



## Bishop schedules celebration to help those with challenges

VICTORIA – On March 7, Bishop Brendan Cahill will celebrate a Mass designed to serve people with disabilities that might make their usual parish Mass a little challenging if the “smells and bells” trigger frustration for them.

It’s called a sensory friendly Mass, leaving out certain things that can over-stimulate people to the point losing focus on what is happening during the Mass. For example, there will be no incense, there will be less light, there will be more soothing music and less movement.

The Mass takes place at 5 p.m. at Our Lady of Sorrows in Victoria and will be in English.

Bishop Cahill celebrated one such Mass last year at the Southwest Liturgical Conference hosted by the Diocese of Victoria. It was a demonstration for those attending who plan liturgies in their own dioceses or parishes. The goal is simply to ensure that everyone feels as comfortable and as welcomed as possible during Mass.

Some Catholic websites have listed ideas for such Masses that include encouraging or even providing “fidget” toys for those who need them, or maybe attending Mass while remaining in the vestibule or in a cry room. Or if it helps, moving to the front pew for better focus.

The National Catholic Partnership on Disabilities website states that the sensory-friendly Mass can accomplish the following:

- “Create a welcoming space for those with disabilities to

*See Bishop schedules celebration, pg. 3*

## The Transfiguration story deepens the experience of our Lenten journey

*Jesus took Peter, James, and John his brother, and led them up a high mountain by themselves. And he was transfigured before them. ... And behold, Moses and Elijah appeared to them, conversing with him. Then Peter said to Jesus in reply, “Lord, it is good that we are here.” -- Matthew 17:1-4*

The Transfiguration of Our Lord on Mount Tabor. What a sight to behold: Jesus (“...his face shone like the sun and his

clothes became white as light.”) in conversation with Moses and Elijah and then the thundering voice of God the Father acknowledging his Son and admonishing all to “listen to him.” That glorious event is commemorated with its own feast day on the 6th of each August. Why then is this joyful gospel included (second Sunday) in this cycle of typically somber Lenten readings? What message(s) does it hold that

apply to our own Lenten experience?

Perhaps we can find clues by turning back the date six days.

“After six days ...” are the intriguing opening words of Matthew’s Transfiguration account. That “six days” reference does not just designate a change in time from one day to another. Rather, it marks a dramatic spiritual change in the three attending apostles – a shift in how they envisioned

Christ’s mission as well as their own. Six days prior they were at Caesarea Philippi, in the northern most region of Galilee. There Jesus “set his face to Jerusalem” (Luke 9:51) and shocked the apostles by announcing that he was walking into his arrest and torture, his crucifixion and death.

It was then that the apostles were forced  
**See The Transfiguration story, pg. 10**

**2** Bishop announces the annual appeal

**7** Perhaps we should watch what we say this Lent

**13** Throwback: 20 years ago

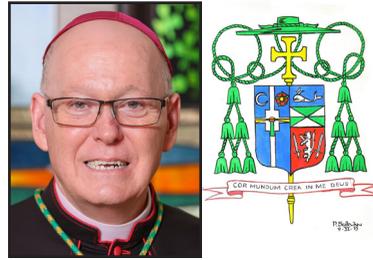
**16** Diocese celebrates the Rite of Election

“For I long to see you, that I may impart to you some spiritual gift to strengthen you – that is, that we may be mutually encouraged by each other’s faith, both yours and mine.” – Romans 1:11-12

“Porque anhelo verlos, para poder comunicarles algún don espiritual para fortalecerlos, es decir, para que nos animemos mutuamente por la fe de cada uno, tanto la de ustedes como la mía.” – Romanos 1:11-12

## A Shepherd’s Message

By Bishop Brendan Cahill



# Help support the great work happening in the diocese

**EDITOR’S NOTE:** The 2026 Diocesan Services Appeal begins in March. Members of our churches will soon be getting their donation cards in the mail. Parishioners can contribute at their church or online at [www.victoriadiocese.org](http://www.victoriadiocese.org).

as possible. In other words, “Instead of coming to us, we want to come to you,” as Father Jacob Koether, our Episcopal Vicar of Evangelization and Catechesis, put it.

In this annual appeal for our diocese, you can read all the ways the collection from our Diocesan Services Appeal serves our area. I ask you to support these and so many other activities that teach the faith and reach out to others with the beauty of Christ. This appeal also supports the administrative tasks that are necessary for us to maintain our unity across 50 parishes and 17 missions in 10 counties.

I continue to feel blessed to serve as the bishop of this area and remember you daily in my prayers. May God bless you and your families with the hope that does not disappoint, and may our hearts be open to the outpouring of the Holy Spirit. Let’s keep each other in prayer.

+Brendan

Brothers and Sisters,

Each new year brings a new energy to our diocese. We learn more from you each year. And each year we consider the needs of the parishes we serve from the chancery offices. Our work at the chancery offices should radiate the love of Christ, strengthen the faithful and encourage a fuller life in Christ in each parish community.

This year, our Office of Evangelization and Catechesis is refocusing efforts from large events to bringing opportunities of formation and growth closer to home for the parishioners in our churches. To be of better service, we are committed to striving to work as directly with parishes

## Ayude a apoyar el gran trabajo que se está realizando en la diócesis

**NOTA DEL EDITOR:** La Campaña de Servicios Diocesanos 2026 comienza en marzo. Los feligreses de nuestras iglesias pronto recibirán sus tarjetas de donación por correo. Los feligreses pueden contribuir en su iglesia o en línea en [www.victoriadiocese.org](http://www.victoriadiocese.org).

Hermanos y Hermanas,

Cada nuevo año trae nueva energía a nuestra diócesis. Aprendemos más de ustedes cada año. Y cada año, desde la cancillería, consideramos las necesidades de las parroquias a las que servimos. Nuestro trabajo en la cancillería debe irradiar el amor de Cristo, fortalecer a los fieles y fomentar una vida más plena en Cristo en cada comunidad parroquial.

Este año, nuestra Oficina de Evangelización y Catequesis está reorientando sus esfuerzos, pasando de los grandes eventos a brindar oportunidades de formación y crecimiento más cerca de casa para los feligreses de nuestras iglesias. Para brindar un mayor servicio, nos comprometemos

a trabajar lo más directamente posible con las parroquias. En otras palabras, “En lugar de venir a nosotros, queremos ir a ustedes,” como lo expresó el Padre Jacob Koether, nuestro vicario episcopal de evangelización y catequesis.

En esta compañía anual para nuestra diócesis, pueden leer todas las maneras en que la colecta de nuestra Campaña de Servicios Diocesanos sirve a nuestra área. Les pido que apoyen estas y muchas otras actividades que enseñan la fe y llevan la belleza de Cristo a otros. Esta campaña también apoya las tareas administrativas necesarias para mantener la unidad en 50 parroquias y 17 misiones en 10 condados.

Sigo sintiéndome bendecido por server como obispo de esta zona y los recuerdo a diario en mis oraciones. Que Dios los bendiga a ustedes y a sus familias con una esperanza que no defraude, y que nuestros corazones estén abiertos a la efusión del Espíritu Santo. Mantengámonos unos a otros en oración.

+Brendan

The annual Diocesan Services Appeal kicks off the first week of March. Read more about what your donations help accomplish, see Page 8. Pledge cards will be coming in the mail soon with instructions on the proper way to make your gift.

### Bishop Cahill’s Schedule

| March |   |
|-------|---|
| 3     | Victoria – 9 a.m. Legion of Mary Praesidium meeting; Cathedral Center           |
|       | Victoria – 11:30 Religious Sisters’ appreciation luncheon; chancery             |
| 6     | Victoria – 8:15 a.m. school Mass and visit with Nazareth Academy                |
| 7     | Victoria – 5 p.m. sensory-friendly Mass; Our Lady of Sorrows                    |
| 8-11  | Washington, D.C. – USCCB administrative committee meetings                      |
| 11-12 | Baltimore, Md. – Catholic Relief Services board of director’s meeting           |
| 16-18 | Grand Coteau – Marriage Catechumenate Summit                                    |
| 17    | Radio – Morning Air Radio interview   |
| 19    | Victoria – Diocesan staff Lenten retreat  |
|       | Inez – 6 p.m. Mass for the Feast of St. Joseph; St. Joseph Church               |
| 20    | Victoria – Noon Serra Club Mass and lunch; Colony Creek Country Club            |
|       | El Campo – 6 p.m. penance service; St. Robert Bellarmine Church                 |
| 22    | Shiner – 3 p.m. Confirmation Mass; St. Cyril & Methodius Church                 |
| 22-23 | San Antonio – Texas Catholic Conference of Bishops meeting                      |
| 23-24 | El Paso – prayer vigil in solidarity with migrants                              |
| 25    | Victoria – 10 a.m. Presbyteral Council meeting; chancery                        |
|       | Victoria – 2:30 p.m. Finance Board meeting; chancery                            |
|       | Bloomington – 6 p.m. CCD visit and reconciliation service; St. Patrick’s Church |
| 26    | Victoria – noon Mass and visit with Missionary Catechists                       |
|       | El Campo – 6:30 p.m. Mass and blessing of new tabernacle; St. Robert Bellarmine |
| 29    | Victoria – 9 a.m. Palm Sunday Mass; Cathedral of Our Lady of Victory            |



30 Victoria – 4:30 p.m. meal and visit with healthcare OVISS Sisters; Incarnate Word Convent

31 Victoria – 10 a.m. Chrism Mass; Cathedral of Our Lady of Victory

#### April

2-6 **Chancery offices closed.**

2 Victoria – 6:30 p.m. Holy Thursday Mass; Cathedral of Our Lady of Victory

Note: Calendar is subject to changes.



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*To be Christ-like  
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to serve the Church  
so that every person  
encounters the  
love of Jesus.*



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**Praying for a good harvest**  
GANADO – From left, Father Clement Quainoo, Father Stephen Vacek, Father Greg Korenek and Bishop Brendan Cahill extend their hands over the samples of seed and soil for a blessing during the Catholic Rural Life Mass on Jan. 31 at the property of Bart and Karen Hajovsky. Bishop Cahill’s homily was a reminder that Jesus is always present and will guide us through storms. “What we can do is work, plant the seed, do the labor that we need to do, and trust in God that he will provide what we need.”



**Bishop schedules celebration to help those with challenges**

*Continued from pg. 1*

fully participate in the faith community.

- Foster a sense of belonging and promote spiritual growth and emotional well-being.
- Allow families to worship together without worrying about potential disruptions.
- Reflect the Catholic Church’s values of compassion, love and respect for all individuals.
- Showcase the parish’s commitment to embracing belonging for all.
- Attract more individuals and families seeking a supportive religious environment.
- Strengthen the parish’s sense of community and foster growth in attendance.”

Last year’s Mass also included a lector who was in a wheelchair to demonstrate how a small change -- such as moving a reading stand to the bottom of the steps – can allow a person with a disability to participate in the liturgy in a new way. Following that Mass, the date was set for the first one in the Diocese of Victoria.

Bishop Cahill said his plan is have more such Masses in the future, learning more from the process and finding the right resources to make sure everyone feels included in the Mass.

For those who are interested in learning more about sensory-friendly Masses, the NCPD’s website has information and training as well. Visit <https://www.ncpd.org/form/sensory-friendly-liturgies>.



**CRL has casting call for Catholic farmers, ranchers**

A new documentary series by Catholic Rural Life is seeing Catholic farmers across the U.S. to share how their faith shapes their life and work on the land. It is for those who see their work as a vocation more than just a job.

The multi-episode project will explore the daily rhythms of farm life, generational traditions, challenges facing rural communities, and the role of Catholic faith in sustaining families and stewarding creation.

Inspired by the Church’s agricultural tradition reflected in *Laudato Si’* by Pope Francis and the witness of Saint Isidore the Farmer, patron saint of farmers, this series will highlight stories of faith, perseverance, and hope in American agriculture

CRL is looking for:

- Multi-generational farm families
- Young or first-generation farmers
- Ranchers, dairy farmers, orchardists, crop and specialty producers
- Farmers active in parish life or Catholic rural organizations
- Families navigating succession, sustainability, or economic challenges

Participation Includes:

- On-camera interviews
  - Filming during regular farm activities
  - Conversations about faith, family, and vocation
- \*Filming will be scheduled with respect for seasonal demands.*

To Apply:

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## Education of Seminarian Fund

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

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

### Lector

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Court Our Lady Queen of the Clergy  
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*In memory of Vivian Lawrence*

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Court St. Michael, #559, Weimar

### Acolyte

Ella Duncan & Family  
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David E. Fellhauer*

Catholic Daughters of the Americas  
Court Our Lady of the Blessings, #2546,  
Blessing

### Candidate

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## Seminary Endowment Fund

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

*February 19, 2026*

• **CDA Court of St. Ann #369 Seminary Burse #2**

*Acolyte*  
Donation in memory of:  
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Lucille Huse  
Mary Lou Urrea  
Marie Sherpinkas  
Lillian Berger  
Gary Dufour by  
CDA Court St. Ann #369

• **Rev. Wayne Flagg and Rev. Philip Brune Seminary Burse**

*Lector*  
In memory of Annette Neuendorff by  
Lambert and Carol Brune

• **Anthony and Rose Marie Trippodo Liggio Seminary Burse #2**

*Acolyte*  
Donation in memory of Brother Knight Mr.  
Eugene Schramek by  
K of C Schulenburg Council #2902

• **Rev. Msgr. John C. Peters Seminary Burse #10**

*Acolyte*  
In memory of Jerry Hajek by  
Rev. Msgr. John Peters  
In memory of Aunt Rosie Peters Shumbera  
by Rev. Msgr. John Peters  
In memory of George Wayne Koehn by  
Rev. Msgr. John Peters  
In honor of Aunt Josephine Peters on her  
91st birthday by Rev. Msgr. John Peters

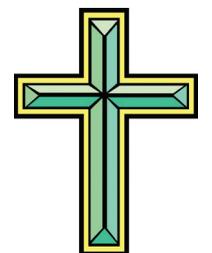
• **St. John the Baptist Church, St. John In Memory of Rev. Brian Crookes Seminary Burse #2**

*Lector*  
In memory of Rodney Alan Chaloupka by  
Glen and Donna Lux

To contribute to an existing Seminary  
Endowment Fund, send contributions with  
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**Seminary Endowment Fund**  
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*Please remember in prayer the priests of the Diocese of Victoria,  
who died during the month of March:*

|                                  |            |
|----------------------------------|------------|
| Rev. Msgr. Michael O’Shaughnessy | 03/02/2013 |
| Rev. Gabriel Franks              | 03/19/2018 |
| Rev. Daniel Giorgi               | 03/22/2007 |



“May their souls and the souls of all the faithful departed rest in peace.”

# HOLY FAMILY 2026 ANNUAL LENTEN FISH FRYS

**DATES:**

|          |   |          |
|----------|---|----------|
| March 6  | • | March 20 |
| March 13 | • | March 27 |

**TIME: 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.**

**WHERE: HOLY FAMILY CATHOLIC CHURCH FAMILY LIFE CENTER**

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# Falling is not as frightening as losing hope

In December, I fell.

It was what I thought a simple fall on a stone walkway, yet I was shocked when I couldn't immediately get back up. Growing up, I played sports, mostly volleyball, and falling was part of the game. You hit the ground, you bounce back up, and you keep playing. Even though I may not be as young as I once was, I still consider myself active and mobile. So, when I tried to rise and a sharp pain in my knee stopped me, fear quietly set in.

After what felt like forever, though it was only a few minutes, I managed to stand but the pain grew. My knee swelled, my ribs ached, my toe throbbled, and my face was bruised and bleeding. By the next day, I could barely walk. The distance of everything in the convent became very apparent.

Being on the younger side, I think some assumed my injuries were minor and that I would recover quickly. There was even some lighthearted joking. I know it was not meant unkindly, but it was difficult because I was carrying more pain (both physical and emotional) than anyone could see. It was a humbling realization that I could no longer simply bounce back from a fall.

When I went to the emergency room, the doctor didn't even give me pain medicine and pretty much told me to just go home and ice the knee. The friend who had taken me there gently but firmly advocated

## Finding Beauty in Mystery

By Sister Rosario Resendez, OVISS



on my behalf, asking how I was expected to move about when I could barely walk. So, they gave me crutches. I couldn't use them because my hand was also hurt. Though it was small, it was a powerful moment having someone stand up for me when I did not have the strength to stand up for myself.

I could not help but think of Simon of Cyrene on the road to Calvary. While Jesus carried the weight of the Cross, Simon was called to step in and help bear the burden. In my own small way, I experienced what it means to need a Simon, someone willing to stand beside you when you are weak, to lend strength when yours is failing. Sometimes God lifts us up directly. Other times, He sends us a Simon.

More than the physical pain, it was the realization that something had changed. I could no longer simply "bounce back." I found myself afraid not only of pain, but of falling again.

As I reflected on my vulnerability; on the humbling truth that I am not invincible, I thought of Jesus on the road to Calvary. Tradition tells us that He fell three times under the weight of the Cross. The loss of blood, the cruelty of the crowd, the crushing burden -- it all pressed down upon Him.

And yet, each time, He rose  
He did not rise because the Cross became lighter.

He did not rise because the pain disappeared.

He rose because love compelled Him forward.

Perhaps in those moments of rising, He was thinking of us; of the times we would fall and wonder if we could stand again.

His rising tells us something profound: Falling is not failure. Staying down is.

How often do we live with the quiet fear of falling? Falling into sin? Falling short? Falling apart? We sometimes imagine holiness means never stumbling. But the road to Calvary tells a different story. Jesus fell and, in rising, He showed us that falling is not the opposite of faithfulness. Refusing hope is.

As I began to heal and could move around at a speed a little faster than a turtle, I was preparing for our Mass at the Chancery. As usual I genuflected before the tabernacle out of habit and reverence when my knee screamed at me. I had forgotten that I was not yet healed and here I was not

knowing if I would be able to rise. I looked up hopelessly at the tabernacle with eyes probably full of fear as I knelt there alone, I wondered if I would be able to rise. I asked Jesus for help and almost as if on their own I felt my arms rise and hold on to the marble that our tabernacle sits on using that to pull myself up. Yet in that moment, it felt as though the Lord Himself had placed His hands beneath my arms and lifted me.

During this season of Lent let us remember that our lives as Catholics are not a straight, unbroken climb upward. It is a journey of grace, where we sometimes collapse under the weight we carry. What matters is not whether we hit the ground but whether we trust God enough to let Him lift us. I need to remind myself not to be afraid to fall but to be afraid of losing hope. When we feel overwhelmed, ashamed, tired or discouraged, we should remember this: He knows the ground. He has touched it. He rose from it.

When the journey is too hard, during times of unrest, when the fall is too painful, we can look up and ask Jesus to help us, and believe that He will reach down and pull us up.

*"Do not abandon yourselves to despair. We are the Easter people and hallelujah is our song." St. John Paul II*

• Contact Sister Rosario at [bishopsecretary.dov@gmail.com](mailto:bishopsecretary.dov@gmail.com).

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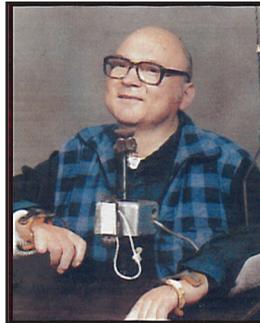
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# Sometimes it seems God is slow to act; then comes a miracle

**EDITOR'S NOTE:** *Father Kram wrote this sermon that is filed under "miscellaneous" sermons. It is titled "The Raising of Lazarus (An Unanswered Prayer)."*



1929-2000

## Servant of God Charles Kram Corner

Lazarus was the brother of Mary and Martha. Mary was the same Mary who had once washed Jesus' feet with her tears and dried them with hair . . .

The three of them were good friends of Jesus, so when Lazarus became seriously ill, they sent for him to come and heal him.

But in spite of their personal friendship and their urgent plea, Jesus came too late to heal Lazarus. In fact, he did not even come in time for the funeral.

So one thing we can especially note in this episode is that Jesus did not act immediately. This was not the only time He was slow to act when someone needed him. At the wedding feast of Cana, for example, he seemed at first disinterested when they had run out of wine, but then he took the opportunity to work his first public miracle by changing some 90 to 150 gallons of water into fine wine.

And many times his enemies were frustrated in their attempts to harm him because his time had not yet come. Even on the cross, no one could take his life from him

until he freely gave it.

The miracle of the raising of Lazarus was unusually important because it was THE miracle, which, according to John, finally made the Jewish leaders decide to do away with Jesus.

He had annoyed them far too often. He had called them names. He had worked miracles on the Sabbath . . . He had associated with sinners. He had claimed to be equal to God. This miracle was the last straw.

The raising of Lazarus was a great miracle. It had brought him back from death to life. But the big difference between his resurrection and ours is that his was only temporary; he had to die again later.

For us, Jesus is our resurrection and our life forever. We will never die again.

The raising of Lazarus is also of special importance to us because it teaches us that God answers prayers in his own good time

and in his own way and that when we pray and do not seem to be getting anywhere, we must not become discouraged and give up.

Remember that when St. Paul, the great Apostle, begged God three times to remove the thorn from his flesh, God's answer was, "No, my grace is sufficient for you."

Even when Jesus in the garden prayed that agonizing prayer asking his Father to spare him from the cross, his prayer was not granted. But through his obedience to his Father's will, Jesus conquered sin and death, broke forever the power evil spirits had had over the human race since the fall of Adam, and all power in Heaven and on Earth were given Him.

Only in eternity will we know how God, who loves us so much, can be so unpredictable.

Whatever directions our lives may take, we must accept our calling, cross and all.

Now let me read you an inspiring little composition attributed to an unknown soldier entitled "Ask and Receive."

*I asked God for strength that I might achieve; I was made weak that I might learn to obey.*

*I asked for health to do greater things; I was given infirmity to do better things.*

*I asked for riches that I might*

*be happy; I was given poverty that I might be wise.*

*I asked for power that I might have praise; I was given meekness that I might feel the need of God.*

*I asked for things that I might enjoy life; I was given life to enjoy all things.*

*I was given nothing that I had asked for but everything that I had hoped for.*

*Almost despite myself, my unspoken prayers were answered.*

*I am of all men the most richly blessed.*

God is our father, not our all-powerful servant. We must not expect him to do our will, but we can expect him to help us to accept his. He often works in the background, preparing a much better answer. He still loves his own, and he still answers our prayers; sometimes after a long wait and sometimes in strange and even miraculous ways.

*Lord Jesus, thank you for the loving kindness with which you treat your friends. Help us always to trust you, especially when you delay. Grant that our faith in you might lead us surely to a glorious resurrection on the last day. Amen.*

The Diocese of Victoria Youth and Young Adult Office

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MORE INFORMATION: [www.victoriadiocese.org/camp-david](http://www.victoriadiocese.org/camp-david)  
FOR UPDATES: Diocese of Victoria Youth and Young Adult Ministry [victoriatx\\_yyam](https://www.instagram.com/victoriatx_yyam)

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# Pope proposes Lenten fast from hurtful words

ALMUDENA MARTÍNEZ-BORDIÚ  
Catholic News Service

In his message for Lent 2026, Pope Leo XIV urges Catholics to listen more closely to God and others — and to “disarm” their language by fasting from words that wound.

The Lenten season began Feb. 18 with Ash Wednesday. In the message, released Feb. 13, the pope offers a simple definition of Lent as a time when the Church “invites us to place the mystery of God back in the center of our lives, in order to find renewal in our faith and keep our hearts from being consumed by the anxieties and distractions of daily life.”

He encourages Catholics to allow the word of God to touch their hearts with docility so that Lent may become “a welcome opportunity to heed the voice of the Lord and renew our commitment to following Christ.”

Listening to God and the cry of the poor

The Holy Father first highlights the importance of listening. “The willingness to listen is the first way we demonstrate our desire to enter into relationship with someone,” he writes. Listening to sacred Scripture, he says, teaches believers to recognize and respond to suffering in the world. Quoting his own apostolic exhortation *Delixi Te*, he adds that Catholics must recognize that “the condition of the poor is a cry that, throughout human history, constantly challenges our lives, societies, political and economic systems, and, not least, the Church.” Entering into this interior openness means allowing God to teach us to listen as he does, he writes, so that faith shapes both personal conversion

and social responsibility.

Fasting, including from harmful speech Turning to the traditional Lenten practice of fasting, the pope describes abstaining from food as “an ancient ascetic practice that is essential on the path of conversion.” “Precisely because it involves the body, fasting makes it easier to recognize what we ‘hunger’ for and what we deem necessary for our sustenance,” he writes. It helps believers to “identify and order our ‘appetites,’ keeping our hunger and thirst for justice alive and freeing us from complacency.”

Quoting St. Augustine, he notes that the human heart expands through desire for God. “Understood in this way, fasting not only permits us to govern our desire, purifying it and making it freer, but also to expand it, so that it is directed towards God and doing good.” However, he stresses that fasting must be lived “in faith and humility” and grounded in communion with the Lord. In this context, the pope proposes a specific Lenten resolution: “a very practical and frequently unappreciated form of abstinence: that of refraining from words that offend and hurt our neighbor.” “Let us begin by disarming our language, avoiding harsh words and rash judgment, refraining from slander and speaking ill of those who are not present and cannot defend themselves,” he writes. “Instead, let us strive to measure our words and cultivate kindness and respect in our families, among our friends, at work, on social media, in political debates, in the media and in Christian communities.” “In this way, words of hatred will give way to words of hope and peace,” he adds.

A shared journey toward conversion

Finally, Pope Leo XIV emphasizes the communal dimension of Lent, recalling that Scripture frequently presents fasting and listening to the word of God as shared acts of repentance and renewal.

“Our parishes, families, ecclesial groups, and religious communities are called to undertake a shared journey during Lent,” he writes, where listening to the word of God and to “the cry of the poor and of the earth” becomes part of community life. He underscores that conversion concerns not only individual conscience but also relationships and dialogue.

It means “allowing ourselves to be challenged by reality and recognizing what truly guides our desires -- both within our ecclesial communities and as regards humanity’s thirst for justice and reconciliation.”

Concluding, the pope invites the faithful to ask for grace and strength during the penitential season. “Let us ask for the grace of a Lent that leads us to greater attentiveness to God and to the least among us,” he writes. “Let us ask for the strength that comes from the type of fasting that also extends to our use of language, so that hurtful words may diminish and give way to a greater space for the voice of others.”

## Listen more, speak less, Bishop says

Bishop Brendan Cahill gives a reflection on Pope Leo’s message about abstaining from hurtful words during the Lenten season during his Feb. 17 Morning Air show interview on Relevant Radio.

Cahill said, for him, it begins with listening more. “I need to intentionally say, ‘I need to slow down and listen.’ Take the time to really reflect on the whole day’s activities,” he said. “The more than I listen, the more I can have ownership of my words” and use them to build up others instead of tearing them down.

To hear the whole segment of Bishop Cahill’s reflection, visit <https://relevantradio.com/listen/our-shows/morning-air> and find the 6 a.m. recording from Feb. 17.



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

SEARCHING-FOR-JESUS.COM

# 2026 Case for Support

Overall Target \$2,534,700 \*



## 26% Empowering the Next Generation

|   |                   |
|---|-------------------|
| Catechesis .....                              | \$ 92,400         |
| Communications / Catholic Lighthouse .....    | \$ 191,300        |
| Hispanic Ministry/Family Evangelization ..... | \$ 224,000        |
| Seminarian Education ** .....                 | \$ 0              |
| Youth & Young Adult Ministry .....            | <u>\$ 160,500</u> |
|   | \$ 668,200        |



## 22% Human Life & Dignity

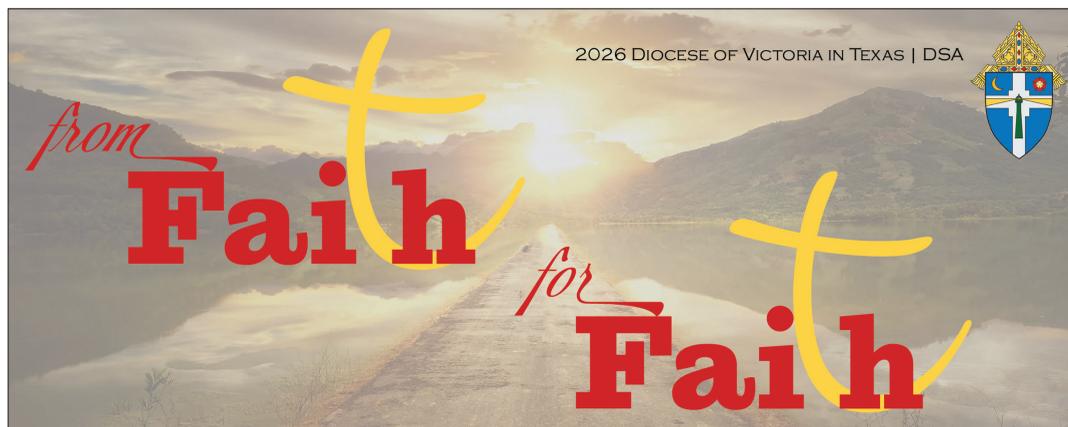
|                                |                   |
|--------------------------------|-------------------|
| Catholic Education .....       | \$126,200         |
| Other Ministries .....         | \$ 62,900         |
| Retired & Infirm Priests ..... | \$ 189,800        |
| Safe Environment .....         | <u>\$ 172,400</u> |
|                                | \$ 551,300        |



## 52% Strengthening Catholic Communities

|                                |                   |
|--------------------------------|-------------------|
| Chancery Offices .....         | \$ 324,800        |
| The Emmaus Center *** .....    | \$ 0              |
| Spiritual Renewal Center ..... | \$ 564,600        |
| Occupancy .....                | <u>\$ 425,800</u> |
|                                | \$1,315,200       |

|                     |                     |
|---------------------|---------------------|
| Diocesan Service    |                     |
| Appeal Target ..... | <u>\$ 2,534,700</u> |



\* The 2026 diocesan operating budget is \$5,836,600. The Diocesan Services Appeal represents 43% with the other 57% obtained from grants and other sources.

\*\* The Education of Seminarians is funded by contributions and endowment funds.

\*\*\* The Emmaus Center is self-funded by fundraisers, service fees and other sources.

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Proceeds benefit High School Senior Academic Scholarships and  
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## 22% Vida humana y dignidad

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| Educación Católica .....                 | \$126,200        |
| Otros ministerios .....                  | \$ 62,900        |
| Sacerdotes jubilados y<br>enfermos ..... | \$189,800        |
| Entorno Seguro .....                     | <u>\$172,400</u> |
|  | \$551,300        |

# 2026 Caso de Apoyo

Objetivo General \$2,534,700 \*

## 26% Empoderando a la próxima generación

|  |                   |
|--|-------------------|
| Catequesis .....                               | \$ 92,400         |
| Comunicaciones/The Catholic Lighthouse ....    | \$ 191,300        |
| Ministerio Hispano/Evangelización Familia .... | \$ 224,000        |
| educación seminarista ** .....                 | \$ 0              |
| Ministerio de Jóvenes y Adultos Jóvenes .....  | <u>\$ 160,500</u> |
|  | \$ 668,200        |

## 52% Fortalecimiento de las comunidades Católicas

|                                       |                   |
|---------------------------------------|-------------------|
| Oficinas de la cancillería .....      | \$ 324,800        |
| Centro de asesoramiento *** .....     | \$ 0              |
| Centro de Renovación Espiritual ..... | \$ 564,600        |
| La tenencia .....                     | <u>\$ 425,800</u> |
|                                       | \$ 1,315,200      |

|   |                     |
|---|---------------------|
| Objetivo de la Campaña<br>de Servicios Diocesanos ..... | <u>\$ 2,534,700</u> |
|---|---------------------|





Bishop Brendan Cahill is shown here with the 15 men who were welcomed to formation for the permanent diaconate during a Rite of Candidacy on Jan. 30 at the Spiritual Renewal Center.

## Candidates for diaconate welcomed

Fifteen men were welcomed by Bishop Brendan Cahill to formation for the permanent diaconate during the Rite of Candidacy on Jan. 30 at the Spiritual Renewal Center.

The candidates are:

- Bruce McConnell of Queen of Peace in Sweet Home
- Cody Horton of St. Mary's in Victoria
- Dale Zuck of St. Joseph in Inez
- Eddie Espinosa of St. Anthony in Columbus
- Hermes Silva of Our Lady of Sorrows in Victoria
- Jim Steele of Holy Cross in East Bernard
- Keith Kresta of St. John Nepomucene in New Taiton
- Kenny Solis of St. Robert Bellarmine in El Campo
- Mike Brown of Sts. Peter and Paul in Frelsburg
- Rick Jahn of St. Joseph in Yoakum
- Ricky Thornton of St. John the Baptist in Hungerford
- Dennis Edwards of St. Philip the Apostle in El Campo
- Jim Van Antwerp of St. Philip the Apostle in El Campo
- Doug G. Krenek of St. Philip the Apostle in El Campo
- Jeff Evans of Sacred Heart in Hallettsville



Contributed Photo

### Helping mothers and babies

GOLIAD – Thanks to the generosity of the parishioners of Immaculate Conception Church, the Goliad Knights of Columbus presented a check for \$4,159 to the Gabriel Project of the Crossroads at the 2026 March for Life event. Pictured, from left are Jerry Dornak; Life Director Adam Lumbrezer; Gabriel Project Executive Director Bridget De Los Santos; Dwayne Machicek; and Mike Berger.

**Our Lady of Lourdes**  
 59<sup>th</sup> Annual  
**Holy Name Society**  
**Chicken / Sausage Dinner**  
 Sunday March 22



**Our Lady of Lourdes Church**  
 105 N. William St.

**10:30 a.m. – Sold Out**

BBQ Chicken or Sausage  
 Potato Salad and Beans

**\$15.00 per plate**

All Plates are to go

Plates may be taken into the parish hall to eat.

# The Transfiguration story deepens the experience of our Lenten journey

Continued from pg. 1

to confront the reality that the narrative they clung to – of Jesus’ Messianic mission, and that of their own – had been an illusion. It had been the stuff of their making rather than reality; the fabrication of their own will rather than God’s. The triumphant parade into Jerusalem they had expected was now to be a death march. Their image of Jesus ruling from a golden throne in the temple of Jerusalem was replaced with the horrible picture of his death on a wooden cross on Calvary. For six days, a stew of uncertainties and fears and questions simmered in their bellies. For six days they carried the weight of the “why” of it all. What had all this been about? What is the endgame?

But then came that glorious “seventh day” on Mount Tabor and the burden of Caesarea was lifted by the Light of Christ. The three apostles were “recreated” and they needed this revelation of Christ’s divinity ... needed the assurance that the glory of Jesus was not perishable ... and would need the memory of this dazzling moment to help wash the scene of Calvary from their eyes. It was a “seventh day” of hope for those apostles, and it is a “seventh day” of hope for you and I, for it is more than an event to see -- it is for us to be. Christ’s transfiguration is his invitation for us to be transfigured in him as well. In his transfiguration, we catch a glimpse into the glory that he has won for us, when “he will change our lowly body to be like his glorious body.” (Catechism of the Catholic

## At Your Service

By Deacon Michael Tankersley



Church 556).

In this vision, we receive the courage to know that our purpose and destination is far greater than anything that happens to us along the way.

That all sounds comforting doesn’t it? But as much as we embrace the thought of our own transfiguration, we don’t relish the process of being transfigured. A new life with Christ is a welcomed thought, but having to die to our old one, well, not so much. And this, my friends, is where genuine Lenten experience and the vision of the Transfiguration merge. Dying to sin requires us first to recognize those sins just as pruning away our disordered attachments obliges us to first acknowledge them. And for those passions and practices that we have buried deep within that continue to tempt us, well they necessitate an even deeper and more uncomfortable examination of self. But we humans are skilled at self-deception. We can find all sorts of ways to convince ourselves that wrong is right and excuse ourselves from trespasses.

It is a challenge to face our blemishes and frailties even in the quiet of our heart, but to bring them out into the open is almost unbearable. If only we can hold onto the vision of Christ in his Transfiguration, we can find the comfort to make a genuine, positive Lenten pilgrimage -- one that goes beyond giving up chocolates and eating lobster instead of steak. Under his merciful light and loving gaze, we are free to crack open our hardened hearts and let his tender light of forgiveness shine upon our failures. We are free to visit where the land of our heart is dry and barren; free to go into those places where we were unable to resist temptation; free to recall the times we fled from the His will and walked our own path instead.

Furthermore, when we live in this “seventh day” enlightened by Christ, we can accept that it will not spare us from times of suffering. After all, the glory of Christ’s resurrection came only after the ignominy of his crucifixion. But as we “die to self to live in him” we will find that seeking the consolations of God becomes far less important than seeking God himself.

My friends, wherever you are in your journey, if you are with him, as Peter said: “... it is good that we are here.” And whenever you are with him, it is always the “seventh day” of light and love, mercy and hope. And when you find yourself unsure of your next step, in the words of God the Father, “Listen to Him.”



Icon of the Transfiguration by Theophanes the Greek, 15th century, from Spaso-Preobrazhensky Cathedral in Pereslavl-Zalessky

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## Workshop teaches living contemplatively

VICTORIA -- Most people live very busy and frenetic lives outside the walls of a monastery or convent, but all are called to an intimate relationship with God. Those who want to explore what it means to live as a contemplative disciple, no matter what state of life they are in can discover the details of living contemplatively on March 21 at a workshop at Amor Meus Spirituality Center.



Sister Digna Vela, OVISS

Sister Digna Vela, OVISS, will present the workshop. She has master of arts in theology from St. Mary's University in San Antonio and her spiritual direction certification from Creighton University in Omaha, Neb.

Amor Meus Spirituality Center is located at Incarnate Word Convent, 1101 NE Water St. Sign-in for the workshop is 9:30 a.m. It begins at 10 a.m. and ends at 1 p.m.

Workshops, unlike retreats, have a different atmosphere. They consist of information given on a topic by the presenter with interaction from the participants with the presenter and/or with each other.

Participants are asked to park in front of the convent. Snacks will be available. There is no fee, but a free will offering will be accepted.

**MEN OF THE EUCHARIST**  
The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep  
JOHN 10:11  
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2025 - 2026 SEMINARIANS

|   |  |  |   |
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| <br>Seth Biondi<br>Vocational Director<br>Holy Trinity Seminary<br>Holy Thursday, April 10<br>Holy Saturday, April 11 | <br>Father Kenneth Ecker<br>Vocational Director<br>Holy Trinity Seminary<br>Holy Thursday, April 10<br>Holy Saturday, April 11 | <br>Bishop Brendan J. Callan<br>Bishop of Victoria, BC<br>Holy Thursday, April 10<br>Holy Saturday, April 11           |   |

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### Collection for Education of Seminarians of the Diocese of Victoria (Holy Thursday, April 2)

Please assist your parish and diocese in helping to educate our future priests.

### Other Collections during Holy Week Pontifical Good Friday Collection for the Holy Land

The Good Friday collection supports the sacred places and the educational, charitable and peace-seeking ministries of the Church in the Holy Land.

## Sunday Readings from March 1 to April 5

March 1 ~ Second Sunday of Lent  
Genesis 12:1-4a  
Psalms 33:4-5, 18-19, 20, 22  
2 Timothy 1:8b-10  
Matthew 17:1-9

March 8 ~ Third Sunday of Lent  
Exodus 17:3-7  
Psalms 95:1-2, 6-7, 8-9  
Romans 5:1-2, 5-8  
John 4:5-42

March 15 ~ Fourth Sunday of Lent  
1 Samuel 16:1b, 6-7, 10-13a  
Psalms 23: 1-3a, 3b-4, 5, 6  
Ephesians 5:8-14  
John 9:1-41

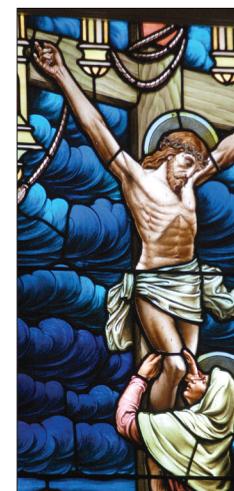
March 22 ~ Fifth Sunday of Lent  
Ezekiel 37:12-14  
Psalms 130:1-2, 3-4, 5-6, 7-8  
Romans 8:8-11  
John 11:1-45

### HOLY WEEK

March 29 ~ Palm Sunday of the Lord's Passion  
Matthew 21:1-11 (procession)  
Isaiah 50:4-7 (at Mass)  
Psalms 22:8-9, 17-18, 19-20, 23-24  
Philippians 2:6-11  
Matthew 26:14—27:66

March 31 ~ Chrism Mass  
Isaiah 61:1-3a, 6a, 8b-9  
Psalms 89:21-22, 25 and 27  
Revelation 1:5-8  
Luke 4:16-21

April 2 ~ Holy Thursday-Evening  
Mass of the Lord's Supper  
Exodus 12:1-8, 11-14  
Psalms 116:12-13, 15-16bc, 17-18  
1 Corinthians 11:23-26  
John 1:13-15



April 3 ~ Good Friday of the Lord's Passion  
Isaiah 52:13—53:12  
Psalms 31:2, 6, 12-13, 15-16, 17, 25  
Hebrews 4:14-16; 5:7-9  
John 18:1—19:42

### April 4 ~ Holy Saturday At the Easter Vigil in the Holy Night of Easter

Reading 1: Genesis 1:1—2:2  
Psalms 104:1-2, 5-6, 10, 12, 13-14, 24, 35  
Reading 2: Genesis 22:1-18  
Psalms 16:5, 8, 9-10, 11  
Reading 3: Exodus 14:15—15:1  
Exodus 15:1-2, 3-4, 5-6, 17-18  
Reading 4: Isaiah 54:5-14  
Psalms 30:2, 4, 5-6, 11-12, 13  
Reading 5: Isaiah 55:1-11  
Isaiah 12:2-3, 4, 5-6  
Reading 6: Baruch 3:9-15, 32-4:4  
Psalms 19:8, 9, 10, 11  
Reading 7: Ezekiel 36:16-17a, 18-28  
Psalms 42:3, 5; 43:3, 4  
Epistle: Romans 6:3-11  
Psalms 118:1-2, 16-17, 22-23  
Gospel: Matthew 28:1-10

April 5 ~ The Resurrection of the Lord  
The Mass of Easter Day  
Acts 10:34a, 37-43  
Psalms 118:1-2, 16-17, 22-23  
Colossians 3:1-4  
John 20:1-9

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



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## Safe Environment

### Reporting Procedures for Suspected or Known Sexual Abuse of a Minor (person under 18 years of age) or Vulnerable Adult by a Member of the Clergy

#### Contact:

- The Texas Department of Family and Protective Services, within **48 hours**, at (800) 252-5400, [www.txabusehotline.org](http://www.txabusehotline.org), or local police department.

**If person is in immediate danger call 911.**

and

- Coordinator of Pastoral Care and Outreach, Diocese of Victoria, (361) 827-7186, [pastoralcare@victoriadiocese.org](mailto:pastoralcare@victoriadiocese.org).

or

- Bishop or Chancellor of the Diocese of Victoria, (361) 573-0828  
Written allegations can be mailed

marked "Personal and Confidential" to  
Office of the Bishop  
P.O. Box 4070  
Victoria, TX 77903



If sexual abuse by a member of clergy has occurred in another diocese, the Diocese of Victoria will help bring your concerns to church officials. For assistance call: (361) 827-7186 or email: [pastoralcare@victoriadiocese.org](mailto:pastoralcare@victoriadiocese.org)

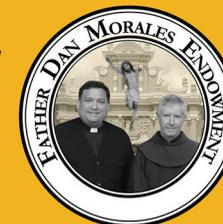
## The Father Dan Morales Endowment

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

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- Your gifts make a difference — monthly or one-time donations welcome.
- Scan the QR code to give or visit [www.frdanendowment.org](http://www.frdanendowment.org)



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





### Blessing the Sisters

The Diocese of Victoria celebrated World Day of Prayer for Consecrated Life on Feb. 1 during a special Mass at the Cathedral of Our Lady of Victory with Bishop Brendan Cahill presiding. Pictured are representatives from the three orders of consecrated Sisters who serve in our diocese – the Sisters of the Incarnate Word and Blessed Sacrament (OVISS), the Missionary Catechists of the Sacred Hearts of Jesus and Mary and the Vietnamese Dominican Sisters from Houston.



### Changing of hands

GOLIAD – Bishop Brendan Cahill shakes hands with Garrett Donnelly, the vice chairman of the Texas Historical Commission, during a changing of hands ceremony after the sale of Presidio la Bahia from the Diocese of Victoria to the Texas Historical Commission. The THC took over the management of the property a few years ago and the state agreed to invest \$8.5 million into ensuring the site is preserved for future historical education and tourism in Texas. The Our Lady of Loreto Chapel will continue to function as a Catholic church in the Diocese of Victoria.

## Grief support groups meeting monthly

The Emmaus Counseling Center offers two locations for grief support groups, one in Victoria and one in El Campo.

The Victoria group meets at the Cathedral Center, St. Clare of Assisi Room, 1508 E. Airline.

Dates this year are March 3, April 7, May 5, June 2, July 7, Aug. 4, Sept. 1, Oct. 6, Nov. 3 and Dec. 1.

The El Campo group meets at St. Philip the Apostle Catholic Church Meet-

ing House, 701 Hoskins Broadway. Dates this year are March 10, April 14, May 12, June 9, July 14, Aug. 11 Sept. 8, Oct. 13, Nov. 10 and Dec. 8.

Walk-ins are welcome or register at the Emmaus Center by calling 361-212-0830

Grief Educators Gail Janeka, LPC in Victoria and Pat Hoelscher in El Campo or Victoria can meet in a private session. If you have any questions, please contact Patricia Hoelscher 979-257-9984.



### Duty to God award

Monica Flores, center, received the Duty to God award, a national scouting award created in 2016 recognizing adult individuals who have demonstrated an exemplary history of transformational leadership in supporting and promoting the spiritual foundation of Scouting. Presenting the award are Michael Ledbetter and Kenneth Soto, both of the South Texas Council executive board. Below, are the group of Scouts who attended the Scouting Sunday 2026 celebrated during Mass at Holy Family Catholic Church, Father Ryan Kapavik, parochial vicar at Holy Family, was the celebrant.



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Elie has created 25+ Bible Word Search Puzzle Books designed for youths and adults — with additional word search, devotional, activity, and coloring books currently in production and coming soon! Find Elie’s books at [www.searching-for-jesus.com](http://www.searching-for-jesus.com), on Amazon (search Elie Corpus Mejia), or call 361-648-5832. Want updates on new releases? Elie would love to send you a quick email when new books are released. (Your info stays private and is never shared.)

Stay connected and inspired by following Elie on Social media:

Facebook: Elie’s Spiritual Treasures Instagram: @elies\_spiritualtreasures

TikTok: @elie0197

The **January 2026** winner from *The Catholic Lighthouse* entries is Caroline Mazoch from La Grange. She attends St. John The Baptist Church in St. John and will receive the Book of Exodus Sampler copy.

The following were not published last month of the **Grand drawing ADULT winners** are: - they each received the full-size edition of *The Book of Exodus*.

4. Florine Mozisek from Houston, she attends Ascension of the Lord in Moravia

5. Anita Grabarkievtz from Shiner, she attends Saints Cyril & Methodius in Shiner

The **Grand Drawing CHILDREN winners** are: - they received the full-size edition of *The Children’s Series Book of Genesis*.

Liam & Lily Berger from Shiner, they attend Saints Cyril & Methodius in Shiner

March 29, 2026

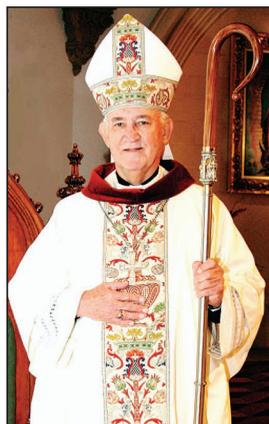
Palm Sunday of the Lord’s Passion

READING II - PHILIPPIANS 2:6-11

A **reading** from the **Letter** of **Saint Paul** to the **Philippians**: **Christ Jesus, though** he was in the **form** of **God**, / did not **regard equality** with God / **something** to be **grasped**. / **Rather**, he **emptied** himself, / **taking** the form of a **slave**, / coming in **human likeness**; / and **found** human in **appearance**, / he **humbled** himself, / becoming **obedient** to the **point** of **death**, / even death on a **cross**. / **Because** of this, God **greatly exalted** him / and **bestowed** on **him** the name / which is **above** every **name**, / that at **the** name of Jesus / every **knee** should **bend**, / of those in **heaven** and on **earth** and **under** the earth, / and every **tongue** **confess** that / Jesus Christ is **Lord**, / to the **glory** of God the **Father**.



## Throwback: 20 Years Ago



Bishop Charles V. Grahmann

### Victoria’s first bishop to celebrate triple jubilee in hometown of Hallettsville

DALLAS—The first bishop of the Victoria Diocese, the Most. Rev. Charles V. Grahmann, will celebrate his triple jubilee March 19 at Sacred Heart Church in his boyhood hometown of Hallettsville.

Currently Bishop of Dallas, Grahmann turns 75 years old this year and marks his 50th anniversary as a priest and his 25th anniversary of episcopal ordination. These milestones will be recognized in special ways throughout 2006.

The Hallettsville Mass and luncheon at the Knights of Columbus Hall will fall close to March 17, St. Patrick’s Day, when Bishop Grahmann was ordained a priest in 1956 by the late Archbishop Francis Furey of San Antonio.

“I am looking forward to celebrating

50 years of my priesthood with family and old friends,” Bishop Grahmann remarked. “The people of my native Texas are the most wonderful people in the world.”

He was appointed the organizing first bishop of Victoria on May 29, 1982, by Pope John Paul II and served there until 1990 when he was appointed the sixth bishop of Dallas. He served as a priest in San Antonio for many years and had a short stint there as an auxiliary bishop before moving to Victoria.

Bishop Grahmann turns 75 on July 15 — one of three Texas bishops reaching that age this year. The other two are Archbishop Joseph A. Fiorenza of Galveston-

See *Victoria’s first bishop*, p. 9

### • Active OLV parishioner celebrates 100 years

VICTORIA — Oscar Michael Becker celebrated his 100th birthday with over 100 family members and friends in Victoria, 2006. Mr. Becker has been a member of OLV Parish and the KC Council 1329 since he moved to Victoria in 1977.

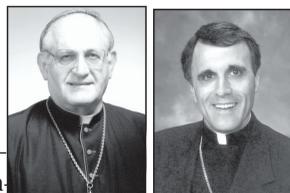


Oscar Michael Becker

### • Archbishop Fiorenza resigns in Galveston-Houston

WASHINGTON (CNS)

— Pope Benedict XVI has accepted the resignation of Archbishop Joseph A. Fiorenza of Galveston-Houston. With the resignation, Coadjutor Archbishop Daniel N. DiNardo automatically becomes head of the archdiocese. Archbishop DiNardo, 56, was appointed coadjutor in 2004.



Archbishop Fiorenza Archbishop DiNardo

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

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

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

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

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

Contact:  
 Father Kristopher Fuchs  
 Director of Vocations  
 361-573-4328  
[vocations@victoriadiocese.org](mailto:vocations@victoriadiocese.org)

# A Prayer to St. Thomas Aquinas for Catholic Schools

(March 7)

**SAINT Thomas Aquinas**, you are called by Holy Mother Church, the Angel of the Schools.

Your wisdom, gathered through long meditation from the source of all wisdom, the most holy Trinity, has long been a shining light in the Catholic Church.

Ignorance of the things of God is a darkness now enveloping the minds of many of our countrymen. In this darkness, we need an angel like you who will protect, foster, and nourish the schools we have, and guide and strengthen us in establishing and building newer and more adequate schools for the instruction of our children in the ways of Christ.

Help and bless the generous sisters, brothers, and priests who labor so unselfishly in the classroom to spread the knowledge of Christ. Inspire our Catholic men and women to be most generous in the support of the schools we have. Grant to parents the wise generosity they need to give their child back to God when that child wishes to follow a priestly or religious vocation.

Help us, Saint Thomas, Angel of the Schools, to understand what you taught, and to follow your example. Amen.



# A Prayer to Saint Joseph

(Feast, March 19)

**GOOD Saint Joseph**, you were the head of the Holy Family in the little house at Nazareth. You know the responsibilities, the joys and sorrows, the duties and rights of that position. Please, in your loving kindness, remembering the goods days at Nazareth, bless the head of our family. Help him in his needs. Make him kind and pure and gentle, as you were. Make him understanding and gracious, and obtain for him the kind of trust in God's loving providence that guided and supported you in Egypt.

Obtain for the lady of our house, too, the same graciousness and kindness, the same devotedness to duty and patient humility that Mary had.

Help, please, the children Of this house to form themselves after the model for all children, the Holy Child of your house in Nazareth.

And when we all finally come to the last moment of our earthly life, just before the beginning of our life with You and your Holy Family in heaven, stand by us, dear Joseph, and obtain for us the greatest of all graces, that of dying, as you did, a happy and holy death, in the company of Mary and Jesus.

Amen.



The following will have a Fish Fry every Friday of Lent through March 27

**BAY CITY (Holy Cross)** – Catfish plate and dessert, \$15 per plate, drive-thru or dine-in, 5-7 p.m., Columbus Hall (3070 Hamman Rd)

**EAST BERNARD** – Fish, mac n cheese, hush puppies, cole slaw and beans, \$13 per plate, drive-thru only, 5-7:30 p.m., Riverside Hall; fish by the pound, \$13 and sides by the pound \$7

**FRELSBURG** – Catfish plates \$15, plates-to-go or dine-in, 5:30-8 p.m., parish dining hall; fish by the pound \$15, desserts available for sale

**GANADO** – Fish plate with pinto beans, coleslaw, fries and hush puppies, \$13 per plate, dine-in or plates-to go, 4:45-6:30 p.m.

**MOULTON** – Fish, hush puppies, side and dessert, \$15 per plate, Social Center, 5-7 p.m., dine-in or plates-to-go

**PALACIOS** – Fish, shrimp, coleslaw, rice, beans and dessert, \$15 per plate, take-out drive-thru only (1004 Magnusson), 4 p.m. until sold out

**PORT LAVACA** – Fish, German potatoes, coleslaw and green beans, plates-to-go only, \$15 per plate, 4:30 p.m. until sold out, St. Jude Hall (300 W. Austin)

**VICTORIA** – OLV Youth Ministry catfish, shrimp, coleslaw, green beans, \$15 per plate, March 6, 13, 20, and 27, OLV Cafeteria, plates-to-go only, 5 - 7 p.m.

**WEIMAR** – Catfish plates with sides, \$15 per plate, 5-7 p.m. or until sold out, desserts for sale by Catholic Daughters, drive-thru only, Family Center

**WHARTON (Holy Family)** – Fish plates, \$15 per plate, 5-7 p.m., Family Center, dine-in or drive-thru, desserts available for sale

**NADA** – Fish Fry every Friday of Lent including Good Friday, April 3. Catfish plates, dine-in \$16 all you can eat, plates-to-go \$13, 5:30-8:30 p.m., desserts for sale by Catholic Daughters, Nada Community Center

**YORKTOWN** – March 6, Fish, hush puppies, coleslaw, German potatoes, \$12 per plate, 5-7 p.m., drive-thru only, desserts for sale available

**HOSTYN** – March 20, Fish, potatoes, pinto beans, coleslaw, \$15 per plate, dine-in or plates-to-go, KC Hall in La Grange (190 S. Brown), desserts for sale available

**VICTORIA** – March 27, Our Lady of Sorrows, fish, green beans, hush puppies, 4:30 p.m., dine-in at Trinity Hall, plates-to-go

**YORKTOWN** – March 27, Knights of Columbus fish plates

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|--|--|--|

The Point Comfort Seafarers Center is a 501(c)3 public charity located inside the Calhoun Port Authority providing hospitality and assistance for all crew members visiting the port in Point Comfort. Learn more at [www.ptcomfortsc.org](http://www.ptcomfortsc.org) and check out [www.facebook.com/ptcomfortsc](https://www.facebook.com/ptcomfortsc)

## Meals • Picnics and More

## March

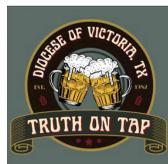
**PORT LAVACA** – Women’s Lenten Retreat sponsored by the Our Lady of Gulf Altar Society, Saturday, March 7, from 8 a.m. to noon at St. Jude Hall, 300 W. Austin St. Theme is “How is God Using Me?” After registration, a 9 a.m. Latin Mass will take place, followed by a talk by Deacon John Durant. Light breakfast and lunch included. Cost is \$10. For more information, contact Sara Cardona, 361-676-5856.

**VICTORIA** – Holy Family Church’s Altar Society is hosting a Lenten mini-retreat after the 8 a.m. Mass on Saturday, March 7. Father Caleb Krischke from St. Michael’s in Cuero will be the speaker. There will be talks, reflections, refreshments and a lunch at 11:30 at the conclusion of the retreat. There is no cost to attend. All men and women of the diocese are invited to attend. RSVP by leaving a message at 361-576-6508.

**BLESSING** – The Knights of Columbus Council #4307 is sponsoring the Lenten shrimp etouffe or gumbo meal and fundraiser on March 15 at St. Peter’s Church Parish Hall. Starting at 11 a.m. the meal will consist of your choice of shrimp etouffe or shrimp gumbo with rice, dessert, and tea or coffee. A large bowl with dessert and beverage - \$15 each. The raffle for gift cards will also be held during the day. Raffle tickets are available from any Knights of Columbus member.

**SCHULENBURG** – Day Grief Retreat Saturday, March 28, at the KC Hall, 405 South St., from 10-4. Open for anyone who has experienced the loss of a spouse, children, relatives and friend, Register online [victoriadiocese.org/grief-support](http://victoriadiocese.org/grief-support) or call Pat Hoelscher 979-257-9984.

## Young Adult Ministry



## Third Mondays!

Join other young adult Catholics at Froggy’s, 6:30-8:30 p.m., for fellowship and talks about theology.



Second Tuesdays (Aug. - May) In His Presence a gathering for young adults (18-39) with Mass (6 p.m.) at Our Lady of Sorrows in Victoria, adoration (6:30 p.m.) and confession. Followed by pizza and fellowship from 7:30 - 9 p.m. with pizza provided by the diocese.

For more information, contact Lydia Whitten, at [lwhitten@victoriadiocese.org](mailto:lwhitten@victoriadiocese.org) or call 361-573-0828.



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## Lenten Vespers



Amor Meus Spirituality Center, located at Incarnate Word Convent, 1101 N. E. Water St., Victoria, invites you to join them for Lenten Vespers on Sundays, March 1, 8, 15, 22 and 29, at 5 p.m. Benedic-

tion will follow Vespers. Park in front of the convent and enter through the north-east side door of the chapel. For more information, call 361-575-7111 or email [amormeuscenter@gmail.com](mailto:amormeuscenter@gmail.com).

## Mission Trips Planned

## Mark your calendar for summer mission trip

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

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

The late Father Dan Morales led many mission trips to the orphanage and an endowment in his name was created to help support Las Obras.

For more information, please visit the website at [www.coramdeotexas.org](http://www.coramdeotexas.org).



Father Dan Morales

## Ministries • Ongoing Activities

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

**Catholic Family Services** – To find Catholic organizations that focus on family, visit the Catholic Association of Catholic Family Life Ministers at [www.nacflm.org](http://www.nacflm.org).

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

**Emmaus Center** – Offers individual, couple, family, adolescent and children’s counseling, as well as specialized support groups. Spiritual direction is also available if requested. To make an appointment, call 361-212-0830.

**Engaged Encounter** – 2026 Dates: April 24 - 26; Aug. 14 - 16; and Nov. 13 - 15. Registration is on a first-come, first-served basis. Fee must accompany registration form. For information, call 361-573-0828 or visit [www.victoriadiocese.org/engagedencounter](http://www.victoriadiocese.org/engagedencounter).

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

**Grief Ministry** – Emmaus Counseling and Spiritual Direction Center sponsors a monthly grief support group for any kind of death or loss. Meetings are held in the Victoria area - 1st Tuesday of each month at 9:30-11:00 a.m. at the Cathedral Center (St. Clare Room), 1508 E. Airline, Victoria and in the El Campo area - 2nd Tuesday of each month at 9:30-11:00 a.m. at St. Philip’s Meeting House, 701 Hoskins Broadway, El Campo. Please contact the Emmaus Center for information or to register, 361-212-0830

**Incarnate Word Prayer Group** – Praise and worship 7:30-9 p.m. Mondays in the auditorium at Incarnate Word Convent, 1101 N.E. Water St. For information, contact Sister Louise Marie Jones at 361-575-7111 or e-mail [amormeus@yahoo.com](mailto:amormeus@yahoo.com).

**Millions of Monicas** meets 6-7 p.m. every first and third Wednesday at Our Lady of Lourdes in Victoria. Catholics have children who are struggling to embrace their Catholic faith or have left the church entirely. Like St. Monica (who prayed constantly for her son, St. Augustine), as mothers the women persevere in prayer for the joyful return of these children to full unity with the Church. It is not a support or self-help group. No sensitive information is shared. They gather to unite their hearts and voices in prayer to bring strength and joy to each other. Join with other mothers, grandmothers, Godmothers, aunts and other spiritual mothers to pray for their children’s faithful return to the Church.

**Ministry of Love Caregiver Support Group** – Come to the Emmaus Center on the first Tuesday of each month at 9 a.m. in the Cathedral Center (St. Gabriel Hall.) Please call 361-212-0830 for more information and to register.

**Natural Family Planning** – NFP is the only church-approved form of family planning. For the CREIGTON MODEL Fertility Care System (CrMS) featuring NaPro TECHNOLOGY™ contact Susanne Koch in Wharton at 505-710-0903 or [mailto:susannekoch614@gmail.com](mailto:mailto:susannekoch614@gmail.com). Also in the Cuero area contact, Ashley Rodriguez at 361-293-0700 or e-mail [ashleyfay09@gmail.com](mailto:ashleyfay09@gmail.com).

**Our Lady’s Healing Center** – Our Lady’s Healing Center is an apostolate with the mission to bring Christ’s divine healing in the Catholic Tradition. Our 12-month healing journey begins with a 5-day residential healing program at our beautiful facility in Seadrift. OLHC has developed a healing program centered on the life of Christ and acceptance of His invitation to be healed and transformed through the sacraments. For more information, call 361-785-2191 or visit [ourladyshalingcenter.com](http://ourladyshalingcenter.com).

**Raphael’s Refuge** – Raphael’s Refuge is the home of the Monument to the Innocents which honors babies who have died (from conception to one year). We are a non-profit organization located outside of Flatonia. Peer counseling is available for those suffering the loss of a baby due to miscarriage, stillbirth, infant death or abortion. For information, call Therese at 361-258-1514, e-mail [raphaelsrefuge@att.net](mailto:raphaelsrefuge@att.net), or visit <http://www.raphaelsrefuge.org>.

**Retrouvaille** – Retrouvaille, meaning “re-discovery,” is a marriage-healing ministry offered in the diocese to couples in difficult marriages. Call 1-800-470-2230 to speak confidentially to a local couple; or visit the [www.helpourmarriage.org](http://www.helpourmarriage.org) for more information.



## Church celebrates Rite of Election

About 200 catechumens and candidates were greeted by Bishop Brendan Cahill during the Rite of Election, celebrated at the Cathedral of Our Lady of Victory on Feb. 22, the first Sunday of Lent as is the Church's tradition.

Bishop Cahill referred to the catechumens by the Greek term "phōtizomenoi," which means "those who are approaching the light."

It is an ancient tradition of the church in welcoming those who desire to fully become members of the Body of Christ to be "children of light, giving light to the world."

The bishop recalled stories of the rite from at least 1,700 years ago as people were giving their lives to Jesus because they believed he truly rose from the dead. "As I share with you what was happening way back then, we realize we are part of the church that was founded by Jesus Christ."

He reminded those gathered in the Cathedral of Our Lady of Victory that they do not come into the Church alone. As their names were called and they approached the sanctuary, they came with their godparents, those who vouched for their intentions and said that, yes, they are living the life they should be while entering into the final days of their formation.

After the catechumens are called up and questioned, the bishop signs the book from each parish where their names are entered. Bishop Cahill quoted St. Gregory of Nyssa: "Give me your names that I may write them down in ink; but the Lord himself will engrave them on incorruptible tablets, writing them with his own finger as he once wrote

the law to the Hebrews."

"As you come forward, you become a child approaching the light," Bishop Cahill said before calling them up.

Finally, he offered a warning that, just as Jesus was tempted in the desert during his 40-day fast, Satan will try to test all of the faithful.

"Don't be surprised if you have doubts. Don't be surprised if you think, 'I'm not worthy.' Don't be surprised if something happens that makes you want to turn away. As they would say in the early church, be prepared for a time of temptation. Know you can turn to your godparents who will be there to see you through. ... The devil keeps after you. Don't be afraid, because the Lord has your name written in ink."

After the Rite of Election, the group was invited to the chancery office behind the Cathedral to learn more about the diocese in which their parishes are situated.



(above) Pictured are those who are to be confirmed at Easter time. They were presented at the Rite of Election on Feb. 22 and come from parishes in all parts of the Diocese of Victoria.

(left) Bishop Brendan Cahill signs the book of the elect for Father Michael Petering, pastor of St. Agnes Catholic Church in Edna. He signed the books for all parishes whose elect were presented at the Rite of Election on Feb. 22, the first Sunday of Lent.

(below) Pictured here are the elect – the catechumens whose names have been recorded in ink who will finish their final preparation time before joining the Catholic Church at the Easter Vigil Mass on April 4.

