

The Catholic Lighthouse

The Cradle of Texas Immigration

VOL. 21, NO. 5

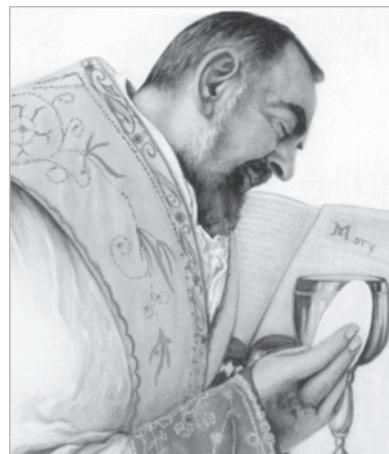
OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE DIOCESE OF VICTORIA IN TEXAS

September 2007



VICTORIA DIOCESE EXAMINED IN 2007 USCCB COMPLIANCE AUDIT—Mr. Zack Shelton, a retired, 28-year-veteran of the FBI, now employed with the Gavin Group, the independent auditing firm hired by the USCCB, meets with Bishop David E. Fellhauer of the Diocese of Victoria. The Safe Environment program of the diocesan Office of Youth and Child Protection was audited the week of August 27. The audit is to look at the level of compliance with the “Charter for the Protection of Children and Youth,” which was adopted by the USCCB in June 2002. The results of the audit will appear in the October issue of *The Catholic Lighthouse*.

In This Issue



Padre Ermelindo Di Capua, a close friend of St. Pio (pictured), will be visiting St. Mary's Parish in Victoria in October. See page 8 for details.

Articles promoting holy marriages.
See pgs. 3, 6-7.

Junior CDA State Convention story,
see pg. 9.

Twentieth Annual Conference for Catechesis and Ministry,
see pg. 20.

Bishop Fellhauer announces Diocesan Capital Campaign

By Cynthia Brewer

The official kick-off of the Diocese of Victoria’s capital campaign, “A Reflection of Faith - A Vision of Hope - A Vision of Hope - A Gift of Love,” has begun in the first group of the diocese’s 68 parishes and missions.

Bishop David E. Fellhauer announced in his letter for the capital campaign that with the celebration of the diocese’s 25th anniversary, now “can be a time to reflect on our past and plan for our future.”

“Just as the diocese began with the vision of many people who were here 25 years ago, so it ought to continue with the dedication of those of us here today,” he continued. Since the establishment of the diocese in 1982, it has grown to be a diocesan family of over 106,000 Catholics.

The bishop believes that at this defining point in the history of the diocesan church, it is called to seek new ways to preserve and strengthen the faith for the present generation and for all future generations.

After having listened to the voices of many and identifying some of the short-term and even long-term needs of the diocese, he has agreed that this is the right

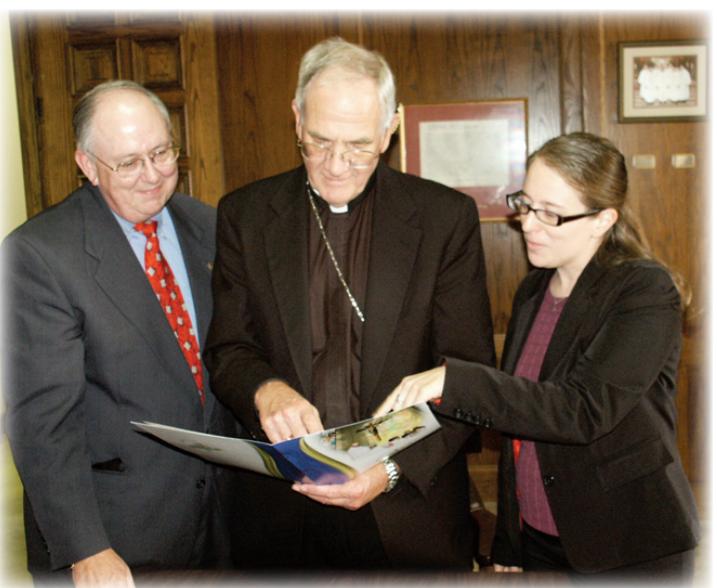
time to undertake a capital campaign.

“A Reflection of Faith - A Vision of Hope - A Gift of Love” is an effort to raise \$9,000,000 (nine million dollars), which will go to very specific needs within the diocese. The diocesan-wide endeavor will focus on the following:

- \$1,800,000 assistance for the spiritual and material needs of all the diocese’s parishes and missions;
- \$1,000,000 to increase the Priest Pension Fund for the diocese’s retired clergy;
- \$1,400,000 for financial support for Catholic schools;
- \$300,000 for

religious education and faith formation; and

- \$4,500,000 for renovation and expansion of the Spiritual Renewal Center.



Mike Brown (l.), diocesan finance officer, and Bishop David Fellhauer (c.) review the “A Reflection of Faith – A Vision of Hope – A Gift of Love” Capital Campaign brochure with Guidance in Giving, Inc. executive director, Jackie Perry. The historic campaign has officially begun.



Sister Faustina Orsak, IWBS, teaches kindergarteners at Nazareth Academy at the beginning of the 2007 school year.

Back to School!

By Cynthia Brewer

Students began returning to the Catholic schools of the Diocese of Victoria during the week of August 20. Sister Gloria Cain, superintendent of the diocesan Office of Catholic Schools was very pleased to announce that first day enrollment figures indicated an increase of 160 students in the diocese’s 15 schools, compared to last year’s figures; whereas, trends in Catholic schools across the country show a decline. Congratulations Victoria Diocese schools, and thank you parents. This is surely a blessing from God.

As one of the first assignments for students, *The Catholic Lighthouse* asked teachers to have their students finish this sentence: “When I walked through the school door on the first day of school, I thought...”

“... I like Sister Faustina (Orsak) because she’s nice to me.” – Brock, Kindergarten, Nazareth Academy, Victoria

“... I am not alone.” – Ryan, 1st grade, St. Joseph, Yoakum

“... Yeah! School is finally starting again.” – Justin, 2nd grade, St. Philip the

Apostle, El Campo

“... the classrooms were beautiful and that I would have a great year. I had wonderful teachers. We had a lot of school books to work on.” – Erin, 3rd grade, Our Lady of Victory, Victoria

“... another year, another adventure.” – Clinton, 4th grade, St. Rose of Lima, Schulenburg

“... I wondered if we were going to have homework. I wondered who would be in my class. I was wondering if my teacher was nice. I was thinking I would have to cut my hair. I was wondering if all my teachers were here. I wondered if it was all boys from last year. I wondered if we were going to church. Some of my answers came true and some did not.” – Case, 5th grade, St. Michael, Cuero

“... I felt the Light of Christ shining down on me, and I was thinking this would be the best school year.” – Colten, 8th Grade, St. Michael, Weimar

“... one down, 179 till graduation...” – Nicholas, Senior, Sacred Heart High, Hallettsville

See back to school stories, pgs. 12-13

Members of the Catholic Church in the Victoria Diocese are asked:

- to “pray” for the success of the campaign;
- to “share the goals” of this campaign with others; and
- to make a “financial sacrifice.”

This campaign does not replace the Diocesan Services Appeal which will continue each year as the operational means of the diocese: bishop’s office, business office, tribunal, office of youth and child protection, catechetical ministry, Spiritual Renewal Center, youth and young adult ministry, *The Catholic Lighthouse*, vocations, education of seminarians, infirm and needy priests fund, special projects fund, permanent diaconate and liturgical commission.

“I ask for your help and rely on your generosity to ensure the success of this endeavor,” Bishop Fellhauer stated in his letter. “To achieve our goals, I would like to ask every Catholic household to consider a gift of financial support by making a pledge that can be paid over the next five years.”

Everyone is asked to give, but not everyone is asked to give the same amount. As St. Peter writes, “... As generous distributors of God’s manifold grace, put your gifts at the service of one another, each in the measure he has received” (1 Peter 4:10).

Beginning September 10, the campaign directors from Guidance in Giving, Inc., the corporation hired by the diocese to assist in this campaign, will hold educational receptions designed to raise awareness about this project and give families the opportunity to ask questions.

The diocese has been divided into two blocks. The first block of about 26 parishes and missions will host their receptions

See Bishop Fellhauer announces, p. 4



Bishop Fellhauer's Schedule

September

9 10:15 a.m., Mass, installation of Father Frank Lenz as Pastor of Sts. Peter and Paul Church, Meyersville

2:00 p.m., IWBS Associates Consecration, Incarnate Word Convent, Victoria

13 7:30 p.m., Mass, opening Triduum honoring Our Lady of Sorrows, Our Lady of Sorrows Church, Victoria

14 1:00 p.m., Mass and blessing of Historical Marker, Holy Cross Church, Bay City

6:00 p.m., Mass, Feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross, Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre of Jerusalem, St. Mary Church, Victoria - dinner at the Victoria Country Club

15 5:00 p.m., Mass, burning of the loan note for renovations, Sacred Heart Church, Flatonia

17 Texas Bishops' meeting, Oblate Renewal Center, San Antonio

18 6:30 p.m., Knights of Columbus Council 9088, Civil Servants appreciation night, Holy Family Church, Victoria

20 6:00 p.m., Deacons' dinner hosted by Serra Club of Victoria, Holy Family Church, Victoria

21 7:30 p.m., reconciliation service, Spiritual Renewal Center, Victoria

26 3:00 p.m., Diocesan Finance Board meeting, Chancery Office

4:30 p.m., Diocesan Building Board meeting, Chancery Office

29 9:00 a.m., Conference for Catechesis and Ministry, Holy Family Church, Victoria, with closing Mass at 4:15 p.m.

30 2:00 p.m., Mass, First Profession of Vows, Sister Louise Marie Jones, Incarnate Word Convent, Victoria

October

2 Diocesan Clergy fraternity day (golfing, fishing, bowling), dinner at Knights of Columbus Hall, Shiner

4 8:00 a.m., Mass and blessings, St. Rose of Lima Church, Schulenburg

6 10:30 a.m., Mass, Deacons' Retreat, Spiritual Renewal Center, Victoria

8-11 Canon Law Society of America Convention, Costa Mesa, California

12 8:30 a.m., Catholic Schools Seminar, Knights of Columbus Hall, Hallettsville



Sister Clare Underbrink, IWBS

Incarnate Word National Reunion held in Victoria

Incarnate Word Convent in Victoria, Texas, hosted the 2007 Incarnate Word Biennial National Reunion on July 20-22. Sisters and associates, lay persons who associate themselves with a religious order and live the spirit and charism of the order, from Incarnate Word and Blessed Sacrament Congregations of Cleveland, Ohio, Corpus Christi, Houston, and Victoria, as well as the Congregations of Charity of the Incarnate Word from San Antonio and Houston, were in attendance.

Sister Clare Underbrink from the Victoria community presented the keynote address on the theme of the reunion, "Called to be Mystics and Prophets in the Church Today." Sister Clare is currently working on a double doctorate in Incarnational Spirituality at the Université Catholique de Lyon and 17th Century History at the Université Jean Moulin Lyon 3 in France. The various Incarnate Word Sisters serve in North and South America, Europe, and Africa in order to make the Name of the Incarnate Word known throughout the world.

Looking for English to Spanish Translators

The Catholic Lighthouse is looking for volunteers to translate local stories from English to Spanish for its Spanish Page (page 15). We're looking for persons with good Spanish grammar skills. Interested persons may contact Cynthia Brewer at *The Catholic Lighthouse* at (361) 573-0828, ext. 31 or cbrewer@victoriadiocese.org.

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Celebrating 100 Years of Catholicism in Bay City, Texas

BAY CITY — The celebration of the placement of a historical marker acknowledging Holy Cross Catholic Church in Bay City will be held Friday, September 14, 2007. The celebration will begin



with Mass at 1:00 p.m.; the program will continue at 2:15 with the unveiling of the historical marker honoring the memory of the faith-filled men and women who helped establish the Catholic faith in Bay City.

In 1907, Monsignor Jacob B. Sch-

Knights' convention draws record crowd; group passes resolutions

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (CNS) — The 125th annual national convention of the Knights of Columbus, Aug. 7-9 in Nashville, drew a record crowd with 2,600 Knights and their families and clergy from eight nations in attendance. On the closing day, delegates adopted resolutions on life issues, marriage, the Pledge of Allegiance, and decency in the media and the Internet, and also expressed their support for the U.S. armed forces. It was the second-largest gathering for a Knights' convention, following the 100th anniversary gathering 25 years ago, according to George Hanna, vice president of fraternal services for the Knights. Nashville Bishop David R. Choby, host bishop for the convention, said the convention provided an opportunity for church leaders to express their appreciation for the Knights' works that "benefit so many different people, especially those who face great challenges in life because of disability." The convention, which took place at the Opryland Hotel, was the result of almost seven years of planning and working.

2007 DSA MONTHLY REPORT

Since our last issue of The Lighthouse our pledged amount has increased to \$644,722 and the total paid amount is \$583,551.00, which is 46 percent of the goal needed. Thus far 4,166 out of 22,043 registered families have responded to our Bishop's Appeal. These families are giving back to God some of the blessings that God has given them. "Thank You. Your gifts are sincerely appreciated."

Christian stewardship trains us to become aware that God is the ultimate giver of the gifts we have. Giving to God should be "from the top" — not what may be left over. As we approach the fourth quarter of 2007, let us think about what gifts God has given to us. A vibrant diocese can become even more vibrant when people respond to the call of stewardship.

Jeri Joseph
DSA Coordinator

Stewardship Thought

Stewardship is not job-oriented or project-minded. It is a way of life for a lifetime.

pledged amount

\$644,722

Half
way

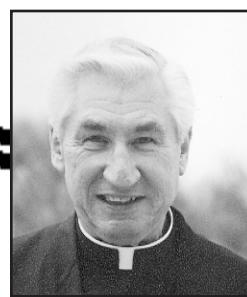
\$1,263,145

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FAITH POINT

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



Love and Marriage

Some years ago I wrote a column titled "SOSSLQs, not POSSLQs." The strange words come from Census Office bureaucratese. POSSLQs (pronounced PAH-sul-cues) stands for Persons of the Opposite Sex Sharing Living Quarters. I advocated that they be replaced by SOSSLQs (pronounced SAH-sul-cues) meaning Spouses of the Opposite Sex Sharing Living Quarters. I said that the individuals and society would be better served if the persons were married. Since then the number of people who cohabit without marriage has grown enormously.

Since 1960 according to the National Marriage Project, State of Our Unions, 2005, the number of unmarried couples in the United States increased by 1,200 percent. The proportion of out-of-wedlock births has sextupled since 1960; it has doubled since 1980. Out-of-wedlock birth rates were 5.3 percent in 1960, 10.7 percent in 1970, 18.4 percent in 1980, 28 percent in 1990, 33.2 percent in 2000, and 35.7 percent in 2004. In the United States half of young adults aged 20-40 are cohabiting instead of marrying.

Catholics who ought to know better are contributing to these statistics. They are more or less institutionalizing the immorality of fornication. Instead of being salt of the earth to preserve it from corruption they are part of the corruption.

Catholics have the capacity to indulge in immoral behavior but not to escape its effects. Unmarried families are more likely to fall apart than married ones. Three-quarters of all family breakdowns affecting young children involve unmarried parents. An estimated 88,800 children under 5 were affected by the separation of their unmarried parents in 2003 with about 31,000 children under 5 whose married parents were divorced. Harry Benson, author of the research of the Bristol Community Family Trust wrote, "The evidence is irrefutable. Unmarried parents are five times more likely to break up than married parents." Children of unmarried parents were more likely to live in de facto step-family arrangements.

Cohabiting relationships rarely lead to marriage. During the 1970s, 60 percent of cohabitating couples married. The number has since declined to 40 percent. Studies of cohabitating college couples show that men and women anticipate different results from the arrangement. Men cohabit because they find it "convenient" and overwhelmingly told counselors that they had no plans to marry their partners. The women expected to marry their partners eventually.

Cohabitation, a kind of undress rehearsal for marriage, is not a good way to test for compatibility, the excuse given for the arrangement. It turns out to be training for divorce since divorce rates for women who cohabit and then marry are 80 percent higher than those who do not first cohabit. Less than half cohabitating relationships last five years or more. Typically they last about 18 months.

Cohabiting couples object that they do

not need a "piece of paper" to legitimize their relationship. Oddly, they do insist on a piece of paper, something that is enforceable, for other contracts such as purchases of automobiles or houses or services. No one can count on cohabiting relationships—not the parties, the children, the community, or society.

Cohabiting relationships rarely lead to marriage.

Very little thought is given to the deleterious effects of cohabitation on children. The majority of children raised outside marriage experience poverty. As many as one-third of women slip below the poverty line after separation or divorce. Childhood poverty rates have remained stubbornly high in spite of efforts to combat them. Thirty-six percent of female-headed families are below the poverty line. That compares with six percent of married couples. Practically all children, 82 percent, whose families earn over \$75,000 a year live with both parents. At the other end, among families earning under \$15,000, only 20 percent of children live with both parents. Children of these families have few resources available to them. Their mothers are younger, less educated, less stable, and of course have less money. These children receive little or nothing in support or time from their fathers. Children of single-parent families are getting less of just about everything that is required for successful adulthood. Where increasingly extensive and expensive education is a necessity for jobs in our information economy, single-parent households are the least capable of providing it.

Even decades after people have declared nuclear or two-parent families optional, the research shows that they are superior to the single-parent option. Two parents are likely to have two incomes cushioning children during their development years. More money means more stability, less stress, and greater opportunity for education. Two parents are better than one the way two hands are better than one—they can do more. Even when cohabiting couples resemble married couples and remain together they experience more material hardship and poverty rates. Poverty rates for cohabiting couples are double those of married couples.

Because of the high breakup rate of cohabiting couples, many children grow up without fathers. Newark, New Jersey, is a textbook example of dysfunction that this causes. In Newark, single parents head 83 percent of families living below the poverty line. Many boys find substitute fathers in gangs that often become a lethal influence. Boys with fathers commit fewer crimes than fatherless boys. A Center for Disease Control report shows that boys from single-parent households are much more likely to have sex by age 15 than their counterparts from married homes. About half the men who did not graduate from high school have had an out-of-wedlock child compared to only 6 percent of college graduates. The National Association for Research and Therapy of Homosexuality observed, "There is no fact that has been established by social science

literature more convincing than the following: children ordinarily develop best and develop most fully when they are reared by both a mother and father and are able to experience regular family interaction with both genders' parenting techniques during their childhood."

Another doleful effect of cohabitation is social decline. Carl W. Wilson in his 1979 book, *Our Dance has Turned to Death*, noted that nations decline and eventually die when sexual immorality becomes rampant and the traditional family is discarded in favor of group sex, homosexuality, infidelity and unrestrained sexual hedonism.

Anthropologist J. D. Unwin in his 1934 book, *Sex and Culture*, chronicled the decline of 86 cultures and discovered

that no nation that rejected monogamy in marriage and pre-marital sexual chastity lasted longer than a generation after it embraced sexual hedonism.

Social research supports the conclusion that mothers and fathers provide the optimal development for children. In spite of this, secularist theorists promote devaluation of marriage and want it replaced with a variety of substitutes such as cohabitation, homosexual marriage, polygamy, and polyamory (an arrangement of many

"Unmarried parents are five times more likely to break up than married parents."

— Bristol Community Family Trust

themselves, their children and society? They possess a dignity and mission that must not be prostituted to some male's "convenience."

The childhood ditty has order exactly right: First comes love, and then comes marriage, and then comes the baby carriage.

Msgr. Thomas McLaughlin will make a presentation on this subject at the Twentieth Annual Conference for Catechesis and Ministry on September 29, 2007, at Holy Family Church in Victoria. His presentation is titled "Living Together but not with Jesus." I urge all persons interested in this subject to attend.

Increased vocations means more burgers on the grill

By Cynthia Brewer

HALLETTSVILLE—Serra Club Northwest had to add several more hamburgers to the grill as they hosted the summer 2007 Seminarian Hamburger Cookout at St. Mary's outside of Hallettsville Thursday evening, August 9, 2007.

The Diocese of Victoria felt fortunate to still have two seminarians after the ordinations of Father Gabriel Espinosa and Father Michael Rother this past June, Tommy Chen who began Theology IV at St. Mary's Seminary in Houston this fall, and Philip Brune, who began College III at Holy Trinity Seminary in Dallas.

However, the diocese was blessed to see its seminarian numbers increase from two to five over summer break. Patrick Knippenberg has returned to the diocese for seminary formation; this fall he entered Theology I at St. Mary's Seminary in Houston. Two new seminarians are Jacob Koether from Holy Cross Parish in Bay City and Griffin Brown of Holy Family in Victoria. Both Jacob and Griffin are attending Franciscan University in Steubenville, Ohio. Jacob is a sophomore and Griffin is a freshman.

One religious seminarian was also in attendance, Brother John Martin Ruiz, O.P. Brother John Martin is in the Dominican House of Studies in Washington, D.C., and will be ordained a priest in the summer of 2008. He will return to Port Lavaca to celebrate a Mass of Thanksgiving immediately after his ordination since his mother and other members of his family live in Port Lavaca.

Tommy Chen, who is scheduled to be ordained to the priesthood in 2008, was unable to attend the cookout.

The cookout event began with Mass at St. Mary's with Father John Peters, pastor of Sacred Heart and St. Mary's, presiding over the Mass and director of seminarians, Father Dan Morales, pastor of Our Lady of the Gulf, Port Lavaca, as the homilist. Dinner followed with hamburgers, all the trimmings and lots of desserts. Close to 100 people, Serrans and the seminarians and their families, attended this annual

tradition.

Father Dan thanked the Serrans for their work and constant prayers for priestly and religious vocations. "The work of praying for vocation belongs to all of us, priests and religious, Serrans and faithful everywhere. It is not that God has ceased calling young men and women to serve Him radically, but that young people are at times afraid to respond. Join us in praying for courage on the part of our young people to say 'YES' to God without fear."

St. Philip School receives \$1,000 for its programs

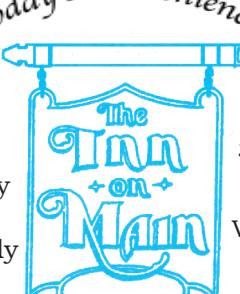
EL CAMPO—The Catholic Union of Texas (KJT), along with the KJT Society No. 84 of El Campo, made a presentation to the St. Philip Catholic School in El Campo in the amount of \$1,000.

The money was funded by the state KJT matching grant programs and funds the El Campo KJT raised from a bake sale. The money will be used to fund the school's growing computer programs.

On hand to make the presentation were State Director Elizabeth Mokry and officers of El Campo Society No. 84, President Robert Leopold, Secretary Edward Dorotik and Treasurer Leonard Leopold.

Accepting the donation on behalf of the school were Father Gary Janak, pastor, and Mike Couvillion, board president.

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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 August 29, 2007

TOTALS	
— General Seminary Burse	
Previously reported	\$75,154.00
In memory of Florence Berrera Owens by M/M Bob Bochart	25.00
Gift from the Estate of Alvin Pilcik	8,000.00
Gift from the Estate of Olga Pilcik	8,000.00
Total	\$91,179.00
— St. John the Baptist Church, St. John Burse No. 2 In Honor of Rev. Brian Crookes	
Previously reported	\$4,326.00
In memory of Hermina Rybak by Albert and Dorothy Olsovsky	10.00
In memory of Hermina Rybak by Ervin & Bernice Neskora	10.00
Total	\$4,346.00
— Rev. John C. Peters Burse No. 3	
Previously reported	\$12,935.00
Gift from Catholic Life Ins. Br #22 – Hallettsville in honor of Rev. John C. Peters	300.00
In memory of Augusta Peters and Lena Stock	25.00
Total	\$13,260.00
— Josephat R. Janak Burse	
Previously reported	\$15,028.00
In memory of Christopher Gold by Margaret Kutac	10.00
Total	\$15,038.00
— Rev. Theophil Okruhlík & Rev. Vincent Verdarama Burse	
Previously reported	\$7,995.00
In memory of Ervin Hermes by Albert and Doris Winter	25.00
In memory of Eugene Ruska by Lorraine Morris	50.00
In memory of Reynaldo Tijerina by M/M Nic Tijerina	50.00
Donation by Willie and Tina Hubenak	20.00
Donation by Jerry A. Svetlik	25.00
In memory of Paul David Michalik by Paul J. and Victoria Michalik	40.00
Donation by Parishioners of St. Ann Church, Point Comfort	107.89
Total	\$8,312.89
— Sr. M. Perpetua Hawes, IWBS Burse	
Previously reported	\$1,620.00
In honor of Jean and Bob Kubesch's 50th Wedding Anniversary and in memory of their son, John Kubesch by Mrs. J H Beam	30.00
Total	\$1,650.00

Additional Burses for donations:
 • Nicholas and Annie Grahmann Burse No. 2
 • Bishop David E. Fellhauer/Catholic Life Insurance Nada, Moulton, Hallettsville, Edna-Ganado and El Campo Branches Burse No. 2
 • Rev. Jerome J. Stryk
 • Rev. Msgr. Michael O'Shaughnessy
 • Rev. Msgr. Julius Petru Burse No. 2
 • Rev. Joe Levy
 • Rev. Marcus Valenta
 • Rev. Godfrey F. Kuratko
 • Rev. Msgr. John Hanacek
 • Catholic Family Fraternal of Texas KJZT Burse No. 5
 • Sophie Schmidt
 • Rev. Sean Donohue Burse No. 2
 • Rev. Msgr. Robert Schmidt
 • Rev. Msgr. Vaclavicek Bily
 • St. Mary Church – Praha
 • St. Mary Church – High Hill
 • Holy Rosary Church – Hostyn Burse No. 2
 • Rev. Charles Kram
 • Eddie & Olga Jurosek and Floran & Laura Frnka
 • William L. Schmidt
 • Willamena and Herman Grahmann, Sr.
 • Deceased Priests of Praha
 • Jim Vacek Burse No. 2
 • Knights of Columbus Council 3204 – Ganado
 • Rev. Joseph Hybner
 and many other seminary burses that are started

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 Burse, P.O. Box 4070,
Victoria, Texas 77903**

Bishop Fellhauer Announces Diocesan Capital Campaign

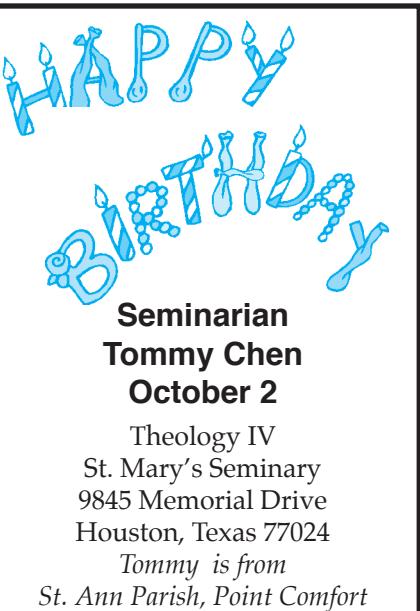
Continued from p. 1

beginning Sept. 10; whereas, the second block, the remainder of the parishes and missions, will begin hosting their receptions beginning in late October.

"We are very excited to be working with such a warm and welcoming diocese. And we look forward to meeting and informing parishioners about this important campaign," said Guidance in Giving's executive director, Jackie Perry.

Each parishioner will receive a personal invitation to attend his or her family's parish reception. Every family in the parish is encouraged to attend one of these gatherings.

Bishop Fellhauer states in the closing of his letter, "I am grateful not only to God but also to you, for all you have done and do now in support of the mission of the Diocese of Victoria as it tries to continue the work of Christ. I ask for God's blessing on each one of you as we work together for the good of our parishes and our diocese."



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.



SERRA CLUB OFFICERS INSTALLED—The Serra Club of Victoria recently installed their officers for the coming term. The installation was held at their bi-monthly meeting at the Colony Creek Country Club. John Stevenson, district governor, installed the following officers, pictured left to right: (sitting) JoAnn Jalufka, co-VP programs; Msgr. Eustace Hermes, club chaplain; Bobbe Wenzel, co-VP communications; and club President Otto Bleier; (standing) Dan Jalufka, co-VP programs; Tim Michalski, immediate past president; Joe Morris, trustee; John Stevenson, district governor; John McQuillen, treasurer; Steve Hebert, trustee; Jerome Janak, trustee; David Wearden, president elect; Dr. Mary Rea Finehout, membership; George Wenzel, co-VP communications; and Charles Bluntzer, secretary and newsletter.

Serra Club to hold orientation for new members in November

By Cynthia Brewer

If you are interested in the fostering and promotion of vocations to the priesthood and religious life, as well as fulfilling your own Christian vocation to service, then you fit the description of a Serran, and the Serra Club is looking for you.

The Victoria Serra Club is holding a membership drive from September to October 15 and will hold an orientation of new members with a Mass officiated by Bishop David E. Fellhauer at the chancery office Thursday, November 8.

The Serra Club was formed in Seattle, Wash., in 1935 by four Catholic friends who decided to meet regularly over a meal to discuss how their Christian values could be lived out in their professional lives. Within several months more friends joined them and they decided to add another focus: the encouragement of vocations to the priesthood and religious life. As their patron, they chose Padre Junipero Serra, the noted Spanish missionary.

That small group has grown into Serra International with more than 23,000 men, women and permanent deacons as mem-

Free legal services available for disaster victims

WACO, Texas — Through an agreement with the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), the American Bar Association's Young Lawyer Division and the State Bar of Texas, free legal services are available to low-income disaster victims who have insufficient resources to secure adequate legal services.

Residents seeking legal services can call 1-800-504-7030. Additional resources are also available on the State Bar's Web site: www.texasbar.com. If the legal assistance required is beyond the scope of FEMA's agreement with the American Bar Association, eligible applicants will be referred to other free local Texas legal service groups.

Legal services are available to disaster victims in a fair, nondiscriminatory and equitable way, and aid is available in both English and Spanish.

Those who suffered damage from the severe storms, flooding and tornadoes are encouraged to register with FEMA by calling 1-800-621-FEMA (3362) or 1-800-462-7585 (TTY) for those with speech or hearing impairment. Individuals may also register online at fema.gov.

bers, meeting twice monthly in more than 700 Serra clubs in 36 countries.

Serrans work to strengthen the bonds between the ministries of the laity, clergy and religious as "fellow-workers for the truth." According to the Second Vatican Council's, *Dogmatic Constitution on the Church*, Serrans, as lay men and women "are by baptism made one body with Christ and are established among the People of God. They are in their own way made sharers in the priestly, prophetic and kingly functions of Christ. They carry out their own part in the mission of the whole Christian people with respect to the Church and the world."

Serrans recognize the central importance of the priesthood and religious life for the life, vitality and continuity of the Church.

According to the Serra folder for new members, the Serran's mission is for the most part to be carried out in the everyday world of office and home, factory and family.

Priests, living as ordained ministers, are essential to the continued, embodied presence of Christ on earth, and religious brothers and sisters, by living their vows of poverty, celibacy and obedience in community, give witness to the kingdom of God and build up the one body of Christ. Serrans respond to the priests' proclaimed and lived Gospel and the religious' community by promoting vocations in the family, schools and parishes to which they belong.

The Victoria Diocese has two Serra clubs. The Serra Club of Victoria meets the first and third Fridays of each month from 11:55 a.m. to 1 p.m. while the Serra Club of Victoria Northwest (Hallettsville) meets on the first Saturday of the month for Mass and a meeting and on the third Tuesday at a local restaurant.

Interested Catholics who would like to join the Serra Club of Victoria or who may have questions, may contact Dr. Mary R. Finehout at (361) 573-3631. Serra Club members may send in names of prospective members to Dr. Finehout at 2601 North Azalea, Victoria, TX 77901.

Those interested from the Serra Club of Victoria North region may contact JoNell Janecek, membership chairman, (361) 798-3935, or Edwin Scherer, president, at (361) 798-3414.

The orientation of new Victoria Serra Club members will be Nov. 8 with Mass officiated by Bishop Fellhauer, at 6:00 p.m. followed by dinner.



Hello college, goodbye church? we hope not

Sister Margaret Mary Lavonis, CSC

For some students, going away to college is often viewed as a chance for liberation from parents and the restrictions of family life! One such parental rule that is exercised in many Catholic homes is the one about Mass attendance. I can still hear my own father and mother saying to us when we would rather stay in bed on a Sunday morning, "As long as you live in this house you will go to Mass!" Does this sound familiar?

Aside from the natural tendency many young people have to rebel against authority, living away from home, especially for the first time, presents many challenges. It can be difficult to live the faith without good support systems. In most cases we learn about our faith from our parents, teachers and other mentors. College is a prime time for a young person to begin to mature in and really own his or her faith. Attendance at Mass and practicing the faith becomes a personal responsibility. No parent or other authority figure is around to try to make one go to church.

Sometimes I have heard students and other young adults declare, "I didn't ask to be a Catholic. My parents made that decision for me. I was just a baby and not able to choose my own religion." That is true for those of us baptized as infants, but the fact still remains that we received the gift of faith through our parents and one of the tasks of young adulthood is to own that faith and mature in it. We are part of the Church whether we chose it or not!

College is a special time for intellectual growth and that should include growth in knowledge and appreciation of our Catholic faith. When I did

Sadly enough some people abandon their faith without ever actually knowing what the Church really teaches and why.

campus ministry at the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor, we had a course every semester titled "Catholic Update." The pastor always gave a plug about the program at the end of Masses the previous couple of weekends before the first session. He would challenge the people, particularly the students, by saying it seemed strange to him that so many of them were working on degrees in higher learning while they often had little more than an eighth grade education in their faith! (Sometimes less!!) That statement really made them think and we always had large classes of students sincerely seeking to know and understand more about the riches of Catholicism.

Some students have a great need to explore different faith traditions during their college years and I think that is good. However it is important to include the Catholic Church in that exploration. Sadly enough some people abandon their faith without ever actually knowing what the Church really teaches and why.

College is the prime time to deepen that knowledge and also one's relationship with Jesus. Among other things, one's

faith and friendship with Jesus and his Church provide the sustenance needed to get through college and all the challenges that it presents.

As many will discover, it is when one is away from his or her support systems that he or she needs the Church even more. And not only does the Church provide a haven during college days, it often provides a chance to discover and exercise one's gifts. Many students who get involved in campus ministry or at Newman Centers (Student Parishes) discover leadership ability that they often use throughout their lives.

My advice to college students who are serious about their faith and relationship

with God — or want to be — is to try some of the following suggestions:

First of all find someone to go to Mass with you. Most young adults hesitate to go to a Mass on their own. It is a lot different not being connected to a family or with familiar people at Sunday Mass. Establish a group of "church friends." Students have told me that they met some of their dearest friends and often their spouses while they were involved in campus ministry or at the Newman Center of their university.

Second, sign up for at least one activity that campus ministry or the center provides. Get involved in a liturgical ministry. Join a faith sharing or scripture group. Sign up for a retreat. At Michigan, students in their final year or semester of school who went on a campus retreat for the first time often said how much they regretted not participating early on. It is a great way to make good friends who share similar values.

If you are a commuter student, who does not live on a campus or goes to a school that does not have its own Catholic Center, find a parish where you can get involved. Talk to the pastor about opportunities to connect and use your abilities there. Find some other students who are also interested. Start your own sharing or service group!

Find a mentor or a spiritual companion, with whom you can express your doubts, fears, concerns, questions, etc. about the Church. This can be a priest, religious brother or sister or any good Catholic that you trust and admire. It is not good to go it alone when you are searching. A wise, listening ear is often a big help in times of confusion. Also, a friend like this can also help you grow in your faith.

Last, but certainly not least, pray each day. Give Jesus some of your quality time, even if it is only five or ten minutes a day. Share your joys and concerns. Deepen your relationship with him and ask him to help your faith grow. When it comes right down to it, it is your friendship and faithfulness to him that will sustain you throughout college and your entire life. The Church is here to support us in our efforts to be disciples.

Prayer For Vocations

Father, we pray that more young people will be generous in responding to your invitation to be priests, brothers and sisters. Teach them to follow in Jesus' footprints by bringing the light of the Holy Spirit to all people. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Serra International

Eric De Los Santos and Raquel Pulido to do mission work with NET



Two Victorians selected for National Evangelization Teams (NET)

Raquel Pulido and Eric De Los Santos were selected to join NET and participate in missionary work this coming school year from August 2007 to May 2008. Eric was selected to travel around the United States and Raquel was chosen to travel in Canada.

Raquel, who plays the guitar and sings, left on August 8 to Ottawa, Canada, to join the music ministry. Eric left to St. Paul, Minn., for training on August 23.

Raquel is the daughter of Nellie Pulido and the late Rafael Pulido. Eric is the son of Rudy and Estella De Los Santos. Raquel is a 2007 graduate of Victoria Memorial High School and Eric is a 2007 graduate from the University of Houston-Victoria.

Eric and Raquel are both very excited about being selected to serve the Lord on NET during the coming year. Both give credit to their family and their parish,

Our Lady of Sorrows (OLS), for support. Current youth director at OLS, Jose Ortega, and former youth director, Matthew Schaefer, are both NET alumni and provided many spiritual and leadership experiences for Raquel and Eric.

Each year, Catholic young adults are trained and sent out in teams across the country and Canada to share their faith with youth. Since beginning in 1981, NET has reached over 1.7 million young people through its retreats. After their year on the road, many NET alumni continue serving in the Church. More than one hundred are currently in formation for religious life or are active as ordained priests, sisters or brothers. Hundreds more are also working in lay youth ministry.

Raquel and Eric both serve their church and look forward to continuing their service upon their return. They ask that you keep them in your prayers.

Confirmed teens and adults called for new evangelization team

**By Debbie Vanelli, director
Youth and Young Adult Ministry**

DOVE Team Training for fall 2007 is scheduled for:

- September 23
- October 14
- December 1
- December 9

All trainings are from 1:00 to 5:00 p.m. at the chancery building in Victoria.

We ask that you make every effort to attend all of the training sessions.

If you would like to make a difference in the lives of young people and be a part of this new and exciting ministry, complete the application at www.victoriadiocese.org/youth/DOVE.PDF and return it to the Office of Youth Ministry. Still have questions, or need more information? Please contact Debbie Vanelli at (361) 573-0828 ext. 32 or dvanelli@victoriadiocese.org.

Theology at the Well

September 20, 2007 — Theology at the Well — (formerly Theology on Tap) — Father Bob Knippenberg will present the topic: "Revelation for Dummies" from 6:45-8:30 p.m. at Tejas Cafe in Victoria.

October 4, 2007 — Theology at the Well — Father David Berger will present the topic: "Call to Mission" from 6:45-8:30 p.m. at Tejas Cafe in Victoria.

This highly successful program is geared toward young adults, ages 21-39, married or single. Those attending will hear interesting dis-



cussions on current issues in the Church and have the opportunity to meet other Catholics while enjoying good food and drinks. For more information, please contact:

Debbie Vanelli at the Office of Youth Ministry at (361) 573-0828 ext. 32 or e-mail at dvanelli@victoriadiocese.org / JoAnn Martinez at ext. 50 or e-mail at jmartinez@victoriadiocese.org or visit our Web site at www.victoriadiocese.org/youthoffice or Jim Wearden at (361) 649-9157.



CATECHESIS



DIOCESE OF VICTORIA PASTORAL INSTITUTE Extended Program Classes

Liturgy - Rev. Ty Bazar, instructor
Tuesdays, Aug. 28 - Oct. 16, 2007,
from 7:00 - 9:15 p.m., at the Chancery
(no class Oct. 2 & 9)

Trinity - Rev. Eddie Winkler, instructor
Mondays, Sept. 3 - Oct. 15, 2007,
from 7:00 - 9:15 p.m., at Holy Family, Wharton (No class Sept. 10; 2nd class on Thursday, Sept. 20; all other classes will be on Mondays.)

There is a \$15.00 registration fee for each six-week course.
To pre-register, call 361-573-0828 or email bparkan@victoriadiocese.org.



Diocese of Victoria Library & Media Center



Visit www.victoriadiocese.org to search the library catalog or call 361-573-0828. Library hours are Monday - Friday 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Book of the Month

Here Comes Everybody! Whole Community Catechesis in the Parish What does "whole community catechesis" look like in a parish? Built upon real parish experience this book provides guidance and encouragement for any who are considering whole community catechesis.

More Books

- Families & Faith
- Faith Days! For Whole Community Faith Formation
- A Parish Plan for Family Catechesis
- Increase Our Faith: Parish Prayer Services
- Heritage of Faith: A Framework for Whole Community Catechesis

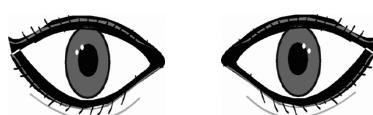
If you are not yet a Library Patron, call 361-573-0828 and receive a Patron number, which will enable you to check out videos and books throughout the year.

Video of the Month

7 Key Principles for Success in Whole Community Catechesis This video focuses on the 7 Key Principles that are the foundation for whole community catechesis. Viewers come away enlightened, inspired and galvanized.

Other Videos

- Holiness Family Style...More Family Spirituality
- Forming Adult Disciples
- Church without Borders
- Forming RCIA Sponsors
- Exploring God's Purpose for Your Life
- The Love of Jesus Made Visible



It's finally here!

Go to page 20 for the Great Unveiling!

Holy Family Parish in Victoria Sunday,
February 24, 2008.

F.Y.T.
Form Your Teams

B.U.O.C.K.
Brush Up On Church Knowledge

B.Y.O.C.T.
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Attention: Musicians of the diocese – Music Showcase Oct. 11

A Music Showcase featuring music of World Library Publications/J.S. Paluch, Co. will be held at Sacred Heart Church in Hallettsville on Thursday evening, October 11. Sacred Heart is located at 400 E. Fifth Street.

Much of the music Catholics sing at Mass comes from this publisher.

The evening begins with registration at 6:30 p.m.; the showcase will follow from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. A \$5 registration fee provides one with a musical packet worth \$50. This Music Showcase is a repeat of the one held at Ganado on Aug. 28.

For further information, please contact Cynthia Goerig, director of the Liturgical Commission, at (979) 541-3353 or Frank Luke at (361) 798-5920.



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

Jason Evert to speak in Victoria Diocese

Jason Evert, a Catholic Answers Apologist, will be a guest speaker at two churches in the Victoria Diocese this September.

He will be at Our Lady of Victory gymnasium Tuesday, Sept. 11, at 7:00 p.m. speaking on chastity with his talk titled, "Romance without Regret." He will then speak at Holy Cross Church in Bay City Wednesday, Sept. 12, at 7:00 p.m., offering a question and answer forum titled "Questions & Answers about the Catholic Faith."

Jason earned a master's degree in theology and counseling and a minor in philosophy at Franciscan University of



Jason Evert

Steubenville, Ohio. He is also the author of the books, "If You Really Loved Me," "Answering Jehovah's Witnesses" and "Pure Love" which challenges young people to embrace the virtue of chastity.

He is a frequent guest on different radio stations throughout the country and has appeared on global television programs, including EWTN's Life on the Rock, explaining and defending the Catholic faith.

By exploring the richness of our Catholic faith, the Holy Spirit can blow the dying embers of faith into a fire of love for Christ's Church. Please be sure to catch his talk at one of the churches in your area.

Public infidelity and private grace: the scourge of divorce

By Douglas W. Kmiec
Catholic News Service

Infidelity has once again raised its sad profile in the context of a promising public career.

Antonio Villaraigosa, the popular Latino mayor of Los Angeles, has admitted to an extramarital affair with Mirthala Salinas, a prominent news figure in Spanish-language television. Not surprisingly, there is some harm to the mayor's public career -- with his important commitment to public issues now often being distracted by questions regarding his personal life.

What must not be understated, however, is that there is an even greater cost. The mayor and his wife of 20 years are divorcing. Divorce, Pope John Paul II reminded us, involves the death of a small civilization. And so it is with the Villaraigosas, where husband and father has already separated from wife, son and daughter.

Divorce had been allowed by Moses, Jesus told the Pharisees, but only by reason of the "hardness of man's heart."

A faith which understands marriage to be defined by God himself, who ordained that "the two of them become one body" (Gn 2:24), logically insisted, in Jesus' words, upon the radical proposition that what "God has joined together, no human being must separate" (Mt 19:6).

Does human law, then, do enough to discourage divorce?

No. In fact, the law facilitates it. It should come as no surprise that the concept of "no-fault" divorce, for example, which swept through the United States and around the world in the 1960s, was pioneered by those who denied God's existence.

No-fault, or divorce on demand, made its initial appearance in Russia following the Communist revolution of 1917. In banishing the divine, the Soviets eliminated religious marriage and made its beginning, middle and end solely the province of the secular state.

Fifty some years later, divorce by the unilateral action of a spouse followed in America, and while no-fault divorce eliminated some previous artificial pleading in the legal process, it also had profound cultural costs.

Studies reveal divorce to be "a long-term crisis" which inflicts permanent psychological damage on the children of divorce who themselves are then more likely to suffer failed marriages. Huge

numbers of young people are staying single, which poses its own harm, as seen by the dramatic drop in procreation throughout Europe.

To counteract this, some states promote deeper marital preparation and insist upon greater efforts toward reconciliation. Might divorce also be discouraged by making third parties liable for actions that harm marriages?

When adultery leads to divorce, awards of maintenance and child support can be thought to "punish" the wrongdoing spouse for illicit behavior. But what about an interfering third party like Salinas? The common law provided a civil action to a wronged husband whenever a third party intentionally enticed a wife to leave her home.

And in the late 19th century, the tort of alienation of affections was recognized where facts demonstrated that the marriage was a happy one; love and affection was destroyed, and the wrongful or malicious acts of a third party resulted in the loss of love and affection.

Is it farfetched to reinvigorate such causes of action in the 21st century? Maybe not. A number of states such as North Carolina, Hawaii, Illinois, Mississippi, New Hampshire, New Mexico, South Dakota and Utah, for example, allow them.

As the North Carolina Assembly legislatively explained: "This tort is designed to protect marriages from third party intrusion and to create accountability and penalties for third parties who pursue a relationship with a married person."

Of course, litigating the harm of a lost marriage is a second-best alternative; preserving marriage is the first.

In the words of Pope John Paul II, "Do not be afraid of the risks! God's strength is always far more powerful than your difficulties! Immeasurably greater than the evil at work in the world is the power of the sacrament of reconciliation" -- indeed, it is only that grace which permits an injured spouse to forgive the unforgivable if forgiveness is genuinely sought."

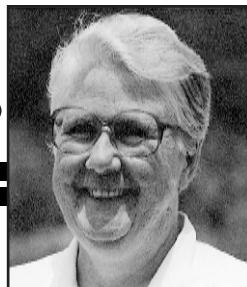
Assembly calls women religious to be bold in determining direction

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (CNS) -- Women religious gathered at the Aug. 1-4 assembly of the Leadership Conference of Women Religious were called to be bold in analyzing and determining the direction of religious life. During the assembly in Kansas City, the 750 leaders of U.S. religious communities in attendance approved a resolution promoting debt cancellation in developing countries, especially through participation in a 40-day "rolling fast" in September and October promoted by the Jubilee USA Network.



SISTERLY THOUGHTS

By Sister Mildred Truchard, IWBS



Have Fun Knowing Your Faith!

I'm really excited about a special first-time event that will occur next February. You may have read elsewhere in this issue of the Lighthouse about the Catholic Knowledge Bowl that the diocese is sponsoring. This event is open to adults throughout the diocese. (Sorry, students, you cannot participate at this time, but we need some good study coaches and supporters to help your favorite team prepare.) I'm hoping that every parish will have one or more (or many teams) preparing and participating in this exciting competition. Even though the most knowledgeable team(s) will claim their prizes, everyone who has expanded his or her Catholic knowledge will be a winner!

At this time I don't plan to spend time telling you the details since you can read about them elsewhere. What I do want to share is my excitement about all of us increasing (or reviewing and updating) our knowledge of our Catholic faith. While knowledge about our faith is only the first step toward becoming the person we were created and baptized to be, it is a step in that direction! My prayer is that,

as we become more grounded in knowledge, we will be inspired to integrate this knowledge into our daily lives. Our prayer lives will be strengthened by a deeper understanding of God and his Will for each of us. The Word of God will echo in our lives more eloquently with an increased insight as a result of knowing more about the Scriptures. The liturgy and sacraments will have enhanced meaning for each of us - as individuals and as members of the worshiping community - as we understand more fully what is transpiring in our midst.

Therefore, as we continue to know more about our faith and the object of our faith, Jesus, my hope is that we will be developing a more intimate relationship with him and our fellow created and redeemed human beings. This relationship with Jesus would lead to greater participation in prayer, the sacraments — events through which we experience the love and power of God that flows from Christ's Passion, death and Resurrection — and good works. What a wonderful result that would be! So, let us begin!

"For Your Marriage" Web site offers resources for couples of all faiths

WASHINGTON — Putting a modern image on traditional values, the U.S. Catholic bishops recently launched a Web site designed to promote healthy marriages. The Web site, which is located on the Internet at www.foryourmarriage.org, can aid couples of all faiths. With everything from daily marriage tips to statistics on divorce and cohabitation, this site is an up-to-date resource.

The *For Your Marriage* Web site includes resources for everyone, including engaged and married couples, and facts about Catholic marriage. The Web site is designed for a wide and varied audience and is part of a larger campaign, which includes television public service messages that can be viewed on the site. In just one month, the site has received nearly 500,000 hits with the average visitor viewing 6-12 pages.

The site offers daily marriage tips that suggest simple ways to cultivate a healthy marriage. A link on the home page also gives couples a tool to find Catholic

marriage information locally. A monthly marriage quiz can serve as a conversation starter on sensitive issues.

Information on conflict resolution, communication, and financial concerns is posted throughout the Web site. Topics such as intimacy and parenting also are featured. Visitors also can view stories and advice from married couples.

The contemporary design of the *For Your Marriage* Web site has versatility and accessibility to enable the Internet to be a medium for evangelization and education. The *For Your Marriage* Web site is part of a multi-year National Pastoral Initiative for Marriage. The simple exhortation to do something for your marriage is the practical advice promoted by the Web site and the entire campaign.

The "For Your Marriage" Web site, and the TV and radio spots are funded by the U.S. bishops' Catholic Communication Campaign, which collects money in parishes nationwide to support church media efforts.

Holy Cross Catholic Church
Bay City, Texas

Hall Festival & Turkey Dinner

Sunday, November 4
Knights of Columbus Hall • Hamman Road • Bay City

Turkey Dinner Served
11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. - Dine-in or Drive-up at \$7 p/p

Outdoor Mass at 9:30 am.
Raffle Drawings
Polka Band

Auction - 12:30 p.m.
Country Store
Children's Games & More!

Marriage Encounter story offers hope

A letter from the past...our personal Worldwide Marriage Encounter story...

By Joleyn and Tracy Larson

Seven years we had shared between us, and it seemed our marriage was slowly going down hill. Three small boys and a baby girl on the way, and we found ourselves drifting apart. Life seemed to have taken its toll on us. Work, school, and finances — the fun was gone and so were our smiles. We were lost in the hustle and bustle of this so called "real world." We talked less, we cuddled less and we laughed less and the things we did get around to doing didn't involve spending quality time with each other.

Late nights at the office, long hours spent with friends — time tearing us apart. Often times, it was the little things that we stopped talking about that really added up to the big misunderstandings.

Resentment and anger stored deep inside our hearts as our communication completely shut down. We didn't "click" anymore.

We saw an announcement in our church bulletin about a Worldwide Marriage Encounter in Richardson, North Dakota. I thought we should do that. The insert said it was a weekend to encourage good marriages to find that "spark" again, not to counsel troubled couples. Was our marriage "good" enough to attend? I wasn't so sure.

After reading the announcement three more times I made the call and registered for the March weekend. We needed to do something about our sinking relationship and maybe this would help. It was a three-month wait for us to get on the next available weekend and it was the longest three months of our lives. Our weekend arrived; we packed our things, kissed our four children goodbye, hugged Nanna and Bampa and then drove to Richardson in complete silence.

We barely looked at each other as we unpacked in our designated room. More silence and then we headed out to the hall to wait. My feelings were up and down all night as the presentations began. I remember sitting through the first couple of talks, thinking, we aren't supposed to be here at this one — this weekend is for only good marriages.

By Saturday morning my uneasiness was soon replaced with determination. On our weekend we learned how to deal with

conflict, not avoid it. We did something that we never really knew how to do together — and that was to communicate.

We learned to listen with our hearts and not our heads. We learned about our personality styles and how completely opposite we were — no wonder it was hard to click. We stopped trying to change each other and we became more forgiving and accepting of our individual personalities. Our smiles came back, and we started to laugh again. We were able to enjoy the time we had. Our love was back!

Our weekend was beautiful; it was life changing, and it was part of God's plan. We renewed our vows that weekend, celebrating our 8th wedding anniversary and we made a promise to love each other forever.

After the Worldwide Marriage Encounter weekend, getting back into the real world was not easy. Issues were still there, but we were given "tools" and an opportunity to start changing some things and we did. The rebuilding has taken time and we still have to work on things daily, but the love, the trust, the happiness that has been rebuilt is even stronger than before. Our Marriage Encounter Weekend was a turning point for our marriage; it breathed new life into our hearts.

Some after thoughts ... almost four years later. We'll be the first to tell you that marriage is not an easy road. It's a day-to-day journey that we must choose to travel together. We still struggle, we have our fights, but each morning we have a choice and we try to choose love.

Tracy and I have been part of the World Wide Marriage Encounter ministry ever since our first weekend. We attend weekends yearly and we want to be a breath-of-fresh air to our family and friends amidst today's hectic world. We hope to share the love we received on our weekend with those we meet by sharing our personal story and encourage you to attend your own Worldwide Marriage Encounter weekend.

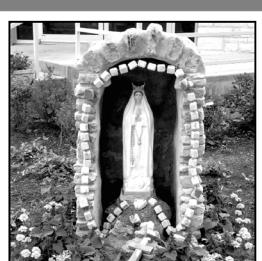
The next Marriage Encounter Weekend is scheduled for Nov. 9-11, 2007, at the Zephyr Baptist Encampment in Corpus Christi Diocese. An ME Weekend at the Spiritual Renewal Center in Victoria might be scheduled in October, please call Milton or Diane Rejcek at (979) 245-0323 or e-mail: register@mevictoria.org. Web site at www.mevictoria.org/.

Queen of the
Holy Rosary Parish
Hostyn, Texas
6 Miles South of La Grange off Highway 77

FESTIVAL

SUNDAY, OCT. 7, 2007

POLKA MASS at 10:00 a.m.
Hostyn Style Dinner at 11:00 am
FRIED CHICKEN, SAUSAGE
with All the Trimmings
ADULTS: \$7.00
CHILDREN: \$3.50
(Children under 12)
Drive-thru serving line for
PLATES TO GO - \$7.00



Cake Walk • Country Store • Bingo
Special Drawing • Plant Wheel • Games
Hamburgers • Raffle • Balloon Artist

COUNTRY AUCTION STARTS AT 1:00 PM

Music from 11:00 am to 3:00 pm by:
DONNIE WAVRA & His Orchestra

Battle Dance 3:00 pm to 9:00 pm with Music by:
DUJKA BROS. & RED RAVENS



Victoria's Padre Pio Prayer Group expects visit from good friend of saint

By Andre Chappa and Cynthia Brewer

The Padre Pio Prayer Group of Victoria is looking forward to a unique experience this October. They will receive a visit from Padre Pio's close friend and religious companion, Padre Ermilindo Di Capua. He is a priest from San Giovanni Rotondo, Italy, where Padre Pio, now St. Pio, ministered and is buried. Padre Ermilindo spent the last three years of Padre Pio's life with him.

Padre Ermilindo will visit St. Mary's Parish on Saturday, Oct. 13, to meet with the prayer group and celebrate the Eucharist.

The Victoria Padre Pio Prayer Group invites all to St. Mary's Church Saturday morning to meet Padre Ermilindo and receive his message and special blessings. The morning will begin with a rosary at 8:30 a.m. followed by Mass at 9:00 a.m. After the Mass, a reception will be held at the parish annex building.

Padre Pio Prayer Groups were started in response to a wish by Pope Pius XII who was the first to advocate the use of prayer groups during his pontificate. "We need strong groups of adults and youth, who, keeping themselves closely united with Christ, gather at least once a month for the Bread of Life and encourage others to do the same" (February 17, 1942).

When Padre Pio of Pietrelcina, Italy, first learned of the request put forth by Pope Pius XII in the Vatican newspaper, he immediately decided to move into action saying, "Let us start doing something. Let us roll up our sleeves. Let us be the first to respond to the appeal launched by our Supreme Pontiff." In an attempt to be obedient to the pontificate, he set out on a mission to create prayer groups for the intentions of the Holy Father and for the Casa Sollievo Della Sofferenza (House for the Relief of Suffering).

In a document that came from the

Padre Ermilindo Di Capua blesses a pilgrim with Padre Pio's relics at San Giovanni Rotondo, Italy. The pilgrim is from Betty Urbanovsky's 2002 pilgrimage to Rome and Medjugorje, celebrating the canonization of Padre Pio. Padre Ermilindo will be at St. Mary Parish in Victoria Saturday, October 13, visiting the only Padre Pio Prayer Group in Texas.

Casa Sollievo Della Sofferenza in 1949 he describes how the prayer groups were to be set up, "They gather once or twice monthly; they assist at Mass, receive the Sacraments, and recite the rosary together...We would be very happy if these groups multiplied, possibly under the spiritual direction of a priest." From then on, prayer groups began to spring up all over the world with the permission of local bishops and were to be led by priests in the individual churches within the diocese.

This love for the wishes of Pope Pius XII has since spread to Victoria where a group of people meets to unite their prayers and intentions with the intentions of the Holy Father through the wishes of St. Pio. The Padre Pio Prayer Group of Victoria is the only Padre Pio Prayer Group in Texas that is officially sanctioned by the Vatican. The group meets on the second Saturday of each month at the St. Mary's Church hall and begins promptly at 7:30 a.m.

Rosary For Life Sunday is Oct. 14

The newly formed Saint Michael the Archangel Organization, a non-profit corporation, will be holding its first annual Rosary for Life Sunday, a pro-life prayer event designed to have people throughout the United States pray the rosary at Catholic parishes before or after Masses on October 14, 2007. The intention for this Rosary is for the protection of unborn babies. Currently, people are needed as volunteers to coordinate a Rosary For Life Sunday at the particular parish to which they belong. Information explaining how to coordinate a Rosary for Life Sunday is available at: www.SaintMichaelTheArchangelOrganization.org or can be received by mailing a self-addressed, stamped envelope to: Saint Michael the Archangel Organization; P.O. Box 41257; Memphis, Tennessee 38174.

St. Roch Parish Picnic

Sunday, October 7 • Mentz, Texas

(North of I-10 just east of Columbus)

Under The New Pavilion!!

Holy Mass at 10:00 a.m.

**BBQ Beef, Pork Sausage meal beginning at 11:00 a.m.
for \$7.50 p/p adults • \$3.50 children**

**Auction • Bingo (a/c hall) • Country Store • Silent Auction • Kids' Activities • Live Music by Texas Legacy
Czech Band • 1:00-7:00 p.m.
Raffle prizes include: travel package, bed & breakfast stay, fishing trip and more**

Prison ministry conference targets change in Texas prisons

By Cynthia Brewer

Those answering Christ's call to "Visit the Imprisoned," one of the seven Corporal Works of Mercy, will be interested in the Texas Catholic Correctional Ministry's Conference, *Agents for Change – Community Response*, to be held in Austin Friday and Saturday, October 12 and 13.

The conference will focus on the overall picture of Criminal Justice in Texas and pinpoint specific areas to further develop the State Catholic Action Plan, which was approved by the Bishops of Texas April 3, 2006.

The recent Legislative session will be regarded as an historic session for the Criminal Justice system in Texas. Probation, parole and the institutional division were affected. The changes were designed to reduce the number of persons going into the prison system and to treat those in the system.

In addition, the director of Correctional Institutions has asked the Diocese of Austin to provide a training program to assist correctional officers to become agents of change for those whom they supervise in the prisons. The State Catholic Action Plan gives guidance to parishes and archdioceses on steps to take in support of change in the criminal justice system.

Special speakers/topics include keynote speaker, Jerry Madden, House of Representatives Corrections Committee chair; Travis County D.A., Ronnie Earle: *Changing the Focus of Criminal Justice*; Dallas County D.A., Craig Watkins: *Efforts to Improve the System*; Texas Bishop: *The Church's Objectives in Criminal*

Justice Reform; TDCJ Regional Director Bruce Zeller and Warden Pam Baggett: *Working with Prisons to Make Improvements and Effect Behavioral Change*; El Paso Community Intervention Center facility director, Luis Montes: *Success on the Outside*; and *Testimonies of Ex-offenders*.

Workshops include: *Developing Parish Ministry to the Incarcerated*; *Forming Parish Social Ministry Toward Families of Offenders and Ex-offenders in the Community*; *Juvenile Ministry TYC, Juvenile Probation, Neighborhood Conference Committee*; *Probation and Parole*; *Archdiocese/Diocesan Level Actions in Support of Diocesan Efforts*; and *Spanish Language Workshop on Criminal Justice*.

All involved in criminal justice are invited. Pastors are asked to send their parish criminal justice coordinators for more instructions on implementing the Action Plan.

To learn more about the State Catholic Action Plan, please go to: www.austindioce.org/department_home.php?id=7.

Confirmed registration fee is \$65 p.p., which includes a dinner, continental breakfast and a lunch. Hotel rates of \$89 per room/night guaranteed if reserved by Sept. 21. Reservations may be made at Wyndham Garden Hotel, (800) 996-3426. Make registration payment to Deacon Doots Dufour; Diocese of Austin, Catholic Charities; 1817 E. 6th Street; Austin, TX 78702. For more information, please contact Victoria Diocese's Catholic Outreach Prison Ministry director, Beverly Lincke, at blincke@sbcglobal.net.

Join a Rosary Rally October 13

By Cynthia Brewer

Catholic faithful throughout the Diocese of Victoria have responded to the request of the America Needs Fatima organization to host rosary rallies in their communities at 12 p.m. (noon) October 13, the 90th anniversary of the final of six consecutive months the Blessed Mother appeared in Fatima, Portugal.

Communities participating in the Public Square Rosary Crusade include Victoria, Bloomington, Bay City, East Bernard and La Grange. Crusades or rallies will begin at the community's public square at 12 p.m. on Saturday, Oct. 13. This date and time are the exact time the Fatima miracle of the sun took place 90 years ago before 70,000 people.

The Blessed Mother insisted that we pray the rosary and do penance to save the souls of poor sinners from going to hell. The America Needs Fatima organization says, "sadly mankind has mostly ignored Our Lady's message. And today you watch a growing tide of moral corruption that threatens to swallow your family."

Rental Property

Highway 30A,
Panhandle of Florida
Between Destin and Panama City,
Beach side, Over 5000 square feet,
sleeps 25 —
8 bedrooms,
including 5 masters
Full game room,
Private heated pool

suzannaht@earthlink.net

www.reunionhouse.org

Suzannah@ 800-397-2708

America Needs Fatima states some of the threats to American Christian families: radical Islamic terrorists, nuclear weapons, abortion, contraception, pornography, pedophilia, homosexual "marriage," impure TV shows, movies and Internet, and insults and blasphemies against the Sacred Heart of Jesus and the Immaculate Heart of Mary.

Rosary rallies are held in the public square, America Needs Fatima says, because Our Lady's call to conversion is for everyone; public sins need public reparation; the Catholic faith is openly ridiculed; and Our Lady asked for prayer and penance.

The rosary is the prayer, and standing in a public place is the penance, as well as a public witness to your faith. With prayer and penance there is hope, for the Blessed Mother promised that her Immaculate Heart would triumph in the end.

The Rosary Crusade in Victoria begins promptly at noon at De Leon Plaza. It will be bilingual with decades alternating in English and Spanish. Faithful are welcome to bring lawn chairs.

The crusade in East Bernard will be held at the Outdoor Rosary between the Chapel and the CCD Building of Holy Cross Church. They will also have the Consecration to Jesus through Mary.

Bloomington will hold its Rosary Crusade at St. Patrick's parking lot.

The crusade in La Grange will be held at noon on the Square on the corner of Colorado and Washington (across from Prosperity Bank).

To organize a Public Square Rosary Crusade in your community, please call America Needs Fatima toll free at 1-866-584-6012 or go to www.tfp.org. Continue to check their Web site or call to learn of new rosary rally locations.



Pictured are leaders of the Junior Catholic Daughters of the Americas at their 22nd Biennial Convention. They are Father John Peters, state JCDA chaplain (and pastor at Sacred Heart, Hallettsville); Tearsa Smesny 2005-07 JCDA chair; Eve Trevino, CDA state treasurer; Laura Aguilar, JCDA state reporter; Peggy Rosales, CDA state secretary; Ashley Stilley, JCDA state second vice president; Carolyn Malik, CDA state second vice regent; Beth Krenek, JCDA state president; Libby Ramirez, national regent elect; Sarah Ornelas, JCDA first vice president; Carolyn Bachmann, CDA state regent; Christina Muench, JCDA state secretary; and Lindsay Kolar, 2005-07 JCDA vice-chair.

22nd Biennial JCDA State Convention

By Terrie Vacek, communications

WICHITA FALLS — The trip for many Junior Catholic Daughter members, JCDA Chaplain Reverend John Peters and the senior court representatives resembled preparations to board the Ark rather than the convention, 'Cruzin with Christ'! The June 29 – July 1 convention in Wichita Falls was a challenge exhibiting dedication and flexibility.

Area hotels were evacuated, roads were closed due to flooded streets and confusion arose like a roller coaster of emotions. However, in the spirit of unity and charity and the JCDA three-fold program of 'Message, Service and Community,' the attendees were led by the host court and the outgoing JCDA board with humor, dignity and confidence.

Catie Wicke of East Bernard, 2005-2007 Texas JCDA president, welcomed 125 JCDA convention delegates and members along with 58 adults to Wichita Falls and the 22nd Biennial Convention.

Senior Court Immediate Past Regent of Texas, Olga Samaniego of El Paso, delivered the first speech reflecting back to her 2005 'Hands and Heart' message reminding JCDA members that the heart of Jesus is evident by the way they use their hands no matter how big or small they may be. When linked together, the strength of their unity becomes a secret weapon in the accomplishments of our Lord.

Guest speaker, Texas CDA State Regent Carolyn Bachmann of Scotland, Texas, began her convention message with the powerful proclamation "You are our Future and History. It is by your service to him through charity and love that you expose your own talents, gifts and love for Christ that continues to impact the Church and community. Your word is your commitment and outward response to his call."

Special guest speaker, National CDA Regent Elect Libby Ramirez of Victoria, Texas, presented a thank you message on behalf of the National Court and congratulated the CDA and JCDA leadership for an increase from 40 JCDA Texas Courts in 2005 to 52 in just two years! Mrs. Ramirez challenged the girls to have goals and think of themselves down the road as officers in the Senior Court at the local, state and national levels.

JCDA delegates met for a caucus, and the election of new officers was followed by an Installation Mass with Reverend John Peters serving as celebrant.

Delegates elected to serve the 2007-2009 term are Elizabeth Krenek, president, St. Bernadette Court 1108, East Bernard; Sarah Ornelas, 1st vice president, Mary St. John Court 2197, Baytown; Ashley Stilley, 2nd vice president, St. Elizabeth Court 1616, Sealy; Christina Muench, secretary, Madre de Dios Court 2068, Channelview; and Laura Aguilar, reporter, St. Roberto

Bellarmine Court 2275, El Campo.

Finally the rain stopped, the sun broke through and the Wichita River crested. The sky in Wichita Falls was once again bright blue and sunny for a Hawaiian style banquet and celebration for the accomplishments of the past two years. Banquet keynote speaker, Janice Sons, entertained her audience with humorous stories about the silly things we all do.

JCDA state chairman, Tearsa Smesny then presented personal awards to Vice Chair Lindsay Kolar and the outgoing JCDA 2005-2007 JCDA officers; Catie Wicke, president; Katherine Dronka, vice president; Jamie Pilat, second vice president, Krystal Smesny, secretary, and Karen Nors, reporter.

Smesny and Kolar made special award presentations for the following contests.

JCDA Court Newsletter Contest: 1st Place - Saint Elizabeth Court 1616, Sealy; 2nd Place - Ancillae Mariae Court 1886, Crosby; and 3rd Place - Mary St. John Court 2197, Baytown.

Membership and Retention Contest: Platinum Level - Queen of Glory Court 2485, Houston, and St. Paul Court 1604, Shiner; and Gold Level - Mary St. John Court 2197, Baytown.

Banner: 1st Place - Our Lady of Perpetual Help Court 296, Windthorst; 2nd Place - Nuestra Senora de Guadalupe Court 2426, Alice; and 3rd Place - Sacred Heart Court 829, West.

Scrapbook: 1st place - St. Elizabeth Court 1616, Sealy; 2nd Place - St. Bernadette Court 1108, East Bernard; and 3rd Place - St. Paul Court 1604, Shiner.

Outstanding 2006 JCDA Member - Katie Byrd, St. Faustina Court 2478 of Dallas.

Outstanding 2007 JCDA Member - Tiffany Cruz, Padre Pedro Bard Court 2016 of San Diego.

Saint Ann Adult Advisor Medal- Marie Melendez, Mary St. John Court 2197 of Baytown.



The Movie Review Line
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It is updated each weekend.

Youth Calendar of Events

September 15 – Basic Youth Ministry Certificate Course – Class No. 1 - **Renewing the Vision** – at the Chancery from 8:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. Pre-registration is required.

September 20 – Theology at the Well – (formerly Theology on Tap) - Rev. Bob Knippenberg will present the topic: "Revelation for Dummies," for young adults from 6:45 – 8:30 p.m. at Tejas in Victoria.

September 22 – Basic Youth Ministry Certificate Course – Class No. 7 - **Ethics and Crisis Management** – at the Chancery from 8:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. Pre-registration is required.

September 23 – Diocese of Victoria Evangelization (DOVE) Team Training from 1:00 - 5:00 p.m. at the Chancery

October 4 – Theology at the Well – (formerly Theology on Tap) - Rev. David Berger will present the topic: "Call to Mission," for young adults from 6:45 – 8:30 p.m. at Tejas in Victoria.

October 6 – Basic Youth Ministry Certificate Course – Class No. 2 – **Pastoral Care** – at the Chancery from 8:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. Pre-registration is required.

October 7 – Youth Leadership Training, 8:45 a.m.– 4:30 p.m.

October 18 - Theology at the Well – (formerly Theology on Tap) - Father Bryan Heyer will present the topic: "The Eucharist: Is it Real?" for young adults from 6:45 – 8:30 p.m. at Tejas Cafe in Victoria.

October 26-28 – Youth Ministers Conference, sponsored by the Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston; Wyndham Greenspoint Hotel, Houston.

November 1 – Theology at the Well – (formerly Theology on Tap) - Ron Friedel will present the topic: "Mary, Our Mother," for young adults from 6:45 – 8:30 p.m. at Tejas Cafe in Victoria.

November 4 – Junior High Fiesta – for all junior high young people at Holy Family in Victoria.

November 8-11 – National Catholic Youth Conference – Columbus, Ohio.

November 15 – Theology at the Well – (formerly Theology on Tap) - Deacon Steve Borowicz will present the topic: "Livin' the Catholic Life," for young adults from 6:45 – 8:30 p.m. at Tejas Cafe in Victoria.

November 17 – Basic Youth Ministry Certificate Course –Class No. 3 - **Leadership Development** – planning and programming– at the Chancery from 8:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. Pre-registration is required.

November 17 –Basic Youth Ministry Certificate Course –Class No. 7 - **Retreat Formation** – at the Chancery from 1:30 – 5:30 p.m. Pre-registration is required.

November 18 – Youth Leadership Training, 8:45 a.m.– 4:30 p.m.

December 1 – Diocese of Victoria Evangelization (DOVE) Team Training from 1:00 - 5:00 p.m. at the Chancery

December 2 – Youth Leadership Training, 8:45 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

December 8 – Bishop Fellhauer Christmas Dinner at the Spiritual Renewal Center.

December 9 – Diocese of Victoria Evangelization (DOVE) Team Training from 1:00 - 5:00 p.m. at the Chancery

January 5-6, 2008 – Youth Leadership Retreat at the Spiritual Renewal Center.

January 12, 2008 –Basic Youth Ministry Certificate Course – Class No. 4 – **Prayer and Worship** – at the Chancery from 8:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. Pre-registration is required.

January 30-February 2, 2008 – Annual Membership Meeting – Little Rock, Arkansas

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 dvanelli@victoriadiocese.org

or JoAnn Martinez at ext. 50 or e-mail at jmartinez@victoriadiocese.org

Web site: www.victoriadiocese.org/youthoffice



Save the Date: December 8, 2007

The annual
Bishop David Fellhauer
Christmas Dinner at the
Spiritual Renewal Center

Wash for Life – Defends Life

Youth groups throughout the nation are invited to hold a car wash September 15 to raise funds for local pregnancy care centers. Last year, the first year for "Wash for Life," 3,000 youth nationwide washed nearly 6,000 cars and raised \$82,000 for pregnancy care centers in their own communities.



Please go to www.washforlife.org for more information on holding your car wash.

Sacred Heart H.S. TAPPS 2007 3A State Champions

HALLETSVILLE — For the fourth year in succession Sacred Heart High School was named the Texas Association of Private and Parochial Schools (TAPPS) 2007 Overall 3A State Champion. They received this distinct honor for advancing in the playoffs in the following athletic and music competitions: volleyball (4 points); football (8 points); girls basketball (6 points); girls golf (2 points); boys tennis (8 points); girls tennis (10 points); girls track (8 points); baseball (2 points); softball (10 points); and instrumental music (8 points). A total of 66 points were earned for the 2006-2007 school year.

Sacred Heart had previously received the Overall State Championship in 1989, 1996, 1997, 2004, 2005 and 2006.



07/18/2007

ORGAN DONATED TO TWIN PINES —The Catholic volunteers at Twin Pines Nursing & Rehab display the new organ donated by the Yanta Family in memory of their mother, Edith Yanta, who was an active member of Our Lady of Victory Church. Mrs. Martha Migl plays the organ during the Catholic Mass on Wednesday mornings. Pictured l. to r. are Andy Horne, Betty Horne, John Hammock, Maggie Volcik, Estela Matus and Martha Migl.



VETERAN'S CEMETERIES RECEIVE HELP FROM KJZT —In response to a recent story in *The Victoria Advocate* newspaper about the Victoria County Veteran Council, KJZT No. 101 presented a check for \$200 to the veteran's council so they can purchase lawn equipment for the upkeep of war veteran's cemetery plots. Pictured are Carolyn Nevclud, Evelyn Dierlam, Rosie Olsovsky and Irene Brosch presenting the donation to John Tate (c.), a member of the American Legion.



DIOCESAN LITURGICAL COMMISSION —The Liturgical Commission of the Diocese of Victoria is the body of people qualified by training, background, and interest, appointed by the ordinary (diocesan bishop) to assist him in his work as principal liturgist. The Liturgical Commission, serving in a consultative capacity to the ordinary, fosters the growth of the worship and prayer life of the people of the Diocese of Victoria. They further assist the bishop in facilitating the public prayer of the Church when called upon. The commission meets four times per year. Pictured are most of the members of the Diocesan Liturgical Commission. Front row, l. to r.: Mary Reyes, Our Lady of the Gulf, Port Lavaca; Sr. Digna Vela, Catechetical Office, Diocese of Victoria; Mary Kay Heffley, St. Anthony Parish, Columbus; and Bishop David Fellhauer, ex-officio member. Second Row: Marsha Petter, Holy Cross Church, Bay City; Janice Cox, St. Philip the Apostle, El Campo; Cynthia Goerig, director of Liturgical Commission, St. Philip the Apostle, El Campo; and Rev. Michael Petering, pastor, St. Agnes Church, Edna. Third Row: Rev. Ty Bazar, vice-chairman of commission and pastor, St. Patrick Church, Bloomington; Rev. Michael Lyons, pastor, Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Ganado; Cynthia Sunderman, pastoral musician, Parish of the Nativity, Eagle Lake; Rev. Bob Fisher, SVD, parochial vicar, St. Philip the Apostle, El Campo; Frank Luke, Sacred Heart, Hallettsville; and Mark Zepeda, pastoral musician, Our Lady of Sorrows, Victoria. Not pictured are: Billie Southern, St. Michael Church, Cuero; Lou Ann Tupa, secretary of commission, Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Ganado; Paul Morkovsky, Sts. Cyril and Methodius Church, Shiner; and Colette Surman, Queen of the Holy Rosary, Hostyn.

VBS—"THE ULTIMATE ROAD TRIP" —The parish hall was filled with lots of laughter, singing, dancing and storytelling this summer. For the 106 kids, teachers and helpers who participated, VBS 2007 was a huge success. St. Joseph's Church in

Moulton has enjoyed that one special week each summer for the past 17 years. With classes ranging from the young four-year-olds to the older 3rd and 4th graders, much activity took place. The theme of "The Ultimate Road Trip" drove the youngsters through exciting Bible stories such as The Good Samaritan, where they were taught a neighborly word for the day. Lessons were brought to life through skits and handmade crafts appropriate to each day's destination. In addition to the kids who attended, there were over 25 young helpers from grades 5 through 12. Each day various ministry groups of the parish supported the young people by donating and serving snacks and drinks and a delicious meal on the final day, Friday. The hayride through the streets of Moulton, while being escorted by the police department and the volunteer fire department, was definitely a highlight of the week, as was the Moon Walk and water balloon fight. With "The Ultimate Road Trip" in our rearview mirror, we await next year's adventure!



BAY CITY KJZT HELP NURSING HOME RESIDENTS —Catholic Family Fraternal of Texas, Our Lady of Snows, Society 100, in Bay City, recently conducted bingo at Bay Villa Nursing Home, as one of their 2007 People Helping People projects. Helping residents win at bingo are Georgia Hickl, Eleanor Knebel, Mildred Babic, Liz Kacal, Martha Huston, Helen Littlefield and Dorothy Saha (seated).



KJZT AND KJT WORK TOGETHER TO BEAUTIFY MOTHERHOUSE —KJZT No. 101 and KJT No. 115 of Victoria joined hands to clean the flower beds at the Incarnate Word and Blessed Sacrament Convent/motherhouse in Victoria this past summer. Six children and 11 adults pulled out grass and old flowers, put mulch in flowerbeds and planted flowers. Pictured at the motherhouse (front row): Wendy Hrncir, Melanie Hermes, Irene Brosch; (back row) Janet Hermes, Rosie Olsovsky, Rose Pustka, Lorna and Donald Dusek, Nick Janssen, Sister Paschaline Kutac, Mary Kay and Melanie Janssen. Not pictured are: photographer, Joe Pustka; Dennis Vanek, Regina Janak and some of the children Taylor Janak, Dean Vanek and Dana Vanek.



Adopt-A-Beach Fall Cleanup set for September 22

AUSTIN — The 21st Texas General Land Office Adopt-A-Beach Fall Cleanup will take place Saturday, September 22, at twenty-six sites along the Texas coast. There will be four Adopt-A-Beach sites in the Victoria Diocese coastal area.

Volunteers can register at any of the check-in sites from 8:30 a.m. to 9:00 a.m. on September 22, and will be given data cards, gloves, pencils and trash bags. Volunteers are advised to wear closed-toe shoes, bring sunscreen and plenty of drinking water. Cleanup is from 9:00 a.m. to noon.

"Seventy percent of trash found on Texas beaches is left behind by average beachgoers," Jerry Patterson, commissioner of the Texas General Land Office (GLO) said. "Humans created this problem, and humans have a responsibility to fix it. I urge all my fellow Texans to join me at the beach and help turn the tide against trash."

This year, Texans who are not able to attend the cleanup can help keep Texas



beaches clean by making a tax-deductible donation online. There are several different Adopt-A-Beach sponsorship levels ranging from \$25 to \$25,000, allowing both individuals and corporations to contribute to this major cleanup effort.

Texas beaches receive large amounts of marine debris due to a convergence of currents in the Gulf of Mexico. Since 1986, more than 355,000 Adopt-A-

Beach volunteers have picked up more than 6,700 tons of this debris, some of it originating from as far away as Greece. Volunteers record data on the trash to learn more about the causes of marine debris and to help mitigate pollution along Texas' 367 miles of coastline.

The GLO's Adopt-A-Beach Cleanups are held rain or shine! For a complete listing of cleanup sites for the upcoming Fall Cleanup, to learn how you can participate, or for additional information on the Adopt-A-Beach Program, please visit www.texasadoptabeach.org, or contact the GLO at 1-877-TX COAST.



The 2007 Young Neighbors in Action from Hostyn, Plum and Columbus, pose at one of the homes they helped repair and paint, in Yakima, Washington. Participants were Amy Rackley, Jenifer Rocha, Cassandra Thompson, Mr. Pete (homeowner), Adrienne Burris, Adriana Gonzalez, Dylan Busselman, Anna Boettcher, Weston Klesel, Dillon Drab, Christopher Thompson, Gary Drab, Annette Thompson, Morgan Benham, Sinead McCourt, Sterling Behrens, Ethan Heinrich, Garrett Denham, Kara Lilie and, taking the photo, Gina Kozelsky.

Northern diocesan youth travel to help others

HOSTYN—What did you do on your summer vacation? A group of high school students, the Young Neighbors in Action, from the Queen of the Holy Rosary Church in Hostyn, Sts. Peter and Paul Parish in Plum and St. Anthony's Parish in Columbus have a very good answer.

They went on a Service Trip to Yakima, Washington. These 16 youth and three adult Texas Young Neighbors spent a week with 60 other Young Neighbors from Washington, California and Minnesota.

The days began at 6:30 a.m. with breakfast, packing lunches, and morning prayer. By 8:15 a.m., everyone was on their way to their assigned work sites to paint a house, build a wheelchair ramp, repair porches and stairs, do yard work for elderly or disabled clients, paint shelves and tables, clean and organize a basement, repair a playground and do yard work at a center for migrant and immigrant women.

The young people had the opportunity to talk to the caseworkers and to visit with

the people they helped, learning about their situation and how they got there.

The groups returned to their "home for the week," the Holy Family Parish school building, by 4:30 p.m. They had free time to shower, rest, or visit with the other groups until they shared dinner. Groups were assigned meal preparation and clean up duties, as well as leading prayer and group sharing each day.

The evening program, centered on Catholic social teaching, was held for two hours each evening, which was followed by free time, usually involving a kickball game or card games until lights out at 11 p.m. and sleeping on the classroom floors until the next morning.

The group had a Saturday afternoon free, and spent it hiking on Mt. Rainier—and playing in the snow! The entire week was a great experience and the group is looking forward to a Young Neighbors in Action Service Trip to a new location next year.

Jesus, our hope, your Gospel enables us to sense that, even in dark times, God wants us to be happy. And the peace in our hearts can make life beautiful for those around us.

Praying in Silence of Heart, Brother Roger of Taizé



Oil painting, "Geographic's Maiden," to be given away

FLATONIA — An oil painting of Steve McCurry's famous photograph of an Afghan refugee (National Geographic, June, 1985) will be given to the next donor of \$6,000 or more to Raphael's Refuge. Any amount donated over \$1,500 will be tax-deductible.

The artist, Midge Christian Elam, is the founder of the non-profit organization. Goal of the organization is to build a monument to babies who were miscarried, aborted, or stillborn, or who died in infancy. Counseling and spiritual direction will be provided on related issues, without charge.

Construction of the Monument to the Innocents, Raphael's Refuge, will be given away to the next donor of \$6,000 or more.



The oil painting, *Geographic's Maiden*, by Midge Christian Elam, founder of Raphael's Refuge, will be given away to the next donor of \$6,000 or more. Located two miles west of Flatonia, is under-

way. When the monument is completed, something expected to take several years, long walls comprised of thousands of glass blocks, will extend from the center of the monument, a circular chapel. Each block will be engraved with the name and birth and/or death date of one baby. Walls of glass blocks already form 10 of the 16 wall sections of the chapel. Drawings of the plans, pictures of the construction progress, and photographs of engraved glass blocks are available on the website: www.raphaelrefuge.org.

For more information, contact Ms. Elam at 361-865-3021 (home) or 361-258-1514 (cell) or e-mail to raphaelrefuge.org.



OCL INSTALLS NEW OFFICERS—Nearly 40 catechetical leaders attended the summer Organization of Catechetical Leadership (OCL) meeting that took place Thursday morning, August 2, at the chancery office. The meeting began with business before turning over the microphone to the guest speaker. In the business meeting, the OCL officers were elected for the new catechetical season. Elected were Cindy Svetlik, president, St. Mary, St. Mary; Doris Andel (r.), vice-president, St. Agnes, Edna; Laurie Bautista (l.), secretary, Our Lady of Lourdes, Victoria; and Patsy Krenek (c.), treasurer, Holy Cross, East Bernard. Outgoing officers were Linda Lockhart, vice president, St. Mary, Victoria; and Susan Popp, secretary, St. Mary, Nada. The guest speaker was Peter Rivera from Silver Burdett Ginn Religion publishers. His topic was "A New Catechetical Year: Opportunities and Challenges." Peter's main focus in the morning was on developing and using a Parish Vision Statement. He said, "A vision statement is about values and beliefs; whereas, a mission statement is about purpose and identity. Yet, they must be cohesive." In the afternoon, he addressed issues around recruiting, retaining, and supporting catechists throughout the catechetical year. The next OCL meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, October 23, with another favorite religious ed. curriculum publisher.



Back to School Safety Tips

Meriden, Conn.—With the start of each new school year, students are once again rushing to be on time, parents are getting them on their way and drivers are going about their business, but experts say all of them could heed some advice on safety.

"This is a critical time of the year," noted Ray Palermo, director of public information for Teachers' Insurance Plan. "Drivers need to re-acclimate themselves to having children on and near the road, particularly at rush hours. And, both children and their parents need to get back into their good traffic safety habits." He offered several tips from their Safety Information Center.

— TIPS FOR WALKING OR BIKING TO SCHOOL:

- Walk with a friend
- Pay attention to all traffic signals and crossing guards. Never cross the street against a stoplight.
- Cross only at crosswalks, and never run into the street from between parked cars.
- Look left, right, and over your shoulder for traffic before crossing a street, and continue to check each direction.
- Make sure drivers see you by making eye contact with them.
- If riding a bicycle, scooter or skateboard to school, always wear a helmet and ride in the same direction as traffic. Walk your bike if crossing a street.

— TIPS FOR SCHOOL BUS RIDERS:

- Do not play in the street while waiting for the bus.
- Line up facing the bus, not along side it.
- After getting off the bus, move out of traffic.
- Wait for the bus driver to signal you to cross the street. Walk away from the front of the bus so the driver can see you.

— TIPS FOR PARENTS AND DRIVERS:

- Everyone should wear a seatbelt, and children should be in age and size-appropriate car seats.

ate car seats.

• Stay focused on driving and don't be distracted by kids in the car or with other activities.

• Slow down in school zones. Driving just 5 MPH over the speed limit increases both the risk of hitting a child and the severity of any injuries.

• You never know if children crossing the street are paying attention, so remain stopped until the child has crossed not only your lane of traffic, but the adjacent lane as well.

• Never pass a vehicle that has stopped at a crosswalk, as they may be waiting for someone to cross.

• Do not pass a school bus when its red lights are flashing, even if it is on the other side of the street.

• Use extra care in areas where children may enter the road from between parked vehicles or other things that block drivers' view of the road. And, watch out for bicycles. For more information on driver and passenger safety go to the Web site, www.teachers.com/safety.

Editor's Note: *One more suggestion: don't talk on your cell phone while driving; it not only is a safety hazard, it also takes away precious time from which to talk with your children on the way to and from school.*



"Don't fill up on dog food.
School starts today and you'll
have homework to eat."

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FAITH & FAMILY

FAMILY PUZZLE CONTEST

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Family Puzzle Contest Winners

The winner of the August Puzzle Contest is Sylvia Steffek of Sacred Heart Church in Hallettsville. She will receive "The Life of Pope John Paul II ... In Comics." The youth contest winner is Kim Wilgus (6) of Sts. Cyril and Methodius in Shiner. She will receive a gift from the Incarnate Word Gift Shop. We had many contestants this month; thank you for entering.

The prize for the September Puzzle Contest is "Jesus in the House — Gospel Reflections on Christ's Presence in the Home" by Allan F. Wright and published by St. Anthony Messenger Press. See below review. 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 Sept. 25, 2007, to: Family Contest, *The Catholic Lighthouse*, P.O. Box 4070, Victoria, TX 77903. Only youth need to include age.

"Jesus in the House" is September Family Puzzle Prize

"Why did Jesus spend so much time in the homes and houses of the people? Allan Wright asks. "How did Jesus' own experience of home assist in his formation throughout his childhood and facilitate his understanding of the importance of home? More importantly, what lessons are there for us? ... Do we still need the presence of Jesus in our homes today? How much different would homes be today if we

taught, forgave, healed and shared meals as Jesus did?

Biblical scholar Allan Wright explores 29 uses of the word "home" in the Scriptures, offering a reflection on the Gospel story, a prayer, reflection questions and challenges to the reader. Written for families, small groups or personal use, "Jesus in the House" encourages all of us to bring the presence of Christ into our homes.

Winners of the August Texas Renaissance Festival give-away are:

Terry & Susan Galvan of St. Peter, Blessing; Kelly Lueckemeyer of Sts. Peter & Paul, Meyersville; and Jennifer Greak of St. Anthony, Columbus. **Congratulations!**



Texas Renaissance Festival Give-away

Tickets to the Texas Renaissance Festival will be given away through *The Catholic Lighthouse* drawing in September (3 pair) and October (2 pair). Tickets are valued at \$21 each; good for any weekend Oct. 6 – Nov. 25. The festival is held at 21778 FM 1774, Plantersville, Texas. Please fill out one form per household and send by Sept. 25 to: The Catholic Lighthouse, P.O. Box 4070, Victoria, TX 77903. If you have already submitted your name for the drawing, no need to re-send, name is in the drawing.

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP: _____

PHONE NUMBER: _____

PARISH: _____

Texas Renaissance Festival

1974 2007

Saturdays, Sundays
and
Thanksgiving Friday

October 6th - November 25th

Special Discount Tickets

Adult \$18.00 Child (5-12) \$8.00 (under 4 free)
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www.texrenfest.com



Sunday readings from Sept. 9 to Oct. 14

September 9 — Twenty-third Sunday in Ordinary Time	Wisdom 9:13-18b Psalm 90:3-4, 5-6, 12-13, 14-17 Philemon 9-10, 12-17 Luke 14:25-33
September 16 — Twenty-fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time	Exodus 32:7-11, 13-14 Psalm 51:3-4, 12-13, 17, 19 1 Timothy 1:12-17 Luke 15:1-32
September 23 — Twenty-fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time	Amos 8:4-7 Psalm 113:1-2, 4-6, 7-8 1 Timothy 2:1-8 Luke 16:1-13
September 30 — Twenty-sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time	Amos 6:1a, 4-7 Psalm 146:7, 8-9, 9-10 1 Timothy 6:11-16 Luke 16:19-31
October 7 — Twenty-seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time	Habakkuk 1:2-3; 2:2-4 Psalm 95:1-2, 6-7, 8-9 2 Timothy 1:6-8, 13-14 Luke 17:5-10
October 14 — Twenty-eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time	2 Kings 5:14-17 Psalm 98:1, 2-3, 3-4 2 Timothy 2:8-13 Luke 17:11-19

Blessing of pets schedules needed

Currently, St. Anthony Messenger Press' flagship site AmericanCatholic.org, is preparing its annual St. Francis Day feature. Over the past 11 years one of the most popular elements of the feature has been a list of animal blessing services taking place around the U.S. Last year over 500 blessing services representing 49 states, the District of Columbia, Canada, and the Caribbean appeared on their site!

They need our help compiling this year's list. Check to see if your parish's schedule is on their site, either by going to their site directly or through www.victoriadiocese.org, and

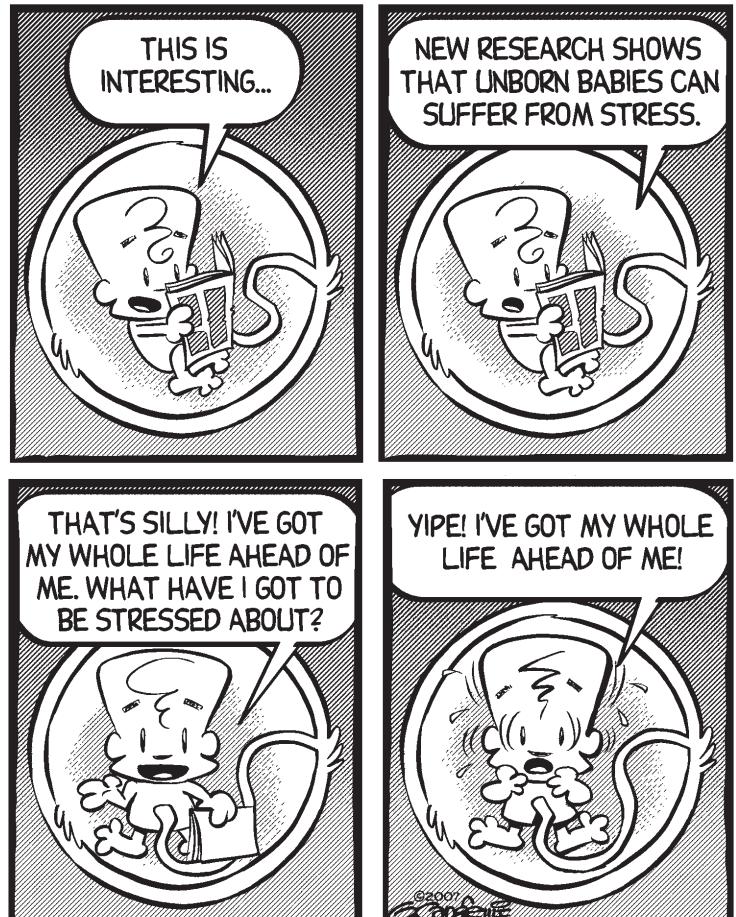
if it isn't, please send them the following information: your organization's (church, school, etc.) name; street address; city and state; date and time of the blessing service; a phone number including area code; the name of

a contact person; and any additional information that might be important for someone to find the location.

Their fax number is (513) 241-0399, e-mail: StAnthony@AmericanCatholic.org; and toll-free phone: (800) 488-0488, ext. 118. The information that they receive will be available on the AmericanCatholic.org Web site beginning in mid-September.



Umbert the Unborn



by Gary Cangemi

Back to school: Back to homework

By Bill and Monica Dodds
Catholic News Service

Admit it. Teaching sounds like a wonderful profession in mid-June but not as great come late-August. (Unless, of course, you're a true teacher and that's your God-given vocation. If that's the case, thank you for answering that call!) One of the drawbacks is: Teachers have homework. A lot of homework.

For most of us moms and dads, there was a golden time between A.D. and B.C. That is, After Diploma but Before Children. Graduating meant no more homework ... until those youngsters reached school age. Then, suddenly, worksheets, book reports, dioramas and more all returned with a vengeance.

Only now it isn't you having to complete an assignment (with your mom or dad harping in the background), it's your son or daughter -- foolishly -- putting off a project which would have been so much easier if only he or she had started it a little earlier and ...

And, no, you don't harp. You remind. Keep on task. Point out. Encourage. Remind. (Did we already mention "remind"? Well, remind again.)

On the other hand, when it comes to teachers, students and homework, some things really have changed. Or are slightly altered, anyway.

• Then it was "the dog ate my homework." Now it's "my hard drive crashed."

• In your time plagiarizing meant stealing material word-for-word from Funk &

Wagnalls Encyclopedia. (Most likely something from Volume 1, A-Ameri, because that was the only one your parents bought. At the grocery store it had the introductory price of 19 cents.



The other 30 or so volumes were more than a buck each.) Now it means copying and pasting from the Web site of the Library of Congress, the Smithsonian Institution or MySpace.

• Back in the day, a teacher's instruction included, "No referring to the times table printed on the inside flap of your Pee Chee." Now your child may be told, "Don't use your calculator."

• Way back when, your very elaborate science project required an empty oatmeal box and the cardboard from a roll of toilet paper. These days your child may — seriously — request a computer chip and solar panel.

Houston Airshow Oct. 6,7

HOUSTON — The Ron Carter Dealership's Wings Over Houston Airshow takes flight Saturday and Sunday, October 6 – 7, with the precision aerobatics of the Canadian Air Force Snowbirds and powerful demonstrations by the F-18F Super Hornet, F-15E Strike Eagle and AH-

Victoria County's 22nd Annual

Sunday, Sept. 23, 2007

10:00 a.m. - 8:00 p.m.

Victoria Community Center

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Music By

Frank Milder & The Wharton Co. Czech Singers	10 AM - 11 AM
Shiner Hobo Band	11 AM - 1 PM
Czechaholics	1 PM - 4:15 PM
Concert - Czechaholics & Red Ravens	3:45 - 4:15 PM
Red Ravens	3:45 - 8:00 PM

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On the Web: Homework Tips for Parents

The U.S. Department of Education has homework tips for parents at www.ed.gov/parents/academic/involve/homework/index.html.

Some of the basics include:

1. Make sure your child has a quiet, well-lit place to do homework.

2. Make sure the materials your child needs, such as paper, pencils and a dictionary, are available.

3. Help your child with time management.

4. Be positive about homework.

5. When your child asks for help, provide guidance, not answers.

6. When the teacher asks that you play a role in homework, do it.

7. If homework is meant to be done by your child alone, stay away.

8. Stay informed; talk with your child's teacher.

9. Help your child figure out what is hard homework and what is easy homework, and have your child do the hard work first.

Bill and Monica Dodds are the founders of the Friends of St. John the Caregiver and editors of *My Daily Visitor* magazine. Their Web site is www.FSJC.org. They can be contacted at MonicaDodds@YourAgingParent.com.

Houston Airshow Oct. 6,7

64 Apache Attack Helicopter, USAF Heritage Flight, C-17 and USCG Demos, as well as, World War II air power reenactment of Tora!Tora!Tora!, Greg Poe's MX-2 Ethanol Edge powered by Fagen, David Martin & Breitling, Tim Weber and the GEICO air show team, Houston's own John McGillis, NeXplore Shockwave Jet Truck and the RE-MAX sky diving Team. Static displays include the F-117A Stealth Fighter, B-52, "Hurricane Hunter" KC-135, WWII trainers, fighters and bombers, and a wide array of modern military aircraft. Gates open at 8:00 a.m. and flights begin at 10:00 a.m. at Ellington Field, 510 Ellington Field, Houston. General Admission — advance tickets are \$15 for adults, \$4 for children age 6-11 and free for children age 5 and under. Reserved prime view — \$40 p/p; Eagle Squadron hospitality is \$125 p/p. Tickets can be purchased at www.wingsoverhouston.com or by calling 888-4-FLYSHOW. Tickets also are available at the gate the day of the event. Due to limited parking, please consider riding METRO. For park and ride locations, visit www.wingsoverhouston.com.

Holy Spirit, inner light,
we would wish never
to choose darkness
but ever to welcome
a light coming from you.

Praying in Silence of Heart
Br. Roger of Taizé



“Mary’s Touch” radio program receives ecclesiastical approbation from Austin Diocese

AUSTIN—“I have been reviewing theological materials for many years now, but this is the first time I have ever been able to come back with an unqualified Yes. I highly recommend Mary’s Touch. I believe it is a work of grace, and more than succeeds in what it sets out to be: inspirational.”

With this recommendation, on July 16, 2007, Bishop Gregory Aymond, from the Diocese of Austin, offered his approval for the “Mary’s Touch” radio program. Prior to making this endorsement, diocesan theologian Rev. Kevin Rai reviewed several shows and evaluated related written material. In his recommendation, Father Rai writes, “Not only do I find no problem with the doctrinal content, but the whole project seems to me a positive and practical commentary on Chapter 8 of *Lumen Gentium*. It illustrates faith from life, particularly from the experiences of ordinary people. It corroborates what the Council says on Mary’s continuing motherhood...”

“Mary’s Touch” is an inspirational radio program designed to bring a greater understanding of Mary, the Mother of God. Hosted by Cheri Lomonte and Sally Robb, each show features the stories of two people, in their own words, in their own voices, who have surrendered to Our Blessed Mother their needs, hopes, fears, and desires when they believed their prayers could be answered only through her merciful intercession. Through insightful interviewing, Cheri and Sally reflect on the events in the stories, and through the lens of Catholic teaching and witness of love, they discuss how these stories can be applied to our own lives. The stories in each show serve as a reminder that Our Blessed Mother’s loving presence still graces our lives.

“Mary’s Touch” programs are broadcast from over 40 stations and networks across the U.S., including the Guadalupe Radio Network, KHOY, and St. Valentine Radio in Texas. Additionally, the shows are broadcast on Radio Maria, which can be heard in East Texas. Recently, Relevant Radio began broadcasting the shows in Austin. In addition, “Mary’s Touch” is now syndi-

Pope Benedict XVI’s Intentions — September 2007

General: (Romanian Assembly) That the ecumenical assembly of Sibiu in Romania may contribute to the growth of unity among all Christians, for whom the Lord prayed at the Last Supper.

Mission: (Missionaries) That following Christ joyfully, all missionaries may know how to overcome the difficulties they meet in everyday life.

cated online at Catholic Radio International’s Web site: www.catholicradiointernational.com/marystouch.php, so anyone may hear the program 24 hours a day, seven days a week. For a list of stations broadcasting

“Mary’s Touch,” visit the Web site at www.marystouch.org. To share your own story of how Mary has influenced your life, log on to the Mary’s Touch Web site or call (800) 682-1729.

We Live ... God’s Plan for Our Life in Christ

Why are you here? What’s the purpose of your life? If you Google “the meaning of life,” you’ll get more than 93 million responses in half a second. Among those responses you’ll find claims that life’s meaning can be found in success, prosperity, fame, or achievement. You’ll be advised to try this philosophy or that book. You’ll be told (at various atheist.com sites) that life has no real meaning. You’ll find humor, like the cartoon of a businessman addressing a guru on a mountain peak: “What is the meaning of life? But make it quick. I’ve got an important meeting in thirty minutes.”

Well, what IS the meaning of life?

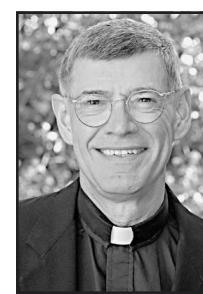
A friend recently gave me a copy of Rick Warren’s best seller, *The Purpose-Driven Life*. The book’s starting point? In order to know the meaning of life—to know why you’re here on earth—ask the One who made you. If you see something unfamiliar and want to learn what it’s for, you ask its inventor. If you want to know the purpose of your life, ask God.

That’s true, and the book has sold millions of copies around the world. But after reading it, I thought, “This isn’t new. When I was a child, the purpose of life was one of the first things taught in Catholic grade school.” The Baltimore Catechism asked, “Why did God make you?” Generations of Catholic children learned the answer: “God made me to know Him, to love Him, and to serve Him in this world, and to be happy with Him for ever in heaven.”

That’s an answer you can count on! It is God’s answer, found throughout the Bible, taught by Jesus Christ, and treasured by the Catholic Church for twenty centuries. Why are you here? Because God made you. “So God created humankind in his image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them” (Gen 1:27). What is the purpose of your life?

God made you to know him. Jesus said, “And this is eternal life, that they may know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent” (John 17:3).

God made you to love him. Jesus said, “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and



By Father Oscar Lukefahr CM

with all your mind” (Matthew 22:37).

God made you to serve him. Jesus said, “Whoever serves me must follow me, and where I am, there will my servant be also. Whoever serves me, the Father will honor” (John 12:26).

God made you to be happy forever in heaven. Jesus said, “So you have pain now; but I will see you again, and your hearts will rejoice, and no one will take your joy from you” (John 16:22).

So don’t bother with the other 93 million ideas about the meaning of life! God invented human life. God gives life meaning and knows its purpose. The new Catechism of the Catholic Church echoes and develops what the Baltimore Catechism taught...

God, infinitely perfect and blessed in himself, in a plan of sheer goodness freely created man to make him share in his own blessed life.... To accomplish this, when the fullness of time had come, God sent his Son as Redeemer and Savior. In his Son and through him, he invites men to become, in the Holy Spirit, his adopted children and thus heirs of his blessed life.... All Christ’s faithful are called to hand it on from generation to generation, by professing the faith, by living it in fraternal sharing, and by celebrating it in liturgy and prayer. (CCC, 1,3)

If you want your life to be exciting, purposeful, and happy, follow God’s “plan of sheer goodness.”

In this series of columns, we’ll explore what it means to know, love, and serve God. We’ll see why this brings the happiness we seek. Can we trust God’s plan? I’ve been a priest for over forty years, and I’ve never been disappointed in “God’s plan of sheer goodness” revealed by Jesus. I’ve talked with thousands of people about the meaning of life, and I’ve never heard anyone express regret for following Jesus.

You are invited to come along on this journey of faith, to study God’s answers to the questions life poses. It’s a fascinating journey, mapped out in the Bible and the Church, with Jesus as our Way, Truth and Life. At the end, we’ll find, as Saint Augustine did centuries ago: “You have made us for yourself, O Lord, and our hearts are restless until they rest in you.”

Father Oscar Lukefahr, CM is a Vincentian priest who is the author of numerous books on the Catholic faith.

THE POPE SPEAKS

Pope Benedict XVI



CNS photo from Reuters

Pope condemns arson attacks, says people must care for creation

By Carol Glatz Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY (CNS) -- God gave people the duty to take care of the earth, but they “often abuse creation and do not exercise” their responsibility to be stewards of nature, Pope Benedict XVI said.

Citing the teaching of St. Gregory of Nyssa at his Aug. 29 weekly general audience, the pope condemned as criminal the suspected arson attacks that have hit parts of Europe.

Highlighting his concern for the recent “serious calamities” of flooding in Asia and “disastrous fires in Greece, Italy and other European nations,” the pope said it was impossible “to not be troubled by the irresponsible behavior of those who put people’s safety at risk and destroy the environmental heritage -- a precious asset for all of humanity.”

“I join those who rightly stigmatize such acts (as) criminal and invite everyone to pray for the victims of these tragedies,” he said.

Greece was the hardest hit by wildfires that began Aug. 24 and killed at least 64 people. The government suspects many of this year’s blazes were started by arsonists because the number of major forest fires throughout Greece more than doubled from last year.

Pope Benedict returned briefly to the Vatican from his papal summer villa at Castel Gandolfo for the weekly audience and talked about St. Gregory, the fourth-century bishop and doctor of the church.

The pope told the estimated 12,000 people gathered in St. Peter’s Square that St. Gregory underlined how God molded human nature to be suitable for carrying out the responsibility of safeguarding creation.

But in order to “truly exercise” this responsibility as stewards of nature, St. Gregory said humanity must cleanse itself of sin and be “penetrated by God and live in God’s light,” the pope noted.

Life must not be wasted going after pointless or fruitless things, but rather should be spent searching for the divine light that helps humanity discern what is “truly useful,” good and true, he said.

“This supreme good is found in Christianity,” which makes it possible for people “to imitate God, divine nature,” he added.

He said St. Gregory showed how people are degraded by sin and “the impurities deposited in (one’s) heart.”

But by purifying one’s heart and striving for holiness, people can wash away those impurities “and rediscover in ourselves God’s light” shining in all its divine beauty, he said.

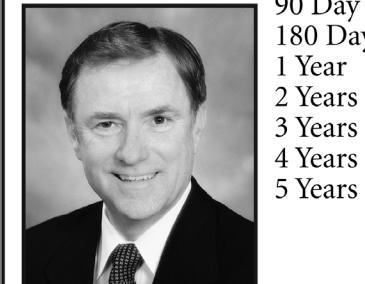
He said only if God is present in one’s life can mankind reach its “true greatness.”

Humanity’s purpose, he added, is “to contemplate God. Only in this will (humanity) find its reward.”

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Durante nuestras reuniones, no fuimos fáciles de persuadir. Mike nunca se dio por vencido y siempre buscó la forma como demostrarnos que la necesidad existía. Nos ayudó hasta que por fin pudimos comprender el valor de contar con la protección de un seguro de vida.

Mi esposo murió repentinamente el otoño pasado. Su muerte fue un golpe para todos nosotros. Aunque desde el punto de vista médico no debería haber sucedido, me imagino que Dios pensó que había cumplido con su labor en esta tierra. Pude contar con Mike de inmediato. Estuvo en el velorio, asistió al funeral y permaneció a mi lado para ayudarme en cuanto fuera posible. Lloró por mi esposo igual que yo.

En este mundo en donde todos se preocupan sólo de las ganancias, presencie lo que los Caballeros son verdaderamente capaces de hacer. Pude contar con ellos cuando más lo necesité.

— Amber Díaz*



*Basada en una carta verdadera. Los nombres se han cambiado para que se mantengan anónimos.

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Vigésima Conferencia Anual Para Catequesis y Ministerio *Catequesis: Encuentro Con Cristo Vivo*

El sábado, el 29 de septiembre de 2007 — Holy Family Parish, 704 Mallette Drive, Victoria

Presentación Principal en la mañana
"Whole Message. Whole Community"
por Mr. Leif Kehrwald - en inglés



AS-18 ¡Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe:
Madre de todos! Hermana Miriam Perez
AS-19 Solidaridad con Nuestros Hermanos y
Hermanas Alrededor del Mundo Anna Huth



Presentación Principal en la tarde
"God Invites all to the Banquet Table"
por Dr. Arturo Chávez - en inglés

BS-37 ¿Madre, esposa, empleada, catequista,
y santidad tambien? Dr. Consuelo Martinez
BS-38 Espiritualidad de familia Jake Samour

Registro temprano por lunes de septiembre el 24

\$14.00 registro individual 1-9 personas

\$12.00 en grupos de 10-15 personas

\$10.00 en grupos de 16-20 personas

\$ 8.00 en grupos de 21 o mas

Registraciones atrasadas

martes 25 de septiembre de

2007 \$ 16.00 por persona

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Programa del día

7:30 - 9:00 a.m.	Registracion
9:00 - 9:30 a.m.	Bienvenida y oración
9:30 - 10:30 a.m.	Presentación en inglés: Mr. Leif Kehrwald
10:30 - 11:00 a.m.	Descanso
11:00 - 12:15 p.m.	Sección A
12:15 - 1:30 p.m.	Almuerzo
1:40 - 2:40 p.m.	Presentación en inglés: Dr. Arturo Chávez
2:50 - 4:05 p.m.	Sección B
4:15 p.m.	Misa final, Su Excelencia David E. Fellhauer, Obispo de Victoria

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Bishop: U.S. should play role in restarting Israeli-Palestinian talks

By Judith Sudilovsky
Catholic News Service

JERUSALEM (CNS) — The United States has a responsibility to play a vital role in restarting Israeli-Palestinian negotiations, said the chairman of the U.S. bishops' international policy committee.

"We have a certain responsibility. By not being engaged at this level it will certainly involve us in ways we do not want to be involved in (later)," said Bishop Thomas G. Wenski of Orlando, Fla. "There needs to be a negotiated solution."

"The status quo is not tenable," he said. "The two partners are not on equal strength ... and the USA has to prevail on Israel to negotiate in good faith and not take advantage of the Palestinian weakness."

He said the U.S. bishops' conference needs to encourage both sides to negotiate and to reach a workable solution in which East Jerusalem still has a role in Palestinian society. East Jerusalem was captured by Israel in the 1967 Middle East war. Palestinians say the city should be the capital of a future Palestine.

Bishop Wenski's five-day visit, which began Aug. 29, was hosted by the U.S. bishops' international relief and development agency, Catholic Relief Services. The bishop met with Latin Patriarch Michel Sabbah of Jerusalem; Archbishop Antonio Franco, papal nuncio to Israel and the Palestinian territories; and Israeli and Palestinian academic, legal and political activists. He also visited West Bank villages and schools.

Bishop Wenski said it is imperative to rekindle hope in the Palestinian population by starting serious negotiations toward a

two-state solution to the ongoing Palestinian-Israeli conflict. He said Palestinians are experiencing a "sense of discouragement and pessimism."

"The daily frustrations and humiliation the Palestinians have to endure because of the situation do not help create an atmosphere for a future of peace," he said.

"A just solution to occupation that includes a secure Israel and safe Palestine would take the fuel out of (extremism) on both sides and bring hope for the future," Bishop Wenski said.

"Part of our advocacy for the education of our people and government officials is so that the hope of the people for peace here will not be disappointed. It is incumbent on politicians to bring out the best of the Palestinian and Israeli peoples, not to appeal to the (extremists)," he said.

Obstacles such as the Israeli separation wall and the settlements that are making a two-state solution increasingly impossible need to be confronted, he added.

While acknowledging the need for Israeli security, the bishop said the separation wall — which Israel has said it needs to safeguard the lives of Israelis — is built in such a way that it "does not enhance security but ... expands control of territory." The wall eventually will become a 400-mile-long barrier of concrete slabs and barbed-wire fences separating Israel from the West Bank; in some places, it physically divides Palestinian communities.

The bishop said he did not discuss the continuing bombing of southern Israeli towns by Palestinian forces in Gaza in his meetings. A rocket fired from Gaza Sept. 3 landed in an empty courtyard between

a kindergarten and a school in the Israeli border town of Sderot.

Bishop Wenski said the bishops' conference would continue to dialogue with interfaith partners in the United States and express "sincere commitment" to the future of Israel with a right to exist within defendable borders. At the same time, he said, the bishops also will promote the rights of Palestinians.

Immigration issues the focus of USCCB Labor Day statement

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Immigration issues, including the "failed immigration debate" that preceded Congress' unsuccessful vote to change U.S. immigration policy, were highlighted in the U.S. bishops' annual Labor Day statement. "This vital national immigration discussion polarized our people, paralyzed the Congress and failed our nation," said Bishop Nicholas DiMarzio of Brooklyn, N.Y., chairman of the bishops' domestic policy committee, in the statement. "After this debate, we are a society more divided, a people more confused and a nation unable to move forward on one of the most serious and complicated issues we face as a nation." Although members of Congress could not work together on immigration policy, some low-wage workers were able to work together to carve out a better life for themselves, one of the "signs of hope" pointed to by Bishop DiMarzio in his statement. Dated Sept. 3, the statement, "Labor Day 2007: A Time to Remember; A Time to Recommit," was released Aug. 24.

U.S. bishops denounce Amnesty's policy to fight for legal abortions

WASHINGTON (CNS) — The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops denounced Amnesty International's recent adoption of a policy to fight for the decriminalization of abortion around the world. Bishop William S. Skylstad of Spokane, Wash., president of the conference, said in an Aug. 23 statement that the U.S. bishops urge Amnesty to "reconsider its error and reverse its policy on abortion." "This basic policy change undermines Amnesty's long-standing moral credibility and unnecessarily diverts its mission," Bishop Skylstad said. "In promoting abortion, Amnesty divides its own members ... and jeopardizes its support by people in many nations, cultures and religions who share a consistent commitment to all human rights." The human rights organization's International Council — more than 400 delegates from 75 countries — approved the proposals at a meeting of Amnesty leaders in Cocoyoc, Mexico, Aug. 11-17 as part of Amnesty's Stop Violence Against Women campaign.

U.S. poverty down slightly, but Americans with no health insurance up

WASHINGTON (CNS) — The number of Americans living in poverty went down slightly last year, according to the Census Bureau's annual report, but the number of uninsured Americans rose a bit. The dip in the poverty rate — the first this decade — brought the percentage of Americans living in poverty from 12.6 percent in 2005 to 12.3 percent in 2006. The number of people in poverty — 36.5 million — was "not statistically different" from 2005 levels, the Census Bureau said in an announcement. The child poverty rate stayed the same, at 17.4 percent, while the poverty rates for adults and senior citizens declined. Both the number and percentage of Americans without health insurance rose from year-before levels — from 44.8 million to 47 million, and from 15.3 percent uninsured to 15.8 percent. The number of uninsured children increased from 8 million, or 10.9 percent in 2005, to 8.7 million, or 11.7 percent, last year. "Catholic Charities USA is extremely troubled that the number of uninsured, including children, continues to increase," said Father Larry Snyder, the organization's president, in a statement issued shortly after the numbers were released Aug. 28. "We firmly believe that there is no excuse for any child in our nation to go without access to health care, which is critically important to the well-being and development of all children." The increase in the number of uninsured Americans coincided with a dip in the percentage of people who have private health insurance. In 2005, 65.8 percent had private health insurance; in 2006, 64.8 percent did. Texas led with 24.1 percent of its residents uninsured. Minnesota was lowest with 8.3 percent of its residents uninsured. As of 2006, more than one-third of all Hispanics, and one-fifth of all African-Americans, lacked health insurance.

Vatican official says Dominican Sisters show vitality of U.S. church

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (CNS) — Cardinal Tarcisio Bertone, the second highest ranking official at the Vatican, pointed to the Dominican Sisters of St. Cecilia in Nashville as an example of the vitality of the Catholic Church in the United States. Cardinal Bertone, who is secretary of state, was in Nashville to attend the

See Vatican official says, p. 17

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POPE ARRIVES TO CELEBRATE MASS IN LORETO—Pope Benedict XVI arrives to celebrate Mass during a youth gathering in Loreto, Italy, Sept. 2. The pope struck a strong ecological theme, telling young people that they need to press for courageous changes to save the planet “before it’s too late.” (CNS photo/Daniele La Monaca, Reuters)

Pope urges megagathering of youths to ‘go against the current’

By Catholic News Service

LORETO, Italy (CNS) — Pope Benedict XVI urged a megagathering of Italian young people to embrace Christ and “go against the current” of a culture marked by violence, arrogance and selfishness.

The pope also struck a strong ecological theme, saying young people need to press for courageous changes to save the planet “before it’s too late.”

An estimated 500,000 youths applauded the pope’s words at a prayer vigil Sept. 1 and at a Mass the following day, on a hillside next to the Marian shrine of Loreto. The weekend assembly also featured music and skits, but the highlight was clearly the pope’s presence.

“The (Christian) message is this: Do not follow the way of pride but the way of humility,” the pope said at the Mass.

“Go against the current: Don’t listen to the persuasive and self-seeking voices that today promote lifestyles marked by arrogance and violence, by self-importance and success at any cost, by appearances and possession to the detriment of being,” he said.

He asked young people not to be passive recipients of the countless messages that arrive through the mass media.

“Be vigilant! Be critical! Don’t be dragged along by the wave produced by this powerful movement of persuasion,” he said.

Instead, the pope held out an “alternative path” marked by sharing, purity, commitment to study and work, and a deep interest in the common good.

This does not mean the Christian must renounce all pleasure or success in life, he said. On the contrary, faith gives deeper satisfaction, he said.

“Our faith does not propose a package of moral prohibitions, but a joyful path,” he said. The pope told the young people that the key to finding the right path was in a personal encounter with Christ. He said it was also essential that they participate in the life of the church.

“One cannot call oneself a disciple of Jesus if one doesn’t love and follow his church. The church is our family,” he said.

At the prayer vigil the day before, the pope hugged young representatives after listening to them tell of their personal spiritual trials.

In a talk, he raised the theme of environmental protection in the Christian context. Following Christ means being aware that the created world belongs to all and must be protected, he said.

“To the new generations is entrusted the future of the planet, where it is clear that development has not always been able

to protect the delicate balance of nature,” the pope said.

He said the ecological situation today calls for courageous choices.

“There should be a decisive ‘yes’ to the protection of the created world and a strong commitment to reverse those tendencies that could lead to situations of irreparable degradation,” he said.

He said water in particular was a resource in danger of becoming a motive of conflict around the world unless it is shared in an equal way.

The papal event took place on the day the Italian church has dedicated to ecological awareness. Organizers of the Loreto gathering sought to minimize its environmental impact by using biodegradable and recyclable materials.

The Loreto shrine holds what is revered as the house where Mary was born, raised and visited by the angel Gabriel. Tradition holds that the house was transported to Loreto from Nazareth by angels in 1294.

The pope said Mary’s purity still points the way to young people today.

“Looking at her and following her, you will discover the beauty of love, which is not, however, a disposable love that is fleeting and deceptive, the prisoner of a selfish and materialistic mentality, but true and profound love,” he said.

He lamented the number of divorces today.

“How many failures of love there are around us! How many couples hang their heads, give in and separate! How many families go to pieces!” he said.

He told the youths that he was praying that “the crisis facing the family today does not become an irreversible failure.”

During the weekend, the pope also briefly referred to a new book that collects dramatic letters of Blessed Mother Teresa of Calcutta, India, in which she reveals her inner spiritual suffering over a period of decades.

“All believers know about the silence of God,” he said. “Even Mother Teresa, with all her charity and her strength of faith, suffered from the silence of God.”

The pope said one reason even Christians sometimes have to endure this “silence of God” is to better understand those who do not know God and who seek a visible sign of his presence.

But by keeping an open and attentive heart, he said, “we can find great moments in which truly the presence of God becomes perceptible for us.”

The pope noted that Mother Teresa’s letters, which have prompted a wave of new media interest, were already known to church officials.

Vatican officials say new book illustrates Mother Teresa’s strength

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Vatican officials said a new book detailing Blessed Mother Teresa of Calcutta’s long “crisis of faith” illustrates her spiritual strength in the face of doubt. “This is a figure who had moments of uncertainty and discouragement, experiencing the classic dark night that God gives to chosen people in order to forge them on the road to holiness,” said Spanish Cardinal Julian Herranz, a member of the Congregation for Saints’ Causes. “These moments of crisis felt by great saints are normal and in line with the church’s tradition,” Cardinal Herranz said Aug. 26. The letters are being published in English in the upcoming book, “Mother Teresa: Come Be My Light,” edited by Father Brian Kolodiejchuk, a member of the Missionaries of Charity order founded by Mother Teresa and the postulator of her sainthood cause. Capuchin Father Raniero Cantalamessa, the preacher of the papal household, told Vatican Radio that what distinguished Mother Teresa’s “dark night” was that it apparently continued throughout her life and was not a preparation for a new spiritual stage as with other saints. The 416-page book published by Doubleday will be released Sept. 4, to mark the 10th anniversary of Mother Teresa’s death Sept. 5, 1997.

Vatican official says

Continued from p. 16

125th annual national convention of the Knights of Columbus. He took time out to celebrate Mass for the Dominican Sisters at their motherhouse Aug. 8, the feast of St. Dominic. Mother Ann Marie Karlovic said the sisters were “overwhelmed and grateful” that the cardinal, who is responsible for overseeing the work of the Roman Curia and is Pope Benedict XVI’s closest collaborator, asked to visit the Dominicans while he was in Nashville. The sisters were waiting on the grounds of the motherhouse when the cardinal and his party arrived, and they greeted him with a song. The cardinal celebrated Mass in the sisters’ new chapel, which was part of a \$45 million renovation and expansion of the motherhouse completed less than two years ago. *Sister Marie Hannah Seiler of Victoria, Texas, is a member of the Dominican Sisters of St. Cecilia in Nashville.*



Mother Teresa and Britain’s Princess Diana hold hands after the two met briefly at the Missionaries of Charity home in the Bronx section of New York June 18, 1997. Mother Teresa and the princess first met in 1992 in Rome where they prayed together. Over the next few years, they periodically met in various places and became friends. They were linked in death too: On Aug. 31, 1997, Princess Diana died in a car crash in Paris; Mother Teresa died a few days later, Sept. 5, in Calcutta, India. This year commemorates the 10th anniversary of their deaths. (CNS photo/Mike Segar, Reuters)

Bishop Pelotte released from hospital, to recuperate in Florida

GALLUP, N.M. (CNS) — Bishop Donald E. Pelotte of Gallup has been released from a Houston hospital that specializes in traumatic brain injuries and is continuing his recuperation in Florida, said a diocesan official. Deacon Timoteo Lujan, chancellor of the Gallup Diocese, said the bishop was discharged from Memorial Hermann/The Institute for Rehabilitation and Research in Houston during the weekend of Aug. 25-26 but would not disclose where he is recuperating in Florida. He cited the need for the bishop to be able to recover in private from the wounds he sustained in a fall at his residence during the weekend of July 21-22. As for his future as bishop of Gallup, Deacon Lujan said it is still too early in the complex process to decide when, or if, the bishop will return. According to an Aug. 27 news release, the diocesan college of consultors met Aug. 23 to discuss the care of the bishop and the needs of the diocese in his absence. Bishop Pelotte, 62, has been hospitalized since July 23 with extensive injuries including head trauma and severe bruises to a shoulder and his arms, legs, hands and knuckles. The bishop told Deacon Lujan he had fallen down the stairs.

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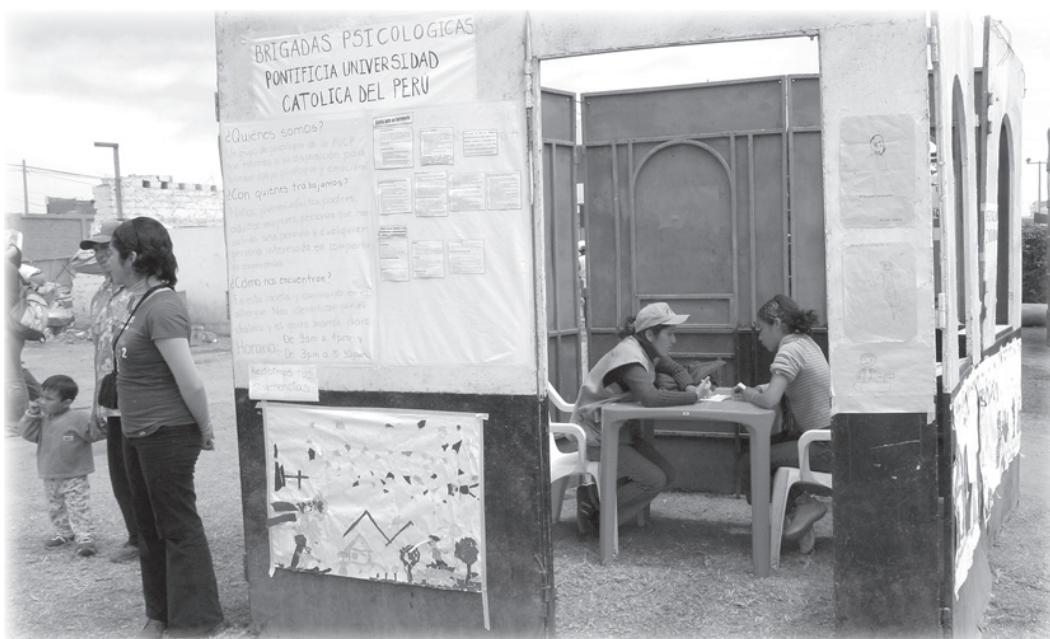
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VOLUNTEERS HOLD COUNSELING SESSIONS IN PERU—Volunteer mental health workers from the Pontifical Catholic University of Peru hold counseling sessions Aug. 25 in a makeshift office in a tent camp for people who lost their homes in the Aug. 15 earthquake in Pisco, Peru. The magnitude 8 earthquake killed at least 530 people, seriously injuring more than 1,200 and leaving at least 30,000 homeless. (CNS photo by Walter Hupiu)

The bottleneck behind bottled water

By Fr. John S. Rausch

Nothing quenches a thirst like cool water, whether it's PepsiCo's Aquafina (13 percent of the bottled water market), or Coca-Cola's Desina (11 percent of the market), or a specialty water from Nestle. Every day millions of Americans grab a clear plastic bottle of water from the cooler at a convenience store, or pull a case of it from the shelves at their local supermarket. Toting water has become as indispensable for some people as carrying a cell phone.

The \$15 billion a year industry has grown from a marketing approach evoking purity, natural springs and the great outdoors. In 1976 the average American drank 1.6 gallons of bottled water, but 30 years later consumption jumped to 28.3 gallons. Within a decade bottled water is projected to surpass the current 52.9 gallons per year consumption rate of soda.

While drinking water rather than soda offers positive health benefits, the delivery of individual servings of water in polyethylene terephthalate (PET) bottles brings a headache to landfills. Americans used 50 billion PET bottles last year, about 167 per person, but recycled only 23 percent of them. Landfills got the other 38 billion. Add to this the pollution from moving one billion bottles of water weekly by ship, truck and train, and bottled water represents a genuine environmental concern.

Fiji Water comes from the islands of Fiji, which lie roughly 8,000 miles from New York. The bottles for the Fiji Water nearly double the trip because first they are brought to Fiji, filled, then shipped to their final destination. Transportation represents fully half the wholesale cost of Fiji Water. In addition, the Fiji Water plant further impacts the environment because it operates 24 hours a day requiring uninterrupted electricity that the factory supplies with three large generators run by diesel fuel.

The bottled water closest to home comes from Aquafina and Dasani because they start with the

local municipal water throughout the country. Both Pepsi and Coca-Cola add an energy-intensive filtration process to insure purity and consistency. As researcher Charles Fishman writes: "They are recleaning already-clean tap water."

Despite safe, clean municipal water in the U.S. costing pennies per gallon, many consumers still choose to buy water at twice the price of gasoline. For some, bottled water represents convenience, for others, status and for still others, matters of health.

The marketplace sees purchasing bottled water as a consumer choice, but people of faith reject the "it's-my-money" argument. Water "constitutes an essential element of life"—according to Benedict XVI's 2007 Message for World Water Day—and "water cannot be treated as just another commodity." The principles of subsidiarity and solidarity paint a larger picture about the global water supply.

Worldwide, one billion people lack safe water and everyday over 3,000 children die from diseases caused by unhealthy water. While Fiji Water ships one million bottles of water per day, more than half the people in Fiji lack safe, reliable drinking water. By purchasing bottled water that promotes profits over the public good, i.e. the privatization of water, the consumer can encourage the disregard for local community rights (subsidiarity) to provide safe drinking water for all.

In addition, solidarity requires examining present patterns of water delivery with its pollution and waste in light of future generations, because today's convenience might produce tomorrow's hangover.

While promoting greater water drinking for health reasons, we can responsibly tap safe, local supplies using additional filters and refillable bottles. If giving a cup of cold water brings God's blessing (Matt. 10:42), how much more will insuring safe water for all with the minimum of pollution?

Dr. Alveda King on new crime statistics

We have sown the wind of death in abortion clinics and reaped the whirlwind of violence in our streets

ATLANTA (Christian Newswire)—Dr. Alveda King, pastoral associate of Priests for Life and the niece of Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr., recently reacted to the release of new Department of Justice crime statistics showing African Americans to be the victims of nearly half of the murders committed in 2005.

"That 49 percent of all Americans murdered are black is shocking," said Dr. King. "That 93 percent of those people are victims of black on black crime is not really surprising. The abortion industry has told African Americans for decades that killing our own children is beneficial, even therapeutic. We bought their lies and life in the inner city has become cheap."

"You want another shocking statistic?" asked Dr. King. "Black

women are now three times more likely to abort than white women. Yes, 8,000 African Americans were murdered by guns and knives in 2005, but hundreds of thousands more were terminated by more socially acceptable weapons. We have sown the wind of death in abortion clinics and reaped the whirlwind of violence in our streets."

"The killing has to stop," declared Dr. King. "If we are to restore our communities and our families, respect for individuals has to begin when their lives begin, in the womb."

Priests for Life is the nation's largest Catholic pro-life organization dedicated to ending abortion and euthanasia. For more information, visit www.priestsforlife.org.

Houston Holocaust Museum presents "Medical Ethics and the Holocaust"

—Thought-provoking 15-part lecture series and exhibit examines medical practices of the Nazis and their continuing influence on modern-day medicine—

HOUSTON—Some of the world's most influential scientists, physicians, educators and authors, including three Nobel Laureates, will offer their views on some of the most challenging questions of modern medical, ethical, scientific, legal and public health policy in a new free public lecture series presented this fall by Holocaust Museum Houston. Nobel Laureates James Dewey Watson, Ph.D., and Eric Kandel, M.D., will open the Museum's 15-part "Medical Ethics and the Holocaust" series beginning at 7 p.m. on Sept. 9 in a discussion moderated by Nobel Prize-winner Ferid Murad, M.D., Ph.D. The provocative lecture series and companion exhibit "How Healing Becomes Killing: Eugenics, Euthanasia and Extermination" will explore how the medical practices of the Third Reich continue to challenge modern medical ethics.

"Who has the right to procreate? What defines the perfect human? Who is disabled? Are 'euthanasia' and physician-assisted suicide ever permissible? When do doctors and biomedical scientists become killers? These questions were raised more than 65 years ago as the doctors of Nazi Germany attempted to create a 'master race,' and yet we continue to struggle with many of the same issues today," said Dr. Sheldon Rubenfeld, who created the series and serves as chair of its steering committee. "Our goal is to tell the story of the indispensable and enthusiastic participation of physicians and biomedical scientists in the deaths of their very own patients and to explore how—despite the world's horror at their activities—those same actions haunt modern medicine today," said Rubenfeld, who will moderate the series. Watson, credited with the dis-

covery of the structure of DNA, will open the series with his talk "The Discovery of DNA: Implications for the 21st Century." Kandel will follow with "In Search of Memory: Psychological and Medical Contributions to the Holocaust," during the opening event at the Cullen Performance Hall at the University of Houston. Other lectures will be held at the museum and will include topics such as euthanasia and the Human Genome Project, the lasting legacy of the Nuremberg trials, pre-implantation genetic diagnosis and how the doctor-patient relationship has changed over the years since the Holocaust. Admission to each of the 15 lectures is free, but advance registration is required. After the opening of the series, the remaining lectures fall on Tuesday evenings at 7 p.m. "Medical Ethics and the Holocaust" begins with the official opening of the exhibit on Friday, Sept. 7. This Holocaust Museum Houston exhibition will provide provocative historical documentation of the role played by scientists, physicians and government officials at the six "euthanasia" centers where they murdered thousands of Germany's most vulnerable citizens. There also is no admission charge to view the exhibit, on view in the Mincberg Gallery at the Museum's Morgan Family Center, 5401 Caroline St., in Houston's Museum District. The exhibit runs through Feb. 3, 2008. Viewing hours are 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday and noon to 5 p.m. Saturdays and Sundays. For a complete listing of lecture series speakers, venues and times; other related special events; information on CME credits for medical professionals; or to register to attend any event, visit www.hmh.org/medethics.

YouTube Pro-life Videos

The following videos have a clear message and are not graphic: Overpopulation Fallacy:

www.youtube.com/watch?v=ykQVxWQpZzA or

type "Population Research Institute" into the YouTube search engine at www.youtube.com. The Population Research Institute (PRI) was founded in 1989 by Fr. Paul Marx, OSB, PhD. and is dedicated to:

(1) ending human rights abuses committed in the name of "family planning", (2) opposing outdated social and economic paradigms premised on the myth of overpopulation, (3) informing the public about the social and economic benefits of moderate population growth, and (4) promoting pro-natal and pro-family attitudes and policies worldwide.

Abortifacient (the Pill): www.youtube.com/watch?v=jICU46_IWeE&mode=related&search

The American Holocaust (Abortion Explained): www.youtube.com/watch?v=ipjhC0WfL9Q&mode=related&search

Thinking of having an abortion, by starlitshores: www.youtube.com/watch?v=OX0JVamXPIs&mode=related&search

Abortion Clinic 911 Emergency Calls (4 of 4)

www.youtube.com/watch?v=NoEAmDYjAY0&mode=related&search

Abortion Clinic 911 Emergency Calls (2 of 4):

www.youtube.com/watch?v=HRYkeYHUWUU



EVENTS

The Catholic Lighthouse
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Special Collections

Mission Sunday - Oct. 21

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.

Victoria—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.

Tridentine Mass (Latin) — is held the first and third Sunday of each month at St. Mary Church, St. Mary (outside of Hallettsville on FM 340) at 11:00 a.m. For more info. call (361) 594-3024.

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 2007 are: Nov. 30-Dec. 2. The dates for 2008 are: Feb. 1-3; April 4-6; June 27-29; Sept. 26-28; and Nov. 14-16. For more info., call (361) 573-0828 ext. 56. A date cannot be reserved for any couple unless a cashier's check or money order is sent in the amount of \$190 for weddings being held within the Diocese of Victoria or \$245 for weddings being held outside the Diocese of Victoria.

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 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 dates in Texas, please go to www.retrouvaille.org.

The Beginning Experience — An international ministry that helps divorced, separated and widowed individuals resolve their grief surrounding the loss of a marriage partner. Weekend will be held Nov. 2-4 in San Antonio. For more information, please go to this Web site: www.beginningexperience.org; e-mail: sanantonio@ yahoo.com; phone: (210) 734-2146; or The Beginning Experience of San Antonio, P.O. Box 790882, San Antonio, Texas 78279-0882.

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.actsmissions.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) 573-2624. 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. **For upcoming events or for more information: see the Web site at www.presidiolabahia.org.**

Picnics, Activities, etc.

September

Inez — St. Joseph Annual Parish Picnic, Sept. 9, at the community center. A fried-chicken, barbecue-brisket and sausage dinner will begin at 11:00 a.m. (with drive-thru plates available at 10:30 a.m.) at \$7 p/p. There will be a country store, auction and games for the children.

Yorktown — Holy Cross Festival, Sept. 9, at the community hall. A barbecue-beef shoulder clod and sausage dinner to be served from 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at \$7 p/p with dine-in a/c hall or plates-to-go available. The auction begins at 12:30 p.m. There will be entertainment throughout the day including music, country store, cakewalk, children's games and much more.

Bay City — Our Lady of Guadalupe Festival Meal, Sept 16, at the

parish hall (12th St. and Ave. D). A brisket dinner will be served from 11:00 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. at \$6 p/p with dine-in, pick-up or drive-thru available. The auction begins at noon. For more information call the parish office at (979) 245-2010.

Port Lavaca — Our Lady of the Gulf Festival, Sept. 16, at the Bauer Community Center. A shrimp dinner will be served starting at 11:00 a.m. for \$6.50 p/p. The auction will start at 12:30 p.m. The raffle prize will be a 2007 Toyota Camry. Some of the food that will be served throughout the day will be pizza, hot dogs, funnel cakes, egg rolls and fried rice. There will be a variety of booths, games and children's activities. For information, please call the church office at (361) 552-6140.

Moulton — St. Joseph Annual Parish Picnic, Sept. 16, 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. Free dance in a/c hall beginning at 1:00 p.m.

Victoria — Knights of Columbus Council 1329 chicken-barbecue fund-raiser, Sept. 16, 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.

San Antonio — 2007 Catholic Women's Conference Sept. 21-22 at St. George Maronite Center, 6070 Babcock. For more information go to: www.pilgrimcenterofhope.org or call (210) 521-3377.

Victoria — Victoria County Annual Czech Heritage Festival, Sept. 23, 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 exhibits, museum, arts and crafts, children's games, auction, pastry wheel, tarot tournament, Czech demonstrations, homemade beer and wine show, and music until 8:00 p.m. at the community center. At 11:00 a.m. a Czech stew and sausage lunch will be served at \$6.50 p/p. There will be kolaches and homemade chicken noodle soup available all day, along with sausage wraps in the afternoon. Admission is \$5 p/p (under 15 free). For more information go to: www.vchhs.homestead.com.

Victoria — Catechetical Conference Sept. 29 at Holy Family

Meyersville — Sts. Peter and Paul Annual Festival, Sept. 30, on the church grounds beginning with Mass at 10:15 a.m. followed by a barbecue-beef dinner at 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Plates will be \$7 p/p for adults with dine-in or plates-to-go. The auction begins at 1:00 p.m. Nordheim Faculty & Friends Band will perform from 11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. There will be a country store, raffle, cakewalk, games and much more.

Bloomington — St. Patrick Annual Turkey Dinner and Fall Festival, Sept. 30, on the parish grounds (13316 State Hwy. 185). Mass begins at 10:00 a.m. followed with the famous homemade cornbread dressing and fresh-baked turkey with all the trimmings. Drive-thru plates-to-go available with serving starting at 11:00 a.m. There will be an auction, country store, games and cake wheel.

When & Where

El Campo — St. Philip the Apostle Parish Picnic, Sept. 30

Sweet Home — St. John the Baptist, Koerth, parish picnic Sept. 30 at the community center. A stew and sausage dinner will be served from 11:00 a.m. There will be an auction, games and other entertainment all afternoon.

October

Tivoli — Our Lady of Guadalupe Festival/Jamaica (one block off Hwy. 35 @ Tivoli), Saturday, Oct. 6. The Catholic Community of Austwell/Tivoli will celebrate its annual parish festival with a turkey, dressing and trimmings dinner served from 11:00 a.m. — 2:00 p.m. for \$6.50 p/p. This includes dessert and tea. There will be entertainment for the entire family with children's games, color wheel/cakewalk, live auction beginning at 1:00 p.m. and much more. Look for signs.

Victoria — Nazareth Academy Fall Festival, Oct. 7, at the community center. A turkey, dressing dinner will be served starting at 11:00 a.m. followed with silent and live auctions. And much more throughout the day.

Hostyn — Queen of the Holy Rosary Festival, Oct. 7, see pg. 7.

Mentz — St. Roch Parish Picnic, Oct. 7 under the new pavilion (North of I-10 just east of Columbus). Mass at 10:00 a.m. followed by a barbecue-beef, pork and sausage dinner at \$7.50 p/p for adults and \$3.50 p/p for children. There will be the auction, country store, silent auction, kids' activities and more. Live music by Texas Legacy Czech Band from 1:00 to 7:00 p.m.

Shiner — The Shiner Catholic School Fall Festival will be sponsored by the Home & School Association Oct. 7 at the American Legion Hall. A barbecue-chicken dinner with trimmings will be served from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at \$6 p/p; drive-thru also available. Various games and concessions will start at 11:00 a.m. and the live auction will begin at 12:00 p.m.

Austin — Texas Catholic Correctional Ministries Conference, Oct. 12 — 13, at Wyndham Garden Hotel in Austin. The conference will focus on the overall picture of Criminal Justice in Texas and pinpoint specific areas for further development. TDCJ volunteer training will take place at this conference Friday morning, Oct. 12. New volunteers are asked to send a completed and signed volunteer application and bring the letter of approval to the training. All involved in criminal justice are invited. Pastors are asked to send their parish criminal justice coordinators for more instructions on implementing the Action Plan. Please contact Beverly Lincke, Victoria Diocese's Catholic Outreach Prison Ministry director, blincke@sbeglobal.net, for information. Also see page 8 for story.

Victoria — St. Mary's Parish will host Padre Ermelindo Di Capua from San Giovanni Rotondo, Italy, on Saturday, Oct. 13. The Victoria Padre Pio Prayer Group invites all to meet Padre Ermelindo at St. Mary Church beginning with a rosary at 8:30 a.m. followed by Mass at 9:00 a.m. A reception will follow at the parish annex building. See story on page 8.

Throughout Diocese — Public Square Rosary Crusade (Rosary Rally) at community squares throughout the diocese Saturday, Oct. 13, at 12:00 p.m.. Call America Needs Fatima organization toll free at 1-866-584-6012 or go to www.tfp.org for locations of a Rosary Rally in your area. See story on page 8.

Victoria — Our Lady of Victory Cathedral Annual Fall Festival, Oct. 14, at the community center with doors opening at 11:00 a.m. A buffet-style, barbecue-beef and sausage dinner will be served at \$6.50 p/p for adults and under 12-years, \$4.50 p/p, with drive-thru plates-to-go at \$6.50 each. Booths and games for the entire family. The auction begins at 12:30 p.m.

East Bernard — Holy Cross Parish Bazaar, Oct. 14, at the Riverside Hall. A barbecue-beef, chicken and sausage dinner along with homemade dressing will be served at 11:00 a.m. Hamburgers available after 3:00 p.m. Czech pastries, refreshments and country store items may be purchased during the day. The auction begins at 12:30 p.m. All kinds of games and entertainment for young and old will be available throughout the day. Added attractions will include a petting zoo, velcro wall and rock climbing wall. Making his 6th appearance will be "Patrick" the celebrity camel. There will be live music and entertainment starting at noon provided by the Texas Legacy Czech Band (12:00-3:30 p.m.); the Dujka Brothers (3:30-6:00 p.m.); and No Limit, local musicians providing country/rock music (6:00 p.m.-until?). There will be a raffle drawing.

Beaumont — All Souls Pilgrimage to Zacatecas and Monterrey Oct. 15-19 at \$350 p/p. Rev. Eduardo H. Garcia will be the spiritual director. For more information call (361) 358-3239 or e-mail: eddiehgarcia24@hotmail.com.

Weimar — Colorado-Fayette Medical Center Health Fair will be held Saturday, Oct. 20, from 9:00 a.m. — 1:00 p.m. The health fair features over 50 health care exhibits with assorted free screenings including cholesterol, blood pressure, blood sugar, pulse oximetry, and hearing, as well as information on home health, hospice, nutrition, and much, much more. Events included are Blood Drive, cake/toy/grocery walk and a huge silent auction. The Shiner Hobo Band returns for the fourth year. St. Michael's School will be selling hamburgers with all the trimmings and drinks and chips. For more information, visit their Web site www.cfmcx.org or call (979) 725-9531. Colorado-Fayette Medical Center is a non-profit hospital.

El Campo — St. Robert Bellarmine Parish Picnic, Oct. 21, at the KC Hall.

Goliad — Immaculate Conception Fall Festival, Oct. 21, on the parish grounds. There will be a Mass at 10:00 a.m. followed by a barbecue-beef, buffet-style dinner. There will be a cakewalk, country store, ballet folklorico, music by the Rusty Steins, kids games and much more. The auction begins at 1:00 p.m.

LaSalle — St. Theresa Parish will have their annual fall festival Oct. 21. Turkey and cornbread dressing will be served at 11:00 a.m. until sold out at \$7 p/p, with dine-in or plates-to-go available. There will also be live polka and country music starting at 11:00 a.m. The auction starts at 12:30 p.m. Other activities include cakewalk, country store and plant sale, refreshments and various kids games.

Victoria — St. Mary's Altar Society will sponsor a retreat Tuesday, Oct. 23, at the St. Mary's Activity Center. Registration is from 9:00 to 9:30 a.m. at the center. Father David Berger, parochial vicar of Our Lady of Victory Cathedral will be the retreat master. Lunch will be served after the Mass at noon, which will be held in the activity center. The retreat will be concluded after the Mass. There will be no charge but you are asked to make reservations before Oct. 19 to Janell Kruppa at (361) 575-8166 or Pattie Stevens at (361) 573-2974.

Upcoming Events

Bay City — Holy Cross Fall Festival and Turkey Dinner, Nov. 4, at the KC Hall (Hamman Road). There will be an outdoor Mass at 9:30 a.m. The turkey dinner will be served from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at \$7 p/p with dine-in or drive-up available. The auction begins at 12:30 p.m. There will also be a raffle, polka band, country store, children's games and much more.

Hungerford — KJT Society No. 79 and KJZT Society No. 57 will be hosting their annual turkey and dressing dinner Nov. 4 at the community center. Serving begins at 10:30 a.m.

Victoria — The Our Lady of Victory Parish and School 50th Anniversary Family Day Celebration will be held Saturday, Nov. 10, beginning at 10:00 a.m. on the school grounds. Join in a fun-filled day with lots of food, games and entertainment for the entire family.

Praha — 45th Anniversary Veterans Memorial Service Nov. 11 at 9:30 a.m. For more information call (361) 865-3560.

Victoria — Spirit Wind Ministry's 9th annual "Gathering of Women" retreat with Paula D'Arcy will be held at the Spiritual Renewal Center beginning Sunday evening, Feb. 10, and ending with lunch Wednesday, Feb. 13, 2008. The cost of the retreat is \$300, which in addition to Paula's fee and travel, includes 3 nights lodging and meals. So that everyone attending has their own cabin, and to keep the retreat small and intimate we limit the retreatant number to no more than 23. A non-refundable deposit of \$100 will guarantee your reservation, with the balance of \$200 being due on Dec. 1, 2007. Please make your check payable to Spirit Wind Ministry and mail in c/o Susan Oakley, 103 Woodmere, Victoria, TX 77904. (There are a limited amount of small grants available.) Questions, please call: Susan Oakley (361) 576-1515; Mary Cox (361) 576-3003; Madeline Dodson (361) 573-2583; or Father Kirby Hlavaty (361) 277-9062.



Diocesan 25th anniversary book compiled by local priest to be available by Christmas

BLOOMINGTON—In preparation for the Diocese of Victoria's 25th anniversary, Rev. Ty J. Bazar, pastor of St. Patrick in Bloomington, for the past year and a half has been compiling and editing a history book of the parishes of the diocese.

The book is nearly two hundred pages, and includes among other things... a history of the diocese and other significant dates, histories of each parish and their missions, pictures of each church, an index of the patron saints of the parish churches and a calendar of the parish feast days.

The publisher will be arriving in the diocese September 15 to begin the process of selling the books and taking orders. Those interested in obtaining a copy may contact Martha Pearson-Vela at the chancery office or their

local pastor. The book company representative will be meeting with pastors beginning

September 17 to determine the number of books to be printed.

The book will be hard-bound, full color, 8 1/2" X 11". The cost of each book is going to be approximately \$30.

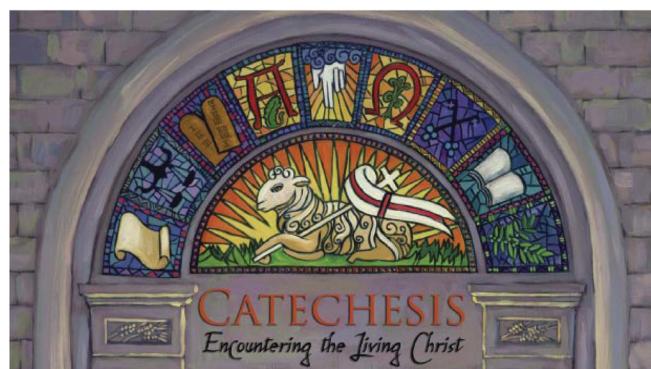
Once the orders have been taken by the end of September, the books are expected to arrive by Christmas.

"I am excited to present this volume of the history of the diocese," said Father Ty. "I hope the people of the diocese and their families and friends will enjoy it as well."

Questions may be directed to Rev. Ty Bazar at St. Patrick Church, P.O. Box 2122, Bloomington, TX 77951; (361) 897-1155; or saintpatricks@tisd.net.



Mission Sunday — October 21



WHOLE MESSAGE. WHOLE COMMUNITY.

Morning Keynote Presentation by Leif Kehrwald



Mr. Leif Kehrwald

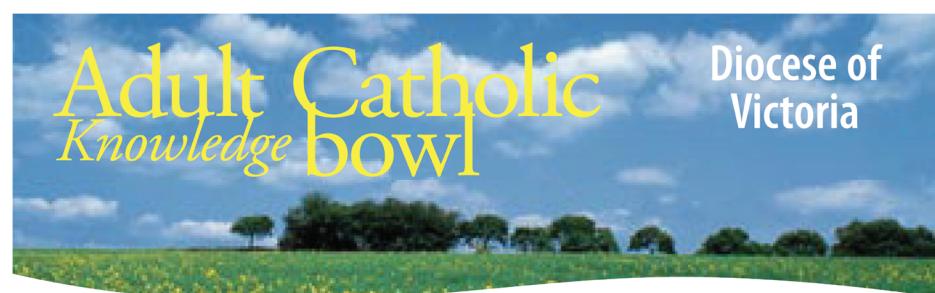
- A-1 Celebrating First Communion
- A-2 Classroom Management for Effective Instruction
- A-3 Sharing Sacred Scripture with Small Souls
- A-4 "Can These Dry Bones Come to Life?" Preparing Teens to be filled with the Spirit of Confirmation
- A-5 Mark Your Calendars! Living the Liturgical Year
- A-6 When Did We See You?
- A-7 Now We're Cooking, Christians!
- A-8 Teaching Through Opening & Closing Prayers
- A-9 The Young Soul's Journey with Jesus
- A-10 Proclaiming the Readings of Advent
- A-11 Leading Sung Prayer: The Role of a Cantor
- A-12 RCIA: A Process of Initiation...to be Priest and Prophet
- A-13 Living Together, but not with Jesus
- A-14 Wife, Mother, Employee, Catechist, and Holiness, Too?
- A-15 A Catholic Theological Response to Atheistic Science
- A-16 Family Spirituality
- A-17 Empowering Family Faith in our Community
- AS-18 Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe: Madre de todos!
- AS-19 Solidaridad con Nuestros Hermanos y Hermanas Alrededor del Mundo

Early Registration by
Monday, Sept. 24, 2007

Single Registration
\$14.00 1 - 9 Participants
Group Registration
\$12.00 ea. 10 - 15 Participants
\$10.00 ea. 16 to 20 Participants
\$ 8.00 ea. 21 or more

Late Registration begins
Tuesday, Sept. 25, 2007

\$16.00 per person
Registration at the door:
\$20.00 per person
To register or for more information,
email: calvarez@victoriadiocese.org
or call 361-573-0828



Diocese of
Victoria

K - Know your faith

N - Now is the time

O - Opportunity to review Catholic doctrine

W - Win big prizes

L - Love being Catholic

E - Educate self & friends

D - Dive into the Truth

G - Ground yourself in Scripture & Tradition

E - Energize your spirit



WHO IS INVITED?

There is no limit as to how many teams of four persons can enter from a parish or organization.

STUDY QUESTIONS

will be provided by September 16th.

See your parish catechetical leader,

(DRE/CRE) or go to..

www.victoriadiocese.org



PROCEDURES

- Three rounds
- 50 questions per round
- An answer sheet for each team's written responses will be provided
- 25 seconds per question



DATE:
Sunday,
February 24, 2008

PLACE
Holy Family
Victoria

REGISTRATION
November 1, 2007 to
January 14, 2008
\$20 fee per team

PRIZES

- 1st place: Special dinner for the winning team members with Bishop Fellhauer and a traveling trophy
- 2nd place: \$25 Gift Card for IWC Gift Shop for each team member
- 3rd place: \$15 Gift Card for IWC Gift Shop for each team member

Top Reasons to participate...

- 1. Deepen and enrich your faith/spiritual life
- 2. Learn your faith with fun, friends, & good cheer
- 3. Fabulous prizes

- 4. Bragging rights for your parish or group
- 5. Incredible edibles with Bishop Fellhauer

TWENTIETH ANNUAL CONFERENCE FOR CATECHESIS AND MINISTRY

Catequesis: Encuentro Con Cristo Vivo

Holy Family Parish, 704 Mallette Drive, Victoria

Saturday, September 29, 2007

GOD INVITES ALL TO THE BANQUET TABLE

Afternoon Keynote Presentation by Dr. Arturo Chávez



Dr. Arturo Chávez

- B-20 Celebrating the Sacrament of Reconciliation
- B-21 Incorporating Learning Styles
- B-22 Sharing Sacred Scripture with Small Souls
- B-23 "Can These Dry Bones Come to Life?" Preparing Teens to be filled with the Spirit in Confirmation
- B-24 Mark Your Calendars! Living the Liturgical Year
- B-25 Creative Crafts in Religious Education
- B-26 Solidarity with Our Brothers & Sisters Around the World
- B-27 Creating Sacred Space for Healing our Youth
- B-28 The Young Soul's Journey with Jesus
- B-29 Food for the Soul: Spiritual Formation for Parish Ministry

- B-30 RCIA Adapted for Children of Catechetical Age
- B-31 Let's Build Unity! On Earth as it is in Heaven
- B-32 Luke, A Gospel for Leaders
- B-33 Our Lady of Guadalupe: Mother of All!
- B-34 When Life Happens, Be a Part of the Solution!
- B-35 Fundamentals and Practices of Lifelong Faith Formation
- B-36 Israel Crisis
- BS-37 ¿Madre, esposa, empleada, catequista, y santidad tambien?
- BS-38 Espiritualidad de la Familia

Schedule of the Day

7:30 - 9:00 a.m.	Registration and Visit Exhibits
9:00 - 9:30 a.m.	Welcome and Opening Prayer
9:30 - 10:30 a.m.	Keynote: Mr. Leif Kehrwald
10:30 - 11:00 a.m.	Break: Visit Exhibits
11:00 - 12:15 p.m.	Workshop – Session A
12:15 - 1:30 p.m.	Lunch and Visit Exhibits
1:40 - 2:40 p.m.	Keynote: Dr. Arturo Chávez
2:50 - 4:05 p.m.	Workshop – Session B
4:15 p.m.	Liturgy: Bishop David E. Fellhauer

