



Contributed Photo

First first day of school

YOAKUM – Mandi Jean Monk snapped this photo as her oldest, 3-year-old Agnes, starts school for the very first time at St. Joseph Catholic School. Yoakum was the first Catholic School in the diocese to start classes on Aug. 5. “How sweet it is to be walked in on your first day of 3K by your principal, Sister Marilyn!” Monk said. “Sister Marilyn is truly a gift. Her joy is infectious.” She reported that Agnes is “loving it” at school. See more school news on page 12.

Prayer for Teachers

Lord God, your spirit of wisdom fills the earth and teaches us your ways.

Look upon these teachers. Let them strive to share their knowledge with gentle patience and endeavor always to bring the truth to eager minds.

Grant that they may follow Jesus Christ, the way, the truth, and the life, forever and ever.

R/. Amen.

Prayer from USCCB

VC hosts evening with Carlo Acutis following canonization

VICTORIA – Everyone is invited to celebrate the canonization of Blessed Carlo Acutis at The Victoria College from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. Sept. 8, the day after his canonization.

Also known as the “first millennial saint,” Acutis died in 2006 from leukemia at age 15, but during his short life he had huge impact on the world by promoting a devotion to the Eucharist and creating a Website documenting Eucharistic miracles and Marian apparitions around the world.

The event at the college will begin with a presentation about Acutis’s life and his desire to tell the world about the Eucharistic miracles Father Gabriel Bentil, pastor of Holy Family Catholic Church, will give the presentation. VC will display panels that show the Eucharistic miracles as presented on his virtual museum at www.miracolieu-caristici.org. The panels were obtained by the Diocese of

See VC hosts evening with Carlo, pg. 14



Blessed Carlo Acutis

Hispanic ministry is a gift of faith and culture

Finding Beauty in Mystery

By Sister Rosario Resendez, OVISS



About five years ago, the Diocese of Victoria established the Office of Hispanic Ministry. At the time, we were still navigating the restrictions of COVID-19, yet a young man applied for the position. Initially, it was thought that the ministry could be served with a part-time role. However, it quickly became clear that the need was much greater. Today, that position is full-time, and my friend, Aldo Camacho, now serves as director of

the office.

In a short time, he has accomplished much. He developed and now teaches an in-depth formation course in Spanish, organized several Catholic conferences and continues planning more. Recently he was appointed the regional representative for Region X in the National Catholic Association of Diocesan Directors for Hispanic Ministry (more about this appointment appears on Page 11 in this issue). His dedication has borne abundant fruit for our diocese.

Why do I bring this up now? Because Sept. 15 through Oct. 15 marks National Hispanic Heritage Month, a time to reflect on the richness of Hispanic culture and the many ways it shapes our Church.

As a Hispanic woman and a Sister of the Incarnate Word and Blessed Sacrament, I carry this deeply in my heart. I am one of the few Latinas in my religious com-

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16 Bad example gives a good lesson

Greatest hope is knowing the Good Shepherd is present among His sheep

A Shepherd's Message

By Bishop Brendan Cahill

Dear Brothers and Sisters,
“Always be ready to give an explanation ...for a reason for your hope” (1 Peter 3:15)
On Sept. 21 the Church celebrates a special Sunday called Catechetical Sunday. It’s a time when we acknowledge at the start of the school year that the most important lessons we teach are the experiences that we share about the reality of Jesus Christ in our lives. I’m especially praying for all of the students, teachers, coaches, school administrators and catechists across our area who have returned to their work of creating communities of learning and growth in knowledge.



Looking at the diocesan calendar you can see and read about our annual Hispanic Conference on Sept. 13, our Catechist Rally and Commissioning Service on Sept. 20, the beginning of our Catholic school year activities and the ongoing formation of our High School Youth Leadership Team – all activities to encourage and strengthen us as a community of faith in Jesus Christ.
In all of these ways and so much more our families support each other in teaching about Jesus Christ. We share with each other the reason for our hope.
Let me share with you one of the great

reasons for my hope. As I’m writing this letter I’m reflecting on another confirmation that I have celebrated. To see our young men and women, sitting beside sponsors they have chosen to walk with them on life’s journey, lifts up my heart with great hope. In the midst of all the busy-ness and activity of young life each one of these members of the Church has chosen to make a public statement of our Catholic faith, and in the Sacrament of Confirmation they receive the gift of the Holy Spirit “just as the Spirit was given to the apostles on the day of Pentecost.”
As a bishop, I’m very aware of my humanity and unworthiness to serve as a successor of the apostles. I’m also very aware that in the sacrament it’s not my worthiness but it is my trust in Jesus Christ and surrender to His Power that passes on the Holy Spirit. I especially like to refer to an observation that someone made in the Church more than 1,500 years ago when he observed men and women being

baptized, anointed with the sacred oil and being admitted to receive the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ for the first time.
This person observed that it wasn’t just the bishop who was presiding over the sacraments, it was Jesus Christ the Good Shepherd who was “branding His sheep.” Each time I celebrate confirmation I think about that and surrender to the reality we are proclaiming. Jesus Christ has claimed you and me, and He has promised to be by our side until the end of time. No matter what the worries or concerns that are bothering my soul I know that Jesus Christ is by my side and will fight my battles for me. This is the reason for my great hope.
Thank you for your prayers and support for me as your bishop. May you and your families be blessed this school year and beyond with the hope that lifts our spirits and makes us One Body and One Spirit in Christ.
+Brendan

La mayor esperanza es saber que el Buen Pastor está presente entre sus ovejas

Queridos hermanos y hermanas,
“Estén siempre preparados para dar razón de sus esperanza” (1 Pedro 3:15)
El 21 de septiembre, la Iglesia celebra un domingo especial llamado Domingo Catequético. Es un momento en el que, al comenzar el año escolar, reconocemos que las lecciones más importantes que enseñamos son las experiencias que compartimos sobre la realidad de Jesucristo en nuestras vidas. Rezo especialmente por todos los estudiantes, maestros, entrenadores, admin-

istradores escolares y catequistas de nuestra área que han regresado a su labor de crear comunidades de aprendizaje y crecimiento en el conocimiento.
Consultando el calendario diocesano, pueden ver y leer sobre nuestra Conferencia Hispana anual el 13 de septiembre, nuestro Encuentro de Catequistas y Servicio de Comisionamiento el 20 de septiembre, el inicio de las actividades del año escolar católico y la formación continua de nuestro Equipo de Liderazgo Juvenil de Prepara-


toria; todas estas actividades nos animan y fortalecen como comunidad de fe en Jesucristo.
De todas estas maneras y muchas más, nuestras familias se apoyan mutuamente en la enseñanza de Jesucristo. Compartimos la razón de nuestra esperanza.
Permítanme compartir con ustedes una de las grandes razones de mi esperanza. Al escribir esta carta, reflexiono sobre otra confirmación que he celebrado. Ver a nuestros jóvenes, hombres y mujeres, sen-

tados junto a sus padrinos, que han elegido para acompañarlos en el camino de la vida, me llena de gran esperanza. En medio de la actividad de la juventud, cada uno de estos miembros de la Iglesia ha decidido hacer pública su fe católica, y en el sacramento de la Confirmación reciben el don del Espíritu Santo, “tal como el Espíritu fue dado a los apóstoles el día de Pentecostés.”
Como obispo, soy muy consciente de mi
Ver La mayor esperanza, la página 17

Bishop Cahill's Schedule

September			
1	Chancery Closed	11	Virtual – Catholic Relief Services Board of Directors Meeting
2	• Victoria – 9 a.m. Legion of Mary Praesidium meeting; Cathedral Center • Victoria – 6 p.m. Honoree at Salvation Army’s Love Beyond Dinner	12	Houston - Mass at St. Thomas High School
5-7	San Antonio – Holy Sepulchre Meeting	13	• Victoria – 4th Conferencia Católica at the Cathedral of Our Lady of Victory and Cathedral Center • Bay City – 4:30 p.m. Confirmation Mass for Holy Cross Church
8	• Victoria – 2:30 p.m. Communities of Faith meeting • Ganado – 6 p.m. Local School Advisory Council meeting at ABVM Church	14	• Houston – 9:30 a.m. Mass for Ministry of Acolyte at St. Mary’s Seminary • Shiner – 3 p.m. Confirmation Mass for Sts. Cyril and Methodius
9	• Victoria – 9 a.m. Legion of Mary Praesidium meeting; Cathedral Center • Victoria – 6 p.m. Organ dedication at St. Mary’s Church	15	Victoria – 4:30 p.m. Meal with OVISS Healthcare Sisters at Incarnate Word Convent
10	Virtual – Noon Catholic Rural Life Campaign Cabinet meeting	16	• Radio – 6:30 a.m. Morning Air Radio interview • Houston – 6 p.m. Vocation Ministry Gala
		17	• Victoria – 10 a.m. Presbyteral Council meeting at the Chancery • Victoria – 2:30 p.m. Finance Council meeting at the Chancery • Victoria – 4 p.m. Building Board meeting at the Chancery
		18	Round Rock – Installation Mass for Bishop Daniel Garcia
		19	Victoria – 5 p.m. Bishop’s Boy Scout Dinner at the Chancery
		20	• Shiner – Catechist Rally • Cuero – 5 p.m. Installation Mass for Father Michael at St. Michael
		21	Inez – 9 a.m. Confirmation Mass for St. Joseph Church
		22	Victoria – noon Mass with Missionary Catechists
		23	• Victoria – 9 a.m. Legion of Mary Praesidium meeting; Cathedral Center • Victoria – 6 p.m. Adult Confirmation Mass at Our Lady of Sorrows Church
		24	Galveston – 10:30 a.m. Mass with Seafarer Luncheon to follow
		26	El Campo – 8:15 a.m. School Mass and visit at St. Philip School
		27	Frelsburg – 6 p.m. Mass at Sts. Peter and Paul Church
		28	Victoria – 9 a.m. Sunday Mass (Blue Mass) at the Cathedral of Our Lady of Victory
		29	Victoria – 5:30 p.m. Diocesan Liturgy Commission Meeting at the Chancery
		30	• Victoria – 9 a.m. Legion of Mary Praesidium meeting; Cathedral Center • Victoria – 6 p.m. Adult Confirmation Mass for Our Lady of Victory
		October	
		2	Bay City – 8 a.m. School Mass and Visit at Holy Cross School

Note: Calendar is subject to changes.



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so that every person
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Congratulations to the deacons on their anniversaries

20 Years

Deacon Billy Key, retired

15 Years

Deacon Larry Hoelscher, serving St. Philip the Apostle, El Campo

5 Years

Deacon Adrian Canales, serving St. Robert, El Campo
Deacon Richard Evans, serving St. Mary, Victoria
Deacon John Glueck, serving St. Anthony, Columbus
Deacon Nazario Hernandez, serving Our Lady of the Gulf, Port Lavaca
Deacon Kevin Knox, serving Holy Cross, Bay City
Deacon Tim Kozelsky, serving Sacred Heart, Flatonia
Deacon Dusty Leopold, serving St. Mary, Nada
Deacon Michael Morkovsky, serving Sts. Cyril and Methodius, Shiner
Deacon Andy Nunmaker, serving St. Roch, Mentz
Deacon Kevin Petrash, serving Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Ganado
Deacon Matthew Schaefer, serving The Cathedral of Our Lady of Victory, Victoria
Deacon Rusty Theut, serving St. Anthony, Columbus
Deacon Frank Tilley, serving Our Lady of Sorrows, Victoria
Deacon Bruce Turner, serving Holy Family, Wharton



Minimal requirements to become a deacon: U.S. citizenship, high school diploma (or GED); 30 years of age or older. Discerning a possible vocation to the diaconate is addressed early in the formation process.


Please encourage your sons, husbands, nephews, cousins, brothers and/or friends that you believe may have a calling into the diaconal service. And pray that we can all have the strength to say, "Speak, Lord, for your servant is listening."

FOR INFORMATION, CONTACT:
Deacon Charles J. Glynn,
Director of Formation for the Permanent Diaconate
2668 Zimmerscheidt Road
Alleyton, TX 78935

cglynn@victoriadiocese.org
979-253-9616



Photo by Taylor Janak



Seminarian takes next step

On Aug. 5, the Rite of Candidacy was celebrated for seminarian Alex Woods at The Cathedral of Our Lady of Victory. There are two key components to the ceremony. Bishop Brendan Cahill said in his homily "the bishop makes a commitment that he sees the [seminarian] as a future priest of the diocese and commits to support him. The seminarian on his part after years of formation and prayer makes a mature commitment to continue in formation for the priesthood in the Diocese of Victoria in Texas." This ceremony marks the beginning of Alex's formation in the configuration state at St. Mary's Seminary in Houston.

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

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



Join us for lunch at our
Monthly Travel Meeting on
Thursday, October 23
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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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 >.

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Acolyte

Mrs. Elise W. Farek
In honor of Rev. Caleb Krischke's Ordination

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Candidate

St. Mary's VBS Students, Victoria

St. Anne's Society, High Hill

Transitional Deacon

Mr. and Mrs. David Heyer

Priest

Sr. Paschaline Kutac, Adella Kutach, Ann
Margaret Kutac, Ludi Kutac-Carvan
*In memory of Albert V. Kutac, Valentine V.
Kutac, Louise F. Kutac and
In honor of Anthony J. Kutac*

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

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Education of Seminarian Fund
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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 >.**

August 23, 2025

• **Rev. Charles Kolek, OSB & Parents,
John and Marie Kolek Seminary
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Acolyte
Donation in memory of Rev. Charles Kolek,
OSB and John and Marie Kolek from the
Kolek Family Reunion

• **Anthony and Rose Marie Trippodo
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In memory of Brother Knight Mr. Johnnie
Bargas by K of C Council #2902,
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• **Rev. Luke Prihoda Seminary Burse**

Lector
In memory of Gladys Surman by Henrietta
Veselka

• **Rev. Michael Petering Seminary Burse**
Transitional Deacon

In honor of Rev. Michael Petering for his
devoted service of 26 years as a priest by
John and Beatrice Porche

• **Rev. Msgr. Gerard “Gerry” Cernoch
Seminary Burse**

Lector
In memory of George and Betty Kana by
Helen and Billy Dolezal

• **Rev. Kristopher L. Fuchs Seminary
Burse**

Lector
In memory of Sally Gosch Gaudiano by
Helen and Paul Flessner

• **Rev. Joseph Koebel Seminary Burse**

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• **Rev. Msgr. Victor Schmitzinsky Seminary
Burse**

Acolyte
Donation in memory of Rev. Msgr. Victor
Schmitzinsky by Catholic Life Insurance,
Nada Branch #15

• **Rev. Joe Vrana Seminary Burse, In Honor
of his Golden Jubilee Year**

Acolyte
Donation in memory of Rev. Joe Vrana by
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To contribute to an existing Seminary
Endowment Fund, send contributions with
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Seminary Endowment Fund
P. O. Box 4070
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*Please remember in prayer the priests of the Diocese of Victoria,
who were ordained during the month of September:*

Rev. Wayne N. Flagg	09/24/1988	St. Andrew Church, Hillje St. Procopius Church, Louise
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*Please remember in prayer the priests of the Diocese of Victoria
who died during the month of September:*

Rev. Dan Morales	09/03/2016
Rev. Msgr. Werner Bockholt	09/08/1992
Rev. Marcus Valenta	09/09/1984
Rev. Msgr. John J. Hanacek	09/14/1994
Rev. Donald Hayden, O.Ss.T.	09/19/2009
Rev. Jude Belisle, O.Ss.T.	09/24/1994

*For if we live, we live for the Lord, and if we die, we die for the Lord;
so then, whether we live or die, we are the Lord's. (Romans 14:8)*



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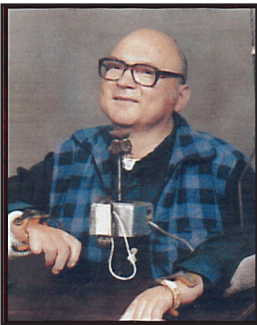
Let the leaders lead, and think carefully before criticizing

EDITOR’S NOTE: This sermon was written for the 25th Sunday in Ordinary Time, Cycle B. Father Kram titled it “Leadership and Discipleship.”

One of the main duties and opportunities of every follower of Christ is to serve, that is, to put our goods and our talents to work for the honor and glory of God and for our own well being and that of our fellow man.

Not everyone should or can be a leader.

Actually, leadership can be quite a burden. Sometimes we hear that an individual chosen for a position of leadership declines the offer. In one case I know of, a parish organization with a good many members went out of existence because their president was killed in a car wreck and no one else was willing to serve. Yet every organization must have leaders. Without leadership,



1929-2000

Servant of God Charles Kram Corner

we have disorganization, confusion and waste of time and resources.

Since all these things are so, what should our attitude toward our leaders be, and how should we act toward them?

Perhaps a good rule about how to treat our leaders would be to treat them as WE would wish to be treated if WE were in their place. Let’s take some examples:

First, let us consider that many of us like to criticize the efforts of others. In fact, criticizing others is sometimes

a lot more fun than saying something nice about them. It is almost as though someone else’s success is a threat to our own. This is what a jealous attitude can do. Sometimes we are told, “If you can’t say something good about someone else, don’t say anything.” This may not be absolutely correct, but certainly we should be at least as ready to praise and give credit as to find fault.

Let’s take another example: Once when I offered free advice to a friend, he said, “Did you ever notice how whenever someone is busy doing something, there are always plenty of people standing around telling him how to do it?”

The next time you are tempted to criticize, first stop and ask yourself, “Is it my place to criticize, and is my criticism necessary and useful?” Then, if it meets all these requirements, make sure it is constructive and not just the kind that finds fault.

Have something better to offer. Just cutting the trees down without planting

new ones in their place soon creates a barren waste.

Another good rule might be: If you are liberal with your advice, also be ready to bear the responsibility in case your advice causes harm. The person who points an accusing finger at his neighbor and says, “I’m telling you, and you better listen,” is usually also the one who is nowhere to be found when his advice turns out to be wrong and the harm has been done.

In summary, some are meant to be great and influential leaders. Others are meant to be faithful followers. Whatever our position, our Christian calling is to serve. As a poet once said, “He also serves who only stands and waits.”

Lord Jesus, thank you for giving each of us a chance to serve. Help us to find our place and fill it. Grant that our efforts may bear much fruit for your honor and glory and our own mutual well being and happiness Amen.



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File Photo

Keep standing for life
Since 1987, people have joined in a silent, but visible, prayer vigil called the Life Chain to show their opposition to abortion. The event is always scheduled on or near the first Sunday in October. In Victoria this year the Life Chain will be 2 to 3 pm. Oct. 5 on Navarro Street between Magruder at Sam Houston Drive and Loop 463. Signs will be handed out at locations along the way. It will take place rain or shine. Those who plan to attend are encouraged to bring the whole family and also bring lawn chairs, umbrellas and water. The Life Chain is also held in other communities in the Diocese of Victoria on or near the same time. A complete list of Texas Life Chain events can be found at https://lifechain.net/TexasList_V2.html.

Hispanic ministry is a gift of faith and culture

Continued from pg. 1

munity here in Victoria. When I entered, my Sisters made a conscious effort to learn about my culture and to make me feel welcome. Today, through the reunification of our order, we have grown from about 40 sisters to more than 500, many who are in Mexico, Central America and South America. God’s providence has woven my culture even more fully into the life of our community.

In my current chaplaincy formation for prison ministry, I was reminded of something important: Language and culture are not the same. We can translate words, but unless we understand the culture, we miss the heart of the message.

That is why I value times like Hispanic Heritage Month. They encourage us to learn about one another, not only through study, but also through friendship, shared experiences and even food. I think of a content creator, Kerry Mann (@kerrybmann on TikTok), who tries new foods on camera. His first attempt at eating chorizo didn’t go so well, but instead of dismissing the feedback he received, he listened, learned how to prepare it properly and discovered how much he enjoyed it. His openness (and the guidance of those who shared their traditions) reminds me of how hospitality and culture go hand in hand.

I’ve had similar experiences. I remember trying bratwurst and sauerkraut at an Oktoberfest. I wasn’t sure I liked it until a German Sister showed me how to eat them together. Suddenly, the flavors came alive. It taught me that sometimes all it takes is someone to share the “how” for us to appreciate something new.

Our Catholic faith is universal. As one of my special priest friends often says, “Our Church is big enough for

everyone.” That truth came alive for me when we welcomed Vietnamese Sisters at our convent some years ago. I noticed they would approach Communion with their arms crossed. At first, I thought it was ... interesting. But when I asked, I learned that in their culture this gesture is the highest form of respect; so, they are coming before their God in deep reverence. What I once saw as unusual, I came to recognize as profoundly beautiful.

I think also of elderly Mexican women I have seen walking backwards out of the church during adoration, unwilling to turn their backs on their King and their God. Different gestures; different cultures ... yet all expressing deep love and reverence for the Lord.

Our Church is big enough for everyone, therefore let us, then, make sure everyone feels welcomed at the banquet of the Lord.

“*Ven, ven al banquete. Ven a la fiesta de Dios. Here the hungry find plenty, here the thirsty shall drink. Ven a la cena de Cristo, come to the feast.*” – Ven al Banquete (Bob Hurd)

“I pray not only for them, but also for those who will believe in me through their word, so that they may all be one, as you, Father, are in me and I in you ... that the world may know that you sent me, and that you loved them even as you loved me.” – *John 17:20–23*

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

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KCs seek help to buy wheelchairs

The Knights of Columbus work in partnership with the American Wheelchair Mission to provide wheelchairs to an estimated 100 million people worldwide that need a wheelchair but cannot afford one.

These life-changing gifts of mobility deliver hope, dignity, freedom and independence and are an answer to prayers. It is estimated that each wheelchair delivered changes and improves an average of 10 lives.

A \$150 donation will provide a brand new wheelchair for a person in need, but the KCs appreciate whatever you can give. Additional information will be provided at all Masses the weekend of Sept. 27-28 at Holy Family Catholic Church.

Please make checks payable to American Wheelchair Mission. For online donations, visit www.amwheelchair.org/donate and select “Knights of Columbus” in the Campaign field and enter “Council 9088” in the Organization/Council field.



School year begins

Each year, the Serra Club of Victoria has a send off at the end of the summer for our seminarians and women in formation. On Aug. 5, Bishop Brendan Cahill celebrated Mass at The Cathedral of Our Lady of Victory, assisted by Father Kristopher Fuchs, director of vocations and the seminarians of the diocese. Seminarians with Father Fuchs and Bishop Cahill, from left, are Seth Reissig, Chris Leshikar, Nelson Lagos, William Pettus and Alex Woods.



ST. ROBERT BELLARMINE CHURCH FESTIVAL

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 12, 2025

CIVIC CENTER, EL CAMPO, TEXAS





FESTIVAL

Begins at 10am

Chairperson:
Christina Sabrsula
979-332-7865



BBQ Brisket & Sausage

Buttered Potatoes, Green Beans
And all the trimmings

Plates \$15.00/Each

Best Brisket in El Campo! Period.

Dine In, To Go Plates, or Drive-thru
Serving Begins at 11am (until Sold Out)

LIVE AUCTION

Begins at 12pm

Auction Item Donations:
Deacon Adrian Canales
979-253-0328

Accepting Cash,
Credit Cards,
and Checks



St. Robert's Festival Raffle

\$25/Ticket or \$100/Book of 5

For Tickets

Contact:

Samira Villeda

979-332-4400

Prizes:

1st - \$5,000

2nd - \$4,000

3rd - \$3,000

4th - \$2,000

5th - \$1,000

Gorditas

Street Tacos

Hamburgers

Sausage on a Stick

Frito Pie/Nachos

Agua Frescas

Homemade Desserts

Fruit Cups

Cake Walk

Plant Walk

Lottery Sombrero

Loteria

Coke Toss

Goldfish Game

Nerf Gun Game

Fishing Game

Knights of Columbus, #9393 Raffle

\$20,000 Gift Certificate

\$100/Ticket (ONLY 750 SOLD!)



\$20,000⁰⁰ Gift Certificate

To Be Given Away
SUNDAY, OCTOBER 12, 2025

TICKETS: \$100⁰⁰ EACH - ONLY 750 WILL BE SOLD!

Grand Prize Will Be Last Ticket Drawn

Additional Prizes will be given based on 100% Sell Out

Net proceeds benefit St. Robert's Catholic Church & Fr. Lawrence J. Matula Council KC #9393

NEED NOT BE PRESENT TO WIN

For Tickets Contact:
Hector Gutierrez
979-332-8338

Vatican announces theme for 2026 World Day of Peace

By Nicolás de Cárdenas

“Peace Be With You All: Towards an Unarmed and Disarming Peace” will be the theme for the 2026 World Day of Peace, the Vatican Dicastery for Promoting Integral Human Development announced Aug. 26.

This theme, according to a statement from the Vatican Press Office, “invites humanity to reject the logic of violence and war, to embrace an authentic peace, based on love and justice.” The statement continues: “It is a peace that is unarmed — that is, not based on fear, threats, or weapons; and disarming, because it is capable of dissolving conflicts, opening hearts, and generating trust, empathy, and hope. It is not enough to invoke peace; it must be embodied in a lifestyle that rejects all forms of violence,



visible or structural.” “The greeting of the risen Christ, ‘Peace be with you’ (cf. Jn 20:19), is an invitation to all — believers, nonbelievers, political leaders, and citizens — to build the kingdom of God and to construct together a humane and peaceful future,” the statement concludes. The World Day of Peace was instituted by Pope Paul VI, who proposed it on Dec. 8, 1967, the solemnity of the Immaculate Conception. The Church first celebrated it on Jan. 1, 1968, the solemnity of Mary, Mother of God.

The observance came amid the Cold War, the Vietnam War, and other conflicts. • This story was first published by ACI Prensa, CNA’s Spanish-language news partner. It has been translated and adapted by CNA.



SCHULENBURG — The Knights of Columbus not only are they the face of some of the best cooking in our community, behind the scenes, they are giving back to and working events for the schools, charities and organizations in their community. St. Rose of Lima School was blessed to have this organization of men in their community, because, in June, the KCs donated again to the renovation project in the amount of \$7,000. Father Jasper Liggio, pastor, and Taylor Jensen, principal, accepted the check from the KC members.

St. Joseph Catholic Church -Inez

152nd 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!!

St. Anthony Catholic Church

ANNUAL PARISH PICNIC

COLUMBUS HALL 1-10 W EXIT 693

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 12, 2025

FRIED CHICKEN & SAUSAGE MEAL

11 AM -1:30 PM Dine In **\$14**
11 AM -12:30 PM Drive Thru

DRAWING

TICKETS \$10 EACH or 6 for \$50
Tickets available from parishioners or
CHURCH OFFICE: 979-732-2562

HOMEMADE TAMALES

HAMBURGERS

ALL DAY FESTIVITIES
Including Old Tyme Music by
DONNIE WAVRA & THE HI-LIGHTERS

KID’S GAMES

Fish Pond
Cookie Monster
Kids’ Can Draw
Ring Toss

BIG COUNTRY AUCTION

Starts at 1:00 pm

BINGO PLANT WALK*
GIFTCARD WALK
SPORTSMAN’S WHEEL
CAKE WALK

SILENT AUCTION

11am-4pm

STREET TACOS

AGUAS FRESCAS KOLACHE BREAKFAST*

COUNTRY STORE

FOR MORE INFORMATION. CALL 979-732-2562



Janet Jones/The Catholic Lighthouse

Into a new age

VICTORIA – The Chancery Staff of the Diocese of Victoria celebrated the retirement of Alicia Olive who has worked for several years as the assistant to Christella Alvarez, the Director of the Office of Catechesis. Previously she served as an assistant in the Office of Safe Environment. She said she plans to continue staying involved in diocesan activities, but in new ways.

KJZT #53 donates to local libraries



(above) The Wied KJZT #53 donates to the Sacred Heart library in Hallettsville. From left Father Shane Goertz, Helen Janak, Lisa Stock, Anita Grabarkievtz, Monica Peters and Father Christopher Bediako.

(below) The Wied KJZT Society #53 donated to the Shiner Catholic School library. From left Monica Peters, Stacey Haning, Helen Janak and Anita Grabarkievtz.



Contributed Photos

St. JOHN the BAPTIST CATHOLIC CHURCH

PARISH PICNIC, at the Sweet Home Community Center

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 28, 2025 County Road 391 in Sweet Home

Proceeds will defray needed church repairs and a fresh coat of paint!

Picnic Stew, Sausage & Trimmings
(Sauer Kraut, Potatoes,
Green Beans, Dessert)

\$14 per plate

Dine-in serving at 11 AM - 1 PM

Drive-Thru at 10:30AM - 12:30 PM



Stew available for sale



Ice-Cold Refreshments



Nachos sponsored by
Junior KJZT Members

Silent Auction

Music in the afternoon.



GET YOUR



CASH & PRIZES TOTALING
\$9,000+

- * Country Store with homemade goods (jellies, pickles, sweets, etc.)
- * Kids Games (Fish Pond, Ring Toss, etc.)
- * Cake Walk (Homemade cakes, cookies, brownies, pies, (etc.)



will be held during the day whereas from the tickets sold, one ticket will be drawn, 50% of the money will go to the winner and the other 50% will benefit the parish.

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

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

Journey of Faith
With Ceci

979-332-7681 Cell (leave message)
ceci.triska@gmail.com

Join Fr. Augustine
Owusu-Peprah



Contributed Photo

KJT gift to fire department
HUNGERFORD – KJT Society #79 President Taylor Ivy, center, presents a matching grant check given by Catholic Union of Texas, the KJT, and KJT Society #79 of Hungerford to Hungerford Volunteer Fire Department President Donnie Kalmus, right, while Fire Chief Keith Jedlicka looks on. Matching grant funds were raised by sponsoring a ring toss booth at the HVFD’s annual fried chicken dinner on June 1.

OUR LADY OF THE GULF
CATHOLIC CHURCH

Fall Festival

SUNDAY,
SEPTEMBER 21, 2025

BAUER COMMUNITY CENTER
2300 STATE HIGHWAY 35 N, PORT LAVACA, TX

FREE ENTRY

DOORS OPEN AT 10:00 AM

RAFFLE | GAMES | CAKE SPIN

Live & Silent Auction

SEAFOOD DINNER | FOOD BOOTHS

FOR MEAL OR RAFFLE TICKETS,
CALL 361-552-6140 OR
COME BY THE OLG PARISH OFFICE
415 W AUSTIN ST - PORT LAVACA

Are you a subscriber?

The Diocese of Victoria covers the cost of *The Catholic Lighthouse* for all members of parishes in the diocese who wish to receive the paper. The annual subscription rate is \$7 for parishioners and \$10 for people outside of the diocese to receive the monthly publication in the mail.

Although the rate has never changed, the cost of printing has increased over the years. If you enjoy *The Catholic Lighthouse*, we will still make sure you receive it and we will pay the tab. But if you are willing and able, consider helping us cover some of the increased costs of printing by paying the subscription fee at www.victoriadiocese.org/subscribe-now. You can also provide a one-time gift of any amount.

Thank you for your readership and for supporting the Office of Communications of the Diocese of Victoria. If you have any questions, contact Janet Jones, editor, at 361-827-7163 or 361-827-1222, or by email at jjones@victoriadiocese.org.

HOLY FAMILY
CATHOLIC CHURCH
WHARTON, TEXAS

Fall Festival

OCTOBER 19, 2025

MASS 9:00A.M.

\$15 PER PLATE

TURKEY & DRESSING WITH TRIMMINGS
DINE IN OR DRIVE THRU 10:30 A.M. - 1:00 P.M.

RUSTY STEINS BAND 10:45 - 12:15
LIVE AUCTION BEGINS AT 12:30

GROCERY/CAKE WALK
SPLIT THE POT
SILENT AUCTION/RAFFLE
CONCESSION STAND/PASTRY BOOTH

BOUNCE HOUSE | GAMES
COUNTRY STORE
OBSTACLE COURSE | PETTING ZOO
TRAIN RIDE | FACE PAINTING

2011 BRIAR LANE
WHARTON, TX 77488

Hispanic ministry office working on many fronts to fulfill needs of Catholics

As he gears up for his next big thing – the fourth Spanish-language Catholic conference for the Diocese of Victoria on Sept. 13, Aldo Camacho is working diligently to bring to the Hispanic community what is lacking in resources for a fuller experience in faith formation.

In a few short years he has created a formation for Hispanic leadership for the parishes who need leaders and had dozens of people completing various stages of formation. He also has begun serving as representative for the Region X Catholic Association of Diocesan Directors of Hispanic Ministry. He represents the multi-state region to the national organization.

On the local level, he is helping parishes implement a structured Hispanic ministry and building leaders with a vision and purpose. He said the Hispanic community has been underserved in many ways by not having Spanish language resources and it has meant that many have joined other churches that do have Spanish speakers to provide Bible study and other spiritual enrichment programs. He has now begun to help them implement retreats and formation programs that feed the needs of Hispanic Catholics.

“Each parish will be different,” he said, so building relationships to discover the

needs has been one of the most important steps. “The first part is to build community” so they “feel that they belong to the churches.”

But on the national level, his input will help give life to the National Pastoral Plan for Hispanic/Latino Ministry developed by the USCCB.

The plan has 10 main “pastoral priorities” including:

1. Evangelization And Mission
2. Faith Formation And Catechesis
3. Pastoral Accompaniment Of Hispanic/Latino Families
4. Youth And Young Adult Ministries
5. Immigration And Advocacy
6. Formation For Ministry In A Culturally Diverse Church
7. Pastoral Care For Those On The Periphery
8. Liturgy And Spirituality
9. Promotion Of Vocations
10. Catholic Education

Other leaders in the diocese are also being encouraged to be more intentional about reaching out to the Hispanic community. Several attended a retreat/workshop in the Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston to gain a better understanding of the chal-

See Hispanic ministry office working, pg. 24



Aldo Camacho, the director of the Office of Hispanic Ministry for the Diocese of Victoria, explains the significance of the Dia de los Muertos (Day of the Dead) ofrenda to a group of school students last fall at the Chancery office. He works with parishes across the diocese to help serve the needs of the Hispanic community and also serves as the representative of Region X Catholic Association of Diocesan Directors of Hispanic Ministry.

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

Over 2,500 LARGE PRINT Words to Search

Over 2,000 LARGE PRINT Words to Search

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!

ELIE'S SPIRITUAL TREASURES BIBLE WORD SEARCH PUZZLE BOOKS

Facebook icon Instagram icon

ST. PHILIP

the APOSTLE CATHOLIC CHURCH

PICNIC

SUNDAY, SEPT. 28, 2025

Dinner: BBQ Beef & Sausage w/rice & green beans!

Dine in -or- Plates to Go! \$15.00 per plate
Serving 11 a.m. - 1 p.m. (Columbus Club in EL CAMPO)

Hey folks, IF YOU DINE IN THE HALL: children age four and under eat for FREE; \$5.00 per plate for children age 5-10; \$15.00 per plate for everyone age 11 and over.

LIVE AUCTION! starting @ 12:30 p.m.

BUCKET RAFFLE

2025 MEGA DRAWING

54. Philip Church Mega Drawing Sunday, September 28, 2025

1. \$1000 Visa Gift Card
2. \$500 Visa Gift Card
3. \$250 Visa Gift Card
4. \$100 Visa Gift Card
5. \$50 Visa Gift Card
6. \$25 Visa Gift Card
7. \$10 Visa Gift Card
8. \$5 Visa Gift Card
9. \$2 Visa Gift Card
10. \$1 Visa Gift Card
11. \$0.50 Visa Gift Card
12. \$0.25 Visa Gift Card
13. \$0.10 Visa Gift Card
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CAKE WHEEL

COUNTRY STORE

RIDES & GAMES FOR THE KIDS!

\$2 RAFFLE

COLUMBUS CLUB

(K.C. Hall, Armory Rd. in El Campo) 11 a.m.

LIVE MUSIC on the Pavilion!!

EL CAMPO CZECHMATES

10:30 a.m.-2 p.m.

TEXAS SOUND CZECH

3:00-7:00 p.m.

Meet the new teachers in the Diocese of Victoria Catholic schools



Abigail Lounsbury



Holy Cross School
2001 Katy
Bay City, TX 77414
979.245.5632



Alysia Patek



Marty Willits



Sacred Heart School
313 S. Texana St.
Hallettsville, TX 77964
361.798.4251



Kaley Zidek



Shelly Crow



Our Lady of the Gulf School
301 S. San Antonio St.
Port Lavaca, TX 77979
361.552.6140



Kelvin Juarez

“A teacher can ignite the flame of learning and transform a life from darkness to brilliance.”
- St. Thomas Aquinas



Elaine Albrecht



Amy Ausmus



Melinda Berkovsky



St. Joseph School
310 North St.
Yoakum, TX 77995
361.293.9000



Cassie Franta



MicKayla Mosmeyer



Amber Jansky



Sr. Magdelene Kanini, OVISS



Jeanne Peterson



Kaitlinn Smith



St. Joseph High School
110 E Red River St.
Victoria, TX 77901
361.573.2446



Kristine Oksenholt



Lori Spencer



Nazareth Academy
206 W. Convent
Victoria, TX 77901
361.573.6651



Alison Fishbeck



St. Rose of Lima School
405 Black St.
Schulenburg, TX 78956
979.743-3080



Allyson Hull



Reagan McNeill



Katie Kelly




Nachieli Rendon




Aubrie Shugart




Our Lady of Victory School
1311 E. Mesquite Ln.
Victoria, TX 77901
361.575.5391



Cory Anzaldua



Jacquelyn Robinson



Shiner Catholic School
424 St. Ludmila
Shiner, TX 77984
361.594.3843



Allison Gallaher



St. Michael School
103 E. North St.
Weimar, TX 78962
979.725.8461



Marianne Mechura



Marina Charanza



Marja Lutringer



Brenda Tomanek



St. Philip School
302 W. Church St.
El Campo, TX 77437
979.543.2901



Deacon Mike Tankersley engages teachers in the Catholic schools of the diocese as they prepare for the school year. His talk was about what it means to be a “Catholic” school in deed and not just in name. He was the keynote for the Aug. 1 teacher convocation.



Mary Sue Farrell was recognized for 35 years of service at St. Joseph Catholic School in Yoakum.

School year starts with focus on Catholic identity

Catholic schoolteachers from all over the Diocese of Victoria gathered Aug. 1 for a convocation in Victoria to get spiritually and mentally prepared for the 2025-26 school year that is now underway.

“As we start a new school year for our Catholic Schools, we’re blessed that we’re able to teach as our first and fundamental reality that Jesus Christ is the son of God, Jesus, born of the Virgin came to teach and He taught us the truth about ourselves and humanity. And we’re blessed

to try to teach a new generation how we live the teachings of Jesus in the current world in which we live,” Bishop Brendan Cahill said during his homily for the opening Mass.

The teachers also heard from Deacon Mike Tankersley, a long-time educator whose now retired, but who still helps form people in their faith. He reminded the teachers

See School year starts with focus, pg. 14



Bishop Brendan Cahill presents service awards during Mass for the opening of the Diocese of Victoria Teachers’ Convocation Aug. 1.



Contributed Photo

St. Rose service awards

SCHULENBURG – St. Rose of Lima Catholic School presented service awards to the following staff members: from left, Wendy Becka, 10 years part-time teacher; Melissa Schmidt, 20 years part-time teacher; Paige Berger 10 years full-time teacher; and Lindsey Schiffli, 15 years full-time teacher. Not pictured is Hannah Ahrens, 10 years aide and teacher.

	Enrollment Numbers	
	2022-23	2025-26
Holy Cross Catholic School - Bay City	77	137
Nazareth Academy - Victoria	346	393
Our Lady of the Gulf Catholic School - Port Lavaca	104	70
Our Lady of Victory Catholic School - Victoria	489	490
Sacred Heart Catholic School - Hallettsville	277	328
Shiner Catholic School - Shiner	269	312
St. Anthony Catholic School - Columbus	167	188
St. Joseph Catholic School - Yoakum	89	110
St. Joseph High School - Victoria	314	290
St. Michael Catholic School - Weimar	104	107
St. Michael’s Catholic School - Cuero	92	45
St. Philip the Apostle Catholic School - El Campo	266	286
St. Rose of Lima Catholic School - Schulenburg	153	150
Total Diocesan Enrollment	2,747	2,906

School year starts with focus on Catholic identity

Continued from pg. 13

that the name “Catholic school” was more than just a name, it is an identity based on the faith that is handed on to the students.

The diocese recognized certain teachers for their years of service. Superintendent of Catholic Schools Rob Whitworth and Bishop Brendan Cahill presented the awards at the Cathedral of Our Lady of Victory where Mass was celebrated.

Mary Sue Farrell of St. Joseph in Yoakum received an award for serving 35 years of service. Linda Hernandez of Nazareth Academy, Victoria, received a 30-year certificate of award. Alisa Hybner of Shiner Catholic School and Vickie Glynn of St. Anthony, Columbus, were awarded for 25 years.

Twenty-year awards were given to Rachel Krutilek and Diann Srubar, both of St. Philip the Apostle, El Campo; Melissa Schmidt of St. Rose of Lima, Schulenburg; and Mary Barrera of Shiner Catholic School.

Serving 15 years B.J. Chavez, Holy Cross, Bay City; Arlene Mumphord of Nazareth Academy; Shadra Pastucha at Sacred Heart, Hallettsville; Donna Cunningham, St. Philip the Apostle; Lindsey Schiffli, St. Rose of Lima; Krystal Chavez and Joan Corte of Shiner Catholic School.

Ten-year service awards went to Jennifer Bossley at Holy Cross; Amy Allegria and Kelsey Janak, both of Nazareth Academy; Lynette Kykora and Steve Zornes, both of Sacred Heart; MaryBeth Tromblee of St. Anthony; Julia Hollek, Sharon Johnson and Judy Roeder, all of St. Michael in Weimar; Lacey Hubert and Janet Rioux of St. Philip the Apostle; Hannah Ahrens, Wendy Becka and Paige Berger, all of St. Rose of Lima; and Sandra Gordon of Shiner Catholic School.

Receiving five-year awards were Brooke Tomek, Holy Cross School;

Beth Cernoch, Stephanie Eisman, Ruben Gonzalez, Kelly Kirkpatrick and Ralph Schacherl, all from Nazareth Academy; Rosie Padron of Our Lady of the Gulf in Port Lavaca; Jessica Drapela of St. Philip the Apostle; and Lauren Siegel, Shiner Catholic Schools.

The schools welcomed many new teachers this year as well. New faces who attended the new teacher training are on Page 12.

Enrollment at the schools, overall continues to increase. The total enrollment as of Aug. 25 was 2,906 in all of the Catholic schools in the diocese. That’s up almost 50 from last year. Some with healthy jumps in enrollment were Holy Cross in Bay City, which has continued to grow for the last several years. In 2022-23, they had 77 students and now are at 137. Nazareth Academy has been gaining about 20 new students each year and currently has an enrollment of 393. St. Philip the Apostle is at max enrollment with some 286 students and a waiting list.

Our Lady of Victory is the largest school and has seen a steady enrollment number. They cut the ribbon on a new junior high facility in the building that was once a mall and now houses the Cathedral Center and other offices.

Patriot Day (Sept. 11)

While not a federal holiday, this is an important day of remembrance for the victims of the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks.



Mission Trips Planned

Mark your calendar for mission trip

The next Coram Deo mission trip to Las Obras in Antigua, Guatemala will be in July 12-19, 2026.



Father Dan Morales

Registration will be open soon and those who plan to go should register for their passport as soon as possible to ensure they have it in time.

The late Father Dan Morales led many mission trips to the orphanage and an endowment in his name was created to help support Las Obras. For more information, please visit the website at www.coramdeo-texas.org.

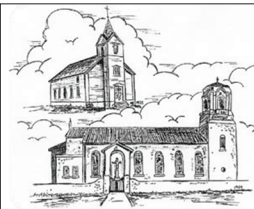
VC hosts evening with Carlo Acutis following canonization

Continued from pg. 1

Victoria early in the Eucharistic revival and have traveled to various parishes and venues for expositions.

Visitors to the event will also be able to venerate a relic of Acutis obtained several years ago by the Diocese of Victoria.

Acutis was originally to be canonized on April 27, but the death of Pope Francis on April 21 caused the event to be postponed for a period of mourning and for the conclave that followed. Pope Leo XIV rescheduled the canonization for Sept. 7, when he will also canonize Pier Giorgio Frassati, who, like Acutis, is Italian. Frassati was a Catholic activist dedicated to charity and social justice. He died July 4, 1925.



HOLY CROSS PARISH

BAZAAR

Riverside Hall - East Bernard

OCTOBER 12, 2025

Meal served inside at 11:00AM
Drive-thru plates available 11:00AM – 1:00PM
BAR-B-QUE BEEF * CHICKEN * SAUSAGE
WITH “HOMEMADE DRESSING” & ALL THE TRIMMINGS
Hamburgers Served at 3:00PM

Plenty of Pastries, Refreshments & Country Store Items

****Indoor and Outdoor GAMES****
11:30AM- 4:30PM

Grand AUCTION - 12:00 Noon

ENTERTAINMENT

Polka Battle Dance

The Dujka Brothers and Mark Halata & Texavia (Noon to 5:00PM)
Outdoorsman Raffle Drawing - 4:00 PM
Cash Certificate and Gift Card Raffle Drawing ~ 6:00PM

Visit us on Facebook @ Holy Cross Parish Bazaar

EVERYONE INVITED!

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11. The statement of ownership must be signed by the publisher, editor, or managing editor. It must be signed by the owner if the publication is owned by an individual. It must be signed by the proprietor if the publication is published by a sole proprietor.

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Photos: Janet Jones/The Catholic Lighthouse

Celebrating the Sisters

The Sisters of the Incarnate Word and Blessed Sacrament (OVISS) celebrated the first profession of vows for its two newest members, Sister Mary Jude Tanudtanud, left, and Sister Margaret Willburn, on Aug. 2. Bishop Brendan Cahill presided at the Mass for the celebration. The women took their vows, signed their names on their professions and traded their white veils for black veils, signaling they were no longer postulants. Bishop Cahill said the women have a heart for giving their love to the world, because they have a heart “that responds to God” and the love that God showed to humanity first. “As the bishop of the diocese, I get to observe the work of the Sisters. I pray for them, support them, visit them. We see right now the faithfulness of God, creating something new – a community of Sisters that’s worldwide. We have sisters here from Kenya, from Mexico, from El Salvador ... a community with Czech, Germans, Mexican Americans. A community that is truly universal yet somehow unified in the heart of Jesus and the love that Jesus has for each one of us. God will lead us to the future, uncertain as it is, and God will create something new. How beautiful for us to be here today as they take their temporary vows.”





THE DIOCESE OF VICTORIA IN TEXAS

AT

THE CATHEDRAL OF OUR LADY OF VICTORY



WHITE MASS 2025

FOR ALL HEALTHCARE PROFESSIONALS
AND THEIR FAMILIES.

ALL THE FAITHFUL ARE INVITED TO JOIN
US AT MASS IN PRAYING FOR GOD'S
BLESSINGS UPON PATIENTS, DOCTORS,
NURSES AND CAREGIVERS.



JOIN US

SUNDAY

OCTOBER 19, 2025

9:00 A.M. MASS

THE CATHEDRAL OF OUR LADY OF VICTORY
1309 E. MESQUITE LN.
VICTORIA, TX 77901

NAZARETH ACADEMY



2025 FALL FESTIVAL

Turkey & Dressing

Sunday, Oct. 5

11 a.m.

Victoria Community Center

For sponsorship or more event information, please contact Fall Festival Committee by email at fallfestival@nazarethacademy.org

La mayor esperanza es saber que Jesús está preentte entre sus ovejas

Continuación de la página 2

humanidad y de mi indignidad para servir como sucesor de los apóstoles. También soy muy consciente de que en el sacramento no se trata de mi dignidad, sino de mi confianza en Jesucristo y mi entrega a su poder, que transmite el Espíritu Santo. Me gusta especialmente referirme a una observación que alguien hizo en la Iglesia hace más de 1500 años cuando observó a hombres y mujeres ser bautizados, ungidos con el óleo sagrado y admitidos para recibir el Cuerpo y la Sangre de Jesucristo por primera vez.

Esta persona observó que no era solo el obispo quien presidía los sacramentos, sino Jesucristo, el Buen Pastor, quien marcaba a sus ovejas. Cada vez que celebro la Confirmación, pienso en ello y me entrego a la realidad que proclamamos. Jesucristo nos ha reclamado a ti y a mí, y ha prometido estar a nuestro lado hasta el fin de los tiempos. No importan las preocupaciones que aflijan mi alma, sé que Jesucristo está a mi lado y luchará por mí. Esta es la razón de mi gran esperanza.

Gracias por sus oraciones y apoyo como su obispo. Que ustedes y sus familias sean bendecidos este año escolar y en adelante con la esperanza que nos anima y nos hace un solo Cuerpo y un solo Espíritu en Cristo.

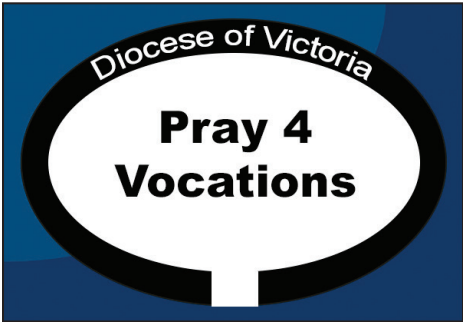
+Brendan



Contributed Photo

4th Degree KC's install officers

WEIMAR – The St. Michael’s Assembly No. 1527, 4th Degree Knights of Columbus, recently held its installation of officers. Assembly No. 1527 of Our Lady of Guadalupe Province is comprised of Sir Knights from the Weimar, Schulenburg and Flatonia Knights of Columbus councils. Shown are (front row, from left) Faithful Comptroller Rodney Kalich, Schulenburg; Trustee Charlie Herzik, Weimar; Monsignor John Peters, Weimar; Faithful Navigator Larry Brown, Schulenburg; (back row from left) District Marshall Joe Jimenez, Weimar; Purser Tom Bargas, Schulenburg; Trustee Ken Berger, Schulenburg; Pilot Randall Barta, Flatonia; Captain Colton Bubela, Schulenburg; Inner Sentinel Richard Schacherl.



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

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

4ta CONFERENCIA CATÓLICA DIOCESANA

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

ORADORES INVITADOS:



Mons. Brendan J. Cahill
Obispo de Victoria en Texas



P. Everardo Cázares
Parochial Vicar: St. Michael
Diócesis de Austin



P. Caleb Kriskhe
Director del Ministerio Hispano
Diócesis de Victoria



Dora Tobar, PhD
Directora del Ministerio Hispano
Diócesis de Austin



Sr. Sydney Moss, FMA
Salesian Sisters of St. John Bosco



Valeria Dubourdieu
Consejera M.Ed. L.P.C. NCG, CPE
Diócesis de Victoria

“Todos los talleres tienen cupo limitado. Favor de registrarse lo antes posible para poder apartar su lugar en el taller de su preferencia”

Costo de la Conferencia
\$35 por adulto
\$10 por adolescente (13 a 17 años)

Inscripción y Check-in (13 de Sep)
Desde las 7:00 am en el Cathedral Center
Misa 8:00 am en la Catedral

Cuidado de Niños
Se ofrecerá cuidado de niños de 3 a 12 años de edad (niños que puedan ir al baño solos).

www.victoriadiocese.org/conferencia-hispanawww.facebook.com/dovmhispano



FESTIVAL

STS. PETER & PAUL CATHOLIC CHURCH

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 28, 2025

11220 FM 237 | MEYERSVILLE, TX

COUNTRY STORE
Baked Specialties,
Canned Goods,
Plants.

BBQ MEAL
DINE-IN or TO-GO
PLATES
11:00 AM -12:30 PM
\$15

LIVE AUCTION
STARTING at 12:30 PM
INSIDE THE AIR-
CONDITIONED
PARISH HALL

RAFFLE
Drawing to be
held following the
Live Auction.
Tickets \$5 Each
or 6 for \$25.

SILENT AUCTION

Come and Enjoy
Good Food,
Good Fellowship
& Good Fun!

God was patient with humanity; we must be, too

One of my professors in college once began class with a passionate presentation on his love for monster truck racing. He had slides, pictures, logical arguments – even stood on his desk raising his voice to win us over. But despite his energy, those who didn’t already share his enthusiasm weren’t convinced.

Eventually, he revealed his point: Sometimes this is what evangelization looks like. We try to share Jesus with enthusiasm, arguments, and intensity – but to someone who doesn’t know Him, it can feel as strange and un-relatable as a lecture on monster trucks. Just because we love Jesus and the Church doesn’t mean others will immediately share our passion. We have to start not with what excites us, but with what the person in front of us needs – and often, that means beginning at the very beginning. “Gradually and in stages ...” This

In
Communion

By Very Rev. Jacob Koether



phrase was repeated to me over and over again in school to describe how God unfolded His plan of salvation. He started small and He moved slowly. He didn’t do it all at once. It began with Abraham and his family. It grew into the nation of Israel. New covenants acted as transition points to include more people in deeper relationship with God, growing and changing with Him for hundreds of years.

All throughout Scripture we see God working with His people, mercifully and patiently, sometimes having to establish

additional regulations to correct them, or, like in the example of the prophets, having to send renewed messages of truth to purify distorted ideas and to prepare them for more. Finally, in the fullness of time, God would send His Son. That is to say, God gave us the fullness when we were ready for it; gradually and in stages.

Our approach should mirror His. Faith rarely takes root in one CCD night or a single conversation. Of course, the Lord is capable of doing anything and can work miracles by His grace in an instant. But, normally, He follows the pace of the mustard seed. So if the Lord uses this methodology, what would it look like for us?


The process of meeting a person where they are and helping them take their next step, slowly and patiently, is found most clearly in the catechumenate and the Order of Christian Initiation for Adults. In fact, the Church teaches that the baptismal catechumenate should be the model for all catechesis. Everything we do in the Church to make missionary disciples of Jesus should imitate this process.

Unfortunately, though, OCIA programs are run like an academic course, starting in September and ending at Easter, often structured to answer questions that most people aren’t asking with a pre-set list of topics that may or may not meet the needs of the actual people in the room. At least, that’s how I’ve done it.

But in the Church’s mind, the OCIA isn’t a Catholicism 101 course that someone can take so that, once classes are completed,

OCIA Presentation and Workshop
Oct. 23 (clergy) and 24 (laity)
Holy Family Catholic Church, Wharton

Registration:
www.victoriadiocese.org/ocia
Deadline: Oct. 16



they can be awarded the sacraments like a graduating degree. (“I majored in baptism!”) The OCIA is an extremely flexible process without a strict timeline involving various periods, or stages, that a person gradually passes through depending on their needs in their relationship with the Lord and His Church. It’s a process that prioritizes conversion and spiritual growth and tries to follow God’s speed.

Imagine if all our catechesis followed this model. What if sacramental preparation programs were not set on a strict timeline but progressed through discernment and dialogue? What if a personal encounter with Christ, an explicit expression of faith, and evidence of conversion were prioritized over mere attendance? What if the OCIA looked like this?

But this vision isn’t just theory. It is how the Church intends OCIA to be lived, and why she calls it the inspiration for all catechesis. Everything we do to make missionary disciples of Jesus should mirror this patient and gradual approach.

To explore this vision, the Catechetical Department is hosting an OCIA training workshop this October at Holy Family Catholic Church in Wharton, with guest speaker Rita Thiron, director of the Federation of Diocesan Liturgical Commissions and an expert in the OCIA. Thursday, Oct. 23, will be for clergy, and Friday, Oct. 24, for laity.

Of course, I would like to invite all those who are responsible for and assist with OCIA programs to come to the training. But I would also like to invite anyone who is involved in any catechetical ministry, youth faith formation, or sacramental preparation. If our mission is to bring people closer to Christ, then we need to learn from God’s own method, walking with people patiently, mercifully, and wisely – gradually and in stages.

**ST. JOHN CATHOLIC CHURCH
OF HUNGERFORD**

**ANNUAL
BAZAAR**

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 5TH.

HUNGERFORD HALL

SUNDAY MASS AT 9:30AM

Barbecue Dinner

Pork – Chicken – Sausage
With all the trimmings \$15./plate

DRIVE THRU OR DINE IN

SERVING BEGINS AT 10:30 AM

Country Store

Kids’ Games

Cake Walk

LIVE AUCTION

12:00 noon

IN A/C HALL

Heavenly Helpers

Christian Store

(979) 543-2850
1603 N Mechanic
El Campo, TX 77437
F 9:30 - 5:30 Sat. 9:30 -
[www.facebook.com/
heavenlyhelpersonline](http://www.facebook.com/heavenlyhelpersonline)



**First Communion, Confirmation,
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Statues, Baptism & Wedding Items
Inspirational Gifts**

Pope appoints auxiliary bishop of Archdiocese San Antonio

SAN ANTONIO — Pope Leo XIV has transferred Auxiliary Bishop Arturo Cepeda, a native of San Antonio, from the Detroit Archdiocese back to the Archdiocese of San Antonio to continue his ministry as an auxiliary bishop, it was announced by the Vatican on August 26.

Bishop Cepeda, 56, will assist Archbishop Gustavo García-Siller, MSPS, and the other auxiliary bishops here in the administration of the archdiocese.

“We are deeply grateful to Pope Leo for appointing Bishop Cepeda as auxiliary bishop for the Archdiocese of San Antonio, and we are similarly grateful to Bishop Cepeda for accepting this new ministry,” Archbishop Gustavo said. “We are particularly glad to offer a heartfelt welcome home to Bishop Cepeda. San Antonio is where he grew up and first heard the Lord call Him and nurture his priestly vocation. Having served the Church in the upper Midwest and on numerous committees for the U.S. bishops for the past 14 years, Bishop Cepeda brings back to the Archdiocese of San Antonio valuable perspectives that will assist us in our evangelization efforts to spread the Gospel with missionary zeal.”

“With a grateful and eager heart, I give thanks to God, to Pope Leo XIV, and to Archbishop Gustavo García-Siller for calling me to continue my ministry as a joyful disciple of the Gospel here in my home, San Antonio,” Bishop Cepeda said. “Filled with hope and faith in Jesus Christ our Lord, I joyfully prepare to serve you. And, as I begin this new mission, I humbly ask you to keep me in your prayers, as I already hold you in mine.”

Bishop Cepeda was born on May 15, 1969, in San Luis Potosí, Mexico. He immigrated to the United States with his family at age 19. Bishop Cepeda studied at the Pontifical University of St. Thomas Aquinas (Anglicum) where he received a licentiate and doctorate of Sacred Theology.

He was ordained a priest of the Archdiocese of San Antonio on June 1, 1996, at

his home parish of St. Mary Magdalen by Archbishop Patricio Flores.

After earning a master’s degree in Biblical Theology from St. Mary’s University in San Antonio — while assigned as parochial vicar at San Fernando Cathedral — Bishop Cepeda was asked to study at St. Thomas Aquinas “Angelicum,” Pontifical University in Rome, where he was awarded a Licentiate in Sacred Theology (STL) and Doctorate in Sacred Theology (STD) degrees, defending his dissertation in Spiritual Theology in 2005.

Upon returning to San Antonio, he fulfilled teaching and formation duties at Assumption Seminary and Oblate School of Theology, served as Vocation director and faculty member for the Transitional Ministry Formation Program for the archdiocese, and was a member of the Formation Faculty of St. Peter upon the Water: A Center for Spiritual Direction and Formation in Ingram. Bishop Cepeda was made vice rector of Assumption Seminary in 2009. In 2010, he was installed as the seminary’s rector, serving in that position for a year before being called to be a bishop.

On April 18, 2011, Pope Benedict XVI appointed him auxiliary bishop of Detroit and titular bishop of Tagase. He was consecrated on May 5, 2011, at the Cathedral of the Most Blessed Sacrament in Detroit by then-Archbishop Allen H. Vigneron. At the time he was named to the episcopacy he was the youngest bishop in the United States at the age of 41.

On Sunday, Oct. 12, the Archdiocese of San Antonio will officially welcome its newest auxiliary bishop when Bishop Cepeda greets the faithful at San Fernando Cathedral, where he previously served as parochial vicar.

The Archdiocese of San Antonio is comprised of 23,180 square miles and has a total population of 2,798,718, of which 1,148,253, are Catholic.

To read the complete press release visit <https://archsa.org>.



Photo by Veronica Markland, Archdiocese of San Antonio

During a press conference on Aug. 26, Archbishop Gustavo García-Siller, MSPS (second from left) welcomed Auxiliary Bishop Arturo Cepeda, a San Antonio native transferred from the Archdiocese of Detroit back to Archdiocese of San Antonio. On Sunday, Oct. 12, the Archdiocese of San Antonio will officially welcome its newest auxiliary bishop when Bishop Cepeda greets the faithful at San Fernando Cathedral, where he previously served as parochial vicar. Archbishop Gustavo, along with Michael Bishop Boulette and Bishop Gary Janak, priests, deacons, religious and lay faithful will welcome him back to the archdiocese during an 8 a.m. Mass in Spanish and a 10 a.m. Mass in English, followed by receptions after each liturgy. Both Masses will be televised on Catholic Television of San Antonio, Spectrum 15.

194th Anniversary of the first Mass celebrated in Hostyn! Queen of the Holy Rosary Parish Hostyn Festival



936 FM 2436 La Grange, TX 78945
6 miles South of La Grange off Hwy 77
hostynch@cvctx.com
www.HostynPlumCatholic.org
updates available on our Facebook page:
Queen of the Holy Rosary-Hostyn / Sts. Peter & Paul-Plum Catholic Churches

Mass - 10 AM
Outdoors - Under the Tent

Auction at 1 PM

**Country Store, Drawings,
Cake and Plant Wheels,
Silent Auction, Games**
Bingo at 1:30 PM
License 116976 360490

Music All Day!
11:00 AM - 3:00 PM
Czech Melody Masters
3:30 PM - 7:00 PM
Dujka Brothers
3:00 PM - Magic Show

Welcome to Hostyn!
Our wonderful parish and community continue to recover and work towards rebuilding our Church. Thank you for joining us. *“Go up to the mountains, bring wood and rebuild the temple, that I may be pleased with it and be glorified, says the Lord.”* Haggai 1:8

Hostyn Style Dinner
11 AM to 1 PM
**Fried Chicken, Sausage
& All the Trimmings - \$15.00**
Drive through Line
11 AM to 12:30 PM - \$15.00
Hamburgers available after 3 pm

Save these dates!



Men's Conference
Coming Feb. 21



Women's Conference
Coming Jan. 24

Catechists get ready to rally

The theme for Catechetical Sunday this year – “Always be ready to give an explanation ... for a reason for your hope” (1 Peter 3:15) – reflects the Jubilee Year’s theme of “Pilgrims of Hope,” as designated by the late Pope Francis.

Catechetical Sunday is Sept. 21 and is a chance for catechists and others to reflect on the important role that they have in spreading the Good News of Jesus to others, just as St. Peter encouraged the disciples in his time to be prepared to share the faith with anyone who would receive it as they built up the Church.

In anticipation of Catechetical Sunday, the annual Catechist Rally will take place Sept. 20 at the Knights of Columbus Hall in Shiner from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. It is a free event that includes food, table talks and fun activities, including line dancing. Bishop Brendan Cahill will bless and commission to the catechists for the coming

year of faith formation.

In a letter inviting the catechists, Bishop Cahill stated, “The ministry of evangelization and catechesis is a ministry of hope. Whether you are involved in the parish faith formation program or work in a Catholic school, you are bringing ‘hope’ to the children and youth, by sharing the good news of Jesus.”

There are no fees to attend this event, but those who plan to attend must register by Sept. 10. For further information, contact Christella Alvarez at 361-573-0828 or calvarez@victoriadiocese.org.

Registration online is available at www.victoriadiocese.org/registration. Or scan the QR code provided in this article.



Blue Mass

Police officers are shown gathering on the steps of the Cathedral of Our Lady of Victory after a Blue Mass in this Lighthouse file photo. This year, Bishop Brendan Cahill will celebrate the annual Blue Mass at 9 a.m. on Sunday, Sept. 28, at the Cathedral. The Mass honors and lifts in prayer police officers and all first responders and public safety personnel and their families. It is celebrated on or around the Sept. 29 feast day of St. Michael the Archangel, who is the patron of police officers. St. Michael is remembered for having fought and defeated Satan and the imagery used for him is of a powerful angel carrying a sword and shield. First responders who plan to attend are asked to RSVP to the Cathedral of Our Lady of Victory by emailing Father Jonas Kuubeta at frjonas@olvcathedral.org or calling the parish office at 361-575-4741. A group photo will be taken after the Mass.

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



Please join us for

St. Patrick's Fall Festival

SEPTEMBER 28TH

\$15 TURKEY & DRESSING TO GO PLATES - 9:30 AM

INSIDE SERVING - 10:30 AM

LIVE AUCTION STARTING AT 11

RAFFLE, SILENT AUCTION

COUNTRY STORE, KIDS GAMES

FATHER TRAN'S EGG ROLLS

\$20 PER DOZEN

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, 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 July 2025 winner is: Jocelyn Mrkwa from East Bernard. She attends Holy Cross Catholic Church in East Bernard.

SEPTEMBER 14, 2025
FEAST OF THE EXALTATION OF THE HOLY CROSS
GOSPEL – JOHN 3:13–17

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John: Jesus said to Nicodemus: / “No one has gone up to heaven / except the one who has come down from heaven, the Son of Man. / And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the desert, / so must the Son of Man be lifted up, / so that everyone who believes in him may have eternal life.” ¶ For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, / so that everyone who believes in him might not perish / but might have eternal life. / For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, / but that the world might be saved through him.



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Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone number: _____

Parish: _____

Age, if 12 or younger _____	Age, if 13 or older _____
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Meals • Picnics and More

September

YORKTOWN – Holy Cross Church hosts its annual festival, Sept. 14 at the Yorktown Community Hall (60 Community Hall Road). A Polish sausage and shoulder clod meal will be served for \$15 per plate. Music 11 a.m.-1 p.m. by the Rusty Steins Band, cakewalk, country store, children’s games, and a live auction at 1 p.m. in the a/c hall.

INEZ – St. Joseph Church Picnic, Sept. 14 at the Community Center. A fried chicken, sausage, brisket dinner will be served at \$15 per plate. Live auction at 12:30 p.m. See ad on pg. 8.

WHARTON – Knights of Columbus Council 3262 annual bazaar, Sept. 14, 11 a.m. to 2 p.m., Columbus Club Hall, 2820 N. Fulton St. They will be serving barbecue chicken and sausage.

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.

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. See ad on pg. 10.

VICTORIA – Victoria County Czech Heritage Festival, Sept. 21. See ad on pg. 22.

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. See ad on pg. 9.

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. See ad on pg. 17.

BAY CITY – Holy Cross Turkey and Fall Festival, Sept. 28. See ad on pg. 5.

EL CAMPO – St. Philip Picnic, Sept. 28. See ad on pg. 11.

BLOOMINGTON – St. Patrick’s Turkey and Fall Festival, Sept. 28. See ad on pg. 20.

October

BAY CITY – Our Lady of Guadalupe Church celebrates its annual Jamaica, Oct. 5, 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. Featuring music, games, food booths and fun at 1412 12th St.

HOSTYN – Queen of the Holy Rosary Festival Oct. 5. See ad on pg. 19.

HUNGERFORD – St. John Bazaar Oct. 5 at the Hungerford Hall. See ad on pg. 18.

MENTZ – St. Roch Parish Picnic Oct. 5 on the parish grounds. See ad on pg. 21.

VICTORIA – Nazareth Academy Fall Festival Oct. 5. See pg. 15.

PALACIOS – St. Anthony Shrimporee Oct. 11-12, see ad on pg. 21.

EAST BERNARD – Holy Cross Bazaar Oct. 12 at Riverside Hall. See ad on pg. 14.

EL CAMPO – St. Robert Festival Oct. 12, see ad on pg. 7.

COLUMBUS – St. Anthony Parish Fall Picnic Oct. 12. For more details see ad on pg. 8.

VICTORIA – The Cathedral of Our Lady of Victory Festival Oct. 12, at the Victoria Community Center. A BBQ brisket dinner will be served with dine-in or plates-to-go. There will be games, auction, and a country store.

EAGLE LAKE – Parish of the Nativity Fall Festival, Oct. 19, at the pavilion across from the hospital. A BBQ chicken and sausage dinner will be served for \$14 per plate, serving from 11 a.m.-1 p.m. Live auction at 1 p.m. with many food booths and games. There will also be a soccer tournament.

GOLIAD – The Immaculate Conception Parish’s Annual Fall Festival will be Oct. 19 Mass at 9 a.m. Brisket with trimmings, sides, dessert served after. Big ticket raffle (only 350 for \$100 each). There will be 26 \$500 prizes, one drawn each week following the festival. Also featuring live auction, country Store, bake shop, plant sale, kids’ concessions and games.

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. See ad on pg. 10.

BLESSING – St. Peter’s Church annual Barbecue Turkey Dinner on Oct. 26. Serving starts at 11 a.m. at the parish hall with dine-in or drive-thru available. Plates are \$15 each, they include homemade dressing with gravy, green beans, sweet potatoes, cranberry sauce, with a dessert and tea/coffee. The live auction will begin at noon. There will also be a raffle and a country store.

Ministries • Ongoing Activities

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

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

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

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: 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

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. Call 1-800-470-2230 to speak confidentially to a local couple; or visit the www.helpourmarriage.org for more information.

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



OLV gets greater space to do greater things

VICTORIA -- Father Kirby Hlavaty pastor of Our Lady of Victory Parish welcomed donors and dignitaries to a ribbon-cutting ceremony for the new OLV Junior High building Aug. 4, just in time for the 2025-26 school year.

Justin Matias, OLV school principal, thanked all the people who have helped the school grow. “This coming year, we will welcome the largest graduating class in, probably, OLV’s history with nearly 58 incoming sixth-graders,” Matias said, adding that, historically, they were not able to accommodate that many. He added that the new space will allow growth that will affect these students and future generations.

The building, which was once the upper level of a JCPenny department store now has classrooms, a science lab, office space, small testing rooms, a “commons” area and more.

“Today’s a blessed day for us to dedicate a building that is dedicated to forming young men and women to virtuous lives,” Bishop Cahill said before blessing the new building with holy water after blessing the crowd.

From stripped brick walls of an old mall (left) to painted walls for classrooms. On Dec. 5, 2024, the building was blessed for construction. On Aug. 4, Bishop Cahill cut the ribbon and blessed the completed new junior high school.



Hispanic ministry office working on many fronts to fulfill needs of Catholics

Continued from pg. 11

lenges that the Hispanic community and those who minister to them face.

Lydia Whitten, the director of the Office of Youth and Young Adult ministry is one who attended. She said she was impressed by what she perceived as a “deep interior” spiritual life of the leaders and organizers working toward the pastoral goals. “There are people who are working in the church who desperately want to bring Christ to the world and to that community.”

Whitten is non-Hispanic and not a Spanish speaker, but she had a great appreciation for what she took away from the retreat. “I think, for me, it was acknowledging that a lot of people in this diocese that I serve are coming from



Hispanic backgrounds, and that’s an important part of their story,” Whitten said. “Even for the young people who might not speak Spanish, it might be more difficult for them to come to events because their parents may not be proficient at English. It was eye-opening. You really do have to think about their family culture is like.” She said it has make her more mindful about understanding those with whom she wants to communicate. She is also going to participate in the upcoming Conference.

Anyone who wishes to attend the conference can register on the Diocese of Victoria website, www.victoriadiocese.org. *See ad on Page 17.*

