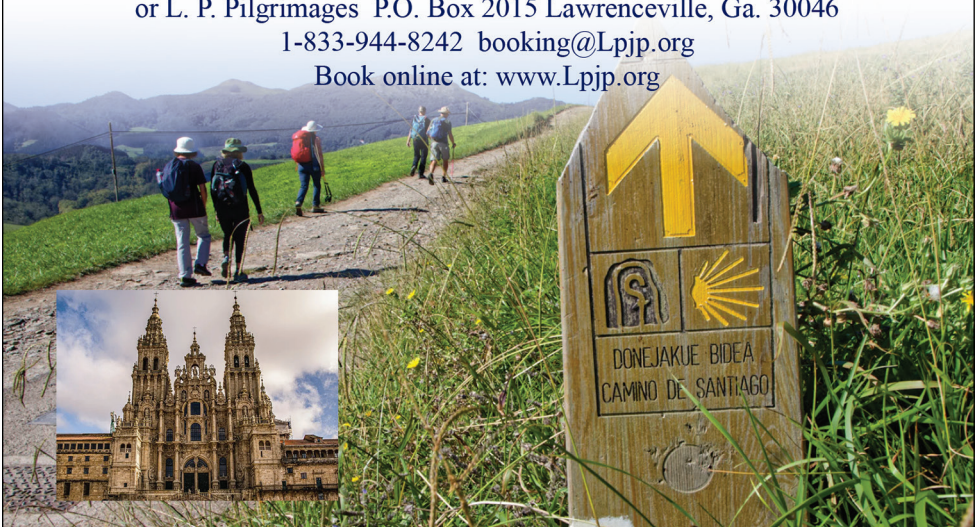
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Laudato Si' shows concern for spiritual and physical lives

Continued from pg. 17

own good, but they chose to eat of that tree, suffering the consequences of their choice. The pope proceeds to use the moral principles found in Scripture, to follow God's commands, to respect God's place in creation and our neighbor. In this way, he offers hope through encouragement to make the necessary changes in our lives, to undergo a conversion. We have been gifted with intelligence, the ability to think, and reason, and with free will to make choices. This freedom also allows us to make choices that can be harmful to ourselves and others. Our consciences must continuously be formed as we go through these conversions or change to make the correct choices. God does not interfere with our freedom of choice. When we make the wrong choice, he asks us to repent, change and try another way. God does not make the change for us. Pope Francis is merely helping us to look at the choices we have made and see where we might repent or change and make better choices that honor God and respect our neighbor and nature.

Since the writer of the letter also suggested checking out the Petition Project, I researched it and discovered that the claims made by those perpetuating this Petition Project are really misinformation. The large numbers of scientists listed were self-defined “men of science” and did not have the background to make their statements. Science is broken down into specialties. A scientist in one specialty does not make the person an authority in all sciences, making the given list of scientists questionable and insignificant for the truth of their statements. <https://a.tellusjournals.se/arti->

cles/10.1080/16000870.2021.1875727

There was also deceit in the origin of the petition as it and a document mimicked official papers from the National Academy of Science. Therefore, the National Academy issued a news release stating, “The petition project was a deliberate attempt to mislead scientists and to rally them in an attempt to undermine support for the Kyoto Protocol. The petition was not based on a review of the science of global climate change, nor were its signers experts in the field of climate science.” <https://www.nationalacademies.org/news/1998/04/statement-of-the-council-of-the-nas-regarding-global-change-petition>

Admitting the experience of climate change and talking about it is very important. It is also important to recognize that our choices have contributed to climate change. A good YouTube video (17 minutes) that may be helpful is a TED Talk by Katherine Hayhoe, a Christian climatologist who speaks of the necessity of talking about climate change from an attitude of hope rather than fear, while seeking solutions for change. https://www.ted.com/talks/katharine_hayhoe_the_most_important_thing_you_can_do_to_fight_climate_change_talk_about_it?subtitle=en

Another YouTube video that may be helpful in understanding change and the need for hopeful solutions is “Why It’s Time to Stop Saving the Planet/Start Changing It.” (7:56 minutes) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mH2aE0lk2XM>

— Sister Marian Sturm, OVISS
mariansturm409@gmail.com



Contributed Photo

Public square rosary

MOULTON — The Christian Mothers in Moulton hosted a public square rosary on Saturday, Oct. 12, at the downtown gazebo. Bernadette Fikac introduced Deacon Kenneth Fishbeck who gave them an anointed talk about the family that prays together stays together and how families need to spend time together, without using technology. Elizabeth Wenske led the Patriotic Rosary. At the end, Deacon Fishbeck gave all a final blessing.

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Harvest Bazaar

St. Mary's Church Hall
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Friday, 11/8/2024
9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

◆◆◆◆◆◆

Saturday, 11/9/2024
9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

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Meals • Picnics and More

November

PORT LAVACA – Our Lady of the Gulf Altar Society Turkey Dinner, Nov. 3. See ad on pg. 7.
VICTORIA – Come shop in downtown Victoria - St. Mary’s Harvest Bazaar on Friday, Nov. 8, and Saturday, Nov. 9. See ad on pg. 18.
VICTORIA – Holy Family Catholic Daughters Arts and Crafts/Bake Sale, Saturday, Nov. 9 (8 a.m.-7 p.m.) and Sunday, Nov. 10 (8 a.m.-1 p.m.) in St. Peter’s Hall.

Amor Meus

Advent Solemn Vespers: Every Sunday from Dec. 1 -22, from 5 to 5:45 p.m. at Incarnate Word Convent Chapel. Solemn Vespers consists of chanting the psalms, singing the hymns and canticles with a brief talk based on the Lenten Sunday Scripture readings.



Amor Meus
Spirituality Center
1101 N. E. Water St.
Victoria, TX 77901
(361) 485-0866
(361) 575-7111
amormeuscenter@gmail.com

Do you have any events
for the Lighthouse?
Submit to
lighthouse@victoriadiocese.org

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Diocese of Victoria
in Texas

OUR LADY OF LOURDES
Parish Festival
Sunday, November 10, 2024
VICTORIA COMMUNITY CENTER

Traditional Turkey Dinner
Famous Lourdes Dressing
Doors open at 10 AM - Serving begins at 11 AM | Plates-to-go curb service begins at 10:30 AM
Fried Rice & Eggroll plates prepared by our Vietnamese Community
Live Auction begins at 12:30 PM | Silent Auction 10 AM to 3 PM
Arts & Crafts - Country Store - Game Booths - Cake Walk - Raffle

\$15 per plate

Ministries • Ongoing Activities

ACTS Retreats – Anyone needing any information regarding ACTS retreats in the diocese should e-mail dovactschapter@victoriadiocese.org.

Catholic Family Services – To find Catholic organizations that focus on family, visit the Catholic Association of Catholic Family Life Ministers at 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 www.couragerc.net.

Crisis Pregnancy Center of Victoria – A sister organization to the Gabriel Project staffed by volunteers that offers help to girls and women who find themselves in a difficult situation due to an unplanned pregnancy. Office located at 1501 E. Red River, is open 1-4 p.m. on Mondays and Fridays. Free pregnancy tests offered and medical referrals are made for prenatal care. 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 – 2025 Dates: Jan. 24-26; April 25-27; Aug. 15-17; and Nov. 7-9. 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/engagedencounter>.

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 – Emmaus Counseling and Spiritual Direction Center sponsors a monthly grief support group for any kind of death or loss, the 1st Tuesday of each month at 9:30 a.m. in the St. Clare Room at the Cathedral Center, 1508 E. Airline, Victoria, please contact the Emmaus Center for information or to register, 361-212-0830

Incarnate Word Prayer Group – Praise and worship 7:30-9 p.m. Mondays in the auditorium at Incarnate Word Convent, 1101 N.E. Water St. For information, contact

Sister Louise Marie Jones at 361-575-7111 or e-mail amormeus@yahoo.com.

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

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.

Our Lady’s Healing Center – Our Lady’s Healing Center is an apostolate with the mission to bring Christ’s divine healing in the Catholic Tradition. Our 12-month healing journey begins with a 5-day residential healing program at our beautiful facility in Seadrift. OLHC has developed a healing program centered on the life of Christ and acceptance of His invitation to be healed and transformed through the sacraments. For more information, call 361-785-2191 or visit ourladysh healingcenter.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. Peer counseling is available for those suffering the loss of a baby due to miscarriage, stillbirth, infant death or abortion. For information, call Therese at 361-258-1514, e-mail raphaelsrefuge@att.net, or visit <http://www.raphaelsrefuge.org>.

Retrouvaille – Retrouvaille, meaning “re-discovery,” is a marriage-healing ministry offered in the diocese to couples in difficult marriages. Contact John and Jennifer Vincent at jbvjov@sbcglobal.net or 361-580-2770; or call 800-470-2230; or visit <http://www.helpourmarriage.org>

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

*First Communion, Confirmation,
Bibles, Books, Rosaries, Medals,
Statues, Baptism & Wedding Items
Inspirational Gifts*

Teachers, alumni take home F.I.R.S.T.-Class awards

Continued from pg. 9

distinguished alumnus for 2024. After high school, he graduated from Texas A&M University with a bachelor of science in rangeland ecology and management. His professional career began with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service as a plant ecologist. It was during this time that he discerned a call to priesthood. He was ordained to the priesthood for the Diocese of Victoria on May 29, 2004. His journey as a priest in the Diocese of Victoria has led him to several parishes and communities. “I thoroughly loved serving all of these communities and walking with them in a way of faith, but I had a deep desire and a ‘calling within the call’ to serve in a parish with a school,” Father Bryan said. In 2016, his prayer to work directly with a Catholic school was answered and he was assigned as pastor of Ss. Cyril and Methodius Catholic Church and its pre-K through 12th grade school.

Keith Boysen † St. Joseph Catholic School

Keith Boysen is a second-generation St Joseph School alumnus from Yoakum. He was the last class in the 10th grade at St. Joseph Catholic High School before the high school officially closed in May 1970. Five years later, he married his high school sweetheart, Lois Berkovsky, who also attended SJS. Their three children, Chris, Jenny and Jessica, all graduated from St. Joseph School in eighth grade as third-generation alumni. While Boysen was busy farming and ranching, his wife took the lead in being a constant presence at St. Joseph School by volunteering to coach sports, be a room mother, and drive for every field trip. Through the years, the Boysen family was involved in the church picnic, fall festival, PTC functions and SJS sporting events. Keith and Lois continue to help support the school with different initiatives. Now the Boysens have four grandchildren attending St. Joseph School.

He especially enjoys attending Wednesday Mass and hearing his two granddaughters in the choir.

Tina Orosco † St. Michael’s Catholic School (Cuero)

St. Michael’s Catholic School in Cuero honored Tina Orosco, a 1973 graduate of St. Michael’s. As a multi-generational parishioner, Orosco’s highest priorities are her faith and her family. She and her sisters followed their mother’s example by attending St. Michael’s. Her children, grandchild and nieces and nephews all followed this example as well. Orosco was especially active with the school during her sons’ time at St. Michael’s, tirelessly serving as a constant volunteer and as a member of the advisory council. She and her family have been beloved members of the community for decades as owners of several restaurants in Cuero, beginning with El Patio in the 1950s. In the 1980s, they opened the Longhorn Restaurant on the Victoria Highway, one of the most popular restaurants in the community until they closed it following the death of her mother in November 2014. Afterward, Orosco returned to St. Michael’s and currently serves as a pre-K4 aide.

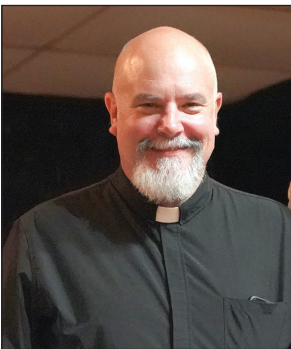
Linda Heller † St. Michael Catholic School (Weimar)

Linda Heller lives out the mission statement of St. Michael Catholic School. She is friendly, respectful, responsible and Christlike. Her attitude of service and responsibility are evident in the many groups and organizations to which she her time and talent. After graduating from St. Michael, Heller went on to graduate from Bishop Forest High School in 1971. She and her husband owned a couple of small businesses in Weimar, and she is now retired. Linda was the 2021 recipient of the Mother Elizabeth Anne Seton Award for her volunteer service for the school. She also received the Melvin Jones Fellow Award from the Lions Club International. Linda is an



Robbie Lauger, lefts, reacts as Father Kirby Hlavaty, pastor of Our Lady of Victory, introduces her as a distinguished alumna of the school.

Robert Allison, the distinguished alumnus from Holy Cross shakes hands with Bishop Brendon Cahill as he receives his award. Also pictured is Robert Whitworth, Superintendent of Catholic Schools.



Father Bryan Heyer



Father Ryan Kapavik



extraordinary minister of Holy Communion, has served in the past on the parish council, serves the community as a member of the Weimar Rotary Club, Weimar Encore Lions Club, Friends of the Weimar Public Library and the Weimar Public Library Board. She is also a volunteer for Senior Connections. Linda volunteers her time with the school’s fundraising events. In the past, she has volunteered in the school library and cafeteria.

Pat Nilson † St. Philip Catholic School

Pat Nilson is St. Philip the Apostle Catholic School’s 2024 award recipient. She is a 1957 graduate of SPS and her two children later followed in her footsteps. She has an extensive history of volunteering at both the school and parish spanning the decades. Currently she gives her time to SPS as a cafeteria volunteer, serving lunch to the pre-K students. She served on the 75th Anniversary committee where she collected photographs of all graduating classes, identified the students, and framed all for the celebration. Nilson is a retired educator and served 12 years on the El Campo ISD School Board. She is a member of Catholic Daughters of the Americas, has served on the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo Art Committee,

as human right representative for MEMEEHA, and with El Campo Deanery ACTS. She is a worker, a doer and her kindness reaches in all directions.

Theodore (Ted) Stanzel † St. Rose of Lima Catholic School

Ted Stanzel is St. Rose of Lima Catholic School’s distinguished alumnus for 2024. After a successful military and business career Stanzel became active in local church, civic and military organizations. He dedicated time and donations towards groups ensuring benefits for the youth of the community such as St. Rose School, the public library, the local museum, medical services, and foundation work for student scholarships towards formal education. For the past two years he has been part of a St. Rose Building Renovation Committee to help save the main building built in 1930 and the annex built in 1984 to continue its 135 years of Catholic education. Also, Stanzel has served as lector and extraordinary minister, as a Knight of Columbus, a member of the Schulenburg Museum board of directors, Schulenburg Library Steering Committee, Colorado-Fayette Medical Center trustee and Stanzel Family Foundation Inc. Board of Directors. Stanzel was also a facilitator for

Texas A&M University School of Public Health, establishing the Healthy Community Initiative in Schulenburg and surrounding communities.

Father Ryan Kapavik † Shiner Catholic School

Father Ryan Kapavik, a 2013 graduate of St. Paul High School in Shiner, is an example Shiner Catholic Schools’ mission of “Preparing the children of God for the Kingdom of God.” From a young age, he set the bar high in his example of serving others and living a Christ-centered life. Father Ryan has returned to Shiner Catholic School on several occasions to share his vocation story and has been an inspiration to the students on following the call of God. He attended the University of Dallas in Irving from 2013-2014 and then went to St. Joseph Seminary College in St. Benedict, La. He went on to receive his Master of Divinity from the University of St. Thomas in 2023. He was ordained to the priesthood on May 13, 2023. He is currently in his first assignment as parochial vicar of Holy Family of Joseph, Mary and Jesus Catholic Church in Victoria. He also serves as the chaplain to the Victoria Police Department. Father Ryan is the first St. Paul graduate to become a priest.