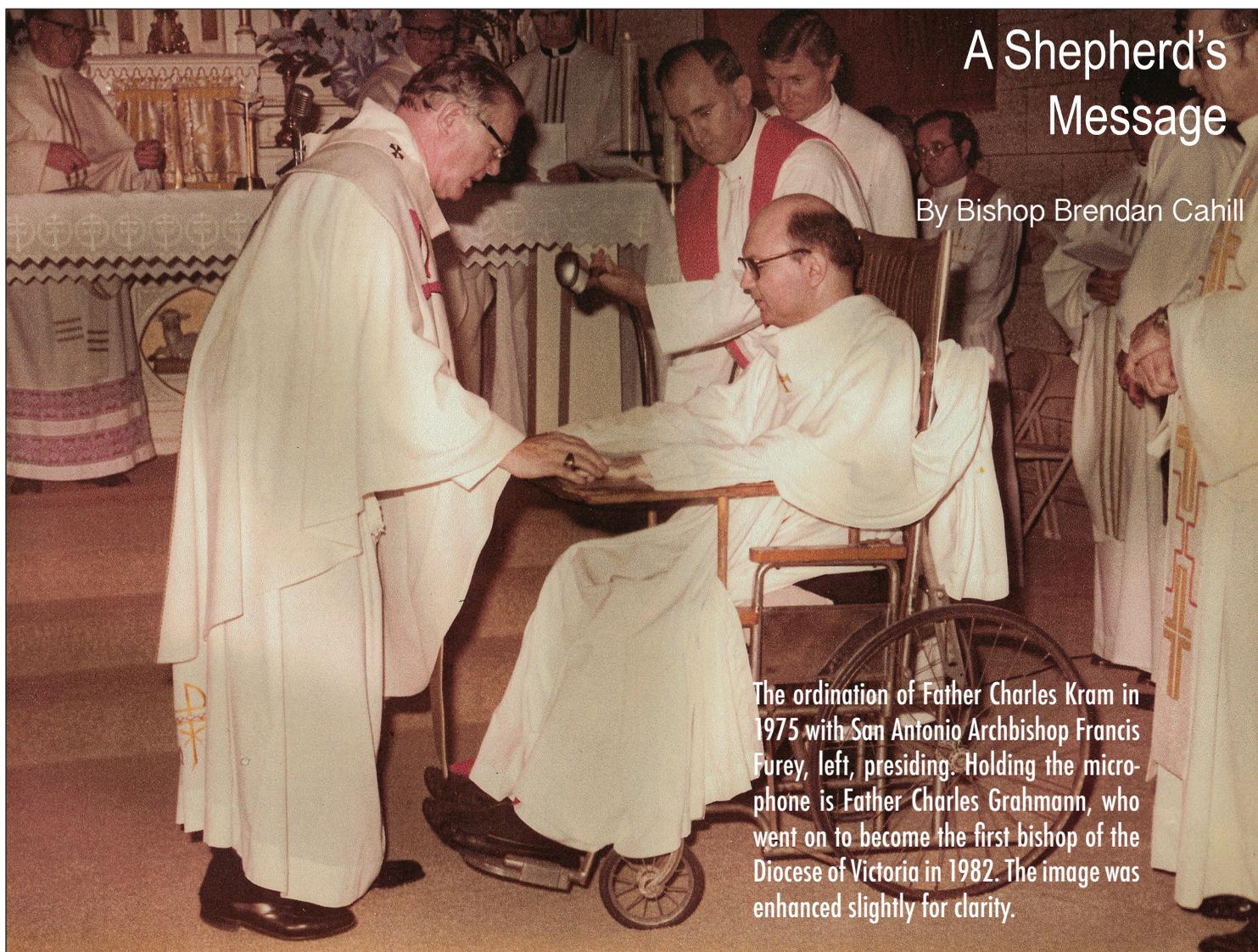


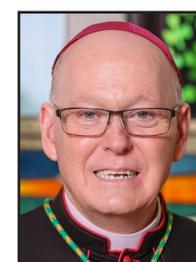
## Beloved Father Kram called 'Servant of God'



A Shepherd's  
Message

By Bishop Brendan Cahill

The ordination of Father Charles Kram in 1975 with San Antonio Archbishop Francis Furey, left, presiding. Holding the microphone is Father Charles Grahmann, who went on to become the first bishop of the Diocese of Victoria in 1982. The image was enhanced slightly for clarity.



On the morning of Sunday, Aug. 13, 2000, Father Charles Kram died in his hospital room in Yoakum. Bishop David Fellhauer was by his side, with Father Kram's faithful doctor and some of his closest friends. These friends believed they had come to know a saint and that he would enter into the eternal glory of Jesus, our Good Shepherd.

Shortly after I arrived in Victoria as the new bishop, some of these friends made an appointment to meet with me. They gave me a copy of a book written by Deacon Tony Warzecha, *Gladly Will I Glory in My Infirmities*, and shared stories with me about his life and ministry. I listened to the testimony of Bishop Fellhauer and several others. I remember going to Shiner to visit with Deacon Joe Machacek and see some of Father Kram's personal effects that have been saved. I also visited his graveside and offered a prayer for our priests.

In 2016 we initiated the cause for his

*See Beloved Father Kram, pg. 2*

## School year kicks off with 5 new principals

There's a lot of newness for the new school year in the Diocese of Victoria Catholic schools. St. Rose in Schulenburg is finishing part of a major renovation, Our Lady of Victory in Victoria is cutting the

ribbon on a new junior high building and five schools are welcoming new principals this year.

Schools with new principals are Holy Cross in Bay City, Shiner Catho-

lic Schools, St. Philip the Apostle in El Campo, St. Rose of Lima in Schulenburg and Our Lady of the Gulf in Port Lavaca.

**Brooke Tomek** is taking over at Holy Cross in Bay City. She has taught at the

school for five years and went through a specially designed cohort to receive a master's degree in Catholic school leadership,

*See School year kicks off, pg. 20*

**5** More about  
Father Kram

**6** Keep school  
children safe

**11** Entering into the  
'Unfinished Symphony'

**12** God is coming,  
ready or not

## Beloved Father Kram called ‘Servant of God’

*Continued from Page 1*

**To read Father Kram’s sermon and find out more about him, see Page 5.**

canonization. The Catechism of the Catholic Church No. 828 teaches: “By canonizing some of the faithful, i.e., by solemnly proclaiming that they practiced heroic virtue and lived in fidelity to God’s grace, the Church recognizes the power of the Spirit of holiness within her and sustains the hope of believers by proposing the saints to them as models and intercessors.”

Since that time we have published homilies from Father Kram in each edition of *The Catholic Lighthouse*, we have produced thousands of prayer cards in English and Spanish with a prayer asking for his intercession, and we have given talks across our diocese and neighboring dioceses about his heroic virtue. This month, I’ll be offer-

ing a keynote talk for the National Catholic Partnership on Disability in Salt Lake City, and I will conclude my talk with a prayer for his intercession.

In 2020 I visited with the Dicastery of the Causes of Saints in Rome. During that visit I asked about the progress of the cause of the Venerable Jeanne Chézard de Matel (foundress of the Order of Incarnate Word and Blessed Sacrament) and also asked advice on beginning the cause for Father Charles Kram.

In May of this year I asked Father Bob Knippenberg, who has been working on the case of Father Kram for years, to prepare a

letter to the dicastery. In this letter I wanted to report on all the activities I mentioned above and ask if it would be possible to declare Father Kram a “Servant of God” for the benefit of our spiritual welfare. I sent the letter in the middle of May.

In July I received a response from the Dicastery of the Causes of the Saints. In the reply, a Roman archbishop mentioned that he had received our letter and would advance the petition to the appropriate personnel. In the response he referred to the “Servant of God Father Charles Kram.” I’ve accepted this response to mean that our initial stage in the process has been approved, and we can now refer to the Servant of God Father Charles Kram!

This process can remind us of the beauty and the reality of the saints for us. There are people here who are witnesses to Father Kram and have strived to preserve his memory. Even more than preserving the memory is trusting that the saints continue to pray for us, and they can have a presence in our lives. The saints whose names we solemnly proclaim remind us of the many saints who pray for us and our salvation. Our prayers make a difference in heaven and on earth.

May God bless our entire diocese with the peace and love that come from Jesus, and may we thank God for the saints we have known and strive to join them in our heavenly homeland one day.

+Brendan

## El amado Padre Kram es llamado ‘Siervo de Dios’

oración por nuestros sacerdotes.

En 2016 iniciamos la causa de su canonización. El Catecismo de la Iglesia Católica n.º 828 enseña: “Al canonizar a algunos fieles, es decir, al proclamar solemnemente que practicaron virtudes heroicas y vivieron en fidelidad a la gracia de Dios, la Iglesia reconoce el poder del Espíritu de santidad en ella y sostiene la esperanza de los creyentes proponiéndoles a los santos como modelos e intercesores”.

Desde entonces, hemos publicado homilias del Padre Kram en cada edición de *Catholic Lighthouse*, hemos producido miles de estampas en inglés y español con una oración pidiendo su intercesión, y hemos impartido charlas en toda la diócesis y en diócesis vecinas sobre su virtud heroica. Este mes, ofreceré una charla magistral para la Asociación Católica Nacional sobre Discapacidad en Salt Lake City, y concluiré mi charla con una oración por su intercesión.

En 2020, visité el Dicasterio para las Causas de los Santos en Roma. Durante la visita, pregunté sobre el progreso de la causa de la Venerable Juana Chézard de Matel (fundadora de la Orden del Verbo Encarnado y del Santísimo Sacramento) y también pedí consejo para iniciar la causa del Padre Charles Kram.

En mayo de este año, le pedí al Padre Bob Knippenberg, quien lleva años trabajando en el caso del Padre Kram, que preparara una carta al dicasterio. En ella, quería informar sobre todas las actividades mencionadas y preguntar si sería posible declarar al Padre Kram “Siervo de Dios” para nuestro bienestar espiritual. Envié la carta a mediados de mayo.

En julio recibí una respuesta del Dicasterio para las Causas de los Santos. En ella, un arzobispo romano mencionó que había recibido nuestra carta y que trasladaría la petición al personal correspondiente. En la respuesta, se refirió al “Siervo de Dios Pa-

dre Charles Kram”. Él aceptó esta respuesta como una señal de que nuestra etapa inicial del proceso ha sido aprobada, ¡y ahora podemos referirnos al Siervo de Dios Padre Charles Kram!

Este proceso puede recordarnos la belleza y la realidad de los santos para nosotros. Aquí hay personas que son testigos del Padre Kram y se han esforzado por preservar su memoria. Más que preservar la memoria, es confiar en que los santos siguen orando por nosotros y que pueden estar presentes en nuestras vidas. Los santos cuyos nombres proclamamos solemnemente nos recuerdan a los muchos santos que oran por nosotros y por nuestra salvación. Nuestras oraciones marcan la diferencia en el cielo y en la tierra. Que Dios bendiga a toda nuestra diócesis con la paz y el amor que provienen de Jesús, y que agradezcamos a Dios por los santos que hemos conocido y nos esforcemos por unirnos a ellos en nuestra patria celestial algún día.

+Brendan

### Bishop Cahill’s Schedule

August		September	
<b>2</b>	Victoria – 10 a.m. temporary vows ceremony for OVISS Sisters; Incarnate Word Convent	<b>6-11</b>	Salt Lake City – National Catholic Partnership on Disability conference and board meeting
<b>4</b>	Victoria – 2 p.m. Our Lady of Victory new junior high building ribbon cutting; Cathedral Center	<b>11</b>	Victoria – Communities of Faith meeting; Incarnate Word Convent
<b>5</b>	Victoria – 9 a.m. Legion of Mary Praesidium meeting; Cathedral Center	<b>12</b>	Victoria – 9 a.m. Legion of Mary Praesidium meeting; Cathedral Center
	Victoria – 6 p.m. Serra Club Mass and Mass of Candidacy; The Cathedral of Our Lady of Victory		Hallettsville – 6 p.m. Deacon Board meeting
		<b>13</b>	Online – Catholic Rural Life Campaign Cabinet meeting
			Victoria – 4 p.m. Building Board meeting; Chancery office
		<b>14</b>	Victoria – Noon lunch with OVISS Sisters; Incarnate Word Convent
		<b>15</b>	Chancery closed
			Praha – 10 a.m. Praha Picnic
		<b>17</b>	Columbus – 10 a.m. Confirmation Mass for St. Anthony Church
		<b>17-22</b>	Costa Rica – Meeting with South, Central, and North American Bishop Chairs of Migration
		<b>19</b>	Radio – 6:30 a.m. Morning Air Radio interview
		<b>23</b>	New Taiton – 4 p.m. Confirmation Mass for St. John’s
		<b>24-29</b>	Vacation
		<b>29-31</b>	Piedras Negras, Mexico – Tex-Mex Border Bishops meeting
			<b>September</b>
		<b>1</b>	Chancery closed
		<b>2</b>	Victoria – 9 a.m. Legion of Mary Praesidium meeting; Cathedral Center

**Note: Calendar is subject to changes.**



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**Diocese of Victoria mission:**

*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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**Priests named to diocesan boards to assist bishop**

With new assignments of priests that normally begin in around the first of July, there also is a change in the ones selected to councils that assist the bishop in governing the diocese. The Presbyteral Council is a select group of priests who serve as a senate for the bishop. The Diocese of Victoria is divided into six deaneries – Cuero, Edna, El Campo, Hallettsville, Schulenburg and Victoria -- and from each is chosen a dean, also called a vicar forane, and another representative to serve on the council. The following serve their deaneries on the current Presbyteral Council:

**Ex Officio**

- Very Rev. Jasper Liggio, Vicar General
- Very Rev. Matthew Huehlefeld, JCL, Chancellor
- Very Rev. Charles Otsiwah, Episcopal Vicar for Clergy
- Very Rev. Jacob Koether, Episcopal Vicar for Evangelization and Catechesis

**Cuero**

- Vicar Forane: Very Rev. Roger Hawes
- Representative: Rev. Michael Odartey-Lampsey

**Edna**

- Vicar Forane: Very Rev. Greg Korenek
- Representative: Rev. Tommy Chen

**El Campo**

- Vicar Forane: Very Rev. Samuel Appiasi
- Representative: Rev. Dalton Ervin

**Hallettsville**

- Vicar Forane: Very Rev. Michael Rother
- Representative: Rev. Jacob Mendoza

**Schulenburg**

- Vicar Forane: Very Rev. Robert Knippenberg
- Representative: Rev. Luke Prihoda

**Victoria**

- Vicar Forane: Very Rev. Gabriel Bentil
- Representative: Rev. Patrick Knippenberg

**Episcopal Appointees:**

- Rev. Kristopher Fuchs and Rev. Nelson Gonzalez
- Presbyteral Council meetings for 2025-26 are scheduled as following: Sept. 17, Nov. 5, Jan. 14, March 25, May 13, Sept. 16, Nov.11

The bishop alone can assign priests to particular parishes or to serve in other offices, but priests, chosen among their peers to make recommendations for the bishop's consideration, form the Priest Personnel Board. A college of consultors to assist in other diocesan concerns when necessary is chosen by the bishop. The following are members of those boards.

**Priest Personnel Board**

- Very Rev. Jasper Liggio, Vicar General
- Very Rev. Matthew Huehlefeld, JCL, Chancellor
- Very Rev. Charles Otsiwah, Episcopal Vicar for Clergy
- Very Rev. Roger Hawes, VF, Cuero Deanery
- Very Rev. Greg Korenek, VF, Edna Deanery
- Very Rev. Samuel Appiasi, VF, El Campo Deanery
- Very Rev. Michael Rother, VF, Hallettsville Deanery
- Very Rev. Robert Knippenberg, VF, Schulenburg Deanery
- Very Rev. Gabriel Bentil, VF, Victoria Deanery

**College of Consultors**

- Very Rev. Jasper Liggio, Vicar General
- Very Rev. Matthew Huehlefeld, JCL, Chancellor
- Very Rev. Charles Otsiwah, Episcopal Vicar for Clergy
- Very Rev. Roger Hawes, VF, Cuero Deanery
- Very Rev. Greg Korenek, VF, Edna Deanery
- Very Rev. Samuel Appiasi, VF, El Campo Deanery
- Very Rev. Michael Rother, VF, Hallettsville Deanery
- Very Rev. Robert Knippenberg, VF, Schulenburg Deanery
- Very Rev. Gabriel Bentil, VF, Victoria Deanery



**Holy Day of Obligation  
Friday, Aug. 15**

Please be sure to attend Mass on Friday, Aug. 15, the Feast of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary. It is a Holy Day of Obligation. The Chancery Offices of the Diocese of Victoria will be closed. The office will reopen on Monday, Aug. 18 at 8:30 a.m.



Join us for lunch at our  
Monthly Travel Meeting on  
**Thursday, August 28**  
Sky Restaurant in Victoria (77904)  
11:30 a.m. -1:00 p.m. Dutch Lunch  
**We look forward to seeing you!**



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**The Chancery  
Offices will be Closed  
Monday, Sept. 1  
and will re-open  
Tuesday, Sept. 2, at 8:30 a.m.**

## Education of Seminarian Fund

The Education of Seminarian Fund is a fund in which **all of the monies** donated to this fund, as well as the earnings, are available to cover the cost of educating seminarians. The proceeds of the special collection on Holy Thursday are deposited into the Education of Seminarian Fund. Publication of this fund will appear when new contributions are received.

**Donation categories: Lector – \$.01 - \$99.99; Acolyte – \$100 - \$499.99; Candidate – \$500 - \$1,499.99; Transitional Deacon – \$1,500 - \$2,499.99; Priest – \$2,500 >.**

**In Honor of the 35th Anniversary of Priesthood & 10th Anniversary of Episcopacy of Bishop Cahill**  
*Priests of the Diocese of Victoria*

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

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

## Happy birthday to our seminarian

**Alex Woods** is in Configuration I at St. Mary's Seminary in Houston studying for the Diocese of Victoria. Alex's hometown is Houston. His birthday is Aug. 29. Write to Alex at: St. Mary's Seminary, Alex Woods, 9845 Memorial Dr., Houston, TX 77024.



## Happy birthday, Bishop Emeritus David Fellhauer!

### August 19



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

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

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

Rev. Donald Ruppert	8/23/2022
Rev. Msgr. Celestino Say	8/04/2015
Rev. Charles Kram	8/13/2000
Rev. James Kelly	8/20/1986
Rev. Joseph Hamala	8/21/1992
Rev. Alphonse Padalecki	8/24/1992



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



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

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



## Seminary Endowment Fund

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

*July 22, 2025*

- **General Seminary Burse**  
*Lector*  
Anonymous donation
- **Rev. Paul P. Kaspar and Parents, John & Frances Babica Kaspar Seminary Burse**  
*Candidate*  
Donation from the Anton and Agnes Kaspar Family Reunion
- **Rev. Robert Knippenberg Seminary Burse**  
*Lector*  
In honor of Fr. Robert Knippenberg's 25th Anniversary as a Priest by Lambert, Carol and Leigh Ann Brune
- **Anthony and Rose Marie Trippodo Liggio Seminary Burse #2**  
*Acolyte*  
In memory of Brother Knight Mr. Harlan Hilscher by K of C Council #2902, Schulenburg  
In memory of Brother Knight Mr. Leonard Korenek by K of C Council #2902, Schulenburg  
In memory of Brother Knight Mr. Leon Popp by K of C Council #2902, Schulenburg
- **Rev. Luke Prihoda Seminary Burse**  
*Acolyte*  
In memory of Sir Knight Leonard Korenek by KC St. Michael Assembly #1527 of Flatonia, Schulenburg and Weimar, TX  
In memory of Sir Knight Ted Bratton by KC St. Michael Assembly #1527 of Flatonia, Schulenburg and Weimar, TX
- **Rev. Michael Petering Seminary Burse**  
*Priest*  
Donation in honor of Rev. Michael Petering by John and Barbara James
- **Henry A. Schoenfeld Seminary Burse**  
*Acolyte*  
In memory of Henry Schoenfeld on his birthday by Bernice Schoenfeld  
In memory of Hugo Helmcamp by Bernice Schoenfeld

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

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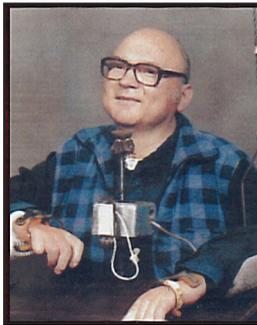
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# Don't let falseness, faults or failings of others hinder your faithfulness

**EDITOR'S NOTE:** The following sermon was written for the 22nd Sunday in Ordinary time, Cycle B. Father Kram titled it "The Human and the Divine in Religion."

God is the Supreme Being. He made us. He keeps us in existence. His hand guides us. He is our First Beginning and our Last End. The virtue of religion obliges us to acknowledge all this and to pray and worship God in private and with our fellow man in public.

Sometimes individuals give religion a bad name by overzealous activities



1929-2000

## Father Charles Kram Corner

such as demolishing a saloon with an ax to discourage drinking, or by hijacking an airliner or bombing a building in a holy war, or by denouncing and condemning those whose beliefs differ

from their own.

Sometimes we, the simple faithful abuse our religion in milder ways. For example, it is possible to say a lot of rosaries, but with little attention or devotion. One man told me, "My wife is so devout that she prays a whole prayer book every day," and he showed me the beat-up paperback to prove it.

Sometimes individuals light candles but otherwise never set foot in a church. Some receive Communion regularly and go to confession often, but never seem to change for the better.

Some say, "I don't actually go to church, but I will always be a Catholic, because I want to be buried from the Church."

Still others say, "I don't get anything out of church, so now that I'm in college, away from my parents, I don't go any more," or "I don't go because too many of those who do go, go to show off their clothes or to promote a good image for their business," or, "I don't go because I just don't like the new priest."

We have been given free will and we have the power to overdo or underdo anything, and we can usually find some way to justify it. But, on the other hand, we can always find a way to do the things we really want to do.

So, rather than complain about those who practice religion to excess, or about those who neglect to practice it at all, or about those who are counterfeits, we would all do well to consider our

own habits and our reasons for them.

When you pray, make it a point to recollect yourself first, shutting out the distractions of the day and turning your thoughts to God.

When you go to Mass, do it with a generous intention. For example, before Mass begins, tell God, "I am here because I want to be, because I love you and appreciate all that you have given me." Decide to pay attention all the way through and keep your ears open for something in the Mass or Scriptures that is meant for you.

When you receive Holy Communion, make it a personal visit with the Lord Jesus, who comes into your heart. When you go to confession, concentrate on a true sorrow for having offended God and on firm intention of breaking with your sins.

And, lastly, do not use the failings of others as excuses for failings of your own. Do not let the wrong that others do determine the quality of what you do. Religion is a personal duty and need in our lives. It is also an opportunity to influence others by our fervent example, and it is up to us to make the most of it.

*Lord Jesus, thank you for giving each of us a place in your Church.*

*Help us to remain faithful in the face of all the distractions that surround us.*

*Grant that what we offer You as humans will come to fulfillment with what you give us as God.*

*Amen.*

## More about Father Kram

*From The Father Kram Project*

- Born in 1929 in Shiner to Charles and Emma Zander Kram
- Enrolled in St. John's Seminary in San Antonio in 1946
- Ordained sub deacon in May 1952; contracted polio shortly afterward
- Finally ordained a priest Dec. 5, 1975, by Archbishop Francis Furey of San Antonio
- After his father's death, moved to Huth Memorial Hospital in Yoakum in 1977 and served as chaplain
- Died Aug. 13, 2000, at age 70

### Heroic virtue

In recent years, a growing number of the faithful have expressed their belief that Father Kram lived a life of heroic virtue and should be officially recognized by the Church. The Father Kram Project was launched to document his life, spread awareness of his witness and formally pursue the cause for his canonization. Supporters can follow updates and learn more at the project's website, [www.fatherkram.com](http://www.fatherkram.com), which features biographical information, video testimonials, and opportunities for prayer and involvement.

### A life worth imitating

Father Kram's life was the subject of the 2015 biography *Gladly Will I Glory In My Infirmities* by Anthony Warzecha, which chronicles his early life, illness and deeply spiritual response to suffering. His resilience, wit, and priestly heart shone through despite extreme limitations. He served, counseled, evangelized, and offered Mass from a specially designed setup, all while confined to his wheelchair.

Monsignor Lawrence Stuebben of the Archdiocese of San Antonio once wrote: "Father Charles Kram has been a member of (my intercessors in heaven) since he went home to God. In my mind and faith, he is already a saint in heaven."

### A modern-day witness

Those who encountered Father Kram – whether through his writings, ham radio ministry, or bedside homilies – found in him a living example of redemptive suffering and joy. His condition never embittered him. Instead, he accepted his cross with grace and glorified God with every breath drawn by his rocking bed.

As St. Paul wrote, "We know that all things work for good for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose." (Romans 8:28). Father Kram embodied that truth.

### What comes next?

If the Vatican accepts the petition to open his cause, an official diocesan investigation will begin, gathering documents, testimonies, and evidence of heroic virtue. If Rome confirms the cause, he will be declared "Venerable," and a verified miracle through his intercession would be needed for beatification. Whether canonized in this lifetime or not, the memory of Father Charles Kram reminds us that sainthood is not measured by worldly success, but by holiness in action – often hidden, humble and heroic.

## Father Kram in the media



### Franciscan Missionaries of the Eternal Word

**YouTube video:** This now plays to a national audience and, with their affiliation with EWTN, people far and wide will discover Father Charles Kram. [youtu.be/gjN5NNmueLI?si=KqKAmHg1EJOLMFIL](https://youtu.be/gjN5NNmueLI?si=KqKAmHg1EJOLMFIL)

### July/August 2025 COLUMBIA MAGAZINE:

[www.kofc.org/en/news-room/columbia/index.html](http://www.kofc.org/en/news-room/columbia/index.html)  
See Page 5 article "Catholic Man of the Month Father Charles Kram Jr." *Columbia Magazine*, the monthly publication of the Knights of Columbus, is distributed to its more than 2 million member households worldwide.

# Bless the children with a heart for protecting them

## Finding Beauty in Mystery

By Sister Rosario Resen-



My younger sister is five years younger than I. When I was in junior high, she was still in elementary school. The junior high was only about four blocks from our home, but the elementary school was a bit farther. My older sister and I, who are just two years apart, would walk home together, while someone usually picked up my younger sister.

One day, my mom wasn't able to pick her up and asked one of her cousins to do it instead. Unfortunately, that cousin forgot. I remember sitting in the living room with my grandmother and watching her make several phone calls. With each call, her voice grew more distressed. At the time, I didn't fully understand what was happening, until she started crying. That's when I realized my little sister was

missing.

This was before cell phones, so everything had to be done by landline. Eventually, my grandmother reached the cousin, who admitted she had forgotten to pick her up. The school confirmed my sister was no longer on campus. My grandmother called my mom, who immediately left work to search for her. We called the police, and a frantic search began.

My grandmother couldn't drive, and my older sister and I couldn't do much except wait and pray. I remember being so scared. At the time, there were so many movies and warnings about child abductions, and the "stranger danger" message was constantly drilled into us. Naturally, we feared the worst.

My sister and I stood outside, hoping to see a familiar car or someone bringing good news. Then, finally, we saw our mom's vehicle coming down the street ... with our little sister in the back seat! We were overwhelmed with relief. Once the initial celebration settled, we learned what had happened.

When no one showed up to get her, my sister simply decided to walk home. We didn't even know she knew the way. My mom told us she had been driving one of

the possible routes from the school when she saw a small girl walking with such determination that her backpack was bouncing with every step. She didn't recognize her at first, because she was walking with so much confidence like someone who always walks home, only the familiar backpack gave it away. She found her crossing the little creek bridge at the edge of our neighborhood, just two blocks from home.

The cousin who was supposed to pick her up felt terrible. But we were all so relieved and grateful that no one stayed upset for long. Recently, I asked my sister about that day. She said that when she realized all the other kids had left, she figured she had to get home somehow so she did. No teacher stopped her, and no one asked if she was supposed to walk. So she made a decision and followed through with it.

I always remember this story as the school year begins. When I walk past the back-to-school section at the store, it brings back memories; some joyful, some not so much, but this memory always resurfaces.

It reminds me of when Mary and Joseph lost Jesus for three days. Jesus didn't know He was lost, just like my sister didn't

know she was lost. The family was understandably frightened, but the one they were searching for was safe. That is something we'll always be grateful for.

Losing someone you love is one of the most terrifying and traumatic experiences anyone can go through. Thankfully, we found my sister within a few hours. But some people never find their loved ones and that's a pain no one should have to endure.

As the new school year begins, local police departments often share safety tips. It might be a good time for all of us to revisit those guidelines. Let's look out for the children around us, whether they're ours or not. Let's keep them safe, and help them build school-year memories filled with joy, not fear.

*"Let the children come to me; do not prevent them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these. Amen, I say to you, whoever does not accept the kingdom of God like a child will not enter it." Then he embraced them and blessed them, placing his hands on them.* Mark 10:14-16

• Contact Sister Maria del Rosario Resendez by e-mailing her at [bishopsecretary.dov@gmail.com](mailto:bishopsecretary.dov@gmail.com).

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Contributed photo

### KCs give to Holy Cross School

BAY CITY – the Bay City Knights of Columbus Council #3070 presented Holy Cross Catholic School with a \$25,800 donation recently. The school expressed its appreciation for “these dedicated benefactors for their consistent and ongoing support toward our tiny but mighty school.”



Contributed Photo

### KJT gift to Louise parish

LOUISE – The Hillje KJT #48 presents a matching grant of \$2,000 to St. Procopius Catholic Church from recent their recent pork steak dinner fundraiser. The matching funds came from the state KJT organization to help with church building maintenance needs. Presenting the check to Father Wayne Flagg, pastor of St. Procopius and St. Andrew in Hillje, are KJT members, from left: Sammy Grudzieski; Stephanie Grudzieski, secretary; Margaret Holik, KJT state director; Charles Holik, president; Micheal Sulak, vice president; and Deacon Patrick Kubala, treasurer.

## St. Mary's Church – Nada, TX

*(Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary)*

# Festival & Homecoming

*Sunday, August 31, 2025*

**RAFFLE DRAWING**

Kid Games & Fun

**Bingo 1-7 PM**



Linen Baskets & More

Country Store

Plant & Cakewalk

**BBQ Beef & Sausage Dinner / 11 am – 1:30 pm**  
*Plates / \$15 – Children under 12 / \$8*

**BBQ Sandwiches, Nachos, Sweets & More 1:30 – 7 pm**

**AUCTION 1:00 PM**

**Dancing / Listening Music Inside Hall**

## OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE JAMAICA

99TH ANNUAL

# SUNDAY, AUGUST 31, 2025

Live Auction @ 1pm	Raffle
Street Dance @ 4pm	Mariachi @ 11:15am
COUNTRY STORE	SILENT AUCTION
OUTDOOR GAMES- FACE PAINTING	CAKE WALK- SURPRISE PACKAGES

FRESH TAMALES \$15/DZ



BBQ CHICKEN W/ BEANS & GERMAN POTATOES \$13 PLATE 11AM - 1PM DRIVE THRU AND DINE IN

OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE HALL  
207 GRAHAM ST- CUERO - 77954

## KCs raise funds for youth

EL CAMPO – Knights of Columbus Father Lawrence J. Matula Council #9393's recent St. Robert Bellarmine Youth Center raffle raised more than \$60,000. After expenses they were able to present a \$50,000 check to Father Philip Brune, pastor of St. Robert, to help with renovations for the center.



# ‘Esperanza y renovación’

## '25 conference set for Sept. 13

**ALDO CAMACHO**  
*Special to The Lighthouse*

VICTORIA — Este año, la cuarta edición de la Conferencia Católica Diocesana, en el marco del Mes de la Herencia Hispana, se llevará el 13 de septiembre a cabo con el lema “La familia, fuente de esperanza y renovación”, tomado de la Semana Nacional del Matrimonio promovida por la Conferencia de Obispos Católicos de Estados Unidos (USCCB, por sus siglas en inglés).

El propósito de esta conferencia es inspirar, formar y acompañar a las familias católicas hispanas, para que redescubran su vocación como iglesia doméstica, se conviertan en protagonistas de la esperanza cristiana y actúen como agentes de renovación en la sociedad.

La Iglesia enseña que la familia juega un papel vital en la evangelización, tanto dentro del hogar como en la comunidad local. No obstante, muchos padres y madres en eventos diocesanos han expresado que en la vida contemporánea -- llena de activismo y de un entorno complejo -- no siempre se sienten preparados para transmitir la fe y evangelizar en medio de nuevos desafíos.

Por ello, siguiendo el llamado del Plan Pastoral Nacional para el Ministerio Hispano/Latino de la USCCB, el objetivo de la conferencia es “despertar una creatividad misionera para llegar a los corazones y sanar las heridas en todas las familias, católicas y no católicas, con una sensibilidad particular hacia las comunidades culturales y étnicas cada vez más diversas entre nosotros, y hacia las familias más alejadas de la Iglesia”.

Este año contaremos como conferencista principal con el Padre Everardo Cázares, sacerdote de la Diócesis de Austin, conocido también por su exitoso canal de YouTube @EverardoCazares, donde comparte reflexiones sobre el Evangelio con más de 150,000 suscriptores. Su charla principal llevará por título “La familia, fuente de esperanza y renovación”, ofreciendo una visión integral de la familia desde el Magisterio de la Iglesia e invitando a los fieles a reconocer su papel como discípulos misioneros. Además, impartirá el taller “Matrimonio, el mejor equipo de tu vida”, que busca ayudar a redescubrir el matrimonio como un verdadero “equipo de vida”, en el que los esposos colaboran, se apoyan mutuamente y comparten una misión común desde la fe cristiana.

Tendremos además otros talleres de-

stacados. Monseñor Brendan Cahill, obispo diocesano, ofrecerá el taller “El perdón familiar: sanación y reconciliación como camino de santidad”, con una reflexión pastoral y bíblica sobre el perdón como vía de sanación interior, restauración de relaciones y renovación espiritual a la luz de la Palabra de Dios y el Magisterio.

La Dra. Dora Tobar, miembro del equipo de consultores laicos del Subcomité para Asuntos Hispanos de la USCCB y directora de la Oficina para el Ministerio Hispano de la Diócesis de Austin, impartirá dos talleres: “El ministerio que Dios encomendó a los padres de familia” y “Comunicación en familia: técnicas para una escucha efectiva”.

Valeria Dubourdiou, M.Ed., LPC, NCC, CPE, formadora en salud mental para comunidades locales, compartirá el taller “Señor, haz de mí, y de mi familia un instrumento de tu paz”, orientado a fomentar una cultura de paz en la familia a través de la oración y la acción.

El Padre Caleb Krischke, capellán del Ministerio EnCourage, dirigirá un taller sobre la espiritualidad y el acompañamiento pastoral para personas que experimentan atracción hacia personas del mismo sexo, ayudando a comprender la enseñanza de la Iglesia y el acompañamiento respetuoso y pastoral.

Atendiendo la petición de numerosos padres de familia, este año habrá dos talleres especializados para jóvenes, a cargo de la Hermana Sydney Moss, FMA, cuyo carisma es el trabajo con la juventud: “Tu cuerpo, un regalo de Dios: descubriendo la verdad sobre el amor” (Introducción a la Teología del Cuerpo para adolescentes), y “Conectados o perdidos: redes sociales, autoestima y salud mental”, para reflexionar sobre el impacto de las redes sociales en la identidad y la salud mental, desde una perspectiva cristiana.

La conferencia se llevará a cabo en el Centro de la Catedral de Nuestra Señora de la Victoria en Victoria. Todos los talleres cuentan con cupo limitado. Las familias puedan a inscribirse lo antes posible a través de la página Web [www.victoriadiocese.org/conferencia-hispana](http://www.victoriadiocese.org/conferencia-hispana), por correo electrónico a [acamacho@victoriadiocese.org](mailto:acamacho@victoriadiocese.org) o comunicándose al teléfono de las oficinas diocesanas al 361-573-0828, Exts. 2246 y 2227.

• Aldo Camacho is the director of the Office of Hispanic Ministry for the Diocese of Victoria.

## Sts. Cyril and Methodius Catholic Parish

# CHURCH PICNIC

## CISTERN, TEXAS

**COUNTRY STORE**

**GAMES**

**CAKE/PLANT SPIN**

**AIR CONDITIONED BINGO**

12 NOON - 4 P.M.

**CORN HOLE**

2 P.M.

**WATER SLIDE**

All Ages

11 A.M. - 5 P.M.



**LIVE MUSIC**

*Texas Sound Check Band*

11 A.M. - 3 P.M.

**BALLOON ARTIST**

*Bobby Cordell*

1 P.M. - 3 P.M.

**MAGIC SHOW**

3 P.M.

**LIVE MUSIC**

*Ghost Peppers*

4 P.M. - 7 P.M.

## SUNDAY, AUGUST 24, 2025

4th Sunday in August

Under the SHADY pavilion at Sts. Cyril and Methodius Catholic Parish in Cistern – off Hwy 95 between Smithville & Flatonia

### HOLY MASS: Sunday - 10:00 A.M.

**DINNER:** 11:00 A.M. to 1:00 P.M. - Fried Chicken and V&V Sausage (Self-Serve, Walk-Up Plates, or Drive-Thru)

Dine-In & Plates To-Go: \$15.00

Hamburgers 1:00 P.M. - 7:00 P.M.

**AUCTION:** 1:00 P.M. - Homemade items, crafts, livestock & more

**SOMETHING FOR EVERYONE! COME AND ENJOY THE DAY!**

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## Celebrating 40 years of priesthood

EAST BERNARD – Father Charles E. Otsiwah, pastor of Holy Cross in East Bernard, celebrated his 40th anniversary of priesthood on July 5. Bishop Brendan Cahill celebrated Mass of Thanksgiving with many of Father Charles’s brother priests celebrating as well. There were also many of his Ghanaian family and community who traveled from near and far for the celebration and also parishioners from churches around the diocese who know and love Father Charles. After Mass, a reception and meal took place at Riverside Hall, which was decorated with photos of Father Charles through his years of service. Pictured here are members of the Ghanaian community serenading Father Charles, right, with a traditional song of thanksgiving.

Contributed Photo

## 25th anniversary celebrated



On July 19, Bishop Cahill was in Mexico to celebrate the anniversaries of consecrated life for the Missionary Catechists of the Sacred Heart of Jesus and Mary (Misioneras Catequistas De Los Sagrados Corazones De Jesús y De María). Celebrating her 25th anniversary was Sister Eufemia “Femi” Santiago del Angel from Victoria. Bishop Cahill is pictured with Sister Femi’s family along with Bishop Simon Peter Engurait, Diocese of Houma/Thibodaux, and Father Alfonso Serna, who at one time was at Our Lady of Sorrows in Victoria.

Contributed Photo

## Here’s a list of the seminarians for the class of 2025-26

William Pettus, Configuration II  
 Birthday: June 15  
 Home Parish: Sacred Heart, Hallettsville

Christopher “Chris” Leshikar, Propaedeutic  
 Birthday: January 29  
 Home Parish: Our Lady of Lourdes, Victoria

Alex Woods, Configuration I  
 Birthday: August 29  
 Home Parish: St. Mary’s, Victoria

Seth Reissig, Propaedeutic  
 Birthday: June 11  
 Home Parish: St. Mary’s, Victoria

Nelson Lagos, Discipleship IV  
 Birthday: May 1  
 Home Parish: Our Lady of the Gulf, Port Lavaca

Holy Trinity Seminary, 3131 Vince Hagan Dr,  
 Irving, TX 75062  
 St. Mary’s Seminary, 9845 Memorial Dr,  
 Houston, TX 77024

## BACK-TO-SCHOOL BUDGET TIGHT?

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## PILGRIMAGE FOLLOWING THE FOOTSTEPS OF ST. PAUL to Greece with a visit to Turkey

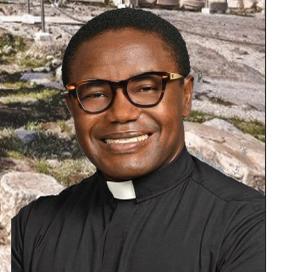
**April 14-25, 2026**  
 Registration details  
 will be available soon!!



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Join Fr. Augustine  
 Owusu-Peprah



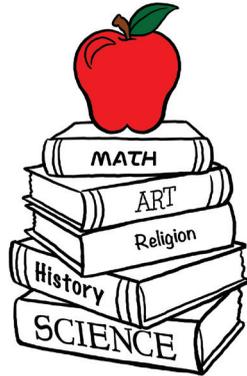
## When does school start?

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

- Aug. 6 – St. Joseph in Yoakum**
- Aug. 7 – Holy Cross in Bay City; St. Rose of Lima in Schulenburg; St. Michael in Weimar; and Shiner Catholic School**
- Aug. 12 – St. Philip in El Campo; Sacred Heart in Hallettsville; St. Anthony in Columbus; and St. Joseph High School in Victoria**
- Aug. 13 – Nazareth Academy in Victoria, Our Lady of the Gulf in Port Lavaca**
- Aug. 14 – Our Lady of Victory in Victoria and St. Michael in Cuero**

## Prayer to Begin a School Year

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



Contributed Photo

### CDA scholarship presented

YOAKUM – Catholic Daughters of the Americas Texas State Court awarded Yoakum High School graduate Leah Muenich a memorial scholarship in the amount of \$1,000 on May 19. Muenich also received the CDA local court #206 memorial scholarship. She is a parishioner of the St. Joseph Church in Yoakum and is the daughter of Lance and Desiree Muenich. She is the granddaughter of Lillian Muenich and the late Leroy Muenich and Emma Raska and the late Frankie Raska, all of Yoakum. Presenting the award to her is CDA Scholarship Chair Terri Dieringer.

## Sacred Heart Parish Fall 2025 Picnic

*Sunday, August 31, 2025  
Hallettsville*

*At the K.C. Hall in Hallettsville, Texas*

**DINNER: SERVING FROM 10:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.**

**Dining in the KC Hall**

**Drive thru Plates-to-Go: 10:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.**

**Country Fried Chicken, Stew, Homemade Cornbread Dressing with all the trimmings!**

**Dinner Tickets: \$14**

*Short Memorial at 1:00 p.m. given by Rev. Michael Rother*

Inside the air-conditioned KC Hall

Cake Walk  
Country Store  
Religious Articles Booth  
Bingo (Noon to 6:00 p.m.)



Delicious Hamburgers, Nachos, Popcorn, SnowCones, Lemonade & Sodawater All afternoon!!

### Auction sale at 1:00 pm

*Cattle, Quilts, Antiques, Homemade Canned Goods, Noodles, Vegetables, Outdoor Furniture & more*

**--AUCTION & ACTIVITIES UNDER THE PAVILION--**



**Red Ravens**

Music on the Main Pavilion  
Kovanda Czech Band 10:30 a.m.-1:00 p.m.

Free Dance on the Polka Pavilion/Biergarten  
Red Ravens, and Dujka Brothers  
1:00 p.m.-8:00 p.m.



**The Dujka Brothers**

EVERYBODY WELCOME! FUN FOR ALL AGES!



Contributed Photo

### Meeting in Matamoros

MATAMOROS, Mexico – Bishop Brendan Cahill visited Bishop Eugenio Lira, the Bishop Director of Pastoral Care of Migrants and Refugees for Mexico in Matamoros. As part of the visit to Matamoros in July Bishop Cahill celebrated the Mass in Spanish for the residents of the Casa Migrante Pumarejo.

# 'Unfinished symphony' resonates in the soul of this visitor

FATHER LUKE PRIHODA

*Special to the Lighthouse*

My first encounter with Father Aloysius Schwartz's "unfinished symphony," the Villa de las Niñas in Chalco, Mexico, was just over a year ago to minister to and with the Sisters of Mary as they care for almost 3,000 young girls. "Unfinished Symphony" is the title of an EWTN documentary about this priest's mission.

I learned about Father Al through the biography *Priest and Beggar* by Kevin Wells, which sat on my shelf for almost four years before I read it. The pages illuminated a life of love and sacrifice for the poor and suffering that began as a missionary priest in post-war Korea more than 60 years ago. With God's grace and his docility to the Holy Spirit, he founded the Sisters of Mary to care for the poor, neglected and orphaned. He would expand to the Philippines in 1985 before founding his "unfinished symphony" in Mexico in 1990, a year after he had been diagnosed with ALS, also known as Lou Gehrig's Disease.

Since his passing in 1992, the Sisters of Mary have expanded to Guatemala, Brazil, Honduras and Tanzania. His legacy offers hope to almost 20,000 young boys and girls throughout seven countries each year. The boys and girls come from backgrounds of destitute poverty, dangerous living conditions due to the trafficking of drugs and humans or from having been orphaned. The sisters love them like mothers to help them through past traumas, support their education and catechesis and emphasize the healing power of the sacraments. The sisters' self-sacrificial love transforms the children in their care and any visitor or



Contributed Photos

Father Luke Prihoda, parochial vicar of St. Rose of Lima in Schulenburg, celebrates Mass for the girls who live and attend school in the Villa de las Niñas in Chalco, Mexico.

priest who is blessed to make a trip or pilgrimage.

In God's Providence I've been able to make two more visits to the Villa de las Niñas, including a pilgrimage with some of my parishioners over spring break and a trip this July to be there for the graduation of 300 girls. Each trip offered distinct blessings and graces, but many of them are centered on the Eucharist, Mary our Mother and the sacrament of reconciliation.

The Eucharist is central to the healing process of the girls and the demands of communal living. Each dorm has about 750 girls and they are structured with a chapel on the bottom floor and a chapel on the top floor to offer His protection and security. The girls attend Mass on Sundays and Wednesdays. There are also many opportunities for adoration and Eucharistic processions to offer worship to

Christ and receive his peace and strength to thrive in their studies, faith formation and athletics.

Each night, the girls pray a rosary for their benefactors and their intentions. I have experienced the effect of their prayer as I send my intentions to the sisters and then see God work in the lives of my parishioners. The intercessory prayer through the hands of Our Lady of Guadalupe, the patroness of the Americas and Our Lady of Banneux, Virgin of the Poor, whom Father Al encountered in Belgium during his seminary formation, is powerful. The biggest blessing during my trips has been to sit in the confessional and dispense the mercy and love of God. In this sacrament, the niñas and sisters offer their hurts, faults and sins and receive an embrace from the Father that affirms their dignity as a daughter of God.

My words fall short of the miraculous work that God provides these children who come in at the age of 12 and leave at 17 with sufficient knowledge and wisdom to break free from the chains of poverty and trauma. The school offers three years of education, including math, science, social studies, religion, music and art, and two years of vocational training in the fields of cooking, accounting, carpentry and business work. This year they will begin constructing a nursing center to give the girls more opportunities to serve their families and communities.

The sisters and *niñas* have already transformed my priesthood. If you want to learn more about how to support the work of the Sisters of Mary or find a pilgrimage to visit and see for yourself.

Also, if you have a book sitting on your shelf, read it. It might transform your life.

• Father Luke Prihoda is parochial vicar for St. Rose of Lima Parish in Schulenburg. He is happy to visit in depth with anyone who wants to learn more about this mission. You can reach him at [frluke@strosecatholic.org](mailto:frluke@strosecatholic.org). Also, for more information, visit [worldvillages.org](http://worldvillages.org).

Father Luke is seen with some of the Sisters of Mary gathered around an image of Father Aloysius Schwartz, founder of Villa de las Niñas and the subject of the biography by author Kevin Wells, "Priest and Beggar," as well as an EWTN documentary titled "Unfinished Symphony."



# Ready or not, God will come bringing His divine fire with Him

## At Your Service

By Deacon Michael Tankersley



I taught our first granddaughter how to play “hide and seek” ... or thought I had. I explained the rules, sent the toddler off to hide, closed my eyes and counted out before shouting the warning “Ready or not, here I come!” I found her in quick time. She was standing beside me with her hands over her eyes.

Children have the misguided notion that what they don’t see cannot see them and what they do not look at isn’t really there. Adults know better, but that doesn’t stop us from trying, especially in our relationship with God. Adam hid behind a fig leaf, Jonah ran away, Elijah covered in a cave, Peter denied, and I’ve tried those and more.

Like others, I seek out the comforting teachings of mercy and forgiveness and unconditional love, but hide away the unpleasant warnings of death and judgement. It will be a difficult task to hide from those warnings during the month of August, however, as all five Sunday Gospel readings are shouts of warning: “Ready or not, here I come!”

These are not readings like those in the book of Revelations that present the univer-

sal end of the earth. These Lukan readings speak to the individual end of you and me on earth. We will hear God say, “You fool, this night your life will be demanded of you; and the things you have prepared, to whom will they belong?” (18th Sunday).

Jesus warns, “You also must be prepared, for at an hour you do not expect, the Son of Man will come.” (19th), and then speaks of the “wailing and grinding of teeth” of those locked out from entering through the “narrow gate” (21st) before concluding that the resurrection is for the righteous (22nd).

But it is on the 20th Sunday that we hear shocking and perplexing words from Jesus:

“I have come to set the earth on fire, and how I wish it were already blazing! Do you think that I have come to establish peace on the earth? No, I tell you, but rather division.” These are unsettling words particularly coming from the one we call the Prince of Peace.

How do we reconcile the fire and division that Christ says he is bringing with the message of mercy and unity that we are so accustomed to hearing?

Some try to hide the foul-tasting warnings under extra gravy of grace and unconditional love words of Jesus. Others elect to regard Christ’s warnings as meant for those especially in danger of damnation. (You know ... those really bad sinners unlike you and me.) Still others read them as ominous

threats to intimidate, as lightning bolts of punishment set to strike unannounced upon our unworthy, depraved heads. But before we hide behind closed eyes or point fingers at others or set the fire extinguisher nearby, let’s seek out the heart of Christ’s message. There we will find a message that beats with invitation, not intimidation...that pulses with the promise of blessed hope rather than cursed threat.

Begin with this: GOD IS LOVE. He doesn’t toss out tokens of love as rewards for good behavior or dangle the promise of love before our eyes as if we are the dogs of Pavlov. GOD IS LOVE, and He invites us into that love ... all of us ... in full.

There is a tricky thing about love, however. Genuine love can only be offered freely and accepted freely, but can never be imposed upon the unwilling or demanded from the other. While God’s offer of salvific love goes out to all, there are those who have not and may never accept the offering. And therein is the key to understanding the division of which Jesus speaks.

Love, by its nature, divides; that is, there are those who accept and those who reject. While God invites everyone to get in the line to receive His love, some will choose the lines of other loves -- of money or power or celebrity or self. Understand that Jesus doesn’t force you, me or anyone else into a particular line. The line in which we stand is the line that we choose, and that choice determines how the Divine fire

affects us.

Divine fire tenderly touches some and tragically torches others. For those who have chosen to live apart from and in rejection of God, things don’t turn out well. Sodom and Gomorrah were burnt to the ground and the enemies of the prophet Elijah were burned into the air. But it was Divine fire that also sealed God’s covenant with Abraham and drew in Moses and inflamed the apostles with the Holy Spirit.

So which fire will you and I get? We will get the one we have chosen to get, lived to get. Those who have stubbornly separated from Him in this life, I suspect, will face fire that continues their separation from eternal peace and salvation. But for those who have accepted His invitation, even those who have wandered out of His line for a time, they will be anointed in the oils of His divine love so that His fire will not destroy them but will purify them. This is the Refiner’s Fire of which Malachi speaks ... the fire that burns away our impurities ... the fire that sets our hearts ablaze with love for God and the love from God. And in the light of this fire will be revealed the division of which Jesus speaks -- the division between those who have chosen Him and those that have chosen worldly priorities.

We can hide from the fire of God’s invitation or seek to be nearer to it. Either way, ready or not, He will come again. So let us pray for one another to remain close to his fire and pray for those who remain distant. Let us rejoice in the fire that does not burn us away but burns us into Him ... that welds us to His will so that we become a body aflame and a soul on fire.

## “Ready or not, here I come!”

## RATES ON THE *Rise*

Michele Rohde, AAMS  
Financial Advisor, Franchise Owner  
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Victoria, TX 77904

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361-575-2600

michele.rohde@ampf.com

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Rohde Financial Group

Ameriprise Certificates are issued by Ameriprise Certificate Company and distributed by Ameriprise Financial Services, LLC. Member FINRA and SIPC. Ameriprise certificates are backed by reserves of cash and qualified assets on deposit and are not federally or FDIC insured. Our third party certificates are FDIC insured. Rates effective 17-Dec-2024. Rates update weekly.

## The Father Dan Morales Endowment

Help Us Continue Fr. Dan’s Legacy of Faith and Service

- 📌 Supporting medical and spiritual care for the poor and most needy in Antigua, Guatemala through Las Obras Sociales.
- 📌 Your gifts make a difference — monthly or one-time donations welcome.
- 📌 Scan the QR code to give or visit [www.frdanendowment.org](http://www.frdanendowment.org)

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!



**Anniversary gift**

Bishop Brendan Cahill receives a pectoral cross from the priests of the Diocese of Victoria during the Day of Prayer for the Sanctification of Priests celebrated on June 26 at Holy Family Catholic Church. Presenting the cross is Father Charles E. Otsiwah, vicar for clergy, and Father Jasper Liggio, vicar general. The cross was in celebration of his 10 years as the bishop of the Diocese of Victoria and the 35th anniversary of his priestly ordination.

 **IN SOLIDARITY WITH IMMIGRANTS**

**WE CATHOLIC SISTERS FROM 14 CONGREGATIONS IN TEXAS stand in solidarity** with our immigrant and refugee brothers and sisters. Sacred Scripture calls us to show compassion and hospitality to “strangers” in our land.

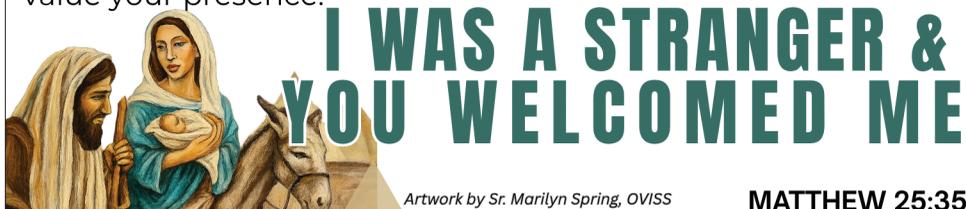
**We decry** unjust deportations and the labeling of millions of our poorest neighbors as criminals. We oppose the denial of due process of law to anyone.

**We lament** that the laws of our nation have not evolved to recognize the dignity of those fleeing violence, extreme poverty, or environmental degradation. As a result, millions are suffering.

**We advocate** for **comprehensive immigration reform** rooted in justice and compassion that provides a reasonable path to citizenship for undocumented persons.

**We pray** that all will recognize the face of Jesus in the immigrant and refugee, and work toward humane and dignified solutions to the nation’s immigration system.

**To immigrant communities:** We hear your cries, We acknowledge your fears, We affirm your hopes, And we deeply value your presence.



Artwork by Sr. Marilyn Spring, OVISS

**MATTHEW 25:35**

Paid Advertising



Photo by Ryan West/Palacios Beacon

**Blessing of the Fleet**

PALACIOS – Father Eliecer Patino, pastor of St. Anthony of Padua Catholic Church, gives the traditional Blessing of the Fleet in the Port of Palacios Harbor on June 27 for the shrimping boats and shrimpers. He uses a pump sprayer to distribute the holy water. Joining Father Patino in the boat are Father Christopher Bediako and Father Michael Rother. The boat crew members are Gary Hafernick, Pascual Cordero and Benjamin López.

**Catholic Church**

# St. John Bosco's

## 77th Annual

*Fall Festival*

Sunday Mass at 10:00 AM  
St. John Bosco Catholic Church, Vanderbilt, Texas

**Sunday, August 31, 2025**

## Trinity Family Center

5508 FM 616 ~ Vanderbilt, Texas

### BBQ Brisket and Sausage Plates

**\$17.00 with all the Trimmings**

**DRIVE THRU OR DINE IN**

**Serving 11:00 AM — 1:30 PM**

Silent Auction, Cake Walk, Country Store,  
Beer Garden, Drink Concession, Door Prizes,  
and Games for Kids!

**RAFFLE BEGINS**  
Sunday morning as soon as all tickets are turned in!

**LIVE AUCTION BEGINS AT 12:30 PM**

# Federal bill would exempt pope from U.S. taxes, 'safeguard' his American citizenship

**DANIEL PAYNE**

*Catholic News Agency*

A new bill before Congress would "safeguard" the domestic citizenship of any American who is elected pope of the Catholic Church, including exempting him from paying taxes to the IRS.

Rep. Jeff Hurd, R-Colorado, proposed the bill saying it "ensures that any American who answers the call to lead more than

a billion Catholics worldwide can do so without risking his citizenship or facing unnecessary tax burdens."

While the text of the bill is not yet available, Hurd said in a statement on his congressional website the bill is meant "to protect the citizenship of, and provide tax-exempt status to, any American elected as the supreme pontiff of the Roman Catholic Church."

"This legislation recognizes the extraordinary nature of the papacy -- a role at the intersection of faith, leadership, and global responsibility," the Colorado representative said.

The measure would "exempt" the individual from U.S. tax obligations while serving as pope," Hurd's website states.

The bill was referred to the House Committee on Ways and Means on July 17.

The current pope, Leo XIV is thus far the only U.S.-born pope in the Catholic Church's 2,000-year history. Since Leo's election on May 8, speculation has centered on what his role as pope means for his U.S. citizenship. The Vatican did not immediately respond to a request for comment about the bill on Thursday.

According to the IRS, U.S. citizens are "subject to U.S. income tax, regardless of where they live or where they earn their income." Citizens living abroad also have the same filing requirements as those living in the U.S. itself.

Paul Hunker, an American immigration attorney and a Catholic, told CNA in May that U.S. federal law spells out the conditions under which a U.S. citizen can lose his or her citizenship.

Such conditions include committing an act of treason, obtaining naturalization in a foreign state, and accepting a position as a foreign head of state, though a person must do those actions voluntarily and with the intention of relinquishing his or her U.S. nationality.

The U.S. State Department says it generally presumes that U.S. citizens, even if they accept a foreign government post, want to keep their citizenship unless "clearly and credibly" established otherwise.

Vatican law dictates that the Holy Father maintains "the fullness of the power of government, which includes the legislative, executive, and judicial powers" of the Vatican City State and the Holy See, the latter of which is the central governing authority of the Church.

## Shiner Catholic Church

# FALL PICNIC

## Sunday August 31, 2025

**KC PARK — 102 S. Ave G**

*Come Join Us!*

*FUN FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY*

**FREE MUSIC & DANCING**

INSIDE THE AIR CONDITIONED HALL

**MAIN HALL**

11 TO 2 PM OFF THE GRID BAND  
 2 TO 4 PM THE SHINER HOBO BAND  
 4 TO 7 PM FRITZ HODDE AND THE FABULOUS SIX

Outside Music

10:30am-12:30pm James Kiening  
 12:30 - 2:30pm toLoveandRescue  
 2:30 - 5:00pm Blue Denim Band  
 5:00 - 8:00pm Shiner's 2nd Wind  
 8:00 - 11:00pm Vic and Beau, Classic Top Hits

**DANCE 9-12pm**

Inside Hall FREE ADMISSION 21 and OVER

**The EMOTIONS**

Mechanical Bull Riding 2pm-6pm  
 Face Painting 1pm-5pm  
 \* Washer Pitching Tourney 4pm \*  
 Plant Wheel \* Ring Toss \* Ball Throw  
 Wheel of Fortune \* and Other Games!

**BINGO**

In The Air Conditioned Dining Room 3 pm to 7 pm

Drawing for Raffle Prizes at end of Auction

Grocery Wheel 5 pm

**DINNER \$15.00**

10:30 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

Air Conditioned Dining Room

◆ DINE IN PLATES ◆

Plates Include THREE MEATS!  
 ◆ Picnic Stew ◆ Fried Chicken ◆  
 ◆ Country Sausage and Trimmings ◆

◆ DRIVE THRU PLATES TO GO ◆

From 10:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.  
 Or UNTIL SOLD OUT at the KASPAR PAVILION IN GREEN DICKSON PARK

**COUNTRY STORE** OPENS at 8 am

By the Bingo Stand

Canned and Baked Goods  
 Kolaches and Pigs-In-A-Blanket

**BIG COUNTRY 12**

**AUCTION** NOON

CATTLE AUCTION 3PM

Famous Picnic Burgers  
 ALL AFTERNOON - EVENING

Find us on: **facebook**

Call: 361-594-3836 or On the web at [sscmshiner.org](http://sscmshiner.org)

## St. Joseph Catholic Church -Inez

### 152<sup>nd</sup> Annual Church Picnic

*Sunday, September 14, 2025*

Inez Community Center

**Fried Chicken, Sausage, Brisket & All the Trimmings**

*All Plates - \$15*

Plates To Go at 10:30 am      Serving Begins at 11:00 am



**Live Auction at 12:30 pm**

*Other Activities Include:*

Country Store

Bucket Game

Silent Auction

Kids' Games



Card Game

**Raffle Prizes Include over \$6,000.00 in Gift Cards!!!**

*Come Out & Join the Fun!!*

# AI must uphold human dignity

**TESSA GERVASINI**  
Catholic News Agency

This week the White House released its plan for artificial intelligence (AI) in the U.S., which aims “to achieve global dominance in AI” and promote “human flourishing, economic competitiveness, and national security for the American people.”

The plan comes as Catholic leaders continue to urge developers to exercise caution when growing and refining the new technology.

The government’s “Winning the AI Race: America’s AI Action Plan” identifies more than 90 federal policy actions within the categories of “accelerating innovation, building American AI infrastructure, and leading in international diplomacy and security.” The White House announcement laid out the key policies the AI plan will focus on, including sharing technology with allies around the world, developing data centers and stripping away red tape around AI development.

The government will also focus on “updating federal procurement guidelines to ensure that the government only contracts with frontier large language model developers who ensure that their systems are objective and free from top-down ideological bias.”

Charles Camosy, an author and professor of moral theology and bioethics at The Catholic University of America, told EWTN News this week that people need to be “extremely, extremely careful” when using AI, particularly as it continues to advance in the U.S. and abroad.

Camosy told “EWTN News In Depth” that “we have to create a culture that shapes AI to serve human beings, not the other way around.”

In the midst of AI expanding, Camosy said he is “100 percent” sure that Pope Leo XIV is aware of the dangers that come with it. Camosy said addressing AI could be the “most ambitious and enduring project” of the pope’s legacy.

At the Vatican in June, Pope Leo said that AI “will certainly be of great help to society, provided that its employment does not undermine the identity and dignity of the human person and his or her fundamental freedoms.”



Janet Jones/The Catholic Lighthouse

## Hispanic ministry leaders celebrate achievements

VICTORIA – Representatives of many parishes across the diocese recently completed various levels of the Hispanic Formation Program out of a desire to be effective leaders in their parishes and in the diocese. Aldo Camacho, director of Hispanic ministry for the Diocese of Victoria in Texas, and Bishop Brendan J. Cahill presented them with certificates of achievement during a certification Mass celebrated June 28 at the Cathedral of Our Lady of Victory.

Those celebrating their achievements are:

- \* Beatriz Montenegro, Jose D. Perez, Olga Sandoval and Mario Martinez, who completed their third year of formation;
- \* Beatriz Adriana Colchado, Fernando Arellano, Ignacia Rodriguez, Maria C. Lozano, Marianela Chapa, Maricela Ayala, Martha Ceballos, Mayra Rubio, Olivia Lopez, Patricia Zamora, Samira Villeda and Virginia Flores who completed two years of formation; and
- \* Aida Lazo, Jesus Mendoza, Ana Lilia Alvarado, Beatriz Adriana Colchado, Cruzy Cervantes, Estela Lopez, David Molina, Ernestina Balderas, Samira Villeda, Guillermina Meza, Maria C. Lozano, Maria Carmen Patino, Maricela Ayala, Maura Aviles, Mayra Rubio, Patricia Zamora, Reyna Barcenas, Rosa Rosillo, Jesus Acevedo and Virginia Flores, who completed their first year of formation.

## HOLY CROSS CATHOLIC CHURCH – YORKTOWN FESTIVAL

@ The Yorktown Community Hall ◆ Sunday, September 14

Festival Mass 9:30 am ◆ Father Roger Hawes, Celebrant

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

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

Music  
Cake Walk  
Country Store  
Children’s Games  
Inflatable Obstacle Course

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

**ENTERTAINMENT**  
11am to 1pm  
Rusty Steins Band  
in the Dance Hall

60 Community Hall Rd, Yorktown, TX 78164 For more information, please find us on Facebook, or call (361) 564-2893



## Prayers for August

### Prayer to Saint John Vianney, the Parish Priest of Ars, for the Pastor and Parish (Feast, August 4)

SAINT John Vianney, we pray you to bless and help our pastor so that he may love dearly in this life and be richly rewarded in the next. Obtain for him the grace always to be kind and generous, self-sacrificing and zealous. Watch over the people of our parish, and keep them free from all evils. Help them to be loyal and generous in the support of our pastor.



Help us particularly always to give him the respect and honor due him as a priest. Except for him we should not have the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass, or Your presence among us, or the other sacraments that we so dearly love and need. From his anointed hands we receive the food of our souls, the most precious Body and Blood of our Lord Jesus Christ. From his lips we hear the word of God. By the power given to him our sins are forgiven, and we are given all blessings. And it is he who will anoint us when we are dying, and will offer the Holy Sacrifice for us when we are dead. Help us, dear Saint, to see Christ in him, and to cooperate with him in all his work for the good of our souls. Amen.

### A Prayer on the Feast of Mary's Assumption (Feast, August 15)

HOLY Mother Mary, we all rejoice with you today on the feast of your glorious Assumption into heaven. Long ago in the Garden of Eden, our first parents, Adam and Eve, were told that they would have to earn their bread in the sweat of their brow and that the earth would be cursed, bringing forth thorns and thistles. Now, after Christ our Redeemer has come, and taught us how to make use of the thorns and thistles of this life, and turn them into blessings, you, like Him, have been taken up body and soul into heaven. There, with your divine Son, you await our coming, and prepare a place for us. Mother Mary, it is a great comfort to us to realize that your precious body, the tabernacle of the infant Christ, is now in heaven with Him. Your being taken into heaven is also, like the resurrection of Christ's body, a pledge to us of the resurrection of our own bodies. It is wonderful to think that these hands, with which we earn our bread now in the sweat of our brow, will, because of the merits of Christ, one day, with our bodies, be glorified forever in heaven. O most pure Virgin Mary, help us to realize this as we go about our work from day to day. Help us to have great respect for these bodies of ours, and for those of others because we recognize in them the temple of the Holy Spirit, and because we look forward to seeing each other, body and soul, with you and your Son Jesus Christ forever in heaven. Amen.

## Sunday Readings from Aug. 10 - Sept. 14

Aug. 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

Aug. 31 ~ Twenty-second Sunday  
in Ordinary Time  
Sirach 3:17-18, 20, 28-29  
Psalms 68:4-5, 6-7, 10-11  
Hebrews 12:18-19, 22-24a  
Luke 14:1, 7-14

Aug. 17 ~ Twentieth Sunday  
in Ordinary Time  
Jeremiah 38:4-6, 8-10  
Psalms Psalm 40:2, 3, 4, 18  
Hebrews 12:1-4  
Luke 12:49-53

Sept. 7 ~ Twenty-third Sunday  
in Ordinary Time  
Wisdom 9:13-18b  
Psalms 90:3-4, 5-6, 12-13, 14 and 17  
Philemon 9-10, 12-17  
Luke 14:25-33

Aug. 24 ~ Twenty-first Sunday  
in Ordinary Time  
Isaiah 66:18-21  
Psalms 117:1, 2  
Hebrews 12:5-7, 11-13  
Luke 13:22-30

Sept. 14 ~ Feast of the Exaltation  
of the Holy Cross  
Numbers 21:4b-9  
Psalms 78:1bc-2, 34-35, 36-37, 38  
Philippians 2:6-11  
John 3:13-17

For daily and Sunday readings, as well as a daily reflection video, visit [www.usccb.org/bible/readings](http://www.usccb.org/bible/readings).

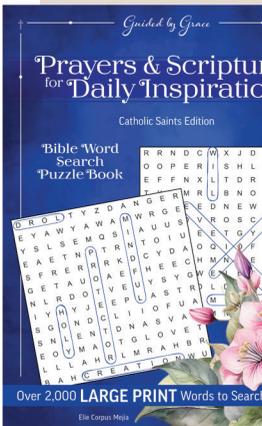


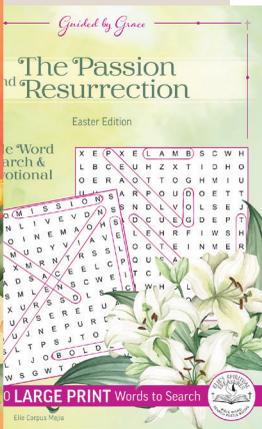
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*Guided by Grace*

A new series of Bible Word Search Puzzle Books by Elie Corpus Mejia

*Available Now on Amazon*



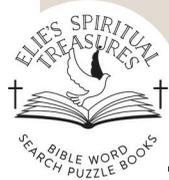


Over 2,000 LARGE PRINT Words to Search

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Don't forget to send in your completed monthly puzzle to The Catholic Lighthouse for a chance to win a free Bible Word Search Puzzle Book!

f @

**St. Andrew Catholic Church**

**HILLJE SUMMER FESTIVAL**

**YOU'RE ALL INVITED ~ FUN FOR ALL**

**BBQ TRI-TIP ~ HOMEMADE SAUSAGE**

**ALL THE TRIMMINGS**

**DINE IN OR PLATES TO GO**

**Serving STARTS @ 11am**

**\$15/ PLATE**

**Sunday, 17 August 2025**

**AUCTION**

Live Auction @ 12:30

**BUCKET RAFFLE**

Starts @ 11 am

Drawing after auction

**GAMES**

KIDS GAMES

PLANT/CAKE WHEEL

**OPENS @ 11 AM**

**RAFFLE**

Drawing following the end of the auction

**ALL IN THE Air-conditioning**

**COUNTRY STORE**

Homemade canned & baked goods and other items

**Hillje Parish Hall 270 St. Andrew St., El Campo, TX 77437**



# Discover the joy of faith through Elie Corpus Mejia’s Bible Word Search puzzles!

Elie Corpus Mejia is deeply passionate about spreading God’s Word and is thrilled to offer a monthly puzzle based on the Mass Readings. Join the fun and inspiration by completing the puzzle and submitting it to The Catholic Lighthouse office at P.O. Box 4070, Victoria, TX 77903 by the end of the month. Each submission gives you a chance to win the Sampler Edition of Elie’s book, *Elie’s Spiritual Treasures, Volume 3 – The Old Testament: The Book of Exodus*.

Elie has created a total of 22 Bible Word Search Puzzle Books that bring scripture to life through engaging puzzles. These books are available for purchase at [www.searching-for-jesus.com](http://www.searching-for-jesus.com), on Amazon (search for “Elie Corpus Mejia”), or by calling 361-648-5832. Prices range from \$4.99 to \$19.99, plus tax. Explore her works in the *Elie’s Spiritual Treasures* series, or purchase directly from her website.

Stay connected and inspired by following Elie on social media:

Facebook: Elie’s Spiritual Treasures

Instagram: @Elies\_SpiritualTreasures

### New Series Alert!

Elie’s latest Catholic Word Search Puzzle Series, *Guided by Grace*, now features two editions available on Amazon: *The Catholic Saints Edition* and *The Passion and Resurrection, Easter Edition*. Dive into these faith-filled puzzles to enrich your daily life and deepen your connection to God’s Word. Be on the lookout for upcoming additions to the series: *Family Love* and *Sympathy & Healing*.

The June winners was *Adult winner* - Elvira Morales Canchola from Victoria. She attends St. Patrick’s in Bloomington and Our Lady of Victory in Victoria; *Youth winner* - Lily Berger from Shiner. She attends Sts. Cyril and Methodius.

**AUGUST 15, 2025**  
**ASSUMPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY: VIGIL**  
**GOSPEL – LUKE 11:27-28**

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke: While Jesus was speaking, / a woman from the crowd called out and said to him, / “Blessed is the womb that carried you / and the breasts at which you nursed.” / He replied, / “Rather, blessed are those / who hear the word of God and observe it.”



Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone number: \_\_\_\_\_

Parish: \_\_\_\_\_

Age, if 12 or younger \_\_\_\_\_ Age, if 13 or older \_\_\_\_\_

**Cathedral Center**  
3201 N Laurent St, Victoria, TX 77901

**13 de Septiembre**  
De las 8 am a las 4 pm

## 4ta CONFERENCIA CATÓLICA DIOCESANA

*Tema de la Conferencia:*  
**“La familia, fuente de esperanza y renovación”**

**Talleristas:**

Mons. Brendan J. Cahill

Obispo de Victoria en Texas

Dora Tobar, PhD

Directora del Ministerio Hispano  
Diócesis de Austin

**Orador Principal:**

P. Everardo Cázares

[www.youtube.com/@EverardoCazares](https://www.youtube.com/@EverardoCazares)

Valeria Dubourdieu

Consejera M.Ed, LPC, NCC, CPE  
Diócesis de Victoria

Taller para Jóvenes:

Sr. Sydney Moss, FMA

Directora Vocacional  
Salesian Sisters of St. John Bosco

P. Caleb Krischke

Parochial Vicar: St. Michael  
Diócesis de Victoria

\*Los talleres tienen cupo limitado

Inscripción e información

Correo Electronico: [acamacho@victoriadiocese.org](mailto:acamacho@victoriadiocese.org)  
 Web: [www.victoriadiocese.org/conferencia-hispana](http://www.victoriadiocese.org/conferencia-hispana)  
 Teléfono: 361-573-0828 Ext. 2246

Inscripción y Check-in (13 de Sep)

Desde las 7:00 am en el Centro Pastoral  
Misa 8:00 am en la Catedral

Costo

\$35 por adulto  
\$10 por adolescentes (13 a 17 años)

Guardería

Se ofrecerá cuidado de niños de  
3 a 12 años de edad

ESCANEE

CÓDIGO QR

## Meals • Picnics and More

## August

- FRELSBURG** – Sts. Peter & Paul Country Festival, Aug. 4, on the church grounds. A fried fish dinner will be served for \$15 each plate. Hamburgers and snacks in the afternoon.
- YOAKUM** – St. Joseph Picnic, Aug. 4, at the Community Center. A stew and sausage dinner will be served for \$15 each plate. Mexican food available in the afternoon.
- VICTORIA** – Our Lady of Sorrows/Santisima Trinidad Jamaica, Aug. 4 at the Community Center 9 a.m.- 6 p.m. A brisket dinner will be served for \$13 each plate.
- 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, all inside parish hall (270 St. Andrew St., El Campo). See ad on pg. 17.
- CISTERN** – Sts. Cyril and Methodius Church Picnic, Aug. 24 on parish grounds, see ad on pg. 8.
- CUERO** – Our Lady of Guadalupe Jamaica, Aug. 31 on parish grounds. See ad on pg. 7.
- HALLETTSVILLE** – Sacred Heart Parish Picnic, Aug. 31 at the KC Hall. See ad on pg. 10.
- HIGH HILL** – St. Mary Parish Picnic, Aug. 31 on the parish grounds. See ad on pg. 16.
- NADA** – St. Mary Homecoming, Aug. 31 at the Community Hall. See ad on pg. 7.
- SHINER** – Sts. Cyril and Methodius Parish Picnic, Aug. 31 at the KC Hall. See ad on pg. 14.
- VANDERBILT** – St. John Bosco Fall Festival, Aug. 31. See ad on pg. 13.

## September

- YORKTOWN** – Holy Cross Church hosts its annual festival, Sept. 14 at the Yorktown Community Hall (60 Community Hall Road). See ad on pg. 15.
- INEZ** – St. Joseph Church Picnic, Sept. 14 at the Community Center. See ad on pg. 14.
- 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 on their website [www.charityauction.bid/HolmanPicnic](http://www.charityauction.bid/HolmanPicnic).
- MOULTON** – St. Joseph Church Picnic, Sept. 21 at the St. Joseph Social Center. Mass will be at 10 a.m., followed by fried chicken and stew meal. To-go plates available or dine-in and enjoy cakewalk, plant walk, activities for children, country store, music and bingo in the afternoon, live auction at 1 p.m., and hamburgers and concessions after the meal.
- PORT LAVACA** – Our Lady of the Gulf Fall Festival, Sept. 21. A seafood dinner will be served.
- KOERTH** – St. John the Baptist Picnic, Sept. 28, located at the Sweet Home Community Center. Dine-in and to-go plates of stew, sausage, and more. Live auction and silent auction, games, music, and much more.
- MEYERSVILLE** – Sts. Peter & Paul Church (11220 FM 23, Fall Festival is Sept. 28, A BBQ meal from 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Plates are \$15 with dine-in or to-go available. Live Auction will start at 12:30 p.m. in the parish hall.

## October

- WHARTON** – Holy Family Church on Oct. 19, will be serving a turkey and dressing dinner, \$15 per plate. Dine-In or drive-thru from 10:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Live auction begins at 12:30 p.m. There will also be a silent auction, raffle, country store, cakewalk, and many other things.

## Ministries • Ongoing Activities

**ACTS Retreats** – Anyone needing any information regarding ACTS retreats in the diocese should e-mail [dovactschapter@victoriadiocese.org](mailto: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](http://www.nacflm.org).

**Courage** – Ministers to persons with same-sex attractions and their loved ones. The ministry also has an outreach, EnCourage, which ministers to relatives, spouses, and friends of persons with same-sex attractions. It is a Roman Catholic Apostolate endorsed by the Pontifical Council for the Family. For information, visit [www.couragerc.net](http://www.couragerc.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](http://www.victoriadiocese.org/engagedencounter).

**Gabriel Project of the Crossroads** – Helps women experiencing a crisis pregnancy as an alternative to abortion. Our mission is to protect the unborn by providing spiritual and emotional support as well as supplies. We provide housing through the Bethlehem Maternity Home and have an outreach ministry that visits pregnant women in our community. Our services cover Victoria, Calhoun, Colorado, DeWitt, Fayette, Goliad, Jackson, Lavaca, Matagorda and Wharton Counties. For more information, please contact our helpline at 361-576-1156.

**Grief Ministry** – Emmaus Counseling and Spiritual Direction Center sponsors a monthly grief support group for any kind of death or loss. 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](mailto: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 CREIGTON MODEL Fertility Care System (CrMS) featuring NaPro TECHNOLOGY™ contact Susanne Koch in Wharton at 505-710-0903 or [mailto:susannekoch614@gmail.com](mailto:mailto:susannekoch614@gmail.com). Also in the Cuero area contact, Ashley Rodriguez at 361-293-0700 or e-mail [ashleyfay09@gmail.com](mailto: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 [ourladyshalingcenter.com](http://ourladyshalingcenter.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](mailto:raphaelsrefuge@att.net), or visit <http://www.raphaelsrefuge.org>.

**Retrouvaille** – Retrouvaille, meaning "rediscovery," is a marriage-healing ministry offered in the diocese to couples in difficult marriages. Contact John and Jennifer Vincent at [jbvjov@sbcglobal.net](mailto:jbvjov@sbcglobal.net) or 361-580-2770; or call 800-470-2230; or visit [www.helpourmarriage.org](http://www.helpourmarriage.org)



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# School year kicks off with 5 new principals

Continued from pg. 1

a partnership with the University of Houston-Victoria that retired superintendent Dr. John Quary fashioned to prepare teachers in Catholic



Brooke Tomek

schools to qualify for principal positions.

"I'm very excited," Tomek said. "I definitely feel the program has paid off." Because two others from that same group are also principals, they already feel like teammates in the diocese.

Tomek started at the school as the interim principal in February, when former principal Linda Bradford left, so she got a head start. She said the faculty is showing a lot of excitement as the cleaning and decorating of classrooms commences ahead of the first day of school.

Following the retirement of Neely Yackel, who served 17 years at the helm



Leslie Bacak

of Shiner Catholic Schools, **Leslie Bacak** was named the new principal. She had an 18-year career in education in the public schools with Lamar Consoli-

dated and Alief ISDs. After her oldest, who is entering third grade, started in the Shiner schools at age 4, she "fell in love with the school," she said. She has had the benefit of working with Yackel while being a parent, supporter and substitute teacher, and she has been shadowing Yackel since March, she said. "She has been a great support – a great mentor," Bacak said.

**Dana Dworaczyk**, longtime educator in Calhoun County and member of Our Lady of the Gulf will take the OLG school leadership position after the resignation of David Augustine. She spent 32 years in

public school as teacher and administrator, including as the principal of Cahoun High School.

"I was on the committee to hire the principal (for OLG) previously," she said, and some expected she might go for the position, but she was not ready. This year her time has come. She will work with Father Tommy Chen, the pastor, who, she said, was also a student of hers at one time. She said she is looking forward to working with younger children in a Catholic setting, where she can also help instill Christian morality in the students.

"I feel like I've been leading up to this (role) for a while," Dworaczyk said.

At St. Philip the Apostle, **Kathleen Jahn** is taking the helm after the retire-



Kathleen Jahn

ment of Gwen Edwards, principal for the last 18 years.

Jahn has the good fortune of having Edwards nearby. Edwards is planning

to continue working for the parish in the church office. Jahn is from the Houston suburbs and is retired from the public school system. She went to Catholic school as a child and she and her husband have recently moved into a newly built home in the Beasley area.

"I thought this was the ideal thing," Jahn said. "I wanted to be a principal again." And she wanted to combine her faith and professional experiences, she added. "I'm really looking forward to being back with the kids and teachers.



Dana Dworaczyk

There's a real sense of community and spirituality in that school. Everyone is very focused on doing what they can to support the school."

**Taylor Jensen** is the new principal of St. Rose of Lima, starting as the school under- goes big renovations. But she is another one who will enjoy having the former administrator nearby as Rosanne Gallia, who was principal for the past 19 years, will remain on the building committee, making the transition smoother for Jensen.

Jensen has been in education for 12 years, all in the public school sector, and her children are St. Rose students, going in first and fourth grades. She said her love for the school led her to want to apply for the principal position. "I'm actually looking forward to everything, and I'm so thankful I get to work with the staff at St. Rose." She said the students are good and the community is a strong and caring one.

She said the first day of school will have 5k and first grade in a shared space and grades two, three and four will be in their own classrooms as they await the completion of the renovations around the first of September, so they can move to their permanent spaces.

Bacak and Sean Mooney, principal of St. Michael's in Cuero, will both be working with new pastors this year. Father Jacob Mendoza recently took over at Sts. Cyril and Methodius. Father Michael Odartey-Lamptey was named parochial administrator for St. Michael's.

Rob Whitworth, superintendent of the Office of Catholic Schools for the diocese said the theme for the 25-26 school year is "Always be Ready," taken from 1 Peter 3:15: "Always be ready to give an explanation ... for a reason for your hope." The school office, he said, adopted the same theme as the one chosen by the USCCB for Catechetical Sunday this year, which is Sept. 21.

Joining with this theme is a way to help

highlight the Church unity and focus on the Catholic culture of the schools. Whitworth said he wants to help teachers realize and embrace their role as catechists, too. "All teachers in Catholic schools are catechists," he said, even the non-Catholics who still catechize through example.

The Catholic schools are staying healthy, as school enrollment is holding steady, and may be up just a little overall, Whitworth said. Official enrollment counts will not be known until Sept. 15. He and others in education, private and public, are waiting to how the recent the school choice legislation might affect enrollment in the coming years. The state has passed a bill that funds educational savings accounts to provide vouchers for families who qualify and need funding to send their children to schools outside of the public system.

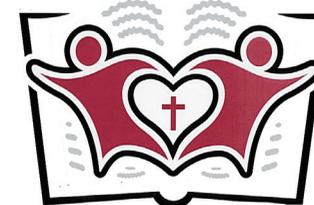
Bay City is one that has grown substantially over the last few years. In 2020-21, they were hoping for an enrollment of 80 and held an "80 for 80" campaign for the anniversary year. Now they are at 133, Tomek said, and this year's goal is 150. She believes there is a good chance of hitting that mark because she has had many tours this summer.

"We've grown a lot," Tomek said. "We've done some very intentional marketing and having the right people in the right places over the last few years."

Dworaczyk said OLG is beginning with about 80 students but really needs 100. "We're going to have to market as much as we can," she said. "We're hoping that the vouchers will do something to increase our enrollment."

Jahn said St. Philip's is full and has a waiting list. "I've had people as far as Sugar Land asking if we had spots," she said. Their enrollment is close to 280.

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