



standing on 'holy ground'

From left, Father Caleb Kriskche, Father Shane Goetz and Father Aaron Padilla pose with Bishop Cahill on the day of their ordination.

Photo by J.W. Harrison

Bishop Cahill reminds new priests that all people – without exception – are a reflection of Jesus

JANET JONES

The Catholic Lighthouse

VICTORIA – The Diocese of Victoria gained three new priests on May 31. Transitional Deacons Shane Goertz, Caleb Kriskche and Aaron Padilla were ordained by Bishop Brendan J. Cahill who passed along inspiration from

elders he has known and even some words from the saintly Pope John Paul II when he visited San Antonio in 1987.

This month, the men begin their first priestly assignments as parochial vicars – Father Padilla at Sts. Cyril and Methodius; Father Shane Goertz at Sacred Heart

in Hallettsville; and Father Caleb Kriskche at St. Michael and Our Lady of Guadalupe in Cuero.

Padilla was already in Shiner as a transitional deacons awaiting ordination and said he is grateful to be staying there for a while. “Being here has been incredible,” he said, adding that he has ex-

perienced the love of the people through prayers and praying the rosary and the parishioners are very active and engaged.

Goertz said he is stepping forth “with hope and in joy.” “I want to be a good priest. I want to be a priest who can help others see Christ more clearly, so I don’t

take the words and promises of ordination lightly. Seven years of formation have led me to where I am today. A lifetime of discernment, of accomplishments and failures, has led me to where I stand today, yet today feels

See Cahill reminds new priests, pg. 10

5 ‘As a Christian you are yeast.’

12 Choose better before busier.

13 Dream of dreams coming true.

14 On vacay? Don’t lose your way.

I re-commit to living for good one day at a time

A Shepherd's Message

By Bishop Brendan Cahill



Dear Brothers and Sisters,

In the summer before the start of the Second Vatican Council, St. John XXIII shared with some seminarians: “Jesus continues his ministry through means of his priests, always in the act of directing the sheep, of searching them out, of bringing them back to the flock on his shoulders. It is to this goal that I want to call the Council, the highest and most worthy goal for all, the same for the bishop of Rome as for the humble and simple, but oh how precious! country priest.”

The saintly pope who grew up in the

country used to make a simple commitment each day, a prayer that we now call his “Daily Decalogue.” I’ve shared this with you before and have been thinking about it again as I reflect on 10 years serving as your bishop.

My deepest sense of daily prayer asks the Lord to heal all wounds and divisions that we may love and support one another in unity. An anniversary gives me the opportunity to re-commit to this prayer and profess my love and gratitude for you. Here is the Daily Decalogue of St. John XXIII:

1) Only for today, I will seek to live the
livelong day positively without wishing to
solve the problems of my life all at once.

2) Only for today, I will take the greatest care of my appearance: I will dress modestly; I will not raise my voice; I will be courteous in my behavior; I will not criticize anyone; I will not claim to improve or to discipline anyone except myself.

3) Only for today, I will be happy in the certainty that I was created to be happy, not only in the other world but also in this one.

4) Only for today, I will adapt to circumstances, without requiring all circumstances to be adapted to my own wishes.

5) Only for today, I will devote 10 minutes of my time to some good reading, remembering that just as food is necessary to the life of the body, so good reading is necessary to the life of the soul.

6) Only for today, I will do one good deed and not tell anyone about it.

7) Only for today, I will do at least one

thing I do not like doing; and if my feelings are hurt, I will make sure that no one notices.

8) Only for today, I will make a plan for myself. I may not follow it to the letter, but I will make it. And I will be on guard against two evils: hastiness and indecision.

9) Only for today, I will firmly believe, despite appearances, that the good Providence of God cares for me as no one else who exists in this world.

10) Only for today, I will have no fears. In particular, I will not be afraid to enjoy what is beautiful and to believe in goodness. Indeed, for 12 hours I can certainly do what might cause me consternation were I to believe I had to do it all my life.

May you and your families be blessed with the peace of Christ and know the personal love He has for each of you. And may we bring hope and healing to every person we meet. Let's keep each other in prayer.

+Brendan

Me comprometo nuevamente a vivir para bien un día a la vez

Queridos hermanos y hermanas,

En la verano previo al inicio del Concilio Vaticano II, San Juan XXII compartió con algunos seminaristas: “Jesús continúa su ministerio por medio de sus sacerdotes, siempre guiando a las ovejas, buscándolas, llevándolas de vuelta al rebaño sobre sus hombros. Es a esta meta a la que quiero dirigir el Concilio, la meta más alta y digna para todos, tanto para el obispo de Roma como para el humilde y sencillo, ¡pero qué valioso! sacerdote rural.”

El santo papa, criado en el campo, solía hacer un sencillo compromiso cada día, una oración que ahora llamamos su “Decálogo Diario”. Ya les he contado esto y lo he vuelto a pensar al reflexionar sobre mis 10 años como obispo.

Mi oración diaria más profunda pide al Señor que sane todas las heridas y divisiones para que podamos amarnos y apoyarnos mutuamente en unidad. Un aniversario me brinda la oportunidad de renovar mi compromiso con esta oración y expresarles mi amor y gratitud. Aquí está el Decálogo Diario de San Juan XXIII. II:

1) Sólo por hoy buscaré vivir todo el día positivamente sin querer resolver todos los problemas de mi vida de una vez.

2) Sólo por hoy cuidaré al máximo mi apariencia: vestiré con modestia; no levantaré la voz; seré cortés en mi comportamiento; no criticaré a nadie; no pretenderé mejorar ni disciplinar a nadie, excepto a mí mismo

3) Sólo por hoy seré feliz en la certeza de que fui creado para ser feliz, no sólo en el otro mundo sino también en este.

4) Solo por hoy, me adaptaré a las circunstancias, sin exigir que todas se adapten a mis propios deseos. 5) Solo por hoy, dedicaré 10 minutos de mi tiempo a una buena lectura, recordando que así como el alimento es necesario para la vida del cuerpo, la buena lectura lo es para la vida del alma.

6) Solo por hoy, haré una buena acción y no se lo diré a nadie.

7) Solo por hoy, haré al menos una cosa que no me guste hacer; y si me siento herido, me aseguraré de que nadie lo note.

8) Solo por hoy, haré un plan para mí. Puede que no lo siga al pie de la letra, pero lo haré. Y estaré en guardia contra dos

males: la precipitación y la indecisión.

9) Solo por hoy, crearé firmemente, a pesar de las apariencias, que la bondadosa Providencia de Dios me cuida como a nadie más en este mundo.

10) Solo por hoy, no tendré miedo. En particular, no temeré disfrutar de lo bello ni creer en la bondad. De hecho, durante 12 horas puedo hacer lo que me causaría consternación si creyera que tengo que hacerlo toda la vida.

Que ustedes y sus familias sean bendecidos con la paz de Cristo y conozcan el amor personal que Él tiene por cada uno de ustedes. Y que podamos llevar esperanza y sanación a cada persona que conozcamos. Oremos por nosotros.

+Brendan

Bishop Cahill's Schedule

July							
1	Victoria – 9 a.m. Legion of Mary Praesidium meeting; Cathedral Center	15	Radio – 6:30 a.m. Morning Air Radio interview	22	Victoria – 9 a.m. Legion of Mary Praesidium meeting; Cathedral Center	Vanderbilt – 3 p.m. Mass for Father Johnson Owusu-Boateng’s 40th ordination anniversary; St. John Bosco	
4	Chancery office closed for 4th of July holiday		Victoria - 9 a.m. Legion of Mary Praesidium meeting; Cathedral Center	23	Victoria – Supper with OVISS Healthcare Sisters; Incarnate Word Convent	28	Victoria – noon Mass with Missionary Catechists
5	East Bernard – 10 a.m. Mass for Father Charles Otsiwah 40th ordination anniversary; Holy Cross Church	18-20	Matamoros, Mexico – Meeting with Bishop Eugenio Andrés Lira Rugarcía	24	Victoria – 5:30 p.m. Mass for Knights of Columbus Mexican Martyrs Relic tour; Holy Family Church	29	Victoria - 9 a.m. Legion of Mary Praesidium meeting; Cathedral Center
6	Dubina – Church picnic	19	Mexico City – 25th anniversary celebration of vows for Sister Eufemia Santiago, MCSH	27	Victoria – 9 a.m. Mass at the Cathedral of Our Lady of Victory	2	Victoria – 10 a.m. Temporary Vows ceremony; Incarnate Word Convent
14	Victoria – Communities of Faith meeting						
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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In Memoriam**Deacon Alvin Matthys,
95, of Wharton dies**

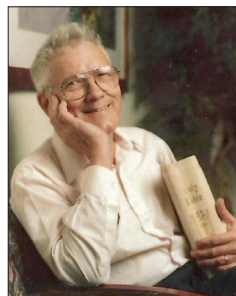
WHARTON – Deacon Alvin Arthur Matthys of Wharton died at his home on June 23. He was born on Jan. 19, 1930, in Mackay to the late Walter Alfred and Vera Frels Matthys.

Alvin went to school at Crescent High School in Wharton County. He was one of two students who ever graduated from the school and lettered in five sports in one year. After graduating, he attended Wharton County Jr. College entering into their first-ever automotive repair class. He then went to work at Cossey's Auto Service (Pontiac dealership). Two years later, he was drafted into the army and went to Korea, where he served as a chaplain. After his honorable discharge in 1953, he attended the University of Houston pursuing a career in electronics.

Alvin married Caroline Sembera on Feb. 21, 1955, at Holy Family Catholic Church and they made their home in Wharton where they raised their two children, Debra and Loretta.

Alvin was a devout Catholic and served the Church proudly in many ways: Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion, lector, director of the religious education program, a charter member of the Knights of Columbus Council 3262 becoming a 4th Degree Knight, a member of the Holy Name Society and the Holy Family Fellowship. In 1972, he was ordained as a permanent deacon for a lifetime of service in the Church.

Alvin retired at age 76 following a 46-



year career with Gulf Coast Medical Center as director of plant operations and fiscal services. He also owned and operated Matys Service Co. making repairs to electronics and heating and cooling systems until he was 72. During his work career, he was a member of the Texas Association of Hospital Facilities Management serving on their board of director for two years. He was elected as a member of the Wharton City Council where he served for nine years.

Alvin was preceded in death by his parents; a brother Wilbert "Doc" Matthys and his wife, Norma; sister, Betty Legler; sister, G. Maria Caylor and her husband, Bill; and a sister-in-law, Mildred Veselka and her husband, Frank.

He is survived by his wife of 70 years, Caroline Sembera Matthys, daughters Debra Kay Hafer and her husband, Mike, of Richmond, Loretta Ann Flynn and her husband, Keith, of Wharton; bother-in-law Edward Sembera and his wife, Bert, of Atlanta, Ga.; grandchildren Aaron Hafer and his wife, Natasha, of Richmond, Brett Hafer and his wife, Haley, of Richmond, Shea Flynn of Istanbul, Turkey, and Devyn Flynn of Wharton; great-grandchildren Brylee Hafer, Hudson Hafer, Dutton Hafer, Camber Hafer and Allie Hafer all of Richmond.

Funeral Mass was celebrated June 28 at Holy Family with Father Samuel Appiasi presiding. The rite of committal and burial followed at Evergreen Memorial Park in Wharton. Serving as pallbearers were fellow deacons.

Memorials may be given to the Holy Family Fellowship, the Holy Family Building Fund or to donor's favorite charity. Condolences may be left at whartonfuneral-home.com.

Sister Serena Etzler, OVISS

Sister Serena Etzler, 86, died June 22, 2025. She was the daughter of the late Theodore and Agnes (Christ) Etzler. She was born in Hallettsville, on July 9, 1938, the youngest of six children, with two sisters and three brothers. She attended Sacred Heart elementary and high school in Hallettsville and was taught by the Incarnate Word Sisters. She graduated from high school and entered Nazareth Convent in Victoria where she became a postulant in 1957, a novice in 1958, and professed first vows on Aug. 6, 1959. Sister Serena received her BA degree with a major in education and a minor in history from Incarnate Word College in San Antonio and also became certified in physical education.



Her ministry began at Nazareth Convent where she worked in the laundry for a few years and then was missioned to St. Ludmila Academy in Shiner, for 16 years. She continued ministry in the laundry and cooking for the Sisters and gradually began teaching third-graders and working with all levels of P.E. She then ministered a few years at St. John School in San Antonio.

After 25 years of teaching third grade at Nazareth Academy, she moved to Incarnate Word Convent where she ministered in the Convent Gift Shop. She shared her devotion to Our Blessed Mother Mary by making and repairing rosaries. Her giftedness led to her other hobbies including making baby blankets, bracelets and other crafts. She enjoyed playing cards and dominoes. Even when residing in the health care, she would join the community when she could. A few days before she died, she joined the community for a movie afternoon. Sister was always very prayerful and generous in giving of her time.

Sister Serena was preceded in death by her parents; her brothers Alphonse (Virginia) Etzler and Ervin Etzler; her sisters Emmerlin (Paul) Dworsky and Lucille Etzler; niece Joyce (Etzler) Miller and Carolyn (Hermes) Dworsky. She is survived by her brother and sister-in-law Hilbert and Joline Etzler and many nieces, nephews, great nieces and nephews, great-great nieces and nephews and friends.

On June 27, a Mass of Resurrection was celebrated at Incarnate Word Convent with Bishop Brendan Cahill as presider and the Sisters' chaplain, Rev. Albert Yankey, as master of ceremonies. Burial will follow at Catholic Cemetery #3. Memorials may be made to Incarnate Word Convent, Victoria, Hospice of South Texas or donor's choice.

The Father Dan Morales Endowment

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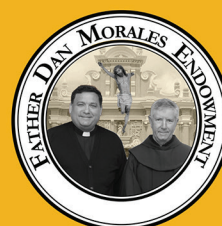
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Our Two Hearts Coffee proceeds all go to the Fr. Dan Endowment. Have you tried it? Check the website for locations, or order online to be shipped to your door!



Bishop Brendan Cahill shows off one of the gifts he received from the chancery staff during a celebration of his 10th anniversary of his episcopal ordination when he was chosen to lead the Diocese of Victoria.



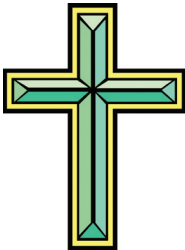
Please remember in prayer the priests of the Diocese of Victoria, who were ordained during the month of July:

Rev. Gabriel Maison	07/01/1978	St. Joseph Church, Moulton
Rev. Charles E. Otsiwah	07/07/1985	Holy Cross Church, East Bernard
Rev. Peter Yeboah-Amanfo	07/10/1983	St. Mary Church, Nada
Rev. Dominic Antwi-Boasiako	07/11/1981	Queen of Peace Church, Sweet Home
Rev. Gabriel Bentil	07/14/1984	Holy Family Church, Victoria
Rev. Gabriel J. Mensah	07/15/1990	St. Peter Church, Blessing
Rev. Augustine Owusu-Peprah	07/16/2016	St. Rose of Lima Church, Schulenburg
Rev. Samuel Appiasi	07/17/1983	Holy Family Church, Wharton
Rev. Clement Quainoo	07/17/1982	Retired
Rev. Peter Nimo	07/17/2004	Hospital Chaplain, Victoria
Rev. Augustine Nsiah Asante	07/18/1998	Hospital Chaplain, M.D. Anderson, Houston
Rev. Charles Owusu Dwomoh	07/19/1986	St. John the Baptist Church, Hungerford
Rev. Albert Yankey	07/20/1980	Incarnate Word Convent, Victoria
Rev. Johnson Owusu-Boateng	07/27/1985	St. John Bosco Church, Vanderbilt
Rev. Samuel Asantey	07/17/1988	The Cathedral of Our Lady of Victory, Victoria
Rev. Barnabas Kyeah	07/29/1995	St. Joseph Church, Inez

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

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

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



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"You shall love the Lord, your God, with all you heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind" Matthew 22:37

Seminary Endowment Fund

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

June 23, 2025

- **General Seminary Burse**
Acolyte
In honor of Deacon Dwain Dungen on his ordination to the Sacred Order of the Diaconate by
Catholic Life Ins. Branch 11, Frelsburg

• **Rev. Msgr. John C. Bily Seminary Burse #3**
Acolyte
In honor of Rev. Msgr. John Bily’s 92nd birthday and 67 years as a priest by
Jesse and Nancy Lednicky

• **CDA Court of St. Ann #369 Seminary Burse #2**
Acolyte
Donation in memory of Carol Warren, Sandra Artero and Lawrence Curtis by
CDA Court St. Ann #369

• **Rev. Dalton Ervin Seminary Burse**
Candidate
In loving memory of Robert M. Hilscher by
Mrs. W. B.Traylor
In honor of Rev. Dalton Ervin as pastor of St. Philip the Apostle Church (donor is anonymous)
In honor of Rev. Dalton Ervin’s anniversary to the priesthood (donor is anonymous)

• **Rev. Wayne Flagg and Rev. Philip Brune Seminary Burse**
Lector
In honor of Dwain Dungen on his ordination to the Diaconate by
Jim & Michelle Kubicek
In honor of Rev. Philip Brune’s 11th anniversary to the priesthood by
Elbert and Joan Brune

• **Rev. Kristopher L. Fuchs Seminary Burse**
Lector
In memory of Monica DeLeon and Pablo J. DeLeon, Sr., Siblings of Pontifical College Josephinum graduate Rev. José Angel DeLeon, Jr. of Laredo, Texas by
Helen and Paul Flessner
- **Rev. Luke Prihoda Seminary Burse**
Lector
In memory of Mary Ann Ermis by
Joan Prihoda

• **Josephat R. Janak Seminary Burse #2**
Lector
In Honor of Auxiliary Bishop Gary Janak’s 37th anniversary as a priest May 14, 1988 and 4 years Auxiliary Bishop April 20, 2021 by
Rose Marie Janak and Family

• **Rev. Robert Knippenberg Seminary Burse**
Acolyte
In honor of Deacon Dwain Dungen on his ordination to the Sacred Order of the Diaconate by
Kenneth and Patsy Warschak
In honor of Rev. Robert Knippenberg on his 25th anniversary of his ordination by
Catholic Life Ins. Branch 11, Frelsburg

• **Rev. Michael Rother Seminary Burse #2**
Candidate
Donation in honor of Rev. Michael Rother

Lector
In celebration of Deacon Mike Vieira’s service to St. Anthony of Padua Church by Bernard and Madeline Rother
In honor of Helen Poessel’s 90th birthday by Bernard and Madeline Rother

• **St. John the Baptist Church, St. John In Memory of Rev. Brian Crookes Seminary Burse #2**
Lector
In memory of Walter Hermis by
Lorine Kubenka

Acolyte
In memory of Walter Hermis by his friends

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



Like yeast changes bread, Christians changed the world

EDITOR’S NOTE: The following sermon was written for the 16th Sunday in Ordinary Time, Cycle A.

The parable about the leaven and the dough could come straight from the kitchen of almost anyone’s home. Mr. Baird said on TV that the Baird family still bakes bread just like his grandmother used to bake it.

In Palestine, bread was baked at home. The yeast was a little piece of dough saved from the previous baking, which had fermented, and which was mixed in with the new dough. My mother used to call it everlasting yeast. She would keep in a pint jar with a glass lid. The yeast would rise and tilt the lid and she would say, “It’s tipping its hat.”

The point of the parable of the yeast lies in one thing – the transforming power of yeast. The yeast changes the whole character of the bread. Unleavened bread is hard and dry and unappetizing, but bread baked with leaven is soft and spongy and tasty.

Just as leaven transforms bread dough, so, too, the coming of Christ’s kingdom transforms human life.

Christianity transforms life for the INDIVIDUAL. St. Paul, in writing to the Corinthians, gathered together a lists of the most terrible and disgusting kinds of sinners



1929-2000

Father Charles Kram Corner

and then commented, “And such were some of you.” Christ transforms the victim of temptation into its conqueror.

Secondly, Christianity transforms life for WOMEN. The Jew, in his morning prayer, thanked God for not making him a Gentile, a slave or a woman. In many an ancient civilization, a woman was a nobody. She was good only for childbearing and working. On a journey, she often carried the baggage while the man rode.

Thirdly, Christianity transforms the lives of the SICK and the WEAK. In one ancient civilization, each newborn baby was submitted to a board of examiners. If it was weak or deformed, it was thrown off a cliff, and its little bones were left to bleach in the sun.

The first asylum for the blind, the first free dispensary, the first hospital were all founded by Christians. Christianity was the

first religion to be interested in the broken things of life.

Fourthly, Christianity transforms life for the AGED. Like the weak, the aged were in the way once their work was done. They were fit only to be cast aside like any worn out discard. Among the Indians, there was the custom of giving the aged a few provisions and taking them to some abandoned spot to die alone. Christianity was the first religion to value human beings as persons with lasting dignity.

Fifthly, Christianity transforms life for the CHILD. Where the marriage relationship has broken down and the home was in peril and children were a disaster, Christianity restored and established the sanctity of marriage and made it the ideal setting for the transmission of life and its enrichment.

There can be no doubt about the fact that Christianity has transformed the individual and the world and still continues to do so.

Men crucified Christ because He greatly disturbed their way of life. Christianity is disruptive and disturbing, so ... many resent and refuse and persecute it because it has the power to change and remake them and society.

Although our world is still far from perfect, today is a fine day to express our gratitude and appreciation for the many ways in which Christianity has improved life on earth. Hospitals, nursing homes,

rehabilitation centers, careers for women, for the handicapped, for minorities – all are evidence of the effectiveness of the yeast of which the Lord Jesus spoke. As a Christian YOU are yeast, so keep mixing in. Try at every opportunity to help promote the things we considered today.

Lord Jesus, thank you for giving us the power to change the world. Help us always to promote respect for the individual, for women, for the sick and the weak, for the aged and for children.

Grant that our transforming power in the world may become ever more visible in the world around us.

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: <https://www.fatherkram.com/video>



Nearly 100 pro-lifers ask Abbott for special session on abortion pills

BY DANIEL PAYNE
Catholic News Agency

A chorus of pro-life voices is urging the governor of Texas to call legislators to a special session to pass a bill that will help combat abortion pills flowing into the state.

In a letter cosigned by almost 100 Texas politicians and pro-life leaders -- including state Lt. Gov. Dan Patrick -- Texas Right to Life President John Seago urged Gov. Greg Abbott to “convene a special session” of the Legislature for lawmakers to pass the state Woman and Child Protection Act.

That measure would allow Texans to sue traffickers and distributors of abortion pills and allow women and their families to bring lawsuits in the event that a woman is injured or killed by those pills. It would also authorize “state-led prosecution for abortion pill trafficking.”

The letter states that nearly 20,000 abortion pills are mailed into the state each year. The bill “targets those who promote, manufacture, and distribute these deadly drugs.”

Abortion bans drive providers out of pro-life states

Large numbers of abortion providers in states that passed abortion bans fled those states in the wake of those laws, new data shows. A study published this month in JAMA Network investigated whether “state-level abortion restrictions” in the wake of Roe v. Wade’s repeal “could lead clinicians to leave states that ban abortion.”

The survey found that 42 percent of surveyed abortion providers in states that enacted bans “relocated primary practice” after such bans.

Nearly half of all states ban abortion after 22 weeks of pregnancy, while a dozen ban the procedure outright. Just nine states and the District of Columbia allow for abortion at any time for any reason.



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Joy & goodness are products of the Word of God; sow those seeds

Finding Beauty in Mystery

By Sister Rosario Resen-



A little more than 11 years ago, I was in the early stages of my religious formation and had just moved to Victoria. I hadn't received my habit yet, but I was already living at the convent. I remember one of the first times I went home to visit, my younger sister had just had her first child, and we attended Mass together.

After Mass, my sister went to greet someone, and I remained in the pew holding my newborn nephew. What stands out most from that memory is a woman I barely knew rushing toward me, nearly tripping over herself with excitement. With a gleam in her eye, she blurted out before I could even say hello, "Your mom told me you entered the convent!"

I confirmed that I had. She looked at me with wide eyes and said, "But ... you have a baby." I explained that I was holding my nephew. Just then, my sister returned and caught the end of the conversation. Still unconvinced, the woman leaned in and whispered, "That's your nephew?"

Clearly frustrated, my sister responded loudly, "I've been coming to Mass pregnant for months. Whose baby do you think this is?" I'll never forget the look of disappointment that flashed across the woman's face as she mumbled congratulations and walked away.

At first, I was confused. It often takes me a moment to process things, but my sister quickly explained that the woman had assumed the baby was mine. I laughed it off, not thinking I had ever looked pregnant, but my sister was upset. She believed the woman had approached me simply to gather *chisme* (gossip). She told me she didn't want to leave me holding my nephew, soon to be my godson, alone again, just to avoid giving anyone reason to start rumors. That made me sad, and, as you can tell, the moment stayed with me.

In 2022, the movie *A Man Called Otto* was released. It's based on the book *A Man*

Called Ove by Fredrik Backman. In both, Otto/Ove is a bitter old man contemplating suicide. He believes no one would miss him, grieving deeply after his wife's death, and sees everyone around him as incompetent. Yet throughout the story, he helps others, not necessarily because he wants to, but because he feels they can't do it themselves and because he was taught by his father that if you know how to do something and the other person doesn't, you teach them how to do it. A new neighbor, a persistent and compassionate wife and mother, refuses to be deterred by his attitude and befriends him. The book beautifully shows how, without realizing it, Otto/Ove touches many lives and in turn, they change him, too. He becomes someone new, softened by connection and community, even earning the companionship of a grumpy cat.

I share these stories because they came to mind while listening to a homily about the parable of the sower. I've always thought of this parable as spreading the Word of God, but this priest offered a different perspective: sowing seeds of joy and goodness. He reminded us that we often affect others without realizing it. So we

must ask ourselves, Are we changing others' lives for the better or for the worse?

If we call ourselves Christians, then we must live accordingly. As followers of Christ, we are called to reflect His love and teachings, not just beyond the walls of the church, but especially within them. Are our actions welcoming? When a mother struggles with a fussy baby at Mass, are we compassionate, or do we cast judgmental glances that make her feel unwelcome?

We should rejoice that she chose to bring her child to church. Yes, it can be hard to hear the readings over a crying baby, but if our church isn't "crying," it isn't growing. I'm reminded of something the late Monsignor Gerry Cernoch (May he rest in peace,) used to say: "Crying babies are praising the Lord the only way they know how."

July is typically a festive month, children are out of school, families take vacations, and there's a special energy in the air. Let's embrace that spirit. Let's greet the stranger. Let's stay aware of those around us. Let us sow seeds of joy and

See Joy & goodness, pg. 7

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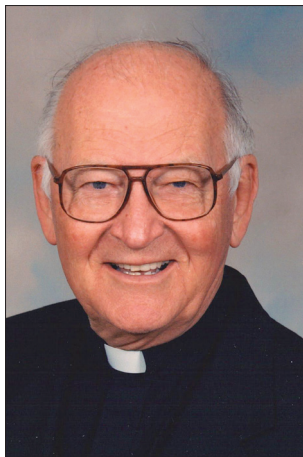
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A portrait of
Msgr. Albert
Hubertus from
1966



Rev. Msgr. John Peters, right, was one of several priests from the Diocese of Victoria who attended Msgr. Albert Hubertus's 75th anniversary of priesthood celebration and Mass in San Antonio.

Msgr. Albert Hubertus celebrates 75-year anniversary of ordination

SAN ANTONIO – On May 26, a celebration of the life and 75 years of service as a priest for Msgr. Albert Hubertus took place with priests from the Archdiocese of San Antonio as well as priests from the Diocese of Victoria attending.

Msgr. Hubertus was born Dec. 3, 1925, in Comal County to Koachin Hubertus and Leonora Fey. His great-grandfather Hubertus immigrated to the U.S. in 1845 on the ship Stralabo, and his great-grandmother immigrated after the Civil War. The family chapel was located a quarter of a mile from where St. John Paul II High School stands today.

He attended parochial school every year except for fifth grade, when there were no Sisters for the school, and he attended public school that year. At the age of 13, he went to live and study at St. John's Seminary and remained there until 1950. He recalls that he "became a free man" when he was ordained in 1950, having spent 12 years at St. John's. He never received a high school diploma because the seminary wasn't accredited.

Msgr. Hubertus' first assignment after ordination was at St. Mary's in Fredericksburg. One of the requirements for this assignment was the ability to speak German. He was one of four priests assigned there, serving as the third assistant. He served several other in the archdiocese after that as well as serving in some parishes that are now part of the Diocese of Victoria.

In 1964, he was assigned as pastor at St. Michael the Archangel in Weimar until

April 1969. From 1969, Msgr. Hubertus served as pastor in El Campo for seven years. He was blessed with many priests who worked with him in the parish, including Fathers Jim Conway, Jim Henke, Sherrill Smith and Tony Pesek. He noted that, at the time, El Campo and Wharton County were pro-Confederacy with vestiges of racism and segregation. During his time as pastor, the neighboring school district, in an attempt to circumvent desegregation, split the district, and El Campo absorbed the black students into their school district.

In 1976, Msgr. Hubertus returned to San Antonio until his retirement.

After retiring, he assisted and served at Harper, Holy Cross, Boerne, Honey Creek, Charlotte, Tilden, and Nixon, with his most regular assistance provided at Comfort and Tilden. He also visited and presided at liturgies for many of the religious congregations, including the Benedictine Sisters in Boerne and the Presentation Sisters in San Antonio.

Msgr. Hubertus' favorite part of being a priest has been the celebration of the Eucharist, especially during Holy Week and Holy Saturday. He never missed Mass for any reason. He valued the sense of community in parishes.

In reflecting on the state of the Church today, Msgr. Hubertus expressed concern about rushing through Mass, disregarding the General Instruction of the Roman Missal (GIRM), and not taking the time to observe pauses in the liturgy or vary Eucharistic Prayers according to the season. He is positive about the role of the laity and the increasing collaboration between them and the ordained clergy.

• This is a shorter version of an article by Tom Krueger and John Halloran written for the Archdiocese of San Antonio's newspaper, Today's Catholic.

Reliquias de los mártires mexicanos llegan a Victoria

VICTORIA — Los Caballeros de Colón llevarán las reliquias de los Mártires Mexicanos a la Iglesia Católica de la Sagrada Familia el 24 de julio.

La velada incluye un rosario en español a las 17:30 h, seguido de una misa en inglés a las 18:00 h. De 19:00 a 20:00 h se venerarán las reliquias.

Los Mártires Mexicanos de los Caballeros de Colón fueron nueve miembros de los Caballeros de Colón que fueron martirizados durante la Guerra Cristera (1926-1929) en México, un período de intensa persecución anticatólica bajo el presidente Plutarco Elías Calles. Seis de estos mártires, todos sacerdotes, fueron canonizados por el Papa Juan Pablo II el 21 de mayo de 2000, y otros tres, laicos, fueron beatificados en 2005. Su festividad se celebra el 21 de mayo.

La Guerra Cristera estalló debido a la aplicación por parte del gobierno mexicano de leyes anticlericales, incluyendo la Constitución de 1917, que restringía los derechos de la Iglesia Católica, prohibía la

educación religiosa y expulsaba al clero. Las políticas agresivas de Calles, como el cierre de iglesias y la prohibición del culto público, provocaron una persecución generalizada de los Católicos.

Los Caballeros de Colón, fundados en México en 1905, se convirtieron en un símbolo de la resistencia católica, organizando escuelas, apoyando a la Liga para la Defensa de la Libertad Religiosa y ayudando a los refugiados. Esto los convirtió en blanco de represalias gubernamentales, con la ilegalización de la organización y el arresto o ejecución de sus

miembros.

Para más información, visite www.kofc.org/mexicanmartyrs



Joy & goodness are products of the Word of God; sow those seeds

Continued from pg. 6

goodness. In doing so, we also sow the Word, which is always good. That is why it's called the "Good News."

"Men are what they are because of what they do. Not what they say." – from *A Man Called Ove*

"It's so rotten, gossip. At the beginning, it seems to be something enjoyable and fun, like a piece of candy. But at the end, it fills the heart with bitterness and also poisons us." – Pope Francis, *Angelus message, Feb. 16, 2014*

"Peace is built in the heart and from the heart, by eliminating pride and vindictiveness and carefully choosing our words." – Pope Leo XI's address to members of the diplomatic corps, May 16, 2025

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



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Pope Leo XIV laments 'fatigue of living' afflicting modern society

BY VICTORIA CARDIEL

Catholic News Agency

Pope Leo XIV on Wednesday addressed what he called the “fatigue of living” as one of the ailments afflicting modern society, and he urged the faithful gathered in St. Peter’s Square to face reality with the grace of Jesus.

“A very widespread ailment of our time is the fatigue of living: Reality seems to us to be too complex, burdensome, difficult to face,” the pope said at his final Wednesday general audience before summer break, when he is expected to reduce his schedule and public engagements for all of July.

“And so we switch off, we fall asleep, in the delusion that, upon waking, things will be different. But reality has to be faced, and together with Jesus, we can do it well,” the pope said.

The pontiff continued his cycle of catechesis on hope, focusing on the Gospel accounts of Jesus’ miraculous healings. He highlighted two specific miracles as “signs of hope”: the healing of Jairus’ daughter — Jairus being a synagogue leader who humbly begged Jesus to save his dying daughter — and the healing of the anonymous woman who had suffered from bleeding for 12 years. To illustrate his point, Leo recalled how Jairus, upon being

told that his daughter had died and not to bother the master anymore, still held onto his faith and continued to hope. The Gospel of Mark tells how Jesus said, “Little girl, I say to you, arise!” and the child got up and began to walk. For the pope, this gesture by Jesus shows that he “not only heals every disease but also awakens from death.” “Because for God, who is eternal life, bodily death is like sleep. The real death is the death of the soul — and that is what we should truly fear,” he added.

The pope also praised the great courage of the bleeding woman, who — despite being condemned to remain hidden and isolated — approached Jesus. “At times, we too can be victims of the judgment of others, who presume to put a robe on us that is not our own. And then we suffer and cannot come out of it,” he said. Leo emphasized the woman’s faith: “This woman, silent and anonymous, conquers her fears, touches the heart of Jesus with her hands, considered unclean because of her illness,” he told the thousands of pilgrims gathered in the square on Wednesday despite the scorching temperatures.

“Every time we perform an act of faith

See Pope Leo XIV laments, pg. 14

Shiner parish receives new pastor



SHINER – Father Jacob Mendoza was installed as the new pastor of Sts. Cyril and Methodius in Shiner by Bishop Brendan Cahill during a Mass on June 23.

At the end of Mass he thanked the congregation for welcoming him and shared a special story with them. He said his late father had visited the diocese while Father Mendoza was a seminarian and, during a tour of the diocese, was taken aback by the beauty of Sts. Cyril and Methodius and asked his son if he thought he might ever be assigned to that parish. Father Jacob said, "That was the first thing I thought of," when he was formally assigned to take over as pastor at the Shiner parish. Father Mendoza's mother, aunt and niece from California were in attendance at the installation, and the Mass was concelebrated by newly ordained Father Aaron Padilla, Msgr. Tim Kosler and Father Ryan Kapavik.

Bishop Cahill spoke of the image of King David, the young shepherd who defeated the giant Goliath with only some stones in his arsenal.

“It’s an incredibly powerful story,” Bishop Cahill said, because David’s response to the ridicule of the giant was, “It is the Lord that fights my battles; therefore, we are always victorious.” He said Father Mendoza has many gifts in his arsenal to serve the parish of Sts. Cyril and Methodius, including his sense of “the spirit of prayer,” his love for the Eucharist and his passion for being a teacher.





Wheelchair donation

CUERO – Knights of Columbus Council #13010 recently donated six wheelchairs to Cuero Home Health, which serves residents of Cuero and those within a 30-mile radius of Cuero. Pictured are Cory Smith, RN, home health administrator for Cuero Home Health, and Arlyn Seiler, Grand Knight of KC Council #13010.



Victoria KC officers

VICTORIA – Newly installed officers for Knight of Columbus Council 1329 in Victoria are, from left, front row, Albert Totah, sitting in for Joseph Jonas, one-year trustee; Keith Totah, advocate; Adolph Hernandez, inside guard; Richard Lerma, outside guard; second row, Rev. Jonas Kuubeta, parochial vicar of the Cathedral of Our Lady of Victory, chaplain; Bebo Menchua, deputy warden; Juan Lara, financial secretary; Chris Krejci, treasurer; John Zarback, warden; third row, Mike Nevlud, recorder; Jeremy Martin, three-year trustee; Kevin Ruiz, grand knight; Zachary Kainer, chancellor; and Mike Gonzales, district deputy. Not pictured are Joseph Janas, one-year trustee; Gary Buckler, deputy grand knight; Michael Starnes, two-year trustee; and Andrew Polasek, lecturer. There were 42 members and family members attending the Mass and ceremony/dinner on June 10 at the KC Hall.



Ryan Janak of Sweet Home, center, receives the Kinane Award for being the number one field agent in Texas for the Knights of Columbus.

Top KC agent award goes to Sweet Home’s Ryan Janak

Ryan Janak, native of Sweet Home, recently was awarded the Kinane Award for being the No. 1 Knights of Columbus agent in Texas (the largest jurisdiction of Knights in the U.S. and Canada) based on 2024 performance.

The award was presented during the 2025 Texas State Convention in Corpus Christi. This award was for application count – the total combined life, disability, and long-term care insurance policies placed in force that calendar year.

Janak has been a member of the Knights of Columbus since the age of 18. He has been the Field Agent for the Lavaca/Dewitt/Gonzales/Victoria county area for 10 years. He has earned membership in MDRT (Million Dollar Round Table) for five years, a two-time Supreme Knights Club award winner, and most

The Knights of Columbus was founded to protect the financial interest of Catholic Families since 1882, specifically to protect widows and orphans with the idea that charity begins at home and that every Catholic family should protect itself from financial hardship with a policy through the Knights of Columbus; a non-profit, tax-exempt fraternal organization that has charity as its first degree, knowing that first every member must protect themselves from becoming a charity case. The KCs offer retirement planning, long-term care policies, disability coverage and some of the best, highest-rated life insurance

options available on the market, both fraternal and commercial. Being non-profit and tax exempt lends to the Knights being able to offer powerful options exclusively to Catholic members and their families.

The Knights of Columbus is a global service organization founded by Blessed Michael J. McGivney. Pope John Paul II called the organization “the strong right arm of the Church.” It’s a brotherhood of Catholic men that are dedicated to promoting the faith, providing support to their families and communities, and advocating for good causes. The core principles include charity, unity, fraternity and patriotism. Ryan Janak can be reached at Ryan.Janak@kofc.org.

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Bishop Cahill reminds new priests that all people – without exception – are a reflection of Jesus

Continued from pg. 1

fresh and new. My prayer is that I let God steer his Church and that I can identify the needs he brings before me each day, for it is in those needs that I should minister; all others are in vain. Nothing compares to living the life God has most destined for you and no other path in life will be more satisfying.”

Krischke’s first assignment is a little of a homecoming. His home parish is St. John in St. John, a mission of the Hallettsville parish. He celebrated his first Mass -- traditionally in the home parish of the newly ordained -- the day after ordination. “Honestly, it was really something that I couldn’t prepare for. It all came very fast and went by very fast. I knew the Lord was with me the whole time. The whole weekend was a whirlwind of grace.” He said he was thankful for all the support he’s had during this journey. “Most especially, I would say this: There were about eight or nine concelebrating priests that came to my first Mass, so that was a huge blessing.”

But there was another special aspect to his first Mass. The Mass intention that day was for the repose of the soul of his father, who passed away while he was in the seminary. “It wasn’t planned; it just kind of fell that way. In February or March when he was asking Father Michael Rother, pastor of Sacred Heart in Hallettsville, to schedule the Mass, Father Rother told him “The Holy Spirit must be working, because the intention that day is for your dad.”

Bishop Cahill said he was especially thinking of the elders in the church that day and the advice and experience that can be shared with the new young priests. One of the moments of learning from an elder was especially memorable as he heard from then Pope John Paul II who spoke to seminarians and men and women in formation for holy orders during his visit to San Antonio in 1987. He talked about Moses and the burning bush and God’s revelation to Moses that he was on holy ground.

“Every time you encounter another human being, you encounter the presence of God. Every time you speak with someone, every time you think about someone, every time you talk about someone, you are on holy ground because you are thinking of the reflection of God in our world,” the bishop said. “How blessed we are today for you three men to come forward and say you have heard the voice of the Lord

speaking to you!”

Bishop Cahill called the ordination day a “day of joy for all of us, for indeed we are standing on holy ground.”

He also encouraged them to listen to the older priests and mark their words of wisdom. He mentioned the counsel he enjoys of Bishop Emeritus David Fellhauer

See Bishop Cahill reminds new priests, pg. 11



Photo by Taylor Janak

The three transitional deacons ordained to the priesthood on May 31 prostrate themselves in front of the altar as the Litany of Saints is sung.



Photo by Taylor Janak

Father Caleb Krischke is surrounded by brother priests during his first Mass at St. John in St. John. He said he was very thankful for the showing of support by the other priests.

Bishop Cahill reminds new priests that all people – without exception – are a reflection of Jesus

Continued from pg. 10

who is still nearby and available to give advice and encouragement. And he said others, such as the local religious Sisters are a rich source of wisdom for our priests.

After his homily he told the three to be ordained, “Now I think you’re ready; I know you’re ready.” And thanked them for inspiring others by saying yes to God.

Padilla said that, at the ordination, he felt peaceful. “Thanks be to God it was nothing but peace that I had the months leading up to it and even afterward. It was even more beautiful than my diaconate ordination.” He said he wondered what he was ever afraid of during the years of discernment. “When I was there giving my first blessings, I felt swept away in just a flood of love from the people. It was a kind of feeling I never had before. ... I was very tired at the end of the day, but at the same time I was ready for more.”

Padilla’s first Mass was the next day at Our Lady of Sorrows in Victoria, his home parish. He recalls in particular the first time he elevated the Eucharist as the presiding priest. “I had to try really hard not to cry.”

Father Goertz, reflecting on the ordination, stated, “I am not sure all that compares to the moment when a man is called by name to come stand before the altar of God, and it is said aloud, ‘Holy Mother Church and the Christian people ask that this man, our brother, be ordained to the responsibility of the priesthood. We choose this man, for the Order of the Priesthood.’ Those are simple words to say but incredibly powerful words to hear while you stand bare before Bishop, before the Church and a huge congregation, and before God. It is you standing before the Lord and its rather intimidating, to say the least.”

Father Krischke said about reaching the milestone of ordination, “I can honestly say that the ordination and having finished my first Mass that every day, every month and every year – all the sacrifices – were totally worth it.” And he gave a special thanks to his family and everyone who have been praying for him and supporting him through it all.



Photo by Taylor Janak

During his first Mass, Father Shane Goertz presents his mother, Sandra, with the maniturgium, the cloth that wipes the chrism off the hands of a newly ordained priest at their ordination. When a priest’s mother dies she is buried holding the maniturgium. Tradition holds that as she arrives at the gates of Heaven and is asked by Christ “What have you done for me?” She can hand him the maniturgium and say, “I have given you my son as a priest,” and she is welcomed into Heaven. In a newer tradition, fathers of newly ordained priests are given the stole worn by the new priest when he hears his first confessions.



Photo by Taylor Janak

Father Aaron Padilla lifts the Eucharist during his first Mass after ordination. He said the elevation of the Eucharist was a particularly emotional point in the Mass for him.



Photo by J.W. Harrison

The priests of the Diocese of Victoria are shown here at the consecration of the Eucharist during the 2025 ordination of Father Shane Goetz, Father Caleb Krischke and Father Aaron Padilla on May 31.

The better part should come before the busier part

At Your Service

By Deacon Michael
Tankersley



“The Lord said to her in reply, ‘Martha, Martha, you are anxious and worried about many things. There is need of only one thing. Mary has chosen the better part and it will not be taken from her.’” -- Luke 10:41-42

Years ago I was in a popular restaurant that was managed by a friend of mine. The eatery was packed with customers, and the staff, including the manager, struggled to keep up. When I invited the friend to join me at meal, he shook me off and said, “Can’t do it. Too busy serving, no time to feed. I probably should have eaten first.”

The manager's situation is one that we often struggle with in our Christian lives, whether bishop or priest, deacon or religious or layperson. Sometimes we get so focused on the demands of and desire to serve that we don't take the time to be fed first.

This is the problem addressed in Luke's account of the visitation of Jesus into the home of Martha and Mary (Luke 10). You know the story. Jesus arrives and Martha immediately assumes the responsibilities

and tasks of hospitality and preparing the meal while Mary opts to sit with Jesus. When Martha complains and asks that Mary be told to help her with the work, Jesus sides with Mary, saying that she “has chosen the better part.”

If you find it awkward to grab why the serving Martha is criticized and the idle Mary is praised, imagine the challenge of having to preach it on Sunday ... the Sunday of the church picnic ... to a congregation you are calling on to be the worker bees for the day. We know that the chicken for the picnic won't get fried by prayer and contemplation. And you can bet that if the water lines burst at the chancery, the first call that Bishop Brendan makes will not go out to Sister Mary for her prayers. Instead, he is putting in a call to Martha the plumber.

So, how does Jesus expect things to get done if everybody “has chosen the better part” and sits in contemplation or spiritual reading or prayer rather than going out to do the Word of God? Is this really a “Martha did bad; Mary did good” story, or might there be more in play?

Let me suggest that this story is not whether to be a Mary OR a Martha, nor is about Christ's preference for Mary types. It is not about which one to be but when to be which one ... when to have a heart of Mary and when to use the hands of Martha. Notice that Jesus did not criticize Martha for working or her quality of work. Rather he noted that she is "anxious and worried about many things."

Even with the presence of Christ in her home, even with her service and good intentions, Martha had little peace in her heart because her work did not flow out of the will of Jesus but from her own will. Martha decided what she was willing to give him without bothering to find out what Jesus wanted from her. Simply put, Martha served before she was fed. As is often the case when this happens, things did not work out as she desired and when her energy and patience drained, instead of reconnecting with the will of Jesus she instead pushes her will upon him.

Notice how the proper relationship between her and Jesus became backward. Instead of approaching Jesus seeking his will, she instructed Jesus as to what his will and that of Mary's should be: "Tell her to help me."

As important as it is to appreciate the error of Martha, we need to get a handle on Jesus' criticism and his prescription as well. When Jesus speaks to Martha (and us) of the "need of only one thing," which is to sit at his feet as did Mary, read this not as the single thing you will ever need to do but the one thing to do first: be fed his will first so that you can then serve his will. We can see this prescription in Mark 3:14 when Jesus called his apostles: "He appointed twelve so that they would be with Him and that He could send them out to preach."

Here is the proper order of things: be with him first and then He will send us out. My friends, Jesus did not come to be fed by our work. He came to feed us ... to feed us his grace and peace so that we can then serve his grace and peace to others. Mary understood. Martha did not. Mary ate it up but Martha was eaten up by anxiety and worry and frustration. Perhaps, like me, you have found with more “Martha



The visitation of Jesus into the home of Martha and Mary (Luke 10).

busyness” than “Mary quietness,” stressfully running around doing “Jesus things” before seeking what things He would have us do ... taking on plans that were never His ... expecting Him and others to react to us instead of us responding to Him. When the proper order is bypassed, disorder will arrive accompanied by anxiety and worry, impatience with self and others.

The most pleasing work that we can do for Christ is to be with Christ ... to get so close to Him that we can feel the pulse of the His Spirit in our hearts moving us in the direction of His will ...

to be fully present to him as if our Holy Mother's great fiat was our own: "May it be done to me." In these intimate encounters with Jesus, our individual wills are not being rejected so much as being shaped into His will and all things are put into proper order. Minor nuisances never become major dilemmas and differences do not become causes of battle. Being a Mary first allows us to be a better Martha. To be fed so that we can then serve ... that is the better part. Beginning at Christ's feet will not require drastic change in the routine of your life, but it will dramatically change the peace and purpose you have in your life.

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Contributed Photo

Father Philip Brune, center, presents \$15,000 in proceeds from the Fr. Dan Morales Endowment to the people who serve sick, disabled and needy at Las Obras in Antigua, Guatemala.

Dreamers see dream of dreams coming true through mission

BY FATHER PHILIP BRUNE
Special to the Lighthouse

I’ve been superabundantly blessed to see dreams come true. Not only that, I’ve seen the dream of dreams become reality. Even far beyond that, God has allowed me to see the dreams dreamt by dreams in a dream come to fruition.

Forty-four years ago, a humble Franciscan priest, Fray Guillermo, started caring for one sick person at a time. Soon one person became 10; became 30; became too much to care for in the friary, then too much to care for in several homes, then too much to care for in a rented government hospital, and, finally, too much even as they were spread out over several campuses to become the largest healthcare organization in the country of Guatemala. People are currently on a waiting list at Las Obras to be cared for and they are at capacity. Indeed, one out of nine Guatemalans have been served by Las Obras, just by serving one person at a time.

Another dream began 17 years ago when Father Dan Morales brought a small group of people, including myself as a seminarian, to visit this dream turned reality. Hearts were filled and souls were inspired. Year after year we came back and the dream of making these trips permanent was realized when Father Dan’s legacy of Coram Deo was realized and the mission trips continued with him interceding from Heaven. The trips grew and the people whose lives had been changed by encountering the face of God (coram Deo) at Las Obras multiplied. Beyond his earthly life, Father Dan’s dream became a reality. Coram Deo came into its own as a free-standing organization dedicated to the spirituality of Father Dan who taught us to see and be the face of God

to others through trips to Las Obras. The dream of a dream was realized when a motley crew of Father Dan’s friends got together over a crazy idea – put together an endowment of \$300 million that could write a dividend check each year that would cover the operating expenses (\$10 million) of Las Obras. This past June 4, the Father Dan Morales Endowment celebrated its fourth anniversary and to date has given \$31,000 to Las Obras for their needs, thanks to many generous patrons and friends of Las Obras.

This past May, the dream dreamt by dreams in a dream happened when friends of the Father Dan Morales Endowment went to Guatemala to expand Two Hearts Coffee Co. from just shipping in the U.S. to selling coffee internationally in Guatemala. They met with coffee growers, roasters and distributors and are set to begin funding the endowment through coffee sales in Guatemala by the end of June 2025. We are completely amazed at what God has done, is doing, and will continue to do for Las Obras and are honored to be a part of this life-changing mission. If you would like to buy some of the best coffee in the world, go to frdanendowment.org/coffee and we can ship you some. If you would like to experience Las Obras for yourself and go on a mission trip, please reach out to Father Stephen Vacek at 979-245-6379 at Holy Cross in Bay City. If you would like to help us reach our \$300 million goal, please contact Teddy Hawes at 361-983-2370.

I invite you to participate in a dream of dreams. It changed Father Dan’s life. It changed my life. It will change yours. Come walk around in this dream with us and see what God is doing at Las Obras.

Bishops urge Senate to protect poor and vulnerable

From the USCCB
WASHINGTON, D.C. – While commending the provisions in the One Big Beautiful Bill Act that promote the dignity of human life and support parental choice in education, Archbishop Timothy P. Broglio, president of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB), implored Congress to be consistent in protecting human life and dignity and make changes to the bill to protect those most in need.

Archbishop Broglio’s intervention comes as the U.S. Senate considers the budget reconciliation bill: “The bishops are grateful that the One Big Beautiful Bill Act includes provisions that promote the dignity of human life and support parental choice in education. These are commendable provisions that are important priorities for the bishops. Still, Congress must be consistent in protecting human life and dignity and make drastic changes to the bill to protect those most in

need. As Pope Leo XIV recently stated, it is the responsibility of politicians to promote and protect the common good, including by working to overcome great wealth inequality. This bill does not answer this call. It takes from the poor to give to the wealthy. It provides tax breaks for some while undermining the social safety net for others through major cuts to nutrition assistance and Medicaid. It fails to protect families and children by promoting an enforcement-only approach to immigration and eroding access to legal protections. It harms God’s creation and future generations through cuts to clean energy incentives and environmental programs. “I underscore what my brother bishops said in their recent letter to find a better way forward and urge Senators to think and act with courage and creativity to protect human dignity for all, to uphold the common good, and to change provisions that undermine these fundamental values.”

Sts. Peter & Paul Catholic Church - Frelsburg

COUNTRY FESTIVAL

On the Church Grounds ♦ Sunday, August 3rd

Holy Mass 8:30am & 10:30am - Very Rev. Robert E. (Bob) Knippenberg, V.F., Celebrant

Frelsburg's Delicious Fried Fish Meal - \$15
with Buttered Potatoes, Hush Puppies, Cole Slaw, Pinto Beans, Bread, Pickles & Tea

Dine-In 11:00am until 1:00pm (Kids 12 and Under \$10)
Drive Thru Line 10:30am until 1:00pm

Fun for all ages

Kids Games

Toy Raffle

Ring Toss

Cake Walk

Kids Water Zone

Live Auction

Bingo

Raffle Drawing

all inside our air conditioned Halls

Live Music Outdoors
throughout the day

Silent Auction

Hamburgers, Nachos & Snacks
in the afternoon

1031 Church Lane, New Ulm TX 78950
For more information, please visit www.peterandpaulparish.com, find us on Facebook, or call (979) 732-3430.

If you’re traveling this summer, remember the Way

Around this time last year, the Catholic Church in the United States had just completed a multi-year process of Eucharistic Revival that included hundreds of parish and diocesan events, four cross-country pilgrimage routes, and the Eucharistic Congress, a gathering of 80,000 in Indianapolis.

Our own diocese was on the southern pilgrimage route. We had the great blessing to host the pilgrims for a few days and offer various events to proclaim the Good News of the Eucharist. We also coordinated a group of 100 people to attend the Eucharistic Congress. When everything was over, I remember wondering what the spiritual ripple effects of the Eucharistic

In Communion

By Very Rev. Jacob Koether



Revival would be. Though it’s impossible to know for sure just how big of an impact it had, we do have an American pope now. You can draw your own conclusions.

To continue stoking the flames of the Eucharistic Revival, and due to the popularity of the pilgrimages, the national committee coordinated another cross-country

trip this year from Indianapolis to Los Angeles. The idea was the same – pray, exalt our Eucharistic Lord, preach about His abiding presence with us, and offer up the sacrifices that accumulate while walking and traveling that far.

However, this time the pilgrims ran into a coordinated counter-protest, groups of people following the same route as the Eucharistic pilgrimage, trying to spread an opposing message. Most of them were reported to come from a small fundamentalist Christian community and were probably well-intentioned. But the pilgrims had to learn how to deal with the distractions in patience and charity and were told not to engage the protestors but to simply keep praying and walking. And in that, I think they provide a great example for us of what to do on our own pilgrimage through life.

The image of the people of God on pilgrimage is one that is a core part of our Judeo-Christian identity, reaching back to the time of Moses. We are like the Israelites wandering through the wilderness, following the guidance of the Lord, being purified of sins, and learning to live a covenant relationship with Him. We are like the Judeans taken into exile and challenged to remain faithful amid an unbelieving people. We are like those pilgrims walking from Indianapolis to Los Angeles, loud

voices in our ears trying to get our attention, discourage us, and tempt us to get us off track.

A Eucharistic pilgrimage can teach us that, to get through hardship, temptations, and distractions we must take up our crosses, get behind Jesus, and keep our eyes firmly fixed on Him. Prayer isn’t always about the warm fuzzy feelings, or getting something from God. It doesn’t always appear to be rewarding. Sometimes prayer will feel like a sacrifice; an offering; a letting go. Sometimes it will just look like putting one step in front of the other with trust and faith, eyes focused on heaven.

To make a practical connection, consider your vacation this summer, especially if you are traveling. In your time away, do you make it a point to look up a Catholic church and attend Sunday Mass? Or are you distracted by the side trips, the voices calling out from alternate routes? When you are away from the parish family, do you still make an effort to lead your own family in prayer, to help them walk behind the Lord? How are you keeping your eyes firmly fixed on Jesus while you are off your normal prayer schedule and routine?

In the Eucharist, Jesus abides with us and leads us closer to the promised land of heaven. Staying close to Him even while you are far from your parish could be one example of Eucharistic Revival. It might not feel good in the moment. And you might think it is going to take away from your vacation. But who knows what kind of spiritual impact that kind of fidelity can have?

Whether you realize it or not, you are on a pilgrimage. Don’t get distracted. Let Jesus lead.

DIOCESE OF VICTORIA, YOUTH AND YOUNG ADULT OFFICE

YOUTH LEADERSHIP TEAM

Forming young Catholic leaders through friendship, faith, and service.

Meets one Sunday a month

Chancery Office, 1505 E. Mesquite Ln, Victoria, TX 77901

The program:

- Virtue-based program which looks to Jesus Christ as the perfect leader.
- Learn, discuss, and practice key principles of Christian Leadership like **greater intimacy with Christ**, the beauty of the **teachings of the Catholic Church**, how to effectively **share your faith**, and **servant leadership**.
- Summer Leadership Retreat. This is the time to grow together as a team, have fun, and get ready for the year.
- Lead junior high retreats.

APPLICATIONS OPEN

Scan the QR code for details!

Pope Leo XIV laments ‘fatigue of living’ afflicting modern society

Continued from pg. 8

addressed to Jesus, contact is established with him, and immediately his grace comes out from him,” he said.

Leo lamented that many people merely skim the surface of faith in Jesus “without truly believing in his power” while their hearts are elsewhere. Yet, he pointed out, “in a secret and real way,” grace reaches us and slowly transforms life from within.

Before beginning the catechesis, Pope Leo XIV greeted pilgrims for half an hour and blessed many infants.

He then issued a challenge: “When our children are in crisis and need spiritual nourishment, do we know how to give it to them? And how can we, if we ourselves are not nourished by the Gospel?”

Renovations for St. Rose School



Facebook Photos

SCHULENBURG – St. Rose of Lima started with phase one of renovations on their 1930 main building. Renovations started right after school let out for the summer vacation. The project is expected to be completed by September 2025. Work is not only on the inside but also on the outside. The plan is for phases two and three to begin next year. They are grateful to the committee, donors and everyone helping to bring this dream to reality.



Facebook Photo

SHINER – St. Paul senior Andrew Decou was celebrated at an Eagle Scout Court of Honor, honoring him on the accomplishment of obtaining the coveted title of Eagle Scout.



Contributed Photo

Spiritual Renewal Center

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

361-579-2022

CDA scholarship award

EDNA – Autumn Kallus, the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Russell Kallus of Inez has been awarded a Catholic Daughters of the Americas Texas Memorial Scholarship in the amount of \$1,000. Autumn was sponsored by CDA Court St. Theresa of the Little Flower #1350 of Edna of which her grandmother, Betty Kallus, is a member. Autumn is a 2025 graduate of Industrial High School. The award was presented to Autumn by Joycelyn Kozelsky, regent of Court St. Theresa.

TRINITY
THE UNITY OF GOD THE FATHER,
THE SON, AND THE HOLY SPIRIT
AUG. 26-SEPT. 30

“The mystery of the Most Holy Trinity is the central mystery of Christian faith and life ... It is the most fundamental and essential teaching in the ‘hierarchy of the truths of faith.’” (CCC 234)
Participants are encouraged to have a Bible and the Catechism of the Catholic Church for this course.
Recommended text: *The ‘One Thing’ is Three* by Father Michael Gaitley.

INSTRUCTOR: FATHER JACOB KOETHER

Classes are
weekly on
Tuesdays
with some
exceptions.



The Diocese of Victoria
Pastoral Institute Extended Program
COST IS \$30 PER COURSE.
COURSES ARE 9:15-11:30 A.M.



WWW.VICTORIADIOCESE.ORG | 361-573-0828 | CALVAREZ@VICTORIADIOCESE.ORG

It was EPIC

EL CAMPO – The first-ever EPIC Family Gathering welcomed more than 500 people from around the diocese on June 14 at the El Campo Civic Center. Father David Michael Moses of Houston, who is well known for his social media presence that includes light-hearted vignettes of his priestly life, gave the keynote presentation. During part of his keynote he asked men to pray over their wives; wives to pray over their husbands; and parents to pray over their children. There were few dry eyes during those moments and many said they had never prayed over their families before in such a personal way. Sister Nancy Ussellmann, director of Pauline Media Studies gave a talk about using technology for good instead and avoiding having it become a dangerous addiction. Adrian Herrera of the Office of Catechesis and Evangelization from the Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston led a Spanish-language talk about how to enjoy family life and the benefits of praying as well as playing together. There were also talks for teen-

age children as well as younger children. There were also games and other recreational activities to enjoy in the in-between times. The purpose of the event was to open the annual catechetical conference up in a new way to ensure that people from across the diocese knew they were welcomed and to give families a chance to spend a day together learning more about their faith. The families created an “EPIC Family Plan” that would help them find ways to share their faith together. Some of the children read aloud to the gathering what their families planned to do to have a more Christ-centered home life. People all ages attended, from infants to grandparents. Christella Alvarez, the Director of the Office of Catechesis for the Diocese of Victoria worked with a committee for about a year to plan the details of the event. She said it is a possibility that it could take place every other year and have the more traditional catechetical conference on the other years. EPIC stands for Engaging-Practical-Interactive-Catholic.



A father prays over his wife during the EPIC family gathering. There was hardly a dry eye in the house as the prayers flowed.



Father David Michael Moses gave the keynote and a closing concert at the EPIC Family Gathering. Sister Nancy Ussellmann is shown during her talk on the pros and cons of social media.



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

COMPASSION IN ACTION

Walk alongside women in crisis pregnancies with love, practical support, and hope for the future. All services are free, confidential, and rooted in the belief that every life is a gift.



Prayers for July

Prayer on St. Kateri’s Feast Day (July 14)
O God, who desired the Virgin St. Kateri Tekakwitha to flower among Native Americans in a life of innocence, grant, through her intercession, that when all are gathered into your Church from every nation, tribe and tongue, they may magnify you in a single canticle of praise. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

Prayer of Saint Ignatius for Generosity (Feast, July 31)
DEAREST Lord, teach me to be generous. Teach me to serve You as You deserve: to give, and not to count the cost; to fight and not to heed the wounds; to toil and not to seek for rest; to labor and not to ask for reward, except that of knowing that I am doing Your will.



Blessing of Visitors and Guests

OPENING PRAYER
O God, you have made us your guests in this world, the earth you created for all. We remember how you sent your angels to Abraham and Sarah to be received as guests. By their hospitality, Abraham and Sarah received a message of hope and life.
Bless us and out hospitality. May our guests be a blessing to us and reveal your presence to us. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

SONG OF PRAISE: PSALM 87:1-7

Response: Blessed be these angels, the messengers of God’s love.

The Lord loves the city founded on holy mountains; Glorious things are said of you, O city of God! **Response**
From Babylon and Egypt I count among those who know me; And of Zion it will be said: “They all were born here.” The Most High confirms this. **Response**
The Lord notes in the register of the peoples: “This one was born here.” So singers and dancers: “All my springs are in you. Within you is my true home.” **Response**

READING: GENESIS 18:1-10 Abraham’s Visitors
The LORD appeared to Abraham by the oak of Mamre, as he sat in the entrance of his tent, while the day was growing hot. Looking up, he saw three men standing near him.
When he saw them, he ran from the entrance of the tent to greet them; and bowing to the ground, he said: “Sir, if it please you, do not go on past your servant. Let some water be brought, that you may bathe your feet, and then rest under the tree.
“Now that you have come to your servant, let me bring you a little food, that you may refresh yourselves; and afterward you may go on your way.”
“Very well,” they replied, “do as you have said.”
Abraham hurried into the tent to Sarah and said, “Quick, three measures of bran flour! Knead it and make bread.” He ran to the herd, picked out a tender, choice calf, and gave it to a servant, who quickly prepared it.
Then he got some curds and milk, as well as the calf that had been prepared, and set these before them, waiting on them under the tree while they ate.
“Where is your wife Sarah?” they asked him. “There in the tent,” he replied. One of them said, “I will return to you about this time next year, and Sarah will then have a son.”

Selective Readings from Scripture: Hebrews 13:2; Hebrews 13:16; Leviticus 19:34; Isaiah 58:7; Matthew 10:40,42; Luke 14:12-14; Romans 15:4-7
Quiet Reflection, or people may share their thoughts.

CLOSING BLESSING
Family members extend their hands in blessing over the guests.
O wondrous God, you are never far away. Again and again, you reveal your presence among us. Look with favor on our guests, who during their stay with us have opened our eyes to the mystery of your love and grace. Like our ancestors in the bible, we have received these guests through the fellowship of table: food, drink stories and sharing.
Through them we have participated in the companionship which mirrors the relationship between you and your people. As Abraham and Sarah were visited by your angels, we too have felt your presence through our guests.
Bless these holy pilgrims with safety in their travels, wonderful adventures in your good world, warm welcome from all they meet and a happy return home when that time comes. May all they touch witness the wonder of your presence.
Bless us, O Lord of Hosts, for you became a guest to reveal the truth of your faithful love. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.



Sunday Readings from July 6 - August 10

July 6 ~ Fourteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time Isaiah 66:10-14c Psalms 66:1-3, 4-5, 6-7, 16, 20 Galatians 6:14-18 Luke 10:1-12, 17-20	July 27 ~ Seventeenth Sunday in Ordinary Time Genesis 18:20-32 Psalms 138:1-2, 2-3, 6-7, 7-8 Colossians 2:12-14 Luke 11:1-13
July 13 ~ Fifteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time Deuteronomy 30:10-14 Psalms 69:14, 17, 30-31, 33-34, 36, 37 Colossians 1:15-20 Luke 10:25-37	August 3 ~ Eighteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time Ecclesiastes 1:2; 2:21-23 Psalms 90:3-4, 5-6, 12-13, 14 and 17 Colossians 3:1-5, 9-11 Luke 12:13-21
July 20 ~ Sixteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time Genesis 18:1-10a Psalms 15:2-3, 3-4, 5 Colossians 1:24-28 Luke 10:38-42	August 10 ~ Nineteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time Wisdom 18:6-9 Psalms 33:1, 12, 18-19, 20-22 Hebrews 11:1-2, 8-19 Luke 12:32-48

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





OUR LADY OF SORROWS CATHOLIC CHURCH AND
CAPILLA SANTÍSIMA TRINIDAD
PROUDLY PRESENT

Jamaica 2025



Raffle tickets \$5
each, chance to win
\$2,000!

FREE LIVE MUSIC ~ DELICIOUS FOOD BOOTHS ~ KIDS GAMES
LIVE AUCTION ~ COLD BEER

Sunday, August 3, 2025

Victoria Community Center
Doors Open at 10:00 am
Serving begins at 10:30 am

Brisket plates \$13
to-go or dine in!

More information
call 361-575-2293

Meals • Picnics and More

July

ST. JOHN – St. John Parish Picnic, Thursday, July 4, with Mass at 9 a.m. followed by a flag raising ceremony. A stew and fried-chicken dinner at 10:30 a.m. for \$14 p/p dine-in or take-out available. Music by The Dujka Brothers, Red Ravens, Mark Halata & Texavia and Nathan Colt Young Band. Auction starts at 12:30 p.m. A fireworks show at 9:30 p.m.

DUBINA – Sts. Cyril and Methodius Church Feast July 6, Polka Mass at 9 a.m. A fried-chicken and sausage dinner begins at 11 a.m. for \$15 p/p dine-in or take-out available. Bingo from 2 to 6 p.m., music noon to 7 p.m. with Mark Halata & Texavia and Lost Cause Band. Auction begins at 1:30 p.m. Find them on Facebook at Dubina Church Picnic.

MORAVIA – Ascension Parish Picnic July 20 with a stew and fried chicken dinner for \$14 per plate starting with plates-to-go at 10:30 a.m. and dine-in at 11 a.m. Bingo from 1 to 5 p.m., music with Mark Halata & Texavia and the Fender Bender Band. Auction begins at 1 p.m. Bingo from 1 - 5 p.m. There will be a cakewalk, country store, games and more.

August

FRELSBURG – Sts. Peter & Paul Country Festival, Aug. 4, on the church grounds. A fried fish dinner will be served. For more information see ad on pg. 13.

YOAKUM – St. Joseph Picnic, Aug. 4, at the Community Center. A stew and sausage dinner will be served. For more information see ad on pg. 8.

VICTORIA – Our Lady of Sorrows/Santisima Trinidad Jamaica, Aug. 4 at the Community Center 9 a.m.- 6 p.m. For more information see ad on pg. 17.

VICTORIA – The KJZT will gather for living and deceased members of KJZT #101 on Aug. 10 at the 7:30 a.m. Mass, at the Cathedral of Our Lady of Victory. A breakfast will follow at the Cathedral Center (Gabriel Hall). RSVP by calling Irene 361-573-2669.

WEIMAR – St. Michael Harvest Feast, Aug. 11, at Veterans Hall.

PRAHA – 169th Prazska Pout/Praha Picnic Friday, Aug. 15. Mass will be at 10 a.m. Starting at 11 a.m., a stew and fried chicken dinner will be served, dine-in or plates-to-go available. Music starting at 11 a.m. There will be a cakewalk, games, country store, bingo (2-6 p.m.), and more throughout the day. Auction at 1 p.m. Food available throughout the afternoon and evening.

HILLJE – St. Andrew Summer Festival, Aug. 17, BBQ tri-tip ~ homemade sausage dinner will be served for \$15 per plate, starting at 11 a.m. Games, country store, raffle, live auction at 12:30 p.m., silent auction 11 a.m.-2 p.m. All inside parish hall (270 St. Andrew St., El Campo).

September

CUERO – Our Lady of Guadalupe Jamaica, Sept. 7 on parish grounds.

HALLETTSVILLE – Sacred Heart Parish Picnic, Sept. 7 at the KC Hall.

HIGH HILL – St. Mary Parish Picnic, Sept. 7 on the parish grounds.

NADA – St. Mary Homecoming, Sept. 7 at the Community Hall.

SHINER – Sts. Cyril and Methodius Parish Picnic, Sept. 7 at the KC Hall.

YORKTOWN – Holy Cross Church hosts its annual festival, Sept. 14 at the Yorktown Community Hall (60 Community Hall Road). Mass will begin at 9:30 a.m. in the Church, 1214 Zorn Road. Lunch at 10:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. in the air-conditioned hall. Featuring famous homemade Polish sausage and barbecue beef shoulder clod with trimmings will be served. Adults and to-go plates are \$15 and plates for children 12 and under are \$8. Snack bar opens at 1 p.m. Also featuring country store, cakewalk and children’s activities, including games. Musical entertainment with favorite polkas, waltzes and classic country music from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. A live auction will begin in dance hall at 1 p.m. Raffle drawing will be 3 p.m.

CISTERN – Sts. Cyril and Methodius Church Picnic, Sept. 21, on the parish grounds.

HOLMAN – St. Wenceslaus Church (9937 FM 155, between Weimar and La Grange) Annual Drive-Thru Meal is on Sept. 21. The plates will have fried chicken, sausage and all the trimmings beginning at 10:30 a.m. There will be an online auction.

KOERTH – St. John the Baptist Picnic, Sept. 28, located at the Sweet Home Community Center. Dine-in and To-Go Plates of Stew, Sausage, more. Live Auction and Silent Auction, Games, Music, and much more.

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.couragec.net.

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: 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 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.



AMOR MEUS
Spirituality Center

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

Grief Ministry – Emmaus Counseling and Spiritual Direction Center sponsors a monthly grief support group for any kind of death or loss. Meetings are held in the Victoria area - 1st Tuesday of each month at 9:30-11:00 a.m. at the Cathedral Center (St. Clare Room), 1508 E. Airline, Victoria and in the El Campo area - 2nd Tuesday of each month at 9:30-11:00 a.m. at St. Philip’s Meeting House, 701 Hoskins Broadway, El Campo. 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 www.helpourmarriage.org

Giving Garden Ministry puts Blessing Box” at Holy Cross

YORKTOWN — The Giving Garden Ministry at Holy Cross Catholic Church installed a new “Blessing Box” in the church parking lot just a few months ago.

Designed with compassion and community spirit in mind, the Blessing Box features three compartments – one for non-perishable food items, a second for hygiene products and diapers and a third for fresh produce. The box operates on a simple yet powerful principle: “Take what you need. Leave what you can.”

This community-driven initiative complements, but does not replace, the ongoing work of the Yorktown Assistance Ministry (YAM). Both programs share the same values of generosity, kindness and mutual support. The Blessing Box provides a dignified and accessible way for individuals and families to receive help without judgment, while also encouraging others to give directly to those in need.

“We hope the Blessing Box becomes a symbol of hope and care in our community,” said a spokesperson for the Giving Garden Ministry. “It’s about neighbors helping neighbors.”

Everyone is welcome to visit the Blessing Box — whether to give or to receive. The Giving Garden Ministry also invites volunteers to join their ongoing efforts in serving the community.

For more information or to get involved with the Giving Garden, please contact the Holy Cross Catholic Church office at 361-564-2893.



Facebook Photos

Holy Cross Catholic Church installed a new “Blessing Box,” in the church parking lot, which provides a dignified and accessible way for individuals and families to receive help without judgment. While also encouraging others to give directly to those in need. The box includes fresh vegetables and nonperishable items.

KCs bring relics of Mexican martyrs to Victoria

VICTORIA — The Knights of Columbus are bringing the relics of the Mexican martyrs to Holy Family Catholic Church on July 24.

The evening includes a rosary, recited in Spanish at 5:30 p.m., followed by Mass in English at 6 p.m. From 7 to 8 p.m. will be the veneration of the relics.

The Knights of Columbus Mexican Martyrs were nine members of the Knights of Columbus who were martyred during the Cristero War (1926–1929) in Mexico, a period of intense anti-Catholic persecution under President Plutarco Elías Calles.

Six of these martyrs, all priests, were canonized as saints by Pope John Paul II on May 21, 2000, and three others, who were laymen, were beatified in 2005. Their feast day is celebrated on May 21.

The Cristero War erupted due to the Mexican government’s enforcement of anti-clerical laws, including the 1917 Constitution, which restricted the Catholic Church’s rights, banned religious education, and expelled clergy. Calles’ aggressive policies, such as closing churches and outlawing public worship, led to widespread persecution of Catholics.

The Knights of Columbus, established in Mexico in 1905, became a symbol of Catholic resistance, organizing schools, supporting the League for the Defense of Religious Liberty and aiding refugees. This made them targets of government retaliation, with the organization outlawed and members arrested or executed.

For more information, visit www.kofc.org/mexicanmartyrs



**PRAYER TO THE
KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS
MEXICAN MARTYRS**

Almighty God, the martyrdom of Saint Mateo Correa Magallanes and his priest companions who were Knights of Columbus reveals that violence and hatred are only overcome by the spirit of peace and charity; and it manifests your love for the nation of the Guadalupeana. These brother Knights live on in our minds and hearts for, as they sacrificed their lives for the sake of the Gospel, they witnessed that your love is eternal and your truth can never be compromised. Let their death-cry of fidelity to Jesus Christ encourage us to be courageous in faith and to remain loyal Knights of Columbus.

We make our prayer through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Painting by Martha Orozco

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A religious painting depicting six Mexican martyrs in the foreground, with a crucifix and the Virgin Mary in the background. The martyrs are shown in various poses, some with their hands clasped in prayer. The background features a large crucifix and a statue of the Virgin Mary. The painting is signed "Martha Orozco 2017" in the bottom right corner.