

The Catholic Lighthouse

The Cradle of Texas Immigration

VOL. 22, NO. 3 OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE DIOCESE OF VICTORIA IN TEXAS

August 2008

First Day of Class announced for Catholic Schools

Welcome back to school!

Monday, August 18

St. Michael, Cuero
Sacred Heart, Hallettsville
Nazareth Academy, Victoria
Our Lady of Victory, Victoria
St. Joseph High, Victoria
St. Joseph, Yoakum
St. Ludmila, Shiner
St. Paul High, Shiner

Tuesday, August 19

St. Anthony, Columbus
Holy Cross, Bay City
St. Philip, El Campo



Wednesday, August 20

Our Lady of the Gulf, Port Lavaca
St. Rose, Schulenburg

Thursday, August 21

St. Michael, Weimar



Four Sisters of the Incarnate Word and Blessed Sacrament celebrated the anniversaries of their religious professions recently. From left, are Sister Annunciata Shumbera, Sister Jeanne de Matel Hayden, Sister Constance Kapitza and Sister Callista Mares.

Four IWBS Sisters Celebrate Anniversaries of Religious Profession

On Sunday, July 13, 2008, four Sisters of the Incarnate Word and Blessed Sacrament celebrated the anniversaries of their religious professions at a 2:00 p.m. Eucharistic Liturgy with Bishop David Fellhauer presiding. Many clergy members, religious, family and friends were present to rejoice with the Jubilarians. Those celebrating jubilees were: 75 years—Sister Constance Kapitza, and 70 years—Sister Jeanne de Matel Hayden, Sister Annunciata Shumbera and Sister Callista Mares. These sisters have contributed to the spiritual well-being and literacy of their brothers and sisters in Christ through faithful service to the Church in ministries of education, administration and pastoral services.

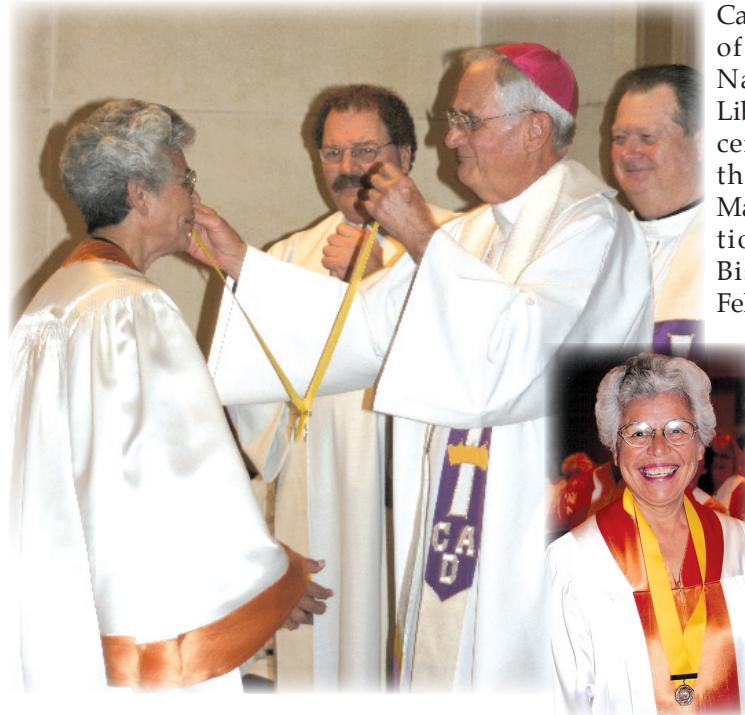
Sister Constance Kapitza is the daughter of the late Frank and Anna (Nieschwietz) Kapitza of Falls City, Texas. The family came to Texas from Borisch, Germany, where Sister Constance, two brothers and a sister were born. Another brother was born in the United States. Sister Constance received her grammar schooling in Germany and Holy Trinity School in Falls City. She is a graduate of Nazareth Academy. Sister Constance received the habit of the Sisters of the Incarnate Word and Blessed Sacrament on August 17, 1932, and made her profession

of vows on August 19, 1933. She received her B.A. degree with a major in English and a minor in Spanish from Our Lady of the Lake University in San Antonio.

During the 75 years of her religious profession, Sister Constance taught on the elementary, junior high and secondary levels at Holy Trinity School in Duquesne, Pa., St. Jerome School in Plum, Texas, Sacred Heart School in La Grange, St. Ludmila Academy in Shiner, St. Boniface School in Hobson, St. Michael School in Weimar, Holy Cross School in Bay City, Nazareth Academy in Victoria, Sacred Heart School in Floresville, Blessed Sacrament Academy in San Antonio, Sacred Heart School in Hallettsville, St. Agnes School in San Antonio, St. Patrick School in Dallas, and St. John School in San Antonio.

When Sister Constance retired from active ministry in education in 1987, she served the congregation as portress, cared for visitors and participated in general household duties at Incarnate Word Convent. She also reveled in the beauty of the birds and flowers to which she tended when able. Sister has resided in the congregation's retirement center/infirmiry for the past nine years participating in the apostolate of prayer and suffering.

See Four IWBS Sisters, p. 6



Catholic Daughters of the Americas National Regent Libby Ramirez receives her pin at the Installation Mass by CDA National Chaplain Bishop David E. Fellhauer following the 52nd Biennial National Convention in Albuquerque, New Mexico.

Victoria Catholic Daughter Becomes National Regent

By Tom Panas, CDA public relations director

ALBUQUERQUE—Victoria Catholic Daughter Libby Ramirez was voted National Regent (the equivalent of 'president') at the recent Catholic Daughter of the Americas National Biennial Convention in Albuquerque, New Mexico. She will begin her two-year term as the

Catholic Daughters' national leader on September 1, 2008.

Libby is the first Hispanic woman to hold the position of national regent in the Catholic Daughters' 103-year history and the second Catholic Daughter from the Diocese of Victoria to hold the position. Loretta Knebel of El Campo was National

See Victoria Catholic Daughter, p. 11

Archbishop Gomez appointed to Vatican commission working with Latin America

SAN ANTONIO—Archbishop José H. Gomez of the Archdiocese of San Antonio has been appointed by Pope Benedict XVI as a consultant to the Pontifical Commission for Latin America, whose purpose is to assist the human and spiritual needs of the Latin American church. The announcement was made July 25.

"I am indeed humbled and truly grateful for the confidence the Holy Father has shown in me through this nomination," said Archbishop Gomez. "I look forward to working with my brother bishops in Latin America so that

together, we can forge a bond that will be a sign of unity as we carry out the mission of the church throughout the American continent."

According to information from the Holy See's Web site, the function of the commission is to be available to the church in Latin America, by counsel and by action, regarding questions that affect the life and progress of those churches, and to help the churches in finding solutions. It also fosters relations between the national and international church institutes that work in



Archbishop José H. Gomez

See Archbishop appointed, p. 4

The Good News from St. Paul Year of St. Paul ~ Jubilee 2008-2009

Romans 6: 3-11

Or are you unaware that we who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? We were indeed buried with him through baptism into death, so that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might live in newness of life. For if we have grown into union with him through a death like his, we shall also be united with him in the resurrection. We know that our old self was crucified with him, so that our sinful body might be done away with, that we might no longer be in slavery to sin. For a dead person has been absolved from sin. If, then, we have died with Christ, we believe that we shall also live with him. We know that Christ, raised from the dead, dies no more; death no longer has power over him. As to his death, he died to sin once and for all; as to his life, he lives for God. Consequently, you too must think of yourselves as [being] dead to sin and living for God in Christ Jesus.



Bishop Fellhauer's Schedule

Aug.	
11	6:00 p.m., Mass, Serra Club seminarians' cookout, Holy Family Church, Victoria
15	10:00 a.m., Mass, St. Mary Church, Praha
20	11:15 a.m., Mass and lunch, Nazareth Academy 8th grade retreatants, Spiritual Renewal Center
22	8:10 a.m., School Mass, Sts. Cyril and Methodius Church, Shiner
	7:00 p.m., Reconciliation service, Spiritual Renewal Center
24	1:00 p.m., Mass, High School Lock-in, Knights of Columbus Hall, Hallettsville
27	11:15 a.m., Mass and lunch, St. Anthony School, Columbus, 8th grade retreatants, Spiritual Renewal Center
Sept.	
3	10:00 a.m. Presbyteral Council meeting, Chancery Office

Official Appointments By Most Rev. David E. Fellhauer

Effective July 23, 2008, the **Rev. Charles E. Otsiwha**, who is on a sabbatical leave from the Archdiocese of Cape Coast, Ghana, is appointed Parochial Vicar at Our Lady of Victory Cathedral, Victoria.

Diocesan Position Available

A position is available in the Office of Youth and Young Adult Ministry. Please contact Debbie Vanelli at dvaneli@victoriadiocese.org or go to the Youth Ministry page of the diocesan Web site at www.victoriadiocese.org for a complete posting/description.

**Have You Moved?
Address
Changed?**
Call 361-573-0828 with the
change in your address.
Saves Money!

In Memory of ... Joseph Jakubik Founder of Serra Club Northwest



YOAKUM—Joseph F. Jakubik Jr., former Serra Club District Governor, Serra Club Northwest's first president, and regional director for the USA Council of Serra, passed away in his home in Yoakum July 5, 2008. He was 74 years old.

Joe was born in Yoakum on Dec. 13, 1933, to Joseph and Josephine Janda Jakubik and returned to his hometown upon retirement from Texas Instruments in Houston.

His funeral Mass was celebrated at St. Joseph Parish in Yoakum July 9 with former Victoria Bishop Charles Grahmann, Bishop David Fellhauer and several priests from neighboring towns around Yoakum concelebrating.

Bishop Grahmann stated in his homily that for many years Joe had been in the seminary behind him and had studied for the priesthood, but for reasons only known to God he had to terminate.

"He understood that God calls us to different ways," Bishop Grahmann said. "God called him to the single life — to service to the community, and he didn't stop. He was a great mentor to people."

Bishop Grahmann compared Joe to St. Francis' saying, "evangelize and use words if you have to."

"I think of the life of Joe — he didn't have to use big words, he was there to serve and he did," said Bishop Grahmann. "We thank him for his simple, humble, willing service. He left us a legacy. It would be a shame if it was forgotten, so proclaim the Gospel always; use words if you must."

Bishop Fellhauer said that whenever and wherever a ministry was formed in the diocese, Joe was there. Serra Club, vocations, ordained ministry, catechetical office ... wherever a committee formed. "I am really grateful," Bishop Fellhauer said of Joe's life.

Above all, Joe was most dedicated to vocations to the priesthood. As a member of the Serra Club of Victoria, he was instrumental in forming the Serra Club of Victoria Northwest in 1996 and was its first president. He continued to remain an extremely active member for the rest of his life and also served as the club's newsletter editor from its beginning and as a trustee.

"It is a benefit to a rural parish for a son

*Pray for
Vocations*

of the parish to return and share a lived faith," said Father Matthew Huehlefeld, pastor of St. Joseph.

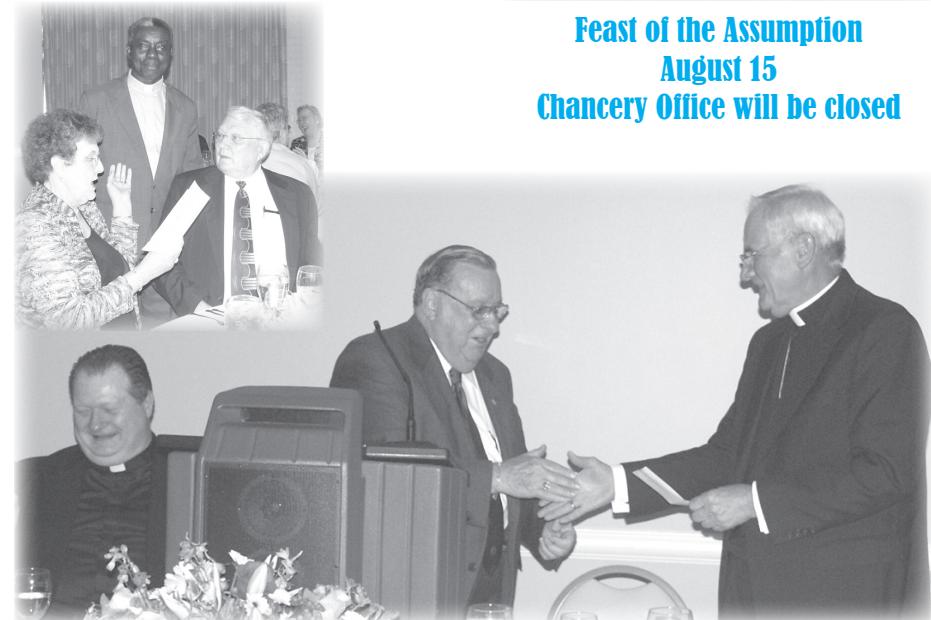
At his parish in Yoakum he had been director of RCIA, head of Adult Education, an extraordinary minister of the Eucharist, a lector and very active in the parish home-bound ministry. Besides being a member of the Serra Club, he was also a member of the Knights of Columbus and the KJT. In his community he had been president of the board of directors of the Yoakum Museum and a member of the Lions Club. He was retired from Texas Instruments and had served in the U.S. Army.



Feast of the Assumption

August 15

Chancery Office will be closed



Knights of St. Gregory the Great president, Don Hall, presents Bishop David Fellhauer with a check for \$17,500. Also pictured is master of ceremonies Father Don Ruppert. (Inset) Msgr. Peter Agbenu, who gave the benediction, visits with Jo Ann and Daniel Jalufka at the Bishop's Charities Banquet.

2008 Bishop's Charities Banquet continues to raise record funds

By Cynthia Brewer

Thanks in part to a generous donor, the 2008 Bishop's Charities Banquet broke another record in raising funds for Bishop David E. Fellhauer's various diocesan charities. The banquet, hosted by the Diocese of Victoria Knights of St. Gregory the Great, was held July 10 at the Victoria Country Club.

Following the invocation by Father John C. Peters, pastor of Sacred Heart Church in Hallettsville, the Honorable Don Hall, president of the Knights of St. Gregory, presented the bishop with a check for \$17,500. This year's presentation nearly doubled last year's contribution.

Upon Bishop Fellhauer's acceptance of the generous donation, he made his remarks on the status of the Diocese of Victoria.

Of great importance was the bishop's update on the progress of the building projects at the Spiritual Renewal Center. The renovated chapel and the multi-purpose building, which is still under construction, have received names.

The bishop announced that the renovated chapel will be dedicated to the memory of artist Madeline F. O'Connor.

and will be named the Incarnate Word Chapel in honor of the Sisters of the Incarnate Word and Blessed Sacrament.

He also announced that the multi-purpose building would be named Hermes Hall, honoring Msgr. Eustace Hermes. Msgr. Hermes raised the necessary funding which earned him the privilege to name the building. However, he declined that privilege, so Bishop Fellhauer chose to name the building in honor of Msgr. Hermes' long-time service to the diocese.

Following his report, the bishop introduced the diocese's new Superintendent of Catholic Schools, John Quary, who began working for the diocese on June 2.

The master of ceremonies was once again Father Donald Ruppert, pastor of Holy Cross Parish in East Bernard. He provided much entertainment with his collection of jokes. The official entertainment was guitar player and singer Randy Faulk of Victoria who sang a little bit from each of the musical eras, getting the banquet participants involved in sing alongs. Msgr. Peter Agbenu, in residence at Holy Family, Victoria, closed the event with benediction.

Diocesan Services Appeal '08

Can one person make a difference? One person did over 2,000 years ago! Because he made a difference for us, we choose to make a difference in the world around us. Thank you for supporting our Diocesan Services Appeal. Each gift DOES make a difference.

Currently our records indicate a total pledged amount of \$578,509 and a total paid amount of \$517,623. To those who have been unable to contribute, please continue to pray for our success in reaching our goal.

Jeri Joseph
DSA Coordinator

Stewardship Thought

"Do not neglect good deeds and generosity. God is pleased by sacrifices of that kind." (Hebrews 13:16)



Seminary Burses

Seminary burses are 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 lay persons, living or deceased. Publication of the burses will appear periodically when new contributions are received.

As of July 28, 2008

TOTALS

— Rev. John C. Bily Seminary Burse

Previously reported \$6,664.00

In honor Rev. John C. Bily's 50th ordination anniversary by:

Lucy Lednicky 100.00

Teddy and Edith Rerich 20.00

M/M James Zabransky 50.00

Josephine Peters 25.00

Rev. John Peters 25.00

In memory of Steve F. and Agnes Svetlik

by Steve and Dorothy Svetlik 25.00

In memory of Alvin and Rosey Blaha by

Steve and Dorothy Svetlik 25.00

In memory of Frank and Louisa Ripper by

a friend 10.00

In memory of Henry Banse by

Irene Banse 25.00

Total \$6,969.00

— Joseph F. Jakubik Jr. Seminary Burse

In memory of Joseph F. Jakubik Jr. by:

M/M Bob Bochat 25.00

Greg and Cindy Brewer 25.00

Total \$50.00

— Knights of Columbus Victoria Council #1329 Seminary Burse #3

Previously reported \$7,637.50

In memory of Oscar Schulte by

KC Council 1329 100.00

In memory of Dick Cullen by

KC Council 1329 100.00

Total \$7,837.50

— Rev. John C. Peters Seminary Burse #4

Previously reported \$3,219.00

In honor of Rev. John C. Bily's 50th ordination anniversary by

Rev. John Peters 25.00

Total \$3,244.00

— Josephat R. Janak Seminary Burse #2

Previously reported \$1,038.77

Gift to the burse by

M/M Barney L. Barfield 10.00

Gift to the burse by

Jason and Kendra Shows 10.00

Total \$1,058.77

Loving Father, through the intercession of our Blessed Mother, Queen of Vocations, may our youth joyfully respond to your call to follow Jesus in the priestly or religious life. Amen.

— Louis and Edith Hickl Family Seminary Burse

Previously reported \$3,000.00

Gift to the burse by Edith Hickl 2,000.00

Total \$5,000.00

Additional Burses for donations:

• Catholic Daughters of Americas Court Our Lady Queen of Peace No. 1374

• Rev. Jerome J. Stryk

• Catholic Daughters of St. Ann No. 369

• Rev. Msgr. Julius Petru Burse #2

• Rev. Joe Levy

• Rev. Marcus Valenta

• Rev. Godfrey F. Kurata

• Rev. Msgr. John Hanacek

• Catholic Family Fraternal of Texas KJZT Burse #5

• Sophie Schmidt

• Rev. Sean Donohue Burse #2

• Rev. Msgr. Robert Schmidt

• Rev. Msgr. Vaclavik Bily

• St. Mary Church – Praha

• St. Mary Church – High Hill

• Holy Rosary Church – Hostyn Burse #2

• Rev. Charles Kram

• William L. Schmidt

• Deceased Priests of Praha

• Sr. M. Perpetua Hawes, IWBS

• Jim Vacek Burse #2

• Knights of Columbus 4th Degree Victoria Assembly 1126

• Knights of Columbus 4th Degree Yoakum Assembly 1128 Burse #2

• Knights of Columbus 4th Degree St. Michael's Assembly Weimar #1527

• Knights of Columbus Holy Family Council 9088

• Knights of Columbus Council 3204 – Ganado Rev. Joseph Hybner

Those wishing to begin a burse or to contribute to an existing seminary burse may do so by sending their contributions with the appropriate burse designation to:

SEMINARY BURSES
DIOCESE OF VICTORIA
P. O. BOX 4070
VICTORIA, TX 77903

If you suspect a child has been abused or mistreated, you are required to report it to the Texas Department of Protective and Regulatory Services or to a law enforcement agency within 48 hours of the time you suspect the child had been or may be abused or neglected.

Reporting Child Abuse • Hotline 1-800-252-5400

Reporting Abuse

If you or someone you know has been sexually abused by a member of the clergy or other church personnel, you can register a complaint.

- Call the Chancery at (361) 573-0828 and ask to speak with the bishop or the chancellor;
- Call Rev. Gary Janak (979) 543-3770 or Sr. Emilie Eilers (361) 575-7111, Coordinators of Pastoral Care and Outreach;
- Write to: Most Rev. David E. Fellhauer
Diocese of Victoria
P.O. Box 4070
Victoria, TX 77903
Mark your letter "Personal and Confidential"

We will also help you bring your concerns to Church officials outside the diocese if the abuse occurred elsewhere and you now reside in the Diocese of Victoria.

If you are unsure about bringing a complaint or would like further information, please contact: Rev. Gary Janak at (979) 543-3770.

My Diaconate Journey

By Larry W. Koether

During the final weekend of April, the diaconal candidates and their wives attended a "silent" retreat at the Spiritual Renewal Center. After a busy year of study and formation classes, the participants enjoyed three, full days of silent prayer and reflection in the midst of the beautiful surroundings at the renewal center. As a participant in the program for the past two years, my wife, Lynn, and I were blessed to be a part of this retreat. We are one of three couples who have completed their second year of diaconal training.



Larry and Lynn Koether

Although I have only been in this program for a few years, it has had a huge impact on my life. This experience has been very valuable to me and I know that if I had to leave this program, my time would not have been wasted. It has made me a better person, father, husband and follower of our Lord Jesus Christ. It has taught me more about our Church than I could ever read in a book. It taught me about myself and how to pray. It has helped me better relate to my son, Jacob, who has become a seminarian of our diocese.

My journey into the diaconate started about ten years ago. At an age when many men go through a mid-life crisis, I experienced a mid-life conversion. Instead of fighting my internal desire to grow closer to God, I surrendered. Through the prayers and example set by my wife, I returned to the Church I had neglected for many years. I had a new-found hunger for everything about the Church. Slowly I became more active in the church by teaching CCD, attending Bible studies, becoming an extraordinary minister of the Eucharist and participating in ACTS. This change in me was noticed by a friend, Deacon Walley Rodriguez, and he suggested that I consider the diaconate.

Becoming a deacon is something I never really thought about, but felt that I owed it to myself, our Lord, and his Church to at least give it a try. After a serious discussion with Lynn and our children, we decided to apply for the diaconate. The first step was to have an interview with the director of the Diaconal Ministry, Father Gabriel Maison. In addition to being the director, he is also the parish priest in Moulton, Texas, instructs some of our courses, and guides us in human formation. After a

lengthy interview, Father Gabriel invited me to join seven other men to begin the first year of the program, called the inquiry period.

During this first year the prospective candidates and, if married, their wives are introduced to spiritual direction to help them to discern and respond to the Call. Our spiritual director, Michael Fonseca, meets with us once a month. He helps us to grow in our spirituality and prayer life using the Spiritual Exercises of St. Ignatius of Loyola. It is difficult for me to explain the many benefits of these sessions. After participating in them for a couple of months, I started receiving consolation from our Lord and it changed my life. I could feel his presence during these sessions and it soon extended into my daily life. This helped improve my relationships with my family, friends and co-workers. Unlike the stagnant periods I experienced in the past, this method keeps my spirituality in a constant state of growth.

The second year is called aspirancy period or year of discernment. During these first two years the participants are introduced to some introductory courses in addition to the spiritual formation. Prior to my involvement in this program, I tried to educate myself about the Church and its teachings. But I could never acquire the understanding that I now receive from the excellent instructors of these classes. Instructed by professors from the University of St. Thomas, we study subjects such as biblical studies, philosophy, liturgy and theology. The courses are challenging, but this gives the prospective candidates a taste of what will be expected over the next few years. During this period, all of us had to take a deep look within ourselves to determine if we should continue or not. Better men than I chose not to continue. My class started with eight, but now there are only three of us left.

Yes, these past two years have been challenging and it has changed my wife's and my life. But this has been the best decision we have ever made, and I wish more of my brothers would join us. If you have a desire to serve our Lord and his Church, it may be the Call. To find out, contact Father Gabriel Maison at (361) 596-4674.

Larry and Lynn Koether are from Holy Cross Parish in Bay City. Their pastor is Father Casey Jarzombek.



2009 KC OFFICERS INSTALLED—Knights of Columbus Council 8388 – Our Lady of Sorrows in Victoria – held the installation of its 2008-2009 officers June 26. District Deputy Bob Leach oversaw the installation, which was followed by a dinner at the Guadalupe Center. Officers include Grand Knight Ramiro M. Longoria; Chaplain – Father Stan De Boe, O.S.S.T. (pastor of OLS); Deputy Grand Knight Johnny E. Smith; Chancellor Joe R. Garcia; Robert B. Gonzales, financial secretary; Lupe C. Hernandez, recorder; Henry O. Perez, warden; Mike M. Rivera, treasurer; Brother Patrick Wildgen, O.S.S.T., lecturer; Emeterio Alvarez, trustee; Philip Trevino, trustee; Ralph R. Ramirez, advocate; Pete C. Ordones, inside guard; and Moises Vasquez Sr., outside guard. Photo courtesy of Marvin Lockhart.



Pastoral Institute uses new technology to reach across the Diocese of Victoria

Beginning in September, in an effort to reach and teach as many people as possible, the Diocesan Catechetical Office is using new technologies to inaugurate a distant learning program that will be offered in Hostyn and Wharton via the Internet. The high price of gasoline and the busyness of people's lives necessitate new and innovative avenues to teach the people of the diocese.

The 2008-11 three-year Pastoral Institute Extended program will be offered at the chancery in the morning and evening on Tuesdays beginning September 2. These classes will also be offered to Holy Rosary in Hostyn through the distant learning program. The Continuing Education Program to be taught on Thursday evenings will also be offered through distant learning to Mt. Carmel in Wharton. Using this technology, the Pastoral Institute will provide more opportunities this fall for people in the southern and northern parts of the diocese to study Scripture and the history of the Catholic Church.

A six-week extended course, Introduction to the Bible and the Pentateuch, will

New 3-year program to begin in September

be taught by Sister Digna Vela, IWBS, at the chancery on Tuesday mornings from 9:15 to 11:30 a.m. and also on Tuesday evenings 7:00 – 9:15 p.m. from September 2 through October 7. The September 16 morning session will be moved to September 17. This class will be followed by a second six-week course, The Historical and Prophetic Books of the Bible.

A six-week Continuing Education Program course, The Time and Works of St. Paul, will be taught by Sister Mildred Truchard, IWBS, at the chancery on Monday evenings from 7:00 to 9:15 p.m., beginning on September 8 through October 20, skipping October 13. A twelve-week course, A History of the Catholic Church, will be taught by Ron Friedel at the chancery on Thursdays from 7:00 to 9:15 p.m., starting on September 4 through December 4, skipping November 6 and 27.

There is a \$15 fee for each six-week class. Book fee is extra. For more information or to register, call (361) 573-0828 ext. 24, e-mail bparkan@victoriadiocese.org, or register online at www.victoriadiocese.org.

Diocese of Victoria XXI Annual Conference for Catechesis and Ministry

Saturday, September 27, 2008 – Holy Family, Victoria

Naming the Present Faith-Moment: The Struggle to be Missionaries to our own Children

Keynote Presentation by Rev. Ron Rolheiser, OMI

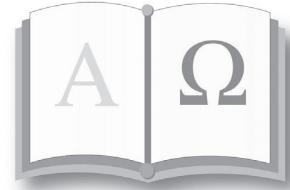
Schedule of the Day

7:30 - 9:00 a.m.	Registration	
9:00 - 9:30 a.m.	Welcome & Opening Prayer	
9:30 - 11:00 a.m.	Keynote: Rev. Ron Rolheiser	
11:00 - 11:30 a.m.	Book Signing by Rev. Ron Rolheiser & Visit Exhibits	
11:30 - 12:30 p.m.	Round A	
12:30 - 1:30 p.m.	Lunch and Visit Exhibits	
1:30 - 2:30 p.m.	Round B	
2:30 - 3:00 p.m.	Break: Last time to Visit Exhibits	
3:00 - 4:00 p.m.	Round C	
4:15 p.m.	Liturgy Bishop Fellhauer, presiding	

The XXI Annual Conference will begin with a keynote presentation by Rev. Ron Rolheiser. Conference participants can choose from over 40 workshops throughout the day. Catholic publishers and vendors will also be available at the one-day conference. Contact the catechetical office at 361-573-0828 or e-mail calvarez@victoriadiocese.org for more information.

Workshops At A Glance

- What Month Is It? ...It Doesn't Matter, I'm Still New
- Family Wellness and Communication: Unlocking the Door to a Healthy Christian Family
- The Word of God in the Life and Mission of the Church
- Scared of Teaching Scripture?
- The Gospel of Mark
- Setting Our Ecclesial Gauges Correctly - Commandments for the Long Haul
- Mission Awareness: All Are Our Neighbors
- We say 'Yes' Lord: Balancing Ministry and Marriage
- Renewing the True Meaning of the 'Quinceañera'
- First Communion/Reconciliation Retreats
- If You Make It Fun, They Will Learn!
- Faithful Citizenship
- The Missionary Life of St. Paul
- Spirituality: Becoming a Living Prayer
- A Walk Through the Mass
- All God's Children: Solidarity, Spirituality & Catholic Social Teachings
- On Christian Hope



and many more...



Pictured are delegates who attended the National Convention from Diocese of Victoria Districts 14 and 29. Seated: Elsie Meyers, regent Court 1359, Mary Ortiz, delegate and Terri Beltran, regent, both from Court 2275; 2nd row: Elida Benavidez, secretary Court 1350, Catherine Drapela, delegate Court 2275; La Dell Janda, delegate, Lillian Hansen, delegate, Lorraine Cranek, delegate and Rita Vackar, delegate, all from Court 1374; and back row: Alice Figirova, delegate Court 1350 and Mary Kay Beard, delegate District 29.

Local Catholic Daughters attend Convention in New Mexico

By Terri Beltran and Terrie Vacek

Clergy, delegates, alternates and guests from 160 courts throughout Texas gathered in Albuquerque, New Mexico, for the Catholic Daughters of the Americas 52nd Biennial National Convention held July 16 - 19. Members of Texas Campus Courts and JCDA were also in attendance. The record-breaking number of almost 1,200 delegates, members, and guests also included members from Alaska, Hawaii, Guam and Puerto Rico.

The convention opened with the Crowning of Mary ceremony in the main convention area. A mesmerizing dance honoring Our Lady of Guadalupe called Matachines was presented. Then, leaders representing every Catholic Daughter state prayed portions of the rosary aloud, led by National Clergy Consultant Father Michael Schommer. Speakers for the convention were National Chaplain Reverend Monsignor Gerald J. Walsh; Most Reverend Michael J. Sheehan, Archbishop of the Archdiocese of Santa Fe; Karen Hurley, president general of the World Union of Catholic Women's Organization who was named "Catholic Woman of the Year;" and Rev. Anthony Bolman, State Chaplain of New Mexico; Mayor of Albuquerque, Martin J. Chavez; and Reverend Joseph Vatter, New York State Chaplain.

Several of the National CDA charity programs were presented monetary checks as follows: Smile Train - \$20,000, (provides free health care, surgeries for children in third world nations that have cleft lips and trains local doctors); Soar - \$5,000 (provides health care and residence for aging religious); Holy Family Rosary - \$5,000 ("The family that prays together stays together" is the motto of the Holy Cross Family Ministries); Disaster Relief (provides monetary donations and food, clothing and medicine); and Habitat for Humanity (provides decent housing to families who otherwise cannot afford homes). As of today Texas has built two homes, one in Corpus Christi and one in Wichita Falls, homes have been sold in different states and in Mexico.

On behalf of all Texas Catholic Daughters, State Regent Carolyn Bachmann of Scotland, Texas, accepted the 1st place award for instituting seven new courts; 1st place award in recognition for the state with net membership gains, Category IV; and 1st place State Newsletter, run by Terrie Vacek, Category II, Division I. The top three states were awarded certificates for outstanding work in the seven Circle of Love Programs. Texas was recognized in five of the programs: Leadership, Spiritual Enhancement, National Projects, Educa-

tion, and 1st place in Youth Category IV, which Terri Beltran serves as Texas State Youth/JCDA chairman. From the Diocese of Victoria, Camille Mica of East Bernard won 1st place in the National Education Contest with her poem. Also, Texas CDA members donated \$59,977.39 to the National Charitable Projects in the 2006-2008 term, which represents the largest amount of CDA Charitable Donations by any state in the nation.

Archbishop appointed to Vatican commission

Continued from p. 1

Latin America and the Vatican.

"I look forward to working with my brother bishops at this critical time in history for all of our people. The church of the American continent faces many challenges today and even greater challenges in the future," Archbishop Gomez said. "As we proclaim the Gospel of Christ, in a spirit of faith and love, I am hopeful that our cultures will come together to reflect respect for life and the dignity of every human person, especially the most in need."

In an address to an assembly of the commission held in Rome in January of 2007, Pope Benedict XVI addressed some of those challenges, listing globalization, secularism, increasing poverty, violence and the drug trade. The pontiff said, "For the future of the Church in Latin America it is important that Christians have a deeper knowledge and adopt an appropriate lifestyle as Jesus' disciples, simply and joyful with a firm faith rooted in the depths of their heart and nourished by prayer and the sacraments."

ABCATS

Polka Cruise

Texas Sound Check Band

Feb 2-7, 2009

Departs Galveston, Progreso, Cozumel & Return

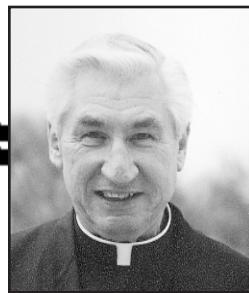
Make Reservations Soon as Cabins Limited

Contact:
Jim or Malvina Slovak,
ABCATS TRAVEL
(361) 578-0828 OR
slovakjim@att.net
Web site:
www.abcatstravel.com



FAITH POINT

By Rev. Msgr. James C. Brunner
Vicar General, Diocese of Victoria
For past articles: www.stmaryvic.com/desk.htm



Relative Absolutism

In our country there are two competing moral systems, an objective one based on natural law and a subjective one not based on the natural law or objective standards but based on personal feelings or the opinion of the majority of the society. The first is natural law morality and the second is called moral relativism.

The natural law system is based on the nature of things and on life experiences that perfect humanity. Natural law moralists study the basic tendencies of human beings and conclude that those activities that perfect human nature are good and the ones that diminish it are evil.

Animals fulfill their basic tendencies by following their instincts which incline them to mate, build nests, etc. Human beings employ reason to select activities that perfect humanity. For example, humans demonstrate basic tendencies to preserve life, to procreate and educate children, to acquire knowledge, and to find ways to get along with their fellow human beings.

Activities that promote human life like earning a living, exercise, avoiding health threatening practices such as abuse of narcotics, etc. are morally good. Activities that directly attack the good of preserving human life such as homicide, suicide, abortion, euthanasia and assault are evil. These activities are objectively good or evil irrespective of personal opinions or feelings.

Moral relativism, however, means that murder, for example, is not objectively wrong; you may feel that it is wrong, but it is no more objectively wrong than your feeling that rap music is awful renders that music objectively awful.

There are many basic defects in moral relativism.

Moral relativism is an irrational system that contradicts its own basic tenets. It asserts that there are no moral absolutes, but the statement itself is an absolute. It is like saying, "It is true that there is no truth."

No moral relativist really acts on his system. If he really did believe that all moral positions are equally good he could not condemn cannibalism in tribes that approve it. Rapists should not be punished if their moral feeling is that rape is an act of love and women are really objects of pleasure. Genital mutilation of females as is done in some cultures is alright. Torture becomes an acceptable part of the criminal justice system. Human sacrifice is permissible if that is your religious belief, which moral relativists are supposed to tolerate. Unwanted groups or individuals can be eliminated if the society approves. The Nazis and Communists could not be condemned for slaughtering millions of

political enemies since they were acting in accordance with the laws of their society. The suicide bombers of 9/11 were acting lawfully according to their own interests. If there were no moral absolutes, but good or evil are to be judged according to society's opinions, there is nothing wrong with slavery, apartheid, or ethnic cleansing in societies that approve these acts. To condemn these acts requires moral absolutes, but the relativists, who do condemn them in practice, pretend not to notice that they appeal to a moral absolute, the intrinsic value of human beings, in doing so.

Moral relativism is touted as necessary for the exercise of rights in a democratic society. To the contrary, relativism actually destroys the basis of freedom. If I have a right, it is a power to make a claim on you. If you can define my claim into nonexistence because of your feelings or society's opinion, then my power or right is destroyed. The courts have "defined" the right to life of an unborn child as being nonexistent and so more than a million unborn children are destroyed each year in the United States alone.

What is to prevent some personal feeling or popular opinion to define other humans' right to life as nonexistent, such as the mentally retarded, the handicapped, the unproductive elderly, or the comatose, or the Jews? If humans do not have a right to life based on the objective natural law that applies to all, then they do not have a right to life at all. Pope Benedict XVI is correct to speak of the tyranny of relativism. Dictators like Mugabe love relativism because they do the defining of rights according to their feelings—and they have the guns to back up their feelings.

In actual practice moral relativists are moral absolutists in that they want to cram their version of morality down the throats of others. They tout political correctness

and make rules for politically incorrect speech like criticizing the practice of homosexuality and would like for it to be prosecuted as hate speech. What happened to their rule that one moral opinion is as good as another? Pro-abortionists claim that morality is a personal matter but try to quash legally any opposition to their position. Why is my opinion that abortion is immoral not accepted by a system that purports to hold all moral positions as equally good? Some relativists want to compel others to adopt their view of morality in requiring church institutions opposed to contraception to pay the contraceptive costs of their employees. Where is the relativism here? They want laws to require hiring of homosexuals in religious schools opposed to it. That sounds pretty absolutist to me. They want to compel Catholic hospitals, doctors, and druggists to provide abortions and abortifacients against their consciences. Apparently their moral convictions are not as good as those of the relativists who, without warning, have morphed into absolutists. I even suspect that they are trying to impose their morality on me, which, in their system, is an unforgiveable sin of intolerance.

Relativists are fanatical about removing the Ten Commandments from public places, probably because they represent an objective moral system. It turns out that relativists demand respect for their system of morality.

There is general agreement that in some areas humanity has made moral progress. For example, abolition of slavery, universal suffrage, renouncing torture, racial equality are regarded as welcome reforms. According to moral relativism, the reformers who worked for these changes, far from being admirable or heroic, were bad people because they acted in opposition to the prevailing majority opinion. According to relativism one should always obey the culture in which he lives. If my culture says that slavery is okay, it is okay. Slavery was once permitted by the Supreme Court in the United States. However, we all know that slavery is wrong. So what made us overturn that decision? The answer is that there is a higher law than the civil law to which the government ought to conform, a moral absolute which moral relativists claim does not exist but which they call

upon whenever it suits their purposes. This is the natural law or moral law.

Moral relativism is intellectually absurd, self-contradictory, and morally bankrupt. Why then is it the prevailing moral system in our universities and courts? It is not an intellectual position, at least one that survives scrutiny, but a volitional one. Relativists will things to be so rather than deal with the realities of a situation. It is the ideal system for persons who want their immoral practices justified or who do not want to repent of their sins. It may be that relativism sedates conscience when it pricks, but it is a false peace that comes at a high price. It requires you to believe in absurdities, can abolish your political freedom and even get you killed.

Heritage Center / Pathways with Patti

Tuna Does Vegas
Thursday August 21 - 8:00 pm
Only 40 tickets - all in the Gold Seating
at The Grand in Galveston

Watch for upcoming information on
Christmas Tour to the
River Walk in San Antonio
End of Nov. 2008
Call 361.552.2695 or
361.920.3216



SACRED HEART PARISH FALL PICNIC

Sunday, August 31, 2008
at the K.C. Hall in Hallettsville, Texas

Dinner: Serving from 10:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.
Drive thru Plates-to-Go: 10:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

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

Adults \$7.00 **Children \$4.00**

AUCTION at 1:00 p.m.

Inside the air-conditioned KC Hall,
Bingo (Noon to 4:00 p.m.),
Cake Walk, Country Store &
Religious Articles Booth.
Karaoke 5:30 to 8:30 p.m.

**Kiddie Rides & Games
all afternoon!!!**

Tractor-churned
homemade ice cream

Music on the Main Pavilion
Kovanda's Authentic Czech Music
11:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

**Free Dance on the
Polka Pavilion/Biergarten**
Music by Red Ravens & Dujka Bros.
1:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.

**Pig-Plop sponsored by
Sacred Heart Youth Group**

Horseshoe Pitching Tournament
begins at 2:00 p.m.
Washer Pitching Tournament
begins at 5:00 p.m.

**Delicious hamburgers, french fries, nachos, popcorn, funnel
cakes, sno-cones, lemonade & sodawater all afternoon!!**

Heavenly Helpers



1406-B N. Mechanic
El Campo, Texas
(979) 543-2850

Mon.- Fri. 9:30 a.m.-5:30 p.m.
Sat. 9:30 a.m.-3:00 p.m.

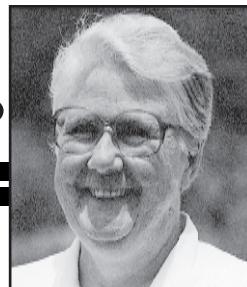
**Special Gifts For
Any Occasion**
**Baptism • Wedding
Anniversary
Birthday • Grief**

Precious Moments Figurines,
Bibles, Books & Music, Crosses,
Cards, Jewelry, Rosaries, T-Shirts
& Much More



SISTERLY THOUGHTS

By Sister Mildred Truchard, IWBS



Eternal Winners

As we approach the opening of the Summer Olympic Games, we begin to think of the Gold Medals which our young athletes have dreamed of winning. Many have prepared; however, very few have made the final cut to participate in the Games. We read and hear of some of these young people who have made great sacrifices in order to train and prepare. They and their families have deprived themselves financially and personally so that they had the proper location, facilities and coaching to make their dreams a possibility. Then in the try-outs for the U.S. Olympic teams, misfortune dashed the hopes and dreams of many of them. Illness, injury, unfamiliar facilities, nervousness and adverse weather conditions hampered their efforts to perform at their best. Others were simply outperformed in the intense competition that ensued.

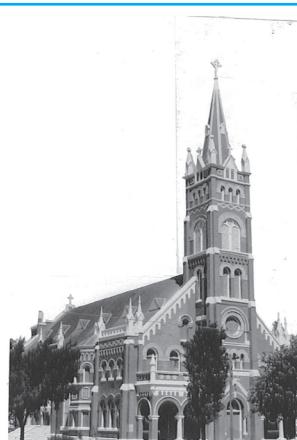
And we all know that very few of the chosen athletes will win the coveted med-



als in this global competition; however, we recognize and admire their quest for perfection and their ability to focus and persevere in their pursuit of their dreams.

As we admire their dedication, let us too aspire for perfection in our specialty as baptized Christians — love and service of God and of all of our brothers and sisters. Let us heed the words of St. Paul, "Run so as to win. Every athlete exercises discipline in every way. They do it to win a perishable crown, but we an imperishable one" (1 Cor. 9:23-25).

As we watch the Olympic events, let us observe each athlete's drive to do his or her best. More importantly, let us reflect on our own resolution to live out our baptism with that same determination. If we persevere in our efforts to "run so as to win" and we reach the finish line of our life run, we will receive the imperishable crown to which St. Paul refers. Let us begin that life race as we enjoy the 29th Olympic Games. Happy viewing!



Masses:
Saturday — 5:00 p.m. (Polka Mass)
Sunday — 7:30 & 9:30 a.m. Also
Traditional Latin Mass at 11:00 a.m.

--- DINNER ---

10:30 a.m. — 2:00 p.m.
Dine in Air Conditioned Dining Room

Plate Includes THREE MEATS —
Shiner Picnic Stew □ Fried Chicken □
Country Sausage □ Trimmings □

\$7.50/Plate

Drive thru "Plates to Go" from
10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at
Shiner KC Hall on Hwy 90A East

BIG COUNTRY AUCTION

12 Noon

Cattle Auction: 2:30 p.m.

▼▼▼▼▼

Drawing

Prizes given away at 10 p.m.

ARTS & CRAFTS

Booth Spaces: \$50
Call (361) 594-2971 or 594-8548

COUNTRY STORE

Canned and Baked Goods
Kolaches □ Pigs-in-Blanket
Served from 8 a.m. until ...

87th Annual SHINER CATHOLIC CHURCH Fall 2008 PICNIC Sunday, August 31 Legion Park - Shiner

MUSIC & DANCING

Inside AIR CONDITIONED Hall

□□□□□□□□□□□□

11 a.m. — 2 p.m.
Accordion Music
Free Admission

□□□□□□□□□□□□

3 - 5 p.m.
Shiner Hobo Band
\$2.00 Admission

DANCE

9 p.m. to 1 a.m.
EMOTIONS
\$8.00 Admission charged
inside hall beginning at 8 p.m.

Dance for the Kiddos
8-11 p.m. - Ages: 3-11
Inside the old dining hall

□ Hamburgers

□ Chicken Fried Steak Sandwiches □

□ Hot Dogs □ Cake & Plant Wheels □

□ Bingo with Cash Prizes Only □

□ Water Slide □ Kiddie Rides □

Fun for the Whole Family!!!

For more information call: (361) 594-3836

Four IWBS Sisters Celebrate Anniversaries of Religious Profession

Continued from p. 1

Sister Jeanne de Matel Hayden is the daughter of the late Robert Joseph and Emma Caroline (Nocker) Hayden of San Antonio, Texas. The family had four children — three girls and one boy. Sister Jeanne de Matel completed the grammar grades at St. Leo's Elementary School and high school classes at Blessed Sacrament Academy in San Antonio. She received the habit of the Sisters of the Incarnate Word and Blessed Sacrament on June 10, 1937, and made her first profession of vows on June 11, 1938. Sister received her B.A. degree with a major in English and a minor in Spanish and her M.A. degree with a major in education and a minor in history from Incarnate Word College in San Antonio.

During the 70 years of her religious profession, Sister Jeanne de Matel taught on the elementary and junior high levels at Sacred Heart School in Hallettsville, St. Leo School and Blessed Sacrament Academy in San Antonio, St. Mary School in Praha, Holy Cross School in Bay City, Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary in Ganado, St. Michael School in Weimar, Sacred Heart School in Crosby and Holy Cross School in East Bernard. Sister Jeanne de Matel also served 15 years as principal in four of the schools.

When Sister Jeanne de Matel retired from full-time classroom duty, she served the congregation as an assistant to the treasurer general. She also used her "green thumb" by tending the many plants and flowers used to enhance the beauty of the chapel and the living quarters of the sisters at Incarnate Word Convent. She also made rosaries for the missions. Sister now resides in the congregation's infirmary where she participates in the apostolate of prayer and suffering.

Sister Annunciata Shumbera is the daughter of the late John and Frances (Macha) Shumbera of Weimar, Texas. She was the sixth of six children — four girls and two boys. Sister Annunciata completed her grammar grades at Bois D'Arc School and St. Michael School in Weimar and high school at Blessed Sacrament Academy in San Antonio. She received the habit of the Sisters of the Incarnate Word and Blessed Sacrament on June 10, 1937, and made first profession on June 11, 1938. Sister received her B.A. degree with a major in English and a minor in Spanish from Incarnate Word College and her M. Ed. with a major in education

and a minor in library science from Our Lady of the Lake College University in San Antonio.

During the 70 years of her religious profession Sister Annuciata taught on the elementary, junior high and high school levels at Sacred Heart School in Hallettsville, St. Leo School, St. Agnes School and Blessed Sacrament Academy in San Antonio, Nazareth Academy in Victoria, St. Michael School in Cuero, Our Lady of Perpetual Help School in Selma, and Our Lady of Mt. Carmel School in Houston. Sister Annuciata also served as principal and librarian in some of the schools and assisted the Diocese of Victoria by volunteering in the chancery library.

Sister Annuciata has remained active in school volunteer work and will continue her ministry at Holy Cross School in Bay City this coming school year.

Sister Callista Mares is the daughter of the late Cyril and Augusta (Otahal) Mares of Cistern, Texas. She was one of seven children — two girls and five boys. Sister Callista completed elementary grades at St. Wenceslaus School in Cistern and high school at Nazareth Academy in Victoria. Sister Callista received the habit of the Sisters of the Incarnate Word and Blessed Sacrament on December 18, 1937, and made first profession of vows on December 19, 1938. She received her B.A. degree with a major in history and a minor in philosophy from Incarnate Word College in San Antonio.

During the 70 years of her religious profession, Sister Callista taught on the primary, elementary and junior high levels at Sacred Heart School in Hallettsville, Nazareth Academy in Victoria, Blessed Sacrament Academy in San Antonio, Ammannsville Public School in Ammannsville, Sealy Public School in Sealy, Falls City Public School in Falls City and St. Ludmila Academy in Shiner.

When Sister Callista retired from full-time classroom duty in 1985, she remained active with assisting in the infirmary, serving as sacristan for the main chapel and participating in household duties at Incarnate Word Convent. During some of these years she also visited nursing homes in the area. Sister Callista has also made items for the arts and crafts sales with her crocheting and needlepoint and loves to put jigsaw puzzles together. She resides in the infirmary and ministers in the apostolate of prayer and suffering.



NADA PARISHIONERS BID FAREWELL TO FATHER TONY — A large number of parishioners from St. Mary Church in Nada gathered to say good-bye to Father Anthony Boateng-Mensah. Father received several gifts, among them was a quilt made by the Nada Quilters. The youth of St. Mary presented him with a new red bicycle because, as they stated, Father Tony enjoyed touring the Nada countryside on his old bike that was in dire need of being replaced. Pictured above is Father Tony with Father Joe Vrana, pastor of St. Mary. Father Joe stated that he has enjoyed working with Father Tony, and the sick and shut-ins always looked forward to his visits as he brought them Holy Communion. On July 1, Father Tony became the parochial vicar of St. Mary Church in Victoria. Father Gabriel Oduro Tawiah of St. Mary's in Victoria replaced Father Anthony in Nada and St. John Nepomucene in New Taiton.



Youth Calendar of Events

August 16 — LifeTeen Inspiration Tour, Fiesta Texas in San Antonio
August 23 — Altar Server Appreciation Day at Splashway in Sheridan
August 23 — Declare Victory - with Josh Blakesley sponsored by Sacred Heart Parish in Hallettsville.
September 4 — Theology at the Well at Chili's in Victoria
September 18 — Theology at the Well at Chili's in Victoria
October 2 — Theology at the Well at Chili's in Victoria
October 5 — Life Chain
October 16 — Theology at the Well at Chili's in Victoria
October 16 & 17 — Open - NET Ministries in the Diocese for Retreats
October 18 — NET Ministries at St. Joseph in Moulton
October 19 & 21-24 & 26 — Open - NET Ministries in the Diocese for Retreats
October 25 — NET Ministries at Our Lady of Mount Carmel in Wharton
October 30 — Theology at the Well at Chili's in Victoria
November 6 — Theology at the Well at Chili's in Victoria
November 9 — Junior High Fiesta at Holy Family in Victoria
November 21-23 — Region 10 Catholic Youth Ministry in Amarillo Texas
December 4-7 — National Conference for Catholic Youth Ministers in Cleveland, Ohio
December 13 — Bishop Fellhauer Benefit Dinner

For more information on any of these events, please contact:

Debbie Vanelli at the Office of Youth Ministry
 at (361) 573-0828 ext. 32 or e-mail at dvaneli@victoriadiocese.org
 Web site: www.victoriadiocese.org/youthoffice



DISCIPLESHIP WEEK DRAWS YOUNG PEOPLE FROM ALL OVER THE STATE—The Spiritual Renewal Center was the place to be the week of June 23-26, as young people from all over the state of Texas converged for the 10th annual Discipleship Week, sponsored by the Diocese of Victoria Office of Youth Ministry. The Diocese of Victoria is one of only six locations selected to host this jam-packed retreat.



Retreatants, as well as camp leaders, from the 2nd annual Quo Vadis? vocation camp fool around during group picture time.



School Sisters of St. Francis and one sister from the Disciples of the Lord Jesus prepare to take the girls' vocation retreatants kayaking in the lake at Stoney Creek Ranch.

answers included: because you meet new people, they would have a lot of fun and you can get closer to God and learn a lot too!

From July 15 to 18, four priests and all the seminarians from our diocese facilitated the second boys' vocation retreat titled, Quo Vadis?, which in Latin means "Where are you going?" Father Dan Morales, vocation director

for the diocese, Fathers Bob Knippenberg, Kirby Hlavaty, and Bryan Heyer, with the assistance of our seminarians, Patrick Knippenberg, Jacob Koether, Scott Hill, Adam Beard and Sean Breeden, shared with almost 20 retreatants the process that led them to the seminary.

These interactive sessions opened the doors for much discussion and reflection, although they also found ample time for swimming, blobbing, fishing, kayaking, washers, horseshoes, pool and ping pong! Some of the comments from the retreatants included that this camp is a great way to at least get us thinking with a group of men dedicated to serving God. "I felt like I was in paradise," wrote one retreatant.

St. Mary's Baseball announces five signees for 2009

By Derek Smolik

SAN ANTONIO—St. Mary's University baseball coach Charlie Migl announced on Thursday the signing of five student-athletes to national letters of intent to play for the Rattlers, starting with the 2008-09 academic year. Courtney Behrend of Comfort, Mark Herrera of Victoria/Cuero, Alfonso Maldonado of Laredo, Tyler Migl of San Antonio and Roy Richard of Steele all signed on with the Rattlers.

Herrera (Fr., Victoria) was a standout for coach Scott Holder at Cuero High School. He was a two-time all-district honoree and helped CHS to a 34-4 record. He earned all-tournament honors at the Cuero Gobbler Classic, and the Stanley Krich Tournament. With Herrera on the team Cuero won the 2008 district and area championships and advanced to the regional quarterfinals.

The signees are the first five for the Rattlers this offseason. The Rattlers finished the 2008 regular season with a 39-17 overall record and a 35-14 mark in Heartland Conference play, good for second place in the league standings. The Rattlers finished the season by winning eight of their last nine games.

By Tom Dermody
 Catholic News Service

PEORIA, Ill. (CNS) — Professional soccer player Chase Hilgenbrinck is changing fields to pursue greater goals.

On July 14 he announced his retirement from Major League Soccer's New England Revolution team to begin studies in August for the priesthood as a seminarian of the Diocese of Peoria. He will study at Mount St. Mary's Seminary in Emmitsburg, Md.

"More than anything, I am excited to administer the sacraments, and to be with people at the most important times of their lives, like baptism, marriage and death," Hilgenbrinck, 26, told The Catholic Post, Peoria's diocesan newspaper, the day after his decision became public.

The national media quickly got a kick out of this soccer-to-seminary story.

Hours after his retirement and the reason for it were announced, Hilgenbrinck was interviewed by writers from The Associated Press and USA Today. When those stories appeared, interest in the story went international, with Hilgenbrinck soon fielding media calls from as far as England, Switzerland and Lithuania.

"It's been amazing," said Hilgen-

brinck, who happily shares his story of faith not for personal recognition, but "to give glory to Christ."

"I feel like God is blessing me, being able to witness to so many people," said the athlete, a Bloomington native who began playing soccer at age 5.

Now he hopes to bring the same passion he had on the soccer field to serve God.

"When you play soccer you have to continue getting better every day," he said. "It's the same with faith. You have to improve every single day, search for opportunities to deepen your relationship with Christ."

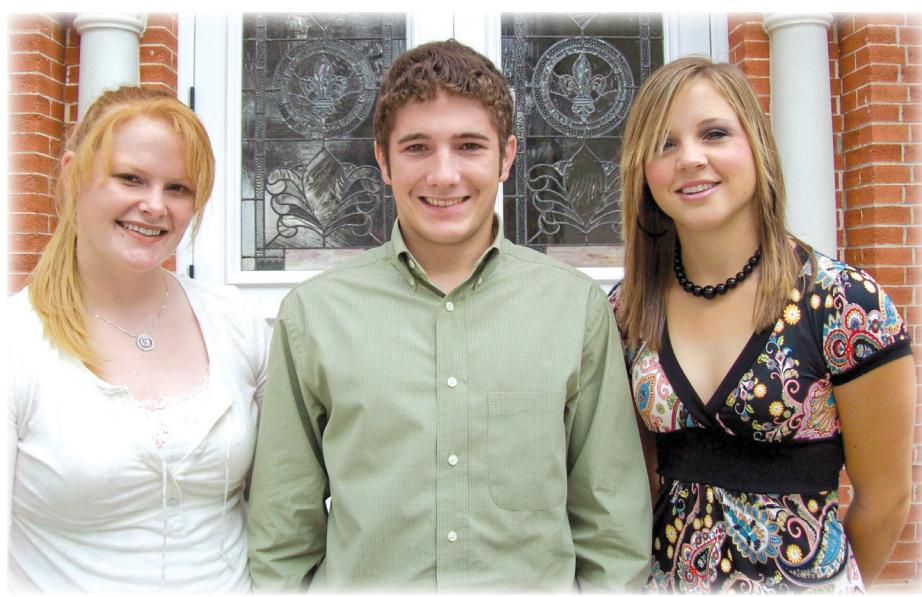
He will have many such opportunities at Mount St. Mary's Seminary, where he will be one of 17 first-year seminarians for Peoria this fall. A bit of soccer may be in his future there as well.

Mount St. Mary's fields a team that competes with area seminaries in an annual tournament called the Rector's Cup. The rector is Msgr. Steven P. Rohlfs, a Peoria priest and former vocations director for the diocese.

"Msgr. Rohlfs liked the prospect of having me on his team," said Hilgenbrinck.



Chase Hilgenbrinck of the New England Revolution advances the ball in a Major League Soccer game against the New York Red Bulls in Foxborough, Mass., in late June. Hilgenbrinck, 26, announced his retirement from professional soccer July 14 to begin studies for the priesthood as a seminarian of the Diocese of Peoria, Ill. (CNS photo/Keith Nordstrom, courtesy New England Revolution)



SHINER STUDENTS WIN THREE STATE CDA SCHOLARSHIPS—Shiner is the home of three of the 32 scholarship recipients awarded by the State Catholic Daughters; pictured from left to right they are Shalane Matula, Stephen Novosad and Megan Cejka. Shalane received a \$1,500 scholarship, is a graduate of St. Paul High School and will be attending Texas A & M University. Stephen received a \$1,000 scholarship, is a graduate of St. Paul High School and is attending the University of Texas. Megan received a \$1,000 scholarship, is a graduate of Shiner High School and will be attending Texas State University. Court St. Paul Regent Marjorie Kresta announced the winners and the scholarships were presented at the Award Banquets in May of 2008.

Sts. Peter & Paul Parish mark feast day with blessing and feasting

MEYERSVILLE—The Meyersville parish of Sts. Peter & Paul used its patron saints' feast day, June 29, as the day to recognize and celebrate the many blessings it had recently received.

The parish pastor, Father Frank Lenz, invited Bishop David Fellhauer to be the main celebrant of the Sunday Mass and to bless the new additions to the church. Following Mass, Bishop Fellhauer blessed the church's new stained glass windows, the new pre-



sider chairs, the new sound system, a storage shed and a new bar-b-cue preparation building. The blessing was followed with a country-sausage dinner, Vacation Bible School program and accordion music played by Edmund "Zeke" Zissa of Shiner and a friend of Father Frank's, JuDee Merck of Chicago. All of the new additions were made available by generous contributions from parishioners.

The stained glass windows have been a parish project for the past five years. The windows were designed and constructed by parishioner Lethie Albrecht. Ray Beth Sills of Nursery, Texas, crafted the circular liturgical symbols used in the larger windows. Alvin Kolodziejcyk Jr. and his

team of workers rebuilt and reinstalled all of the original wooden sashes. Many other parishioners helped with this project, most notably Ronnie Albrecht, Billy and Missy Albrecht, Kelly Fulbright, Lucy Ohrt, Verena Albrecht, Janice Ohrt, Frank Dworaczyk and Victor Warwas.

Sts. Peter & Paul Parish, founded as a German parish in 1859, was erected on land donated by Peter Bluntzer. The first church building was erected in 1859 and dedicated in 1860. That church was replaced with a newer church in 1880. When a hurricane damaged this church, a third one replaced it. Then in 1939 fire destroyed the church and rectory. The current church and rectory were built and dedicated later that same year.

When the current church was designed, the style of the windows, narrow and tall with arched tops, was to accommodate the vision the parishioners had of the future, that one day the windows would be fitted with proper stained glass. So on the feast day of Sts. Peter & Paul in 2008, 69 years later, the dream of the parish became a reality with the dedication by Bishop Fellhauer and its pastor, Father Lenz.



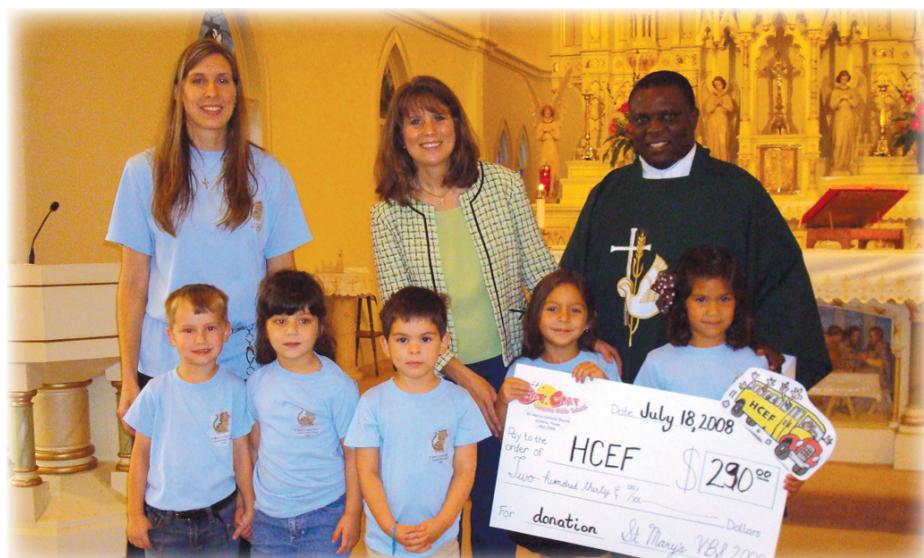
Ray Beth Sills and Lethie Albrecht (center, l. to r.) stand with Father Frank Lenz and Bishop David Fellhauer in front of the Holy Trinity and Descending Dove stained glass window following blessings at Sts. Peter & Paul in Meyersville June 29. Other windows pictured (from left) include Resurrection Cross and Lillies, Paschal Lamb, and a tall window with Marian symbol.



HOSTYN VBS EXPLORES RAINFOREST ADVENTURES—The Queen of the Holy Rosary Church at Hostyn held their second Summer Vacation Bible School; it was titled Rainforest Adventure. Young people from Pre-K to sixth grade were explorers and the older youth were their guides and helped the adult guides with the activities. Everyday at Rainforest Adventure each participant heard a Bible story that highlighted how we can live each and every day as we care for what God has so generously given us. Each day the explorers learned a Bible verse and the day's theme. The themes included "We Share," "We Give," "We Grow," "We Love" and "We Praise." To reinforce these ideas, the explorers participated in storytelling, music, crafts and games. In the photograph are many of the explorers who participated in the everyday adventures.



KJZT SUPPORTS HOSPICE OF VICTORIA—The Catholic Family Fraternal of Texas — KJZT adopted a statewide fraternal project, recognizing each of the 74 2007 Diamond Status Societies. Each society received \$100 to donate to a community project of their choice and the society added \$400 more. The purpose behind the fraternal project is to promote community fellowship. Assumption Society No. 101 in Victoria donated their money to Hospice of South Texas. Making the presentation was l-r, Carolyn Nevrud, Evelyn Dierlam presenting a check for \$500 to Terry Robinson, executive director for Hospice; Rosie Olovsky and Irene Brosch. Each year societies of the KJZT focus on participating in work, parish and community projects throughout the state. During 2007, fraternal members donated 258,370 volunteer hours and participated in 12,130 events assisting others, working to make parishes and communities stronger and more viable.



VBS RAISES MONEY FOR HOLY LAND CHILDREN'S FIELDTRIP—St. Mary's Church in Victoria held their Cat. Chat Vacation Bible School, "Cool Kingdom Party – Mary Leads Me Closer to Jesus," July 14 – 18. The church hall was decorated to look and feel like the Holy Land in Jesus' time. As a fund-raiser, the children raised money for the Journey to Bethlehem program for the Holy Land Christian Ecumenical Foundation (HCEF). The Journey to Bethlehem provides a fieldtrip for 1,000 Christian children in the Holy Land to visit the birthplace of Christ during Christmas. Few children in the Holy Land are able to travel to the holy sites in the Holy Land because of travel restrictions put on Palestinians (Christians and Muslims). The children raised \$290 and an anonymous donor paid the difference of \$110 to reach the goal of \$400 to sponsor a bus for next year's Journey to Bethlehem. Above, Marie Immenhauser, director of the VBS, and a few of the VBS children present a check to Cynthia Brewer, the chairman for HCEF's Holy Land Support Network. Father Tony, just recently assigned to St. Mary's, celebrated the VBS closing Mass. To learn more about HCEF, go to www.hcef.org or <http://gifts.hcef.org>.



Father Peter Yeboah-Amanfo, front center, parochial vicar of St. Rose Parish in Schulenburg, celebrates his 25th anniversary to the priesthood with Bishop David Fellhauer, back center; St. Rose's pastor, Father Timothy Kosler, second from right in middle row; his friend, Deacon Michael Rauen of Corpus Christi, at Father Peter's right; and many priests from his homeland, Ghana. *Photo By Darrell Vyjala, Schulenburg Sticker Newspaper*

Rev. Peter Yeboah-Amanfo of St. Rose Parish celebrates 25th anniversary

SCHULENBURG—The 25th anniversary of priestly ordination of the Rev. Peter Yeboah-Amanfo was celebrated with a Mass Saturday morning at St. Rose of Lima Catholic Church in Schulenburg.

Special guests present were Deacon Michael Rauen of Corpus Christi and the Most Rev. David Fellhauer, bishop of the Diocese of Victoria. Also present were several priests from the diocese, including many from Ghana, West Africa - Father Peter's homeland. Priests attending were the Rev. Gabriel Oduro-Tawiah, the Rev. Raphael Baidoo, the Rev. Daniel Aboagye-Danso, the Rev. Anthony

Boateng-Mensah, the Rev. Gabriel Bentil, the Rev. Charles Dwomoh, the Rev. Joseph Vrana, the Rev. Gabriel Maison, the Rev. Timothy Kosler and the Rev. Johnson Owusu-Boateng.

Father Peter was ordained on July 10, 1983, in Ghana. He came to America in 2004 on sabbatical leave. Deacon Rauen befriended Father Peter and was instrumental in helping him adjust to life in America while serving St. Paul's Parish in Corpus Christi. Father Peter went on to serve in the Diocese of Victoria at Bay City, Yoakum, Nada, and New Taiton and now serves as parochial vicar at St. Rose.

Pray For Peace On Earth



2008 ROCKY MOUNTAIN HIGH RETREAT—Forty young people and 14 staff members from throughout the Diocese of Victoria attended the nine-day Rocky Mountain High retreat at Sonlight Christian Camp in Pagosa Springs, Colorado, July 5 – 13. Their t-shirts say “2,500 miles, 48 hours on a bus, 9 sleep-deprived nights, 0 bear sightings – 1 Life-Changing Experience – Rocky Mountain High 2008”



Catholic By Grace

By Denise E. Bossert



Our Lady

About a year ago, my husband and I were in Orlando, Florida, on a Disney vacation. After depositing the luggage on the nearest bed and turning on the room's air conditioner, I opened the hotel phone book and started looking for a Catholic Church. "The nearest parish is Queen of the Universe," I told my husband and began jotting down Mass hours. "Queen of the Universe, huh? That's a serious title," my husband responded with a laugh. I wasn't sure how to go about defending the title to my (then) non-Catholic husband, though I had no trouble believing it was true. I realized I had some more research to do.

This last year has been a crash course in Marian devotion. Like the conversion itself, I approached this part of my journey by reading my way through a stack of books. I'd already read Dr. Scott Hahn's "Hail, Holy Queen." The former Presbyterian minister spoke my language, decoding (for this former Presbyterian-Baptist-United Methodist-Wesleyan) the basic fundamentals of Church teaching on Mary.

Then, a friend sent me a care package. One book was absolutely lovely; the other book was absolutely overwhelming.

"Reed of God" by Caryll Houselander was a delight. Her casual writing style helped me to think of Mary as a real

mother, alive and actively engaged in my faith journey. "True Devotion" to Mary was a spiritual culture shock. I think the only reason I was able to give St. Louis de Montfort the benefit of the doubt (in his approach to offering everything to Jesus through Mary) is because I knew that our beloved John Paul II had embraced this devotion.

The most difficult part was in learning how to say, "Mary, I give everything to you, and I trust that you will make it a good and perfect gift for your Son." What, then, do I have to offer when I am called to stand before the Lord of all creation and give an accounting for my life? Will I be standing there empty-handed, I wondered.

But then I remembered the three Magi who offered their gifts of gold, and frankincense, and myrrh. I could see them in my mind, placing the gifts at Our Lady's feet, knowing full-well that she would take those gifts and offer them to her Son at the right moment for the right purpose.

If the Magi could entrust their gifts to the mother of an infant king, then maybe I could entrust her with my gifts as well.

Now when I contemplate standing before Our Lord, I imagine falling humbly to my knees. I'm convinced that this would be the best posture anyway. The simple truth is, apart from adoration and worship, I

can't think of anything I have or anything I've done that is a worthy offering for the King of Kings. (That doesn't stop me from trying.)

Then I imagined Our Lady stepping forward as she placed my little trinkets before Our Lord, every little thing I have given to her for safe keeping. And the Lord who once put his own life in her hands will take what the Blessed Mother has to offer on my behalf. I find peace in this arrangement. Why? Because most of what I do is flawed. Regardless of my good intentions, there are always shades of ulterior motives and hidden agendas in my efforts. There is comfort in knowing that all is safe in her care. Even I am safe in her care, for she wants nothing more than to show me how to love her son more perfectly and to guide me into the safety of the Heavenly Father's arms.

This one who is the archetype of Mother Church ("Mary, the Church at the Source and Daughter Zion" by Pope Benedict XVI), this one who has become real to me and lets me walk under her mantle, she is the queen of all heaven and earth. Amazing!

We live in a democracy. No kings. No queens. Certainly no queen mothers. It's difficult for us to understand kingdom theology. Mary, Queen of the Universe? That sounds really off-the-wall crazy.

But we serve a God who has created an eternal kingdom for his faithful saints. At the right moment in time, Our Lord ascended to heaven, sat upon the throne as the King of Kings, assumed his own mother to heavenly places, established her at his side, and crowned her Queen of the Universe.

In the month of August, we have the great joy of celebrating both the Assumption and the Queenship of Mary. Let us celebrate by saying, "All for Jesus through Mary!"

Pope Benedict XVI's Prayer Intentions - AUGUST 2008

General: That the human family may learn to respect God's plan for the world and become ever more aware that Creation is God's great gift.

Mission: That the answer of the entire people of God to the common calling to holiness and mission may be promoted and fostered by means of careful discernment of charisms and constant commitment to spiritual and cultural formation.

Pope's intentions are at www.ewtn.com/faith/papalPrayer.htm

Substitute Adorers Needed

St. Mary's Adoration Chapel in Victoria is always in need of substitutes. If you are willing to be an adorer or to fill in when an adorer needs a substitute, please call Cleo Boldt at 573-6161 or St. Mary Rectory at 573-4328.

FAMILY PUZZLE CONTEST

WOMEN SAINTS

www.wordgamesforcatholics.com



AGATHA
AGNES
BERNADETTE
BLANDINA
BRIGID

CECILIA
HELEN
JOAN OF ARC
KATHERINE DREXEL
LUCY

MARTHA
MONICA
RITA
ROSE OF LIMA
TERESA

Family Puzzle Contest Winners

Debi Sevcik of Sacred Heart Parish in Hallettsville is the July Family Puzzle Contest winner and has won "Marriage – It's a God Thing" by William P. Roberts and published by *St. Anthony Messenger Press*.

Stacie Garcia (16) of Our Lady of Sorrows Parish in Victoria is the winner of the youth puzzle contest. She will receive a gift from the Incarnate Word Gift Shop.

The winner of the August contest will win a copy of "Mary in Her Own Words" by Father Gary Caster and published by Servant Books of St. Anthony Messenger Press.

If you have not won the puzzle contest within the past six months, please send completed puzzle, name, address, phone number and parish name by August 25 for a chance to win "Mary in Her Own Words." Send to: Family Contest, *The Catholic Lighthouse*, P.O. Box 4070, Victoria, TX 77903. Only youth need to include age.

"Mary, in Her Own Words" to be August puzzle contest prize

The book to be given as the prize for the August Family Puzzle Contest will be *Mary, in Her Own Words ~ The Mother of God in Scripture* by Father Gary Caster.

The Bible notes Mary's words on only four occasions.

Humanly speaking, this is not much to go on for those interested in learning about who she was and why she matters today. In the Spirit, however, the words are alive and active, revealing the mystery of salvation embodied in a young woman given over to God.

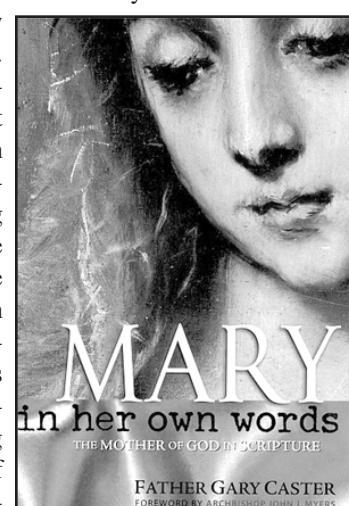
Father Caster plumbs the spiritual meaning of these few words while also revealing how they provide the biblical roots for four essential titles the church has bestowed on Mary: Mother of God, Our Lady of Victory, Mother of the Church and Mother of the Eucharist.

With great sensitivity, the author draws the reader not only into a more intimate relationship

with Mary but also into a deeper appreciation of her role in human history.

Father Caster is a priest of the Diocese of Peoria, Ill., and the assistant to Bishop Jenky. He is a member of the Fellowship of Catholic Scholars and a regular contributor to *Magnificat* magazine. He leads retreats and parish missions both nationally and internationally and has written and produced shows for EWTN.

If you have not won the puzzle contest within the past six months, please send in completed puzzle by August 25 to *The Catholic Lighthouse* for a chance to win.



The book may also be ordered through a bookstore or purchased at <http://catalog.americancatholic.org/product.aspx?prodid=T16790&pcat=303>. ISBN-10: 0-86716-790-4; price: \$10.99; SERVANT BOOKS, published by St. Anthony Messenger Press.



Why I Love the Crucifix

By Cynthia Brewer

Recently I had heard that a Catholic who visited a nondenominational church in Victoria was told by the pastor not to wear her crucifix next time she came. I was appalled when I heard this, which led me to ponder the crucifix.

Later I was meditating upon the almost life-sized crucifix in St. Mary's adoration chapel in Victoria. I thought of Christ's words, "When you do this to the least of your brothers, you do it for me."

Looking at the crucifix, I thought it has always been difficult for me to understand how we could see Jesus in the least of our brothers: the poor, the hungry, the naked, the imprisoned; Jesus is the triumphant one, not the

sick, the hungry, weak one.

It dawned upon me then that I was thinking like this pastor. It was hard for me to see Jesus in humanity at its weakest; apparently it was also hard for this pastor to see Jesus in a weak human state.

But right then and there it was revealed to me that I could see Jesus in my neighbor best through Jesus on the cross, when Christ is seen broken, weakened and wounded.

Yes, we know Christ rose from the dead, for if he hadn't, our faith would be in vain, but through the crucifix I am reminded of the price paid for my salvation and I am given the vision of Jesus in the poor, lame

and desperate. I am able to see Jesus in them; therefore, it helps me to see God daily.

FOR ...

On the Cross, Jesus is the thirsty, to whom I must offer a drink

On the Cross, Jesus is the hungry, having not eaten since his Last Supper

On the Cross, Jesus is the lame, unable to move

On the Cross, Jesus is the naked, needing to be clothed

On the Cross, Jesus is the homeless, needing a place to rest

On the Cross, Jesus is the blind, with eyes swollen shut from the blows

On the Cross, Jesus is the weak, all his strength has left like melting wax

On the Cross, Jesus is the mute, whose tongue cleaves to the roof of his mouth like baked clay

On the Cross, Jesus is the sorrowful and lonely, having been abandoned by most all

On the Cross, Jesus is the humiliated with the powerful and religious jeering at him

On the Cross, Jesus is the poor, with no earthly possessions

On the Cross, Jesus is the guilty, taking upon himself our sins

On the Cross, Jesus is the persecuted, for our sake

On the Cross, Jesus is the bruised and broken

On the Cross, Jesus is the disabled, unable to do for himself

On the Cross, Jesus is the mentally ill, being tormented to come down and free himself

On the Cross, Jesus is the stranger/foreigner, whom I must welcome

On the Cross, Jesus is the homeless, disheveled, stinky, avoided one, whom I must feed and bathe

On the Cross, Jesus is the addict, nailed and fastened by love for his people

On the Cross, Jesus is the criminal, punished with the death penalty

On the Cross, Jesus is the dead, who must be buried and revered

On the Cross, Jesus is the forgiving one

On the Cross, Jesus is the loving one

On the Cross, Jesus is the faithful one

On the Cross, Jesus is filled with hope

On the Cross, Jesus is the victorious one!

And lest we forget ... "For Jews demand signs and Greeks look for wisdom, but we proclaim Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles, but to those who are called, Jews and Gentiles alike, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. For the foolishness of God is wiser than human wisdom, and the weakness of God is stronger than human strength" (1 Cor. 1:22-25).

As far as seeing Christ in the impatient, unloving, hateful and greedy? I still have to pray that God gives me the grace to see Christ in these people too; for they are truly the most wounded children of God.

Canonization cause formally opened for Father Kapaun, Korean War hero

By Christopher Riggs
Catholic News Service

PILSEN, Kan. (CNS) — History was made in the Diocese of Wichita June 29 as nearly 700 people witnessed the formal opening of the canonization cause of Father Emil Joseph Kapaun at St. John Nepomucene Church in his hometown of Pilsen.

But Father Kapaun's brother, Eugene, said his Korean War hero brother would have been humbled about the gathering and wouldn't have said much about the formalities, just a couple of words, perhaps: "Aw, shucks."

Wichita Bishop Michael O. Jackels, who celebrated the Mass with retired Auxiliary Bishop Francis X. Roque of the U.S. Archdiocese for the Military Services and several diocesan priests, reminded those attending the Mass that miracles are now needed to complete the canonization process.

In the church's process leading to canonization, the first step is the declaration of a person's heroic virtues, after which the church gives him or her the title venerable. In general, the church must then confirm two miracles before sainthood is declared. The first miracle is needed for beatification and the second for canonization.

Father Kapaun, a priest of the Diocese of Wichita, died on May 23, 1951, in a North Korean prisoner of war camp. He was serving as a U.S. Army chaplain when he and his men were overrun during battle.

The chaplain had the chance to fall back to safety during the fighting, but instead chose to stay and was captured along with his men. As a result of his heroic



U.S. Army chaplain Father Emil Joseph Kapaun is pictured ministering to a soldier in the Korean War in this undated handout photo. The Diocese of Wichita, Kan., has formally opened his cause for sainthood. (CNS photo/courtesy Catholic Advance) (inset) Father Emil Joseph Kapaun is pictured in an undated portrait. (CNS photo from St. Louis Review)

Jackels said after those involved in the cause took an oath to faithfully fulfill their position and signed a document attesting to their promise.

There has already been considerable work completed toward Father Kapaun's cause. Archbishop Edwin F. O'Brien of Baltimore started the process in 1993 when, as head of the military archdiocese, he called for Father Kapaun to receive the title of servant of God.

Since then, both the military archdiocese and the Diocese of Wichita have been collecting information on Father Kapaun's life of virtue.

Victoria Catholic Daughter Becomes National Regent

Continued from p. 1

Regent from 1982-1986.

During the past two years Libby had been the Daughters' national regent-elect (equivalent to vice president); this position guaranteed her becoming the



CDA National Regent Libby Ramirez exits the Installation Mass with National Regent Elect Joanne Tomassi and First Vice National Regent Anne Nelson.

next national regent.

"I'm honored and excited to lead one of the largest Catholic women's organization," Libby said. "However, I would be dishonest if I didn't admit to being a little bit nervous. Leading the terrific women of this wonderful organization is a huge responsibility."

It was at a beautiful Installation Mass with candles and roses on Sunday, July 20, in Albuquerque where Libby was formally inducted into her position. Present in support of her were 27 relatives, including four of her eight sisters; her four daughters; grandchildren, in-laws, nieces, uncles and other family members.

"It meant so much to me that so many members of my (quite large!) family shared this important event with me," Libby said. "There were many dear and familiar faces and I'm so glad my family's were among them."

Sadly, one family member was absent, Libby's husband, Alfred, who passed away suddenly in January 2007 after 47 years of marriage. "Alfred was right by me every step of the way. I could not have come this

far without his love and support. I am so grateful that he was able to attend the previous Biennial Convention so that he could see me be voted National Regent-Elect. I have no doubt that he is in heaven, sharing this experience with me."

A very familiar face to Libby at the convention was Bishop David E. Fellhauer. Bishop Fellhauer traveled to Albuquerque to be at Libby's installation and speak at the closing Appreciation Banquet. Libby has asked Bishop Fellhauer to act as Catholic Daughters of the Americas' National Chaplain for the next two years, and he has accepted."

"I'm so proud of Libby," the bishop said. "Over the years I have been glad to watch her grow in her faith and within the Catholic Daughter organization. I'm so happy for Libby and honored that she has asked me to be the National Chaplain of this fine group of women."

Libby has been a Catholic Daughter since 1983 when she joined Court St. Ann #369 in Victoria. She is still a member of that court today. Since then she has held many leadership positions at the courts' local and national levels.

"Being JCDA Chairman (JCDA is the Junior Catholic Daughters of the Americas, the Catholic Daughter organization for girls ages 8-18) both in Court St. Ann and the state level were very close to my heart," Libby said. "I felt as though I was helping the young women start their faith journey. Being Texas State Regent (the Catholic Daughter position equivalent to 'governor') was also a wonderful experience that I would not have wanted to miss."

For more information about the Catholic Daughters, visit www.catholicdaughters.org, or contact National Executive Director Peggy O'Brien at 212-877-3041 or by e-mail at CDofANatl@aol.com

Pope tells Australians of God's plan for creation

Continued from p. 16

Cross through the streets of Sydney, the pope went to visit young people recovering from alcohol and drug abuse and other disadvantaged people being helped by the Alive program of Catholic Social Services.

The pope told them they were "ambassadors of hope" to their peers because they have had the courage to turn their lives around.

"The choice to abuse drugs or alcohol, to engage in criminal activity or self-harm, may have seemed at the time to offer a way out of a difficult or confusing situation," he said. "You now

know that instead of bringing life, it brings death."

The pope told them that Jesus loves them unconditionally and prayed that the Holy Spirit would be with them and would make them witnesses of the joy that comes from choosing to cherish the life God has given them.

Pope Benedict also set aside a morning to encourage ecumenical and interreligious dialogue in Australia by holding separate meetings with Christian leaders and with representatives of Australia's Jewish, Muslim, Buddhist, Hindu and Zoroastrian communities.



Hundreds of Worldwide Marriage Encounter couples line up to sign a proclamation supporting a lifetime commitment to their marriages.

Worldwide Marriage Encounter makes strong commitment

ONTARIO, Ca. — Over 850 Worldwide Marriage Encounter couples made a strong statement in Ontario, Ca., promising a lifetime commitment to their marriages. The couples signed a banner at the Ontario Convention Center, which also affirmed their belief in traditional marriage between a man and a woman.

The words "Forever Yours" were written in large print at the top of the banner. Thousands of participants at the convention squeezed into the very large convention lobby to participate in the signing.

Worldwide Marriage Encounter couples were meeting in Ontario to celebrate the 40th anniversary of this grass roots movement that has spread to 90 countries.

The event saw a turnout of about 2,000 people from all over the world, including 850 married couples, 250 children, 70 priests and several bishops from the San Diego and San Bernardino dioceses.

"This is a way for us to reinforce the permanence of our marriage vows and the sanctity of the sacrament of matrimony," said Tony and Cathy Witczak and Father Emile Frische, the United States leadership team of Worldwide Marriage Encounter. The very large five by eight foot



There is a cost for the weekend, but in the 40-year history of Worldwide Marriage Encounter, no couple has ever been turned away from attending a weekend because of lack of money. Worldwide Marriage Encounter is a non-profit organization and all donations from the weekend are used to continue offering additional weekends throughout the country and the world.

Married couples who want to learn more about making their "good marriages, better" can receive further information by contacting: Dick and Diane Baumbach at (321) 544-3440 or Dickanddiane66@bellsouth.net; Tom and Katie Watson at (303) 503-9756 or planmark@comcast.net; or Milton and Diane Rejcek at (979) 245-0323 or register@mevictoria.org.

Newspaper looks at report alleging Catholic hospitals' ethical lapses

HUNTINGTON, Ind. (CNS) — A national Catholic newspaper said a report alleging that thousands of sterilizations, and possibly some abortions, took place in 23 Texas Catholic hospitals from 2000 to 2003 has prompted Catholic hospital officials in the state to scrutinize their records and stirred intense discussions among hospital officials, directors of the facilities' parent health systems and local bishops. The newspaper, Our Sunday Visitor in Huntington, published an investigative story about the report in its July 13 edition. The report was made by a group of anonymous whistleblowers who compiled hospital diagnostic and procedure codes to determine there were 9,684 instances of allegedly unequivocal "sterilization for contraceptive purposes" from 2000 to 2003. The group, which Our Sunday Visitor said it contacted through an intermediary, also cited data indicating 39 abortions were performed at Catholic hospitals. Group members noted, however, the data could be subject to interpretation because it could include morally acceptable procedures such as surgery to remove a baby that has died in the mother's womb or emergency services for an abortion performed at another location. Andrew Rivas, executive director of the Texas Catholic Conference, the official public policy arm of the state's bishops, told Our Sunday Visitor that Texas bishops were investigating the report and seeking information from hospital administrators.

Catholic agencies focus on food, water in hurricane's wake

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Food and water were among the primary needs Catholic aid agencies were trying to meet as thousands of households remained without power and some remained under water July 25 in the wake of Hurricane Dolly. Sister Norma Pimentel, executive director of Catholic Social Services in the Brownsville Diocese, said her agency had helped more than 1,000 families who had been forced from their homes during the first 48 hours after the storm hit. "We are mobilizing the staff and volunteers to help people who don't have electricity and who have been without power for quite awhile," Sister Norma, a Missionary Sister of Jesus, told Catholic News Service as she took a short break from coordinating aid efforts. Dolly lashed the Brownsville Diocese, which encompasses Cameron, Willacy, Hidalgo and Starr counties in southernmost Texas, with 100-mph winds and up to 20 inches of rain. The center of the storm made landfall about 35 miles north of the U.S.-Mexico border. Communities in the northern part of the diocese in Willacy and northern Hidalgo

counties bore the brunt of the storm as the eye passed over the region. Although flooding was widespread throughout the region, waters receded quickly in most areas.

Iraqi prime minister, pope discuss interreligious dialogue, peace

CASTELGANDOLFO, Italy (CNS) — Iraqi Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki invited Pope Benedict XVI to visit Iraq as a way to help support peacemaking efforts in the conflict-torn nation. He said Pope Benedict "welcomed the invitation. And we hope that he will be making the visit as soon as he can." After taking part in a 20-minute, closed-door meeting with the pope at the papal summer residence south of Rome July 25, al-Maliki told reporters the pope's "visit would represent support for the efforts of love and peace in Iraq." Before meeting with the pope, al-Maliki also attended a 45-minute closed-door meeting with Cardinal Tarcisio Bertone, the Vatican secretary of state, and Archbishop Dominique Mamberti, the Vatican's chief foreign affairs official. In talks with al-Maliki, the pope and Vatican officials renewed their "condemnation of violence, which continues to strike different parts of the country almost every day without sparing the Christian communities who strongly feel

the need to have greater security," the Vatican said in a written statement. The talks focused on Iraq and the surrounding region, especially the plight of "numerous Iraqi refugees, inside and outside the country, who are in need of assistance," including help to eventually return to their homeland, the statement said.

Update on the National Czech & Slovak Museum after flood

CEDAR RAPIDS — Progress on immediate disaster recovery of the National Czech & Slovak Museum has been moving right along. At the end of the week the buildings were well on their way to being cleaned, disinfected and dried out after record flooding. They hope that by the end of this week, they may be done with that part of the recovery. The Disaster Recovery crew they are working with has been efficient and professional, which has allowed them to get their building assets in stable condition quickly.

In the main building, most windows and doors were broken or blasted out and have now been boarded up. The alarm system has been returned to operation so they are covered. They still have no electricity and even when that is reconnected, will have work to do to restore lights, heating and cooling for the long-term preservation of the building in the interim period while they decide what to do.

Czech Chapel celebration held in Nation's Capital

Continued from p. 16

lics in Diaspora, who resides in California. Concelebrating the liturgy were Fathers Joseph Hybner of Flatonia, Texas, and Jan Czudek of New York, a priest of the Czech Diocese in Diaspora. After Esterka's escape from Czechoslovakia in the 1950s, his studies for the priesthood in the United States were sponsored by

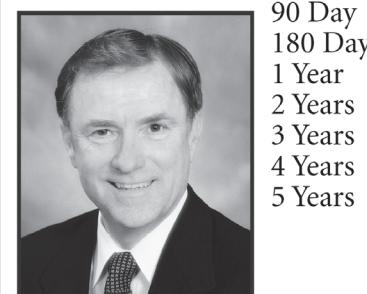
Bishop Morkovsky. After his ordination, he served the Catholic parish in Yoakum for three years as an associate pastor.

Father Joseph Hybner was accompanied by Marvin and Judith Marek of Katy, Texas, and Jerome and Janis Hrncir of St. John, Texas.

Good Neighbor. GREAT RATES.

Looking for great rates and a secure place to grow your money? Call me today for more information about a CD from State Farm Bank®.

CERTIFICATES OF DEPOSIT



Jim Steelhammer CLU ChFC
State Farm Agent
Victoria, TX 77904
Bus: 361-578-4045
www.jimsteelhammer.com



LIKE A GOOD NEIGHBOR,
STATE FARM IS THERE.®



*Annual Percentage Yields as of 08/06/08. Rates subject to change without notice. Minimum balance to open an account and obtain the stated APY is \$500. Rates apply to deposits less than \$100,000. A penalty may be imposed for a withdrawal prior to maturity. Certificates automatically renew at maturity at the then-current rate for the same term.

P051035

STATE FARM BANK • HOME OFFICE: BLOOMINGTON, ILLINOIS • statefarm.com®

08/05



Carbon-cutting Corner Drive Earth Smart: Fuel Efficient Driving

Save up to 30 percent on fuel cost and CO2 emissions by:

- 1) If you own more than one vehicle, drive the more fuel-efficient one whenever possible.
- 2) Plan your route. The best route is not always the shortest, but the one that prevents idling in traffic. Up to 1/3 of fuel is wasted through idling!
- 3) Rid your car of unnecessary weight. For every extra 100 lbs., you lose 1% fuel efficiency.
- 4) On the highway, maintain a steady speed, using cruise control. Fifty-five mph is the most fuel-efficient highway speed, saving 30% over driving at 75 mph.
- 5) Anticipate stops and slow downs, decelerating steadily to save gas. Drive between 45-55 mph when possible – the most fuel-efficient range. Turn your engine off when stopping for over 1 min., such as at railroad crossings. Restarting the car uses less fuel than leaving it idling.
- 6) Have your car serviced regularly. A tuned-up car improves fuel efficiency by as much as 30%.
- 7) Use a tire gauge to check tire pressure, and keep tires inflated to the pressure printed on them.
- 8) Purchase a more fuel-efficient vehicle. Check the fuel economy label on the window. Hybrids get the highest mpg.
- 9) Purchase the lightest vehicle possible (Every option adds weight!). A 10% weight reduction improves mileage by 7%. The design of a vehicle determines its safety more than its weight or size.

Reprinted from July 2008 issue of "River of Light," published by the Marian Center of San Antonio/A Catholic Evangelization Ministry.



Court's gun ruling: A new opening for controlling misuse of guns?

By Patricia Zapor
Catholic News Service

WASHINGTON (CNS) — With a Supreme Court ruling this term affirming a Second Amendment right for individuals to keep handguns, the focus of those who seek to limit gun violence now shifts to laws dealing with background checks, keeping track of who has access to weapons and other piecemeal restrictions.

The strategies ahead echo calls dating as far back as a 1975 statement from the U.S. bishops' Committee on Social Development and World Peace, as it was then known, calling for a national firearms policy out of pastoral concern over the human cost of gun violence.

In a 5-4 ruling June 26, the court overturned a District of Columbia law banning handguns in the city. The ruling marked the first time since 1939 that the court spoke directly on the scope of the Second Amendment.

The decision in District of Columbia v. Heller was hailed as a clear-cut victory by organizations such as the National Rifle Association and the St. Gabriel Possenti Society, which advocates for a patron saint of "handgunners."

The St. Gabriel Possenti Society, which advocates that the 19th-century Italian seminarian be designated patron of those who use handguns, noted in a statement from its founder and chairman, John M. Snyder, that all of the justices in the decision's majority are Catholic. The opinion was written by Justice Antonin Scalia and joined by Chief Justice John

Roberts and Justices Anthony Kennedy, Clarence Thomas and Samuel Alito.

He said the Heller ruling was "a definitive statement in favor of the right to use handguns for self-defense." And he took issue with how the U.S. church has supported gun controls such as regulations on the manufacture, importation and sale of handguns.

"In the United States institutional Catholic Church leaders have been on the wrong side" of the issue of the right to bear arms for self-defense, Snyder said. "Individual clergy, including bishops, also have gone off the deep end on this issue."

Since the bishops' 1975 statement, "Handgun Violence: A Threat to Life," the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops has weighed in on assorted gun-related legislation, for example, supporting a federal ban on assault weapons.

Ray Zaccaro, communications director for Rep. Carolyn McCarthy, D-N.Y., said the Heller ruling actually has his boss and other supporters of gun control laws feeling optimistic. Zaccaro and representatives of the Brady Campaign to Prevent Gun Violence cited one section of Scalia's ruling as reason for optimism about now passing various types of gun control.

"Like most rights, the right secured by the Second Amendment is not unlimited," Scalia wrote. "Although we do not undertake an exhaustive historical analysis today of the full scope of the Second Amendment, nothing in our opinion should be taken to cast doubt on long-standing prohibitions on the possession of firearms by felons and the mentally ill, or laws forbidding the carrying of firearms in sensitive places such as schools and government buildings, or laws imposing conditions and qualifications on the commercial sale of arms." Scalia also recognized "another important limitation on the right to keep and carry arms," namely the prohibition of carrying "dangerous and unusual weapons." Zaccaro said that wording could clear the path for long-pending legislation to finally move through Congress.

In message for expo, pope says all must have access to clean water

By Carol Glatz
Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Public and private sectors must work together to ensure all people, especially the poor, have access to clean, potable water, Pope Benedict XVI said in a message to an international exposition dedicated to water and sustainable development. Water is "a universal and unalienable right" for all people, and its use must take into account the "growing and perennial needs of people who live in poverty," he said. Representing the Vatican, Cardinal Renato Martino, head of the Pontifical Council for Justice and Peace, delivered the pope's message to the International Exposition on Water and Sustainable Development in Zaragoza, Spain, June 14-Sept. 14. The pope said water is "an essential and indispensable" gift from God for people to care for and use, but its protection demands clear international and national policies and its use must be guided by criteria that uphold solidarity and responsibility to the whole human family. "Inadequate access to safe drinking water affects the well-being of a huge number of people and is often the cause of disease, suffering, conflicts, poverty and even death," he said quoting the Compendium of the Social Doctrine of the Church.

Annuites• IRAs • 401(k)s • Pension Rollovers

6.00 %
A P R

**Includes Current Yield + 1.90% First Year Bonus*

Does Your Retirement Savings Plan Stack Up?

Meet the Specialists in Your Area

Marvin Hilscher, FIC
Port Lavaca
361-552-3233

Wendy Janak, FIC
Hallettsville
361-798-4311

Robert Melnar, FIC
Victoria
361-578-2957

Karen Kutac, FIC
Weimar
979-725-8919

Bert Kenna, FIC
Yoakum
361-293-9657

Albert Smaistrla, FIC
East Bernard
979-335-4473

Charles Leopold, FIC
Hallettsville
361-798-4311

Eugene Rehak
Victoria
361-575-4982

Chris Merta, FIC
Nada-Garwood
979-543-1059

Clifton Lau, FIC
Victoria
361-573-3669

Calvin Pfeil, FIC
El Campo
979-543-3868

Patrick Klozik, FIC
Shiner
361-594-8160

Case Hollub — Weimar — 979-725-1111

CATHOLIC LIFE INSURANCE
Celebrating 107 Years of Service

*Includes Current Yield + 1.90% First Year Bonus. Interest rates are subject to change & vary by plan. Rate guaranteed for 1st year. Minimum guarantee is 3.00% SS 8-08



EVENTS

The Catholic Lighthouse
Page 15 — August 2008



Special Collections

Retired and Needy Priests of the Diocese — Sept. 7 Ongoing Events

Grief Group — Have you experienced the death of a loved one? Join us in this on-going grief group on the 1st and 3rd Thursday of each month at 7:00 p.m. in the conference room at Holy Family Church, 704 Mallette Drive, Victoria. For information, please call (361) 578-7572.

Mini-Life-Chain — In Victoria every Wednesday before the 2nd Thursday of each month. Call (361) 578-2506 or (361) 578-2002 for time and intersection location.

St. Francis and St. Clare Fraternity/Secular Franciscans — For meeting dates call Mary Ann LeBlanc at (361) 575-1858.

Our Lady of the Rosary Fraternity Emerging/Secular Franciscans — meets every other Wednesday from 7:00-9:00 p.m. For dates and location call Jay Howard at (361) 574-8487.

St. Padre Pio Prayer Group meets the 2nd Saturday of each month at St. Mary Church Activity Center (audio-visual room) in Victoria for a 7:30 a.m. Mass, followed by prayer and light refreshments.

Extraordinary Form of the Roman Latin Rite (Traditional Latin Mass) — is celebrated every Sunday at Sts. Cyril and Methodius Church, Shiner at 11:00 a.m. For more info. call (361) 594-3836.

Engaged Encounter — Register as soon as you have contacted your pastor due to limited space. **It is strongly recommended that you attend an encounter weekend four to six months prior to your wedding date.** For a registration form, contact your pastor, visit the [Web site at www.victoriadiocese.org/family/ee.htm](http://www.victoriadiocese.org/family/ee.htm), or write to: Engaged Encounter, P.O. Box 4070, Victoria, Texas 77903. The weekend is held at the Spiritual Renewal Center. The dates for 2008 are: Nov. 14-16. The dates for 2009 are: Feb. 6-8; March 13-15; April 24-26; June 26-28; Sept. 11-13; and Nov. 20-22. For more info., call (361) 573-0828 ext. 30. All registrations are on a first come, first serve basis. Fee must accompany registration form.

Marriage Encounter — Marriage Encounter weekend is held at the Spiritual Renewal Center. For more information or to register, write or call Milton and Diane Rejcek, 2512 Hillcrest, Bay City, Texas 77414; (979) 245-0323; register@mevictoria.org www.mevictoria.org

Retrouvaille — The next Retrouvaille weekend will be held in Victoria Sept. 12. The word Retrouvaille means 'rediscovery.' It is a program that offers the chance to rediscover yourself, your spouse, and a loving relationship in your marriage. Tens of thousands headed for divorce have successfully saved their marriages by attending. Contact Gerd and Linda Conner (979) 543-3493 or (800) 470-2230 for more information or for other dates in Texas or to register for the Sept. 12 date, please go to www.retrouvaille.org or www.helpourmarriage.org.

The Beginning Experience — The Beginning Experience is an international ministry that helps divorced, separated and widowed individuals resolve their grief surrounding the loss of a marriage partner. For more information, go to their Web site: www.beginningexperience.org; e-mail: sanantonio@yahoocom; phone: (210) 734-2146.

Singles — Catholic Singles, 40 and over, meet every second and fourth Thursday of the month at Holy Family Education Building at 7:00 p.m. Call Georgia (361) 573-9435, or Jean at (361) 578-8760, or Sue at (361) 578-3106.

Young Adults — Between the ages of 21 and 45 meet for an evening of fellowship and good company every 1st and 3rd Thursday at Holy Family at 7:00 p.m. Call Jim Wearden at (361) 579-9737 or (361) 649-9157.

ACTS Retreats — For more information see the ACTS Web site at www.actmissions.org.

Natural Family Planning — For English or bilingual sessions of the **Sympo-Thermal Method (S-TM)** in Palacios, call Rene and Wilma Galvan at (361) 972-5030. Available for counseling and classes. For information about the Sympo-Thermal Method in the Victoria area, contact Rudy and Estella DeLos Santos (361) 894-6950. Introductory presentations on the **Creighton Model Ovulation Method** are offered in Wharton at Our Lady of Mount Carmel Church and in East Bernard at Holy Cross Catholic Church. Please contact Melissa Morse at (979) 335-7306 for more information or to register for classes. **Natural Family Planning is the only church approved form of family planning.**

Goliad — Presidio La Bahia Museum and Visitor Center — a National Historic Landmark — is the only Spanish fort remaining in the possession of the Catholic Church in North America. A tour program is available to groups. The presidio is open daily from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. and is closed on major holidays. Admission is \$3 for adults and \$1 for children under 12. The fort is handicapped accessible. For more information call (361) 645-3752 or see the Web site at www.presidiolabahia.org.

Picnics, Activities, etc. August

Praha — St. Mary Parish Picnic "Prazska Pout" Friday, Aug. 15, on the parish grounds (821 FM 1295). The day begins with Mass at 10:00 a.m. followed by a fried-chicken and Praha stew dinner until 2:00 p.m. Plates will be \$7 p/p for adults and plates-to-go and \$4 p/p for children. There will be a country store, cakewalk, games, souvenirs and more. The auction starts at 1:00 p.m. Music throughout the day and night starting at 11:00 a.m. -7:00 p.m. with Central Texas Sounds and Czech and Then Some; and from 7:00-11:00 p.m. The Czechaholics. Hamburgers available after 4:00 p.m. There will also be an extra Holy Day Mass at 5:00 p.m.

Hillje — St. Andrew Summer Festival at the parish hall (270 Andrew St., just off U.S. Hwy. 59) Aug. 17 starting with a prime-beef barbecue and homemade sausage dinner at 11:00

a.m. at \$7 p/p. There will be bulk sales in the kitchen. The indoor auction begins at 12:30 p.m. There will also be a country store, bake sale, cakewalk, games and music.

Victoria — Knights of Columbus Council 1329 chicken-barbecue fund-raiser Aug. 17 at the KC Hall. The price is \$6 per chicken. Beans and Spanish rice available for \$1 per pint. Sale starts at 8:30 a.m. Proceeds benefit council's projects.

Victoria — Catholic Daughters Court St. Ann Games Party, Aug. 18, at the KC Hall from 6:00-9:00 p.m.; admission is \$6 p/p with refreshments served. Also featured will be a bake sale of homemade items, raffle and a silent auction. For reservations call Diane Beaty at (361) 575-7042 or Patty Schaar at (361) 578-2603.

Victoria — Men's ACTS Retreat — sponsored by Holy Family Parish, Victoria, August 21-24. Spiritual Renewal Center. Cost \$150 (includes 3 nights lodging). For additional information or applications contact: Bob Oakley at (361) 576-1515 or e-mail at rfoak49@msn.com.

Cistern — Sts. Cyril and Methodius Parish will have the Annual Homecoming Picnic Aug. 24. The day starts with a trail ride leaving from the corner of Hwy. 95 and Hwy. 154 at 8:00 a.m. with the destination of Cistern. Mass will be celebrated at 9:30 a.m. followed by a meal of fried-chicken, V&V Sausage and trimmings served from 11:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. There will also be an outdoor auction, music, games and more. Something for everyone! Come and enjoy the day.

When & Where

High Hill — St. Mary Parish Picnic on the parish grounds (2833 FM 2672), Aug. 31, starting with a flag-raising ceremony at 9:30 a.m., followed by a Polka Mass at 10:00 a.m. A fried-chicken and stew lunch served at 11:00 a.m. at \$7 p/p for adults and \$4 p/p for children; drive-thru starts at 10:30 a.m. with plates at \$7 p/p. The auction begins at 1:00 p.m. Music during the day by Texas Sound Czech and Mark Halata/Texavia, and a free dance at night by Texas Dream. Booths include a cakewalk, country store, duck pond, ring toss, train ride, the famous souvenir booth and much more. Hamburgers, nachos and more available all day and a spectacular fireworks show at 10:00 p.m.

Cuero — Our Lady of Guadalupe Parish Jamaica Aug. 31 at the parish hall grounds (207 Graham). A Mexican dinner (tamales, w/chili con carne, rice, beans, salad and dessert) served from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at \$6.50 with dine-in the a/c hall. Many activities, food and refreshments throughout the day with the auction beginning at 1:00 p.m. in the parish hall. Free music and street dancing from 12:00 p.m. -11:30 p.m. with DJ Tony, DJ Magic Man, Conjunto music and Los Mismos. A volleyball tournament starts at 8:00 a.m. and a horseshoe tournament starts at 4:00 p.m. See ad on pg. 12.

Shiner — Sts. Cyril and Methodius Picnic Aug. 31 at the American Legion Park. A sausage, stew and fried-chicken dinner will be served in the a/c dining room from 10:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. with drive-thru plates-to-go available from the KC Hall (Hwy. 90A East) from 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. There will be a country store, arts & crafts, games, cake and plant wheels and much more. The big auction begins at noon. Music throughout the day and night. See ad on pg. 6.

Hallettsville — Sacred Heart Festival Aug. 31 at the KC Hall. A country-fried chicken, stew and cornbread dressing dinner served from 10:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. with dine-in or drive-thru plates-to-go available. The auction begins at 1:00 p.m. There will be games, horseshoe pitching and washer pitching contest, free dance under the outdoor pavilion-biergarten from 1:00 to 10:00 p.m. There will be hamburgers and much more in the afternoon. See ad on pg. 5.

Nada — St. Mary Parish Festival and Homecoming Aug. 31 at the community center. A barbecue-beef and sausage dinner served from 11:00 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. for dine-in or drive-thru plates-to-go available. The auction begins at 1:00 p.m. There will be music, games and entertainment throughout the day.

Vanderbilt — St. John Bosco Picnic Aug. 31 at the Trinity Family Center. A barbecue-brisket and sausage dinner will be served from 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at \$7 p/p with dine-in or plates-to-go available. The auction begins at 1:00 p.m.; games, refreshments, cakewalk, religious and craft store and much more for young and young at heart.

Upcoming Events

Washington DC — Catholic University of America and Centesimus Annus Pro Pontifice will offer the Certificate Program in Catholic Social Teaching September 7-12. The Certificate Program will provide you the opportunity to participate in an outstanding education program with speakers from among our most notable academic and religious leaders. This program is open to all in ministry, in particular your diocesan leadership of Catholic Charities, Catechesis and Social Justice. The program is also open to those in academia, business, and the professions who desire to gain an in depth knowledge of the Church's social teachings from noted scholars and theologians. Registration Online at www.capp-usa.com. Please feel free to call Dr. Karen Wright, director, with any questions: (203)-629-2727; drkaren@optonline.net.

Inez — St. Joseph Annual Parish Picnic, Sept. 14, at the community center.

Yorktown — Holy Cross Festival, Sept. 14 at the community hall. A barbecue plate with homemade sausage dinner will be served from 11:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m. There will be a live auc-

tion beginning at 12:30 p.m., music, country store, children's games, bingo, cakewalk and much more.

San Antonio — 2008 Catholic Women's Conference, "Come to Me," Sept. 19 eve. - 20 day, with nationally known speakers, the rosary, Mass, eucharistic healing service, Divine Mercy Chaplet and more to be held at St. George Maronite Center, 6070 Babcock Road, San Antonio. Speakers: Father Mary David Hoyt, FJ, brother and priest of the Congregation of St. John in Laredo — "The Yes of Mary: The Reason for Our Hope;" Ramie Samour, MTS, Archdiocese of San Antonio — "Woman: Our Dignity, Our Mystery;" Mass with San Antonio's Archbishop Jose Gomez, STD; Patty Schneier, Archdiocese of St. Louis — "Prove it, God! ... And He Did!" Dr. Patricia Cooney-Hathaway, associate professor of spirituality and systematic theology at Sacred Heart Major Seminary, Detroit — "The Role of Friendship in our Relationships with God and with Others;" Terry Polakovic, cofounder and executive director of ENDOW (Educating on the Nature and Dignity of Women), "Catholic Women: Pillars of the Past, Hope for the Future." Pre-registration: \$45 p.p. includes boxed lunch on Saturday. For more information, please go to www.pilgrimcenterofhope.org or call (210) 521-3377.

Moulton — St. Joseph Annual Parish Picnic Sept. 21 at the KC Hall. Open-air Mass at 10:00 a.m. at the city park. A kettle-fried chicken and stew dinner begins at 10:30 a.m. Music outside from 10:30 a.m.-1:00 p.m., outdoor auction and games.

Port Lavaca — Our Lady of the Gulf Festival Sept. 21 at the Bauer Community Center. A shrimp dinner will be served starting at 11:00 a.m. The auction will begin at 12:30 p.m. Food will be served throughout the day along with a variety of booths, games and children's activities.

Victoria — Knights of Columbus Council 1329 chicken-barbecue fund-raiser Sept. 21 at the KC Hall. The price is \$6 per chicken. Beans and Spanish rice available for \$1 per pint. Sale starts at 8:30 a.m. Proceeds benefit council's projects.

Victoria — Diocese of Victoria XXI Annual Conference for Catechesis and Ministry, Saturday, Sept. 27 at Holy Family Parish. Rev. Ronald Rolheiser, OMI, the president of the Oblate School of Theology in San Antonio, will be the keynote speaker. There will be many workshops on important catechetical, liturgical, spiritual and social topics. For more information or to register call the catechetical office at (361) 573-0828 ext. 24 or e-mail: calvarez@victoriadiocese.org.

Bloomington — St. Patrick Turkey Dinner Sept. 28

El Campo — St. Philip the Apostle Parish Picnic Sept. 28 at the KC Hall.

Koerth — Queen of Peace Parish Picnic Sept. 28 at the Sweet Home community center. A stew and sausage dinner will be served starting at 11:00 a.m. There will be an auction at 1:00 p.m., games, music and other entertainment all afternoon.

Meyersville — Sts. Peter and Paul Annual Festival Sept. 28 on the church grounds (11220 FM 237). The day begins with Mass at 10:15 a.m. followed by a barbecue beef-dinner until 1:00 p.m. at \$7 p/p with dine-in or plates-to-go available. The auction starts at 1:00 p.m. There will be games, country store, cakewalk and much more. The Nordheim Faculty and Friends Band will perform from 11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Victoria — Victoria County Annual Czech Heritage Festival, Sept. 28, beginning with a 9:00 a.m. Czech-English Mass at Our Lady of Victory Cathedral with Father Joseph Hybner presiding. Following Mass, there will be lots of entertainment, demonstration and more at the community center. For more information go to: www.vchhs.homestead.com.

Galena Park — Fashion Show sponsored by Knights of Peter Claver and Ladies Auxiliary Council and Court No. 139 on Sept. 28. The show will be held at Alvin D. Baggett Community Center (1302 Keene St. [near Houston]) from 1:00-4:00 p.m. with a donation of \$20. Contact: Grand Knight Caldwell Prejean at (281) 686-7023 or Grand Lady Patricia Clark at (281) 457-1142 for more information.

Victoria — Spirit Wind Ministry is pleased to present a weekend retreat led by lecturer, columnist and author Father Ronald Rolheiser, OMI, titled The Deeper Secrets Inside the Gospels — The Challenge to a More Adult Discipleship, on Oct. 3-5 at the Spiritual Renewal Center, Victoria. Father Rolheiser is currently serving as president of the Oblate School of Theology in San Antonio. His books, including *The Shattered Lantern*, *The Holy Longing* and *The Restless Heart*, are popular throughout the English-speaking world, and his weekly column is carried by more than 60 newspapers worldwide. Cost - \$150 (includes all meals and two nights lodging). For info contact: S. Oakley 361-576-1515/361-649-6391 or e-mail smoak53@msn.com.

Springtime Evangelization Catholic Family Conferences

Arlington — August 23-24 — The Gospel According to St. Paul Where: Arlington Convention Center, 1200 Ballpark Way, Arlington, Texas 76011. Speakers include: Dr. Scott Hahn, founder of The St. Paul Center of Biblical Theology; Michael Barber; Dr. Brant Pitre; Steve Ray; and a concert by Eric Genuis. Four ways to register: On the Web: www.FullnessOfTruth.org; Call toll-free 1-877-218-7884; Fax: 281-358-9170; or mail: Fullness of Truth, P.O. Box 5308, Kingwood, TX 77325-5308.

Humble — Nov. 15 and 16 — Come and discover the true Thanksgiving meal: "The Holy Sacrifice of the Mass" (near Houston). Speakers: Father Mitch Pacwa; Johnnette Benkovic; Father Stan Fortuna; and Michael Cumbie.

San Antonio — Catholic Men's Conference, March 14, 2009

Corpus Christi — March 23-24, 2009 — Why Be Catholic? When You Can Be Anything Else! Speakers Father Mitch Pacwa, Steve Ray, Tony Melendez, and more TBA.



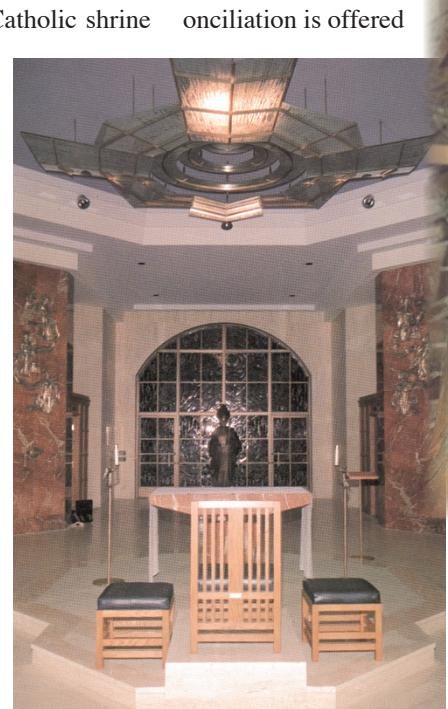
Locals go on pilgrimage

Czech Chapel celebration held in Nation's Capital

By Marvin Marek, Katy, Texas

Texans of Czech ancestry recently joined pilgrims from California, Illinois, New York, Virginia, Maryland and other states in Washington, D.C., to celebrate the 25th Anniversary of the completion and dedication of the Czech Chapel. The chapel is located in the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception. The event was celebrated on the weekend of June 7 and 8, 2008.

The idea of a national Catholic shrine to honor the patroness of the United States was first conceived in 1914 by Bishop Thomas Shahan, the fourth rector of Catholic University in the nation's capitol. The cornerstone of the shrine was laid in 1920 for what became known as the Crypt Church on the campus of Catholic University in northeast Washington, D.C. The first and lesser phase of construction was completed before the Great Depression brought funding and construction of the remainder of the proposed structure to a halt. The project was resumed during the Marian Year in 1954 and what became known as the Great Upper Church was finally completed in 1959. This basilica-shrine containing the Czech Chapel is the seventh largest church in the world.

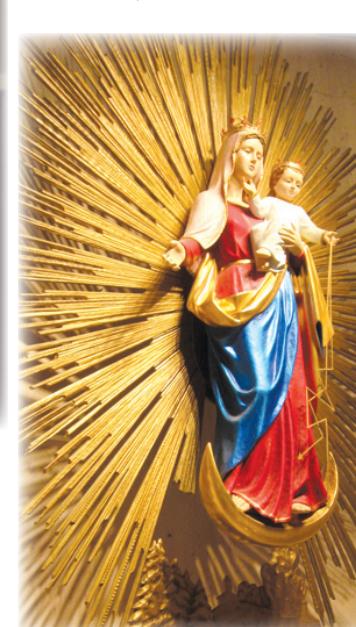


The stained glass entrance to the chapel depicts the life of St. John Neumann, particularly as the promoter of the 40 Hours Devotion in the USA. It was executed by Isabel Piszek of Los Angeles, CA.

Another 18 years passed before Czech-Americans organized a fund drive to construct a chapel to honor their ethnic heritage and patroness, Our Lady of Hostyn. It is one of about 75 chapels that now line the sides of the Crypt and Great Upper Church, and is one of the largest in the shrine. The chapel is located off the west side of the nave of the Crypt Church. It also contains four confessionals, where the rite of reconciliation is offered

daily for six hours. As a consequence, this larger chapel has a greater number of daily visitors.

John L. Morkovsky, bishop of the Galveston-Houston Diocese, headed the capital campaign to raise \$600,000 beginning in 1977. The motivation for this project was the canonization of Bishop John Neumann in that same year, a Czech-American born in south Bohemia. Neumann started the U.S. Catholic parochial school system. A large bronze life-sized statue of Neumann is located



The sculpture of Our Lady of Hostyn was the work of Maria Kanova, an émigré that lived in Houston. It is composed of carved wood and gesso.

(Source of information: The Czech National Chapel, edited by Rev. Ludvik Nemec and designed by Oldrich Holubar, Walsworth Publishing Co. Marceline, Mo.)

at the entry to the Czech Chapel. Bishop Morkovsky was recognized posthumously by Bishop Esterka for his dedication to the project.

Within five years of the conception of the idea to build a Czech chapel, construction was completed. The chapel was dedicated with much fanfare in 1983. Several thousand Czech-Americans from throughout the United States attended that event.

The 25th Anniversary event began on Saturday morning, June 7, with a rosary and the singing of a litany of the Czech saints in the Crypt Church, the same lower church where Pope Benedict XVI celebrated a Mass with the American bishops this past April. The prayer service was followed by an afternoon welcome by the shrine's director of pilgrimages, Rev. Joseph Holcomb.

A sacred concert was staged in mid-afternoon in the Crypt Church. The well known girls' choir, Jitro, from Hradec Kralove in the Czech Republic provided a wide repertoire of music. Jitro had performed at the Kennedy Center for the performing arts earlier in the week. The group had visited and performed in Houston a few years ago.

The chorale group again entertained the pilgrims at a dinner and reception at the Czech Embassy. Czech Ambassador to the USA Petr Kolar received and addressed the participants.

The main celebrant and homilist for the Sunday morning Mass was Bishop Peter Esterka, bishop of Czech Catho-

See Czech Chapel, p. 13

Pope tells Australians of God's plan for creation, especially people

By Cindy Wooden,
Catholic News Service

In the longest-lasting and longest-distance trip of his pontificate, Pope Benedict XVI spoke to Australians and to young people from around the world about God's plan for all creation, but especially for people. The pope's primary focus was on the thousands of young Catholics who came from some 170 countries to participate in the July 15-20 World Youth Day and reflect on its theme, "You Will Receive Power When the Holy Spirit Has Come Upon You, and You Will Be My Witnesses."

More than 200,000 young people attended the July 19 vigil at Royal Randwick Racecourse and, police said, some 350,000 people were at the track for the July 20 closing Mass. World Youth Day officials estimated the crowd at 400,000.

"Do not be afraid to say 'yes' to Jesus, to find your joy in doing his will, giving yourself completely to the pursuit of holiness," the pope said in his homily for the Mass, which included administering the sacrament of confirmation to 24 young people from nine countries.

The world needs the transforming power of the Holy Spirit, he said at the Mass.

"In so many of our societies, side by side with material prosperity, a spiritual desert is spreading: an interior emptiness, an unnamed fear, a quiet sense of despair," he said.

The pope told the young people that opening their hearts to Jesus and cooperating with the gifts of the Holy Spirit would transform their lives and help them bring a life-giving witness to the rest of the world.

Repeatedly during the trip, Pope Bene-

dict described the Holy Spirit as God's creative, life-giving and courage-giving force.

The pope also spoke often of the need to protect the environment and respect the gifts of God's creation, but he made it clear to the young people that human beings are God's greatest creation.

"At the heart of the marvel of creation are you and I, the human family, 'crowned with glory and honor,'" as the Psalms say, he told the young people at the July 17 World Youth Day welcoming ceremony.

Just as the natural environment can be destroyed by selfishness and exploitation, he said, so too can human life be destroyed or damaged by not recognizing human dignity and the plan God has for each person's life.

"Experience shows that turning our back on the Creator's plan provokes a disorder which has inevitable repercussions on the rest of the created order," he said.

God gave people the freedom to make choices so that they would choose truth, goodness and beauty, the pope said.

"Our hearts and minds are yearning for a vision of life where love endures, where gifts are shared, where unity is built, where freedom finds meaning in truth and where unity is found in respectful communion," he said.

The young pilgrims, including more than 15,000 from the United States, were not the only young people on the pope's mind and on his itinerary.

After watching a dramatic World Youth Day presentation of the Stations of the

See Pope tells Australians of God's plan, p. 11



Pilgrims from Spain cheer as Pope Benedict XVI names Madrid as the host city of World Youth Day 2011. He made the announcement at the close of World Youth Day in Sydney, Australia, July 20. (CNS photo/Will Burgess, Reuters)