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The Catholic Lighthouse

The Cradle of Texas Immigration

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March 2023



Come **Away** by yourselves

to a **Desolate** place

and **Rest** a while.

Retreats a chance to refocus spiritual life

JANET JONES
The Catholic Lighthouse

Jesus withdrew to the desert to be alone after his baptism and before he began his public ministry. This makes the practice of retreat at least as old as Christianity and one thing Christians can do to imitate Jesus Christ.

The 40 days He spent fasting

and praying is the basis of Lent, when the faithful reflect on Jesus's Passion and death in preparation for the celebration of His resurrection on Easter.

The definition of retreat is "withdraw" and the reason is to consider where you have been, where you are going and how you are going to get there.

For workaholics or people who always have something to take care of, making time for a retreat is an exercise in humility and a chance to remind themselves it is God who is ultimately in control.

"We have to rest," Bishop Brendan Cahill said. "Maybe we don't realize that things go on without us."

When considering making a retreat, some Catholics automatically think of the ACTS (Adoration, Community, Theology, Service) retreats that have been popular in the diocese for many years. They are designed to give a deeper understanding of God's

See Retreats a chance to refocus spiritual life, pg. 16

Prayer of absolution gets more precise wording

KEVIN J. JONES
Catholic News Agency

Lent is supposed to be a time of penance in the Catholic Church. This year, it's a time when priests in the confessional will use a revised translation of the sacrament of penance and reconciliation to forgive the sins of Catholic penitents.

The changes are noticeable in the formula of absolution, when the priest speaks in the person of Jesus Christ to absolve a Catholic from his or her sins. The "essential words" of the priest's absolution formula have not been changed, but there are "two minor modifications to the preliminary part of the prayer," according to the April 2022 newsletter of the Committee on Divine Worship of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB). Here's the new approved text, with changes in bold:

"God, the Father of mercies, through the Death and Resurrection of his Son has reconciled the world to himself and **poured out the Holy Spirit** for the forgiveness of sins; through the ministry of the Church may God **grant** you pardon and peace, and I absolve you from your sins in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen."

See Prayer of absolution, pg. 16



Lenten practices help bond givers, recipients of alms

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

The long-standing tradition of the Church teaches that, throughout this Lenten season, we purify our hearts and minds through prayer, fasting and almsgiving.

The Catholic Catechism #1434 states, “The interior penance of the Christian can be expressed in many and various ways. Scripture and the Fathers insist above all on three forms: fasting, prayer, and almsgiving, which express conversion in relation to oneself, to God, and to others.”

One of our Lenten practices in many homes is the Rice Bowl, where young people (And the rest of us, too!) are invited to pray,

A Shepherd's Message

By Bishop Brendan Cahill



give up some food, save some money and donate it for the help of others. The prayer and activity help make a connection between the person making the offering and the person receiving it.

Through the deeper reflection of the sea-

son, we come to understand in our hearts that we are all children of a loving God. You can find more information about this program at <https://www.crsricebowl.org/>.

The Rice Bowl program takes on a special significance for me this year as I now serve on the board of Catholic Relief Services.

On March 15 and 16, I will be attending a board meeting in Baltimore. One of the sessions of this meeting will be what we call a “deep dive” into a specific area where Catholic Relief Services is working.

This year, Bishop Albert Agyenta of Navrongo-Bolgatanga, Ghana, will be a guest of honor at the meeting. Among other topics, we will be focusing on the Sahel Peace Initiative. More information on this initiative can be found at: <https://www.crs.org/media-center/current-issues/sahel-crisis-facts-and-how-help>.

Reporting on this initiative, CRS states that the hunger and violence in Burkina-Faso, Niger and Mali has spilled over into the neighboring countries of Ghana and Ivory Coast. Our work makes a connection of faith, hope and love between the people of Western Africa and the people of South Texas.

The connection is even stronger here because many of our priests know Bishop Agyenta personally. When I visited some of the Bishops in Ghana last year, they shared with me some of the challenges they are facing, the strength of their faith in Jesus and their appreciation of the good work of CRS in the region.

Some of the bishops affirmed that CRS upholds the truths of our Catholic faith in its charitable work. Any support we give to CRS directly helps our brothers and sisters around the world.

May you and your families be blessed throughout the Lenten season with a deeper understanding of the mercy that flows from the heart of Jesus, and may our prayer, fasting and almsgiving lead us to a deeper union with Jesus and our brothers and sisters throughout the world.

Let's keep each other in prayer!
+Brendan



Bishop David Fellhauer Invitational Golf Tournament

April 28 • 1:00 p.m.



The Club at Colony Creek in Victoria

Celebrating the 26th Annual Bishop Fellhauer Invitational Golf Tournament, individuals and businesses from all over the Diocese of Victoria have supported the seminarians and youth by contributing to this event. The average cost to educate one seminarian a year is \$37,500. There are currently 10 seminarians studying for the Diocese of Victoria. There are several different sponsorship levels available for the tournament. Every “Bishop” level sponsorship of \$1,000 goes directly to the education fund for seminarians. Half of the remaining proceeds benefit the Office of Vocations while the other half benefits the Office of Youth and Young Adult Ministry. The contributions received help fund scholarships making it more affordable for youth to attend retreats such as Camp David, Rocky Mountain High, and World Youth Day. Please prayerfully consider how you can best support this event.

Sponsorship levels:
Bishop ~ \$1,000
Monsignor ~ \$500
Priest ~ \$200
Deacon ~ \$100
Seminarian ~ \$50

Mail Sponsorships to:
Diocese of Victoria
P. O. Box 4070
Victoria, TX 77903

Deadline:
April 14, 2022



More information at: victoriadiocese.org/bishop-david-felhauer-invitational-golf-tournament
or call the Youth Office at (361) 573-0828



Monica Aluko is one of many people in her village of Awardone who used to rely on farming for their livelihood but can no longer do so because of changing weather patterns. Her village is in the Upper East Region in Ghana and was one of several affected by drought and floods in 2007. Catholic Relief Services, through a Savings and Internal Lending Community, has made it possible for Monica and others to purchase raw materials to make and sell baskets. Some have even diversified into rice and Shea butter processing and piggery. (Michael Stulman/ Catholic Relief Services)



Bishop Cahill's Schedule

March		21	
2	University of St. Thomas Board Meeting	• 6:30 a.m. Morning Air Radio interview • 9 a.m. Legion of Mary Praesidium meeting; Cathedral Center	
4-8	Parish Lenten Mission at Saint Edward Church; Spring, Texas	22 • 10 a.m. Presbyteral Council • Holy Trinity Seminary board meeting; virtual	
8	St. Mary's Seminary board meeting; Houston	• 6 p.m. Confirmation Mass for St. Michael Church; Weimar	
10	8 a.m. school Mass and visit at St. Michael; Weimar	23 • 8:15 a.m. school Mass and visit with Holy Cross; Bay City • 4:30 p.m. supper with IWBS Healthcare Sisters; Victoria	
11	5:30 p.m. Mass and Girl Scout awards at The Cathedral of Our Lady of Victory	26 • 9 a.m. Mass at The Cathedral of Our Lady of Victory • 11:30 a.m. Praesidio La Bahia Reenactment; Goliad • 5 p.m. Confirmation Mass at St. Rose of Lima Church; Schulenburg	
13	• Sisters Appreciation Luncheon; Chancery • 2:30 p.m. Communities of Faith meeting, All Saints Orthodox Church; Victoria	27-28 Texas Catholic Conference of Bishops and Advocacy Day; Austin	
14	• 9 a.m. Legion of Mary Praesidium meeting; Cathedral Center • 2:30 p.m. Finance Board Meeting; Chancery	30-31 Principals Retreat; Spiritual Renewal Center	
15-16	Catholic Relief Services board meeting; Baltimore	April	
17	6 p.m. Mass and St. Patrick's Day celebration at St. Patrick; Seadrift	1	5:30 p.m. Palm Sunday Mass at The Cathedral of Our Lady of Victory
18	4 p.m. Confirmation Mass at Our Lady of Lourdes; Victoria	3	12:15 p.m. Mass at UHV; Victoria
19	3 p.m. Confirmation Mass at Holy Family Church; Victoria	4	10 a.m. Chrism Mass at The Cathedral of Our Lady of Victory
20	6 p.m. Mass at St. Joseph Church; Inez	6	Holy Thursday Mass at the Stephenson Unit in Cuero

Diocese launches annual appeal for support

The Diocese of Victoria has launched its 2023 Diocesan Services Appeal with a goal of just over \$2.2 million.

The appeal is sent to parishioners in each parish of the diocese requesting donations to help fund the bishop's offices and ministries that support all of the Catholic institutions in the DOV. Each parish is given a goal to meet. Funds raised beyond the goals go directly to the parishes.

The diocese covers 10 counties in South Texas including Calhoun, Colorado, DeWitt, Goliad, Jackson, Lavaca, Matagorda, Wharton, Victoria and part of Fayette.

Offices supported by the DSA include:

- The Office of Catholic Schools, which supports Catholic education for almost 3,000 students and 500 staff members diocese-wide. This year the OCS has chosen "Worthy of His Calling" as a theme to focus on all vocations (single and married life, religious orders and priesthood). The schools have seen a 4 percent increase in enrollment over the previous school year.

- The Office of Evangelization and Catechesis, which coordinates the pastoral efforts of the offices of Hispanic Ministry, Catechetical Ministry, Catholic Schools, and Youth and Young Adult Ministry. The office focuses on a common vision for evangelization and achievement of evangelism priorities.

- The Office of Business and Finance that administers the temporal goods of the diocese under the authority of the bishop, providing accounting services for a multitude of funds (i.e., Operating, Deposit & Loan Trust, Victoria Catholic Cemeteries, Presidio La Bahia, Lay and Priest Pension Plans, etc.). Parish assistance included: property insurance and benefits; vendor/supplier contracting; and other business programs.

- The Office of Disaster Services, which assisted 79 Hurricane Harvey and winter storm survivors (families) across all 10 counties in the diocese in 2022. Since 2018, 873 households were provided assistance and 522 House in a Box™ units were given to Hurricane Harvey survivors. The office helps with the Building Board committee, hazard risk management, and insurance claims as well as disaster preparedness

- The Office of Safe Environment, which has educated and trained more than 17,900 adults in the Keeping Kids & Vulnerable Adults SAFE and VIRTUS abuse awareness, recognition, prevention and reporting procedures as mandated by the state of Texas and by the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops' Charter. More than 600 school

See *Diocese launches annual appeal*, pg. 6

Lenten Fish Frys

Wharton – Holy Family Fish Fry dinner at the Family Center from 5:30-7 p.m. (through March 31). Dine-in or plates-to-go available at \$12 each. Desserts available.

Nada – Knights of Columbus Lenten Fish Fry every Friday (through April 7) from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. at the Nada Community Center. All-you-can-eat fried catfish, fries and slaw for \$15 inside dining and \$12 for plates-to-go.

Weimar – Knights of Columbus fried catfish dinner every Friday (through March 31) from 5 to 7 p.m. or until sold out at the St. Michael Family Center. Plates are \$13 each with drive-thru only. Catholic Daughters will sell dessert.

East Bernard – Knights of Columbus Fish Fry every Friday from 5 to 7:30 p.m. (through March 31) at Riverside Hall. Drive-thru plates only at \$12 each served with mac & cheese, hush puppies, cole slaw, and beans. Fish by the pound available at \$15.

Bay City – Holy Cross School Catfish Fry will be held at the KC Hall every Friday

(through March 31). Plates are \$15 each (desserts included) with drive-thru or dine-in from 5 to 7 p.m.


Frelsburg – Knights of Columbus Fish Fry every Friday from 5:30 to 8 p.m. (through March 31) at the Sts. Peter and Paul Diamond Center. Drive-thru plates only at \$15 each and fish by the pound for \$15 per pound. Homemade desserts available by St. Anne's Altar Society. Raffle tickets also available at the drive-thru.

Port Lavaca – Fish Fry each Friday of Lent (through March 31) starting at 4:30 p.m. at Our Lady of the Gulf St. Jude Hall, 300 W. Austin. Each plate will have fried fish, coleslaw, green beans and German potatoes for \$12 each with plates-to-go only.

Moulton – Fish Fry Fridays of Lent from 5 to 7 p.m. for \$12 each with fish, hush puppies, side and dessert. Dine-in the Social Center or drive-thru plates-to-go available.

Victoria – On April 7, OLV Boy Scout Troop 364 will have a Fish Fry. Plates-to-go are \$12 each with two sides and hush puppies. Dine-in until sold out at the KC Hall (en Wilson).





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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

Paz Morales

In memory of Father Dan Morales

Dan & Barbara Respondek
In memory of Ivan Cordes

Acolyte

OLV School Students

Catholic Daughters Court #2546 Our Lady
of Blessings

Candidate

Catholic Daughters of the Americas
Texas State Court

Transitional Deacon

Priest

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

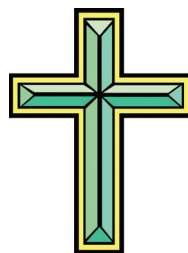
Diocese Of Victoria
Education of Seminarian Fund
P. O. Box 4070
Victoria, TX 77903

Please remember in prayer the priests of the Diocese of Victoria,

God our Father, thank you for our Priests and for calling the
Diocese of Victoria Seminarians to prepare for priesthood
and grant them the grace to grow closer to You through daily prayer.
Help them to form their personality as a credible witness to others.
Bless them while they study Your word and the teachings of the
Church and give them a generous heart to serve Your people. Amen

*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."

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 22, 2023

• K of C #1527 – Weimar Seminary Burse *Candidate*

In memory of Mr. Eugene A. Garza by
K of C Council 4th Degree #1527
In memory of Mr. James C. Prihoda by
K of C Council 4th Degree #1527
In memory of Mr. Ervin E. Zouzalik by
K of C Council 4th Degree #1527

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

In memory of Mr. Armand Hollas by
K of C Council #2902, Schulenburg
In memory of Mr. Melvin Jurica by
K of C Council #2902, Schulenburg

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

In memory of Leonard Sumbera by:
Milton and Diane Holub
Barbara Appelt
Stuart and Joanie Krischke
Lorene Kubenka

Marcus Kallus
Paul and Helen Flessner

Acolyte
In memory of Evelyn Kusy

• **General Seminary Burse**
Acolyte
In memory of Rita Addicks by
Joan Prihoda Family

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

Donation in honor of Rev. Philip Brune's
birthday by Mark and Sharon Kubicek
Donation in memory of Tonie Halfmann by
Lambert and Carol Brune

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

Diocese Of Victoria
Seminary Endowment Fund
P. O. Box 4070
Victoria, TX 77903

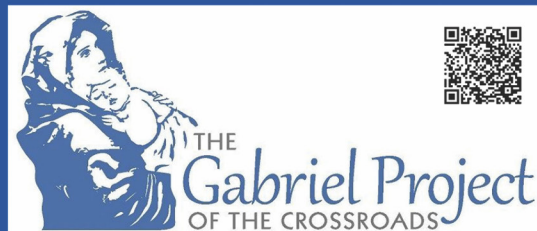
Supporting seminarians

Joyce Kurtz, state director of KJZT Family Life, presents Bishop Brendan Cahill with a \$1,467.50 check from the KJZT Clerical Endowment Fund of KJZT Family Life. The funds will help support the education of men studying for the priesthood in the Diocese of Victoria. (*Janet Jones/ The Catholic Lighthouse*)



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Instead of ‘giving up,’ think in terms of ‘letting go’

Lent: the season in the Church of 40 days of prayer, fasting and almsgiving, beginning on Ash Wednesday and ending at sundown on Holy Thursday.

The USCCB website states, “During Lent, we seek the Lord in prayer by reading Sacred Scripture; we serve by giving alms; and we practice self-control through fasting. We are called not only to abstain from luxuries during Lent, but to a true inner conversion of heart as we seek to follow Christ’s will more faithfully. We recall the waters of baptism in which we were also baptized into Christ’s death, died to sin and evil, and began new life in Christ.”

Many times, we as Catholics hear, “What are you giving up for Lent?” or “What are you doing for Lent?”

This year, I think we should ask ourselves, “What are we letting go of during Lent?”

A lot of times, we set expectations upon ourselves, and we begin to believe those expectations come from God, forgetting we were the ones who set them. How can we let go of some of those expectations? By first identifying them.

Finding Beauty in Mystery

By Sister Rosario Resendez, IWBS



Maybe we see our job as a ministry. We begin to work many hours, even bringing work home at times. Before we know it, we are working seven days a week at all hours of the day and night. People are calling us at all hours, too, and we drop everything to take the calls. We begin to think our life is this job, this ministry. We begin to see our families less and less and, when we do see them, we are not fully present. We begin to believe we should be available whenever the ministry calls -- that we need to be available, because we are doing the work of God on this earth, and He expects us to give 101 percent.

Yet if we look at the whole situation, it is always our decisions that allow our ministries

to take over our lives. God may have called and given us these opportunities, but He did not expect us to choose the ministries over our families or to burn ourselves out doing the job. That was an expectation we put on ourselves, and we began to believe it was God who expected that of us. Can we let go of that expectation? Can we set up healthy boundaries? Can we ask those we love for forgiveness for not being fully present to them?

Sometimes we have to let go of a relationship. Not every friendship is meant to last forever. If what we are holding onto is causing us more harm than good, it is in no way bringing us closer to God.

If a person has harmed us, let us remember we do not need to hold onto grudges. Sit and reflect with the scriptures. Sit and think, “How did Jesus feel when Judas kissed him?” Judas was his friend -- a friend who betrayed him. He knows how we feel, and he can help us through the pain. Remember we can forgive someone and never invite them back into our lives.

Maybe it’s an addiction or a habit we have picked up that is not helping us come closer to God. Maybe we are addicted to a television

(or streaming) show, to a gaming system or social media and we could be using that time for prayer. Can we let it go?

There are times we accept a half truth or a fabricated version of something because we want to believe it’s the truth. It’s easier to accept than the actual truth. Can we let that go and seek the truth? Can we accept the truth even if it may hurt?

Maybe we are struggling with something we did in the past. Can we go to reconciliation, let go of the sin and the guilt and accept the forgiveness of God?

Maybe we are used to being independent and doing everything on our own. Can we let that go and be humble enough to ask for help?

So I ask you: What can you let go of this Lent?

“(Lent) is a period of spiritual ‘combat,’ which we must experience alongside Jesus, not with pride and presumption, but using the arms of faith: prayer, listening to the word of God and penance. In this way we will be able to celebrate Easter in truth, ready to renew the promises of our Baptism.” Pope Benedict XVI

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 SHINER Patrick Klozik, FIC (361) 594-8160	 NADA/GARWOOD Chris Merta, FIC (979) 543-1059



Helping moms in need

VICTORIA — Nazareth Academy second-graders collected items for The Gabriel Project of the Crossroads during Catholic Schools Week to help mothers and babies in need. Linda Palmer, executive director of The Gabriel Project is shown receiving the gifts from the class. (Contributed Photo)



Diocese launches annual appeal for support

Continued from pg. 3

employees have been fingerprinted as part of the background check policy for school employees. Annually, the Diocese of Victoria educates an average of 9,000 children, youth and 2,200 parents in the area of personal safety. The Diocese of Victoria requires each parish and diocesan entity to implement this program.

• The Office of Vocations that provides resources to people discerning a call to the priesthood or religious life, as well as directing the formation of diocesan seminarians. We have 10 seminarians and anticipate the

ordination of two priests for the diocese this May. The Office of Vocations is primarily funded by the DSA. The cost of educating seminarians is funded through a bequest, the Education of Seminarians Fund and the Holy Thursday collection.

“The DSA directly assists the work of the Church, maintaining our unity with one another and with the Church throughout the world,” Bishop Brendan Cahill stated in a letter to the faithful of the diocese.

To donate online, go to www.victoriadiocese.org.

Stewardship is how we save ourselves from disaster

EDITOR'S NOTE: Sister Marian Sturm, IWBS, guest columnist to The Catholic Lighthouse, has written a series of articles about seeing climate change through a faith lens. This is the second in the series that will appear monthly. Contact Sister Marian at maristurm@yahoo.com.

While faith and reason are challenging us to be good stewards of God's beautiful creation locally, viewing the documentary *The Human Element* by James Balog regarding national and world climate, I am concerned about the health of all people, especially the poor.



Sister Marian Sturm,
IWBS

Mr. Balog has traveled the world using time-lapse photography to capture some shocking environmental changes in God's creation. In California, he captured huge winds driving the wildfires, showing them uncontrollably creating tornadoes within the flames.

Afterwards, he photographed the destruction of thousands of acres of forest and vegetation so that, when rainstorms come, mudslides destroy the landscape. Thousands of homes, wildlife and human lives were destroyed. Wildfire smoke alone contributes to the deaths of 17,000 Americans annually. Firefighters said these blazes are increasing in number, intensity, size and frequency and changing the precipitation patterns. These fires are burning all year long, covering thousands of acres each year, creating extreme heat, dry terrain, more fires, and increasing carbon in the atmosphere.

Balog also filmed glaciers melting into the oceans, causing monumental abrupt changes in the landscape. Increased melting raises the sea level. He captured the rising water invading the Eastern and Gulf coasts of the U.S. where smaller towns are being abandoned, waterfront jobs and careers are being lost, and families need to relocate without financial means.

There is a projected rise in sea level of 5 to 24 inches by 2050.

Measuring the amount of air for breathing in the atmosphere, he discovered that the air is very thin, being polluted by refineries

and traffic using fossil fuel energy: methane, ethanol, and other gases, which produce carbon dioxide.

The main greenhouse gas, carbon dioxide, has reached its highest level in more than 800,000 years. Because these gases trap heat, the annual average global temperature is increasing and will continue to increase. Also, chemical reactions between oxides of nitrogen and hydrocarbons forming ozone radiate heat. This contributes to the temperature of the Earth and is harmful to us. Air pollution is the major environmental risk, causing 800,000 deaths in the U.S. each year.

Filming the destruction of coal mining, in which his father was involved, he recognized the benefits of coal, and now oil and gas. However, these fossil fuels have brought death to families. They contribute to increasing the annual average temperature of the earth. Todd Staples, the president of the Texas Oil and Gas Association agreed that fossil fuels contribute to global warming and stated that they are committed to lowering carbon emissions. (Houston Public Media, Jan. 14, 2020)


While there has always been environmental change, James Balog's time-lapse photography shows how quickly it is now taking place and that it is becoming more unpredictable and turbulent. The recent freeze demonstrated this unrestrained, intense force of nature. While wind/air, water, earth and fire are forces of nature making these changes, we human beings are also adversely affecting all four elements and human lives.

In Texas this year, we have experienced 22 weather and climate disasters that are affecting all of us, but more so those in poverty.

The story of Cain and Abel (Genesis 4:9-11) tells us that we are our brother's keeper. Jesus confirms this when he says we are to love our neighbor as we love ourselves (Matthew 27:37-40). Moreover, Genesis 2:15 implies mutual responsibility between humanity and nature.

Climate is a common good meant for all, and all must preserve it. We must use only what is needed to be sustained and protect the earth for future fruitfulness. The recent hard freeze and COVID-19 have demonstrated that we are all connected and need each other to be sustained in life. Whether we are saved from destruction depends on all of us working together for the benefit of all.

Solutions are to follow.



KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS COUNCIL #4307

SHRIMP ETOUFFE & GUMBO MEAL

SUNDAY, MARCH 12, 2023

ST. PETER'S PARISH HALL BLESSING, TEXAS

SERVING FROM 11:00 A.M. TILL 1:00 P.M.

Bowl - \$12.00 (Served with Rice -- Includes Dessert and Tea)

Auction & Raffle (Gift Cards)

Tickets available from any Knights of Columbus member

Proceeds benefit High School Senior Academic Scholarships and State Charity Programs



Weimar KC poster contest winners

WEIMAR — The Weimar Knights of Columbus Council #2153 sponsored their annual poster and essay contests recently. Pictured are poster winners from St. Michael Catholic School. From left, they are: poster winners for alcohol abuse awareness, Justin Ohnheiser (ages 8-11) and Emma Koeth (ages 12-14); and drug abuse awareness, Layne Schimcek (ages 8-11) and Chloe Brandt (ages 12-14). (Contributed Photo)



New wheels

HALLETTSVILLE — Because of the generosity of Frank and Elrose Migl, on the right, Sacred Heart Catholic School has a brand new school bus. The school was desperately in need of a bus because the old buses were having mechanical issues. Students, teachers and staff say they are excited with the bus and deeply grateful to Mr. and Mrs. Migl, who have been longtime supporters of Sacred Heart. Pictured with Mr. and Mrs. Migl are the Rev. Monsignor John Peters, pastor; Principal Kevin Haas, far left; the Migls' grandchildren, Kinley, Landyn and Tryce Migl; and their great-granddaughter Brooklyn Rother, all of whom are students of Sacred Heart. (Contributed Photo)



Join in listening to Bishop Brendan Cahill every third Tuesday of the month at 6:30 a.m. on *Relevant Radio Morning Air with John Morales*. Listeners can call in with questions or comments. You can listen to past podcasts online.

Relevant Radio® has been helping people bridge the gap between faith and everyday life through informative, entertaining, and interactive programming twenty-four hours per day, seven days per week. The Relevant Radio network is currently serving the Church with 127 stations reaching 39 states, with a potential listening audience of 133 million people. Programming can be heard worldwide via streaming audio at relevantradio.com and on the mobile app.



Dragon Dance lesson

PORT LAVACA — Master Jimmy Liu from the Shaolin Temple Cultural Center in Houston came to Our Lady of the Gulf recently and taught the middle school students the Dragon Dance as they prepared for their annual Chinese New Year celebration. The Dragon Dance is a form of traditional dance in Chinese culture and other Asian countries in which performers mimic a dragon's movements while in costume to bring good luck and fortune. The dance is usually performed during the Chinese New Year and other Chinese traditional, cultural and religious festivals. (Contributed Photo)



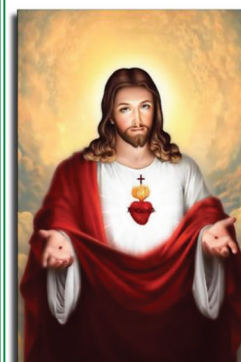
Weimar KC essay contest winners

WEIMAR — From left, eighth-graders Hunter Shupak, Trevor Bentley and Tucker Janak of St. Michael Catholic School were given first-, second- and third-place wins, respectively, in the Weimar Knights of Columbus Council #2153 Catholic Citizenship Essay contest. (Contributed Photo)

St. Mary's Altar Society Retreat

I Will Go to the Altar of God

Psalm 43:4



Tuesday - May 9, 2023 - 9:00 a.m.
Keynote Speaker: Fr. Kristopher Fuchs
Mass, Lunch

Registration 8:30 a.m.
St. Mary's Parish Hall
401 S. Liberty St. - Victoria, TX

Reservations – Free, call
Anne 361-648-2008 or Virginia 361-550-3053



DOV group prepares for World Youth Day this summer

A group 30 young people from the Diocese of Victoria, including priests, seminarians, college students and other young adults, accompanied by Bishop Brendan Cahill, will make the pilgrimage to Lisbon, Portugal, for World Youth Day this summer.

This gathering of millions of young people from around the world together with the pope has taken place every few years since its beginnings in Rome in 1986.

According to the World Youth Day website, this event “aims to provide all participants with a universal Church experience, fostering a personal encounter with Jesus Christ.”

Taylor Janak, 25, will be one of the pilgrims.

“What I am looking forward to most is showing the world that the Catholic faith is alive and well in our youth and bringing that same spirit home to our diocese as I continue to work with the children of our diocese as a teacher,” Janak, a teacher at Our Lady of Victory, said.

Emma, Joseph and John Andruss, all of Victoria, are young adult siblings who will make the pilgrimage together. Joseph and John are college students at Texas A&M and Emma is a graduate of the university. They said their parents instilled in them that the most important aspects of life were their Catholic faith and the closeness of family. They are excited to travel together to experience World Youth Day with Pope Francis, traveling to sites where miracles occurred and simply experiencing a different part of the world.

During this time of Eucharistic Revival in the United States, the pilgrims on this journey will have an opportunity to visit the Church of St. Stephen where the Relic of the Eucharistic Miracle of Santarem is located. These young people also will travel to Fatima and celebrate Mass at the Chapel of the Apparition. In addition to the World Youth Day activities, they will have other spiritual opportunities such as a visit to Avila, Spain, hope of St. Teresa of Avia, as well as a stop in El Escorial before departing to the United States from Madrid.

“I cannot wait to attend World Youth Day! As a youth group minister, this would be perfect to share and bring new life with the high-schoolers that I help teach and bring closer to God. So excited to experience it!” said Kari Christen, a young professional in Weimar.

Teresa Vincent, another young teacher at OLV, said, “I’m excited to go to World Youth Day because this is a twice in a lifetime opportunity for me to see the pope in person and be united with literally millions of other youth from around the world. Please be praying for me and everyone who is going.”

“One of the reasons why this trip is important to me is as a Catholic male, it gives me an opportunity to surround myself with millions of other young Catholics to pray, to grow in a relationship with Christ, and to become a better Catholic,” another pilgrim, Adam Beard, an EMT in Port Lavaca said.

The DOV group has a space to fill. The trip is July 31-Aug. 10, and costs \$4,400 per person.

The Office of Youth and Young Adult Ministry is working to raise funds to help them have a personal encounter with Jesus alongside so many other young Catholics from around the world.

Anyone or any organization interested in supporting the pilgrimage are asked to prayerfully consider which option(s) might be best:

- Pray for a safe and fruitful trip for everyone involved
- Buy tickets or donate items to one of the planned fundraisers
- Donate proceeds from a fundraiser to the young adults on this trip
- Send in a sponsorship / check to the Diocese of Victoria attn: Youth Office at 1505 E. Mesquite Lane, Victoria, TX 77901

If you have questions about this trip or would like more information, contact the Youth Ministry office at 361-573-0828, Exts. 2232 or 2250. Or email Wendy Eggert or Shannon Thomas at weggert@victoriadiocese.org or sthomas@victoriadiocese.org.

A full brochure for the 2023 World Youth Day can be found at www.victoriadiocese.org/world-youth-day.

‘Stock’ buyers support WYD

The Diocese of Victoria is helping the pilgrims to World Youth Day pay their way by selling “stock.” Anyone interested in helping can call the office at the chancery (361-573-0828) to ask for a stockholder card.

Those who give a minimum of \$100 will ensure themselves and invitation to the “Stock Party” that will take place Sept. 23. Those who give \$1,000 donations will ensure a table with seven places plus one for a WYD participant. A stockholder can request a particular WYD participant if they do not already have a seat at another stockholder table.

Donors can also request that their money go to a certain pilgrim or can request that their gift be part of a pool to be divided equally among all WYD participants.



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Our team: Case Hollub, Monica Stock, Carol Hollub, Kelly Lichnovsky, Rebecca Klima and Lupe Mata

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Try not to be what you say you despise

EDITOR'S NOTE: The following sermon was written for the ninth (or twelfth) Sunday in Ordinary Time, Cycle A. Father Kram titled it "Honesty and Hypocrisy."

There are lots of hypocrites in the world and there have always been – people who are not what they seem to be.

Among them are the politicians who make promises they never intend to keep.

On the job, we see employees who become goof-offs as soon as they get on the payroll.

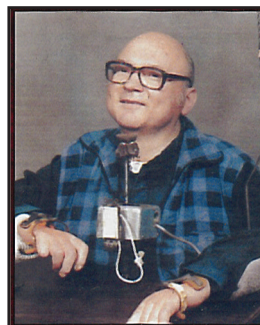
In the home, we observe parents who argue and cheat and tell their little ones to behave.

Even children can be hypocrites. The well-behaved little boy across the breakfast table

can be the biggest bully on the playground.

Once a little girl received a St. Bernard dog for her birthday. She went around telling all her little friends, "My mommy and daddy gave me a lion for a pet."

Her mother heard about it and told her,



1929-2000

Father Charles Kram Corner

"Go to your room and tell God you're sorry for all those lies." The little girl said, "OK, Mommy," and went to her room.

When she came out, her mother asked her, "Did you tell God what I said?" She replied, "Yes, Mommy, I told God what you said, but God told me that sometimes even he has trouble telling a St. Bernard from a lion."

Hypocrisy is one of the things that we resent in others but can easily be guilty of ourselves. In fact, the things we resent most in others often are our own worst faults.

For example, have you ever met a bossy person who liked being told what to do? Do you know of any practical joker who likes to be laughed at? Have you ever heard of an unfaithful spouse who tolerated being cheated on?

The worst place for hypocrisy is in the Church. It can bring the most thriving ministry to a halt. It can destroy a lifetime of good work. It can give the whole Church a bad name.

Church leaders with faults make the best front-page news, but members with secret faults can also do their share of harm. So let's

see what we can do to overcome hypocrisy in our own lives.

For example, as Christians, we are not to make rash judgments about others. So often we hear only one side of the story. Furthermore, it is so easy to find fault with persons we dislike while at the same time excusing the same faults in ourselves or in our friends.

The solution is to apply the same rules equally to everyone and to be willing to give others the benefit of a doubt.

Another example is that of the Catholic who attends Mass and receives Holy Communion devoutly every Sunday but then changes into an altogether different person for the rest of the week. The members of one family, for example, are good Sunday Catholics but then refuse to talk to one another during the week.

We must strive hard to live up to the faith we profess.

A final example: Just recently a friend told me that one of her pet peeves is the person who smiles at you to your face and then talks about you behind your back. The two-faced person can so easily cause resentment against an innocent victim and mistrust even among friends. If you can't say it to someone's face, don't say it at all.

Hypocrisy is a habit that is easy to acquire and difficult to overcome, but, with constant effort, it can be done.

We must each strive to be what we seem to be; to be willing always to do as we expect others to do.

Lord Jesus, thank you for teaching us about honesty with ourselves and charity to



Free-throw contest winners

HALLETTSVILLE – Most of the 2023 Diocese of Victoria Knights of Columbus Free-Throw Contest winners gathered for a group picture at the Sacred Heart School gymnasium on Feb. 19. Winners are as follows:

9-year-old boys: Seth Seydler, Council 2433-Hallettsville, first; Luke Goedrich, Council 2902-Schulenburg, second; and Brindon Zimmerman, Council 3295-Flatonia, third.

9-year-old girls: Kensi Berger, Council 2153-Weimar, first; Audrey Rios, Council 7512-Goliad, second; and Emarie Trobl, Council 2433-Hallettsville, third.

10-year-old boys: William Herzik, Council 2902-Schulenburg, first; Alex Grahmann, Council 2433-Hallettsville, second; and Jayke Benavides, Council 1329-Victoria, third.

10-year-old girls: Camille Hlavaty, Council 2490-El Campo, first; Brynn Bubela, Council 2902-Schulenburg, second; and Rena Pierce, Council 3244-Moulton, third.

11-year-old boys: Luke Meinkowsky, Council 2433-Hallettsville, first; Israel Netro, Council 3295-Flatonia, second; Brock Antosh, Council 2153-Weimar, third.

11-year-old girls: Heidi Grahmann, Council 2433-Hallettsville, first; Carsyn Griffin, Council 2153-Weimar, second; and Komara Jackson, Council 3244-Moulton, third.

12-year-old boys: Bryce Chovanetz, Council 2433-Hallettsville, first; David Fernandez, Council 3244-Moulton, second; and Weston Hollas, Council 2902-Schulenburg, third.

12-year-old girls: M.J. Griffin, Council 2153-Weimar, first; Ava Oliverez, Council 3244-Moulton, second; and Julie Garcia, Council 9394-Louise, third.

13-year-old boys: George Flores, Council 9394-Louise, first; Nico Digiovanni, Council 2971-Columbus, second; Mason Grahmann, Council 2433-Hallettsville, third.

13-year-old girls: Allison Clark, Council 2433-Hallettsville, first; Madison Rothbauer, Council 3244-Moulton, second; and Tate Griffin, Council 2153-Weimar, third.

14-year-old boys: Kole Schmitt, Council 2902-Schulenburg, first; Eli Kubesch, Council 3295-Flatonia, second; Charlie Stefka, Council 1329-Victoria, third.

14-year-old girls: Amalia Rorschach, Council 2903-Schulenburg, first; Gwen Reid, Council 3204-Ganado, second; and Kenzi Chance, Council 2433-Hallettsville, third.

(Contributed by Kenneth Trochta, Diocesan Deputy).

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'Some Greeks,' Cowboy, preacher, and gardener part of journey to the Cross

Now there were some Greeks among those who were going up to worship at the feast; these people then came to Philip, who was from Bethsaida of Galilee, and were making a request of him, saying, "Sir, we wish to see Jesus." (John 12:20-21)

My intentions were good: strap into my office chair, force my focus on the words of "some Greeks," and quickly knock out a reflection regarding what it means to "see Jesus." But, as it so often happens, my mind was hijacked. Instead, like a chain reaction, a thought of someone triggers a memory, which reminds me of a story from scripture that relates to ...

Well, you get the picture.

Initially, these thoughts may seem intrusive and as individual remnants -- singular and unrelated. Most often, however, connections and patterns appear after reflection. And so it was for this column, when my desire to focus on the words of "some Greeks" would be interrupted by thoughts of a Dolphin and a Cowboy ... an old gardener and "The Country Boy Preacher" ... a courthouse and a cross ... and questions of where I look to see Jesus.

After successfully typing the title for the column, I made the mistake of glancing at the muted TV and noticed the byline that announced that Zach Thomas had been named to the Pro Football Hall of Fame class of 2023. While I thought back to his many years as an All-Pro linebacker for the Miami Dolphins and his last games in 2008 with the Dallas Cowboys, my mind jumped to his indirect connection with my uncle, the late Bishop James (Jimmy Lee) Tankersley.

My uncle began his 65-year service as a minister in the 1940s when, at the age of 14, he toured the Southern states with his father, the late Rev. Ernest E. Tankersley. They preached at tent revivals and missions in Pentecostal faith churches and were often billed as "Rev. Ernest and Little Jimmy, the Country Boy Preacher."

At the time of his death in 2015, Uncle Jimmy was a bishop and the general secretary of the True Churches of the Apostolic Faith Organization (TTCAF). He was a masterful storyteller, and it was his story of "the Old Gardener and the Cross" that invaded my mind when I should have been writing about the words of "some Greeks."

The story goes that, in the 1990s, a preacher friend had told my uncle of a huge cross that had just been built near the town

At Your Service

By Deacon Michael Tankersley



A floodlight shines on the 190-foot cross in Groom, Texas. For perspective, the Lavaca County Courthouse in Hallettsville, the tallest courthouse in the state, is also 190 feet tall.

(Contributed Photo: Cross of Our Lord Jesus Christ Ministries)

of Groom in the Texas Panhandle. Since it was near enough on his return route to Sioux Falls, he and my Aunt Audy decided on a stopover at the cross. Unfortunately, they got lost in the maze of county roads and stopped at a lonesome country home where an elderly man was gardening. After asking directions to the cross, the old gardener said he could do better than tell them, he could show them the cross from his second story balcony. After climbing the long flight of stairs, my aunt and uncle looked in the direction to which the old man pointed and were astonished to see the cross towering on the horizon and shining from the rays of the morning sun.

As they drank in the sight, the old gardener said: "That there cross is the eighth wonder of the world, and anyone who calls themselves a Christian should see it before they die."

When my aunt commented on how close the cross appeared to be, the old man agreed that it was close "if you count 21 miles as being close."

Excited to get to the cross, my uncle began to pepper the man with questions: "Do you think it's open now? Is there a fenced-in area or do you just look at it from the road? Are there parking facilities for our motor home? Any concession areas? Any guides?"

The old gardener answered each question with some form of "I don't rightly know."

My uncle then said in jest that it sounded as if the man had never visited the cross, and the old gardener confirmed that he had never been there. Surprised, my uncle responded, "But you said it was the eighth wonder of the world; that every Christian should see it."

The old man stared for a few seconds until he declared, "Mister, I can see it just fine from where I'm at. Why should I get any closer?"

The words of the old gardener continue to serve as a type of "examination of conscience" for me. As I prepare for and continue through my Lenten journey to the Day of the Cross on Good Friday, I intend to reflect upon the ways I am like the old "close enough" gardener, and in what ways, like the Greeks, wanting to see Jesus.

It is interesting to note that when Philip tells Him of the Greeks' request, Jesus's response was that His time had fully come ... it was time for the cross. I suspect that many of us prefer to see the Jesus in the manger, or Jesus the Healer or Jesus the Miracle Man.

The suffering and dying Jesus on the cross is difficult to see. It is from the cross, however, that I can see that He did not die for principle or because He had no other choice. To see the Jesus of the Cross is to be embraced by the knowledge that Jesus suffered and died for me. It is to hear the unbelieving whisper of St. Paul: "The Son of God ... gave Himself

for me." (Galatians 2:20).

And so I question myself: Am I holding back from getting closer because I can "see just fine from where I'm at?" Am I ready to sit at the foot of the cross? Do I prefer to look at Jesus in the lives of the saints or ministers of the Church and devout churchgoers? Or can I see Jesus in the men-in-white in the Stevenson Unit at Cuero? Do I look for Him in the hearts of those wading across the Rio Grande? I've got so much distance to cover, and still so much Jesus to see.

By the way, you can view pictures of the cross (the largest free-standing cross in the western hemisphere) on their website, "The Cross of Our Lord Jesus Christ Ministries." There are also pictures of the life-sized sculptural depictions of the Twelve Stations that surround the Cross. As for the Catholic family who directed the project -- from conception and construction to funding and design -- well, you can see pictures of them also; of Steve Thomas and his wife, Bobby and of their children, Bart, Katina and Zach.

Yes, that Zach. The Dolphin and the Cowboy.



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Elie Mejia's passion is to continue to spread God's Word and is delighted to include a monthly puzzle from the Mass Readings. Please mail all completed March puzzle forms to arrive in The Catholic Lighthouse office, P. O. Box 4070, Victoria, TX 77903 by March 15 to be entered into a drawing for a chance to win one of the following books:

For 2023, the monthly winner of the puzzle contest will receive a sampler copy of Elie's Spiritual Treasures, Volume 2 -- The New Testament: Matthew and Mark and the monthly winner of the youth contest will receive a sampler copy of Elie's Spiritual Treasures, Volume 2 -- The New Testament: Matthew and Mark, Children's Series.

To date, Elie has published 20 books. Most of her books can be purchased at The Inspire Boutique in Cuero, The Pearl Street Market in Goliad, www.searching-for-jesus.com and Amazon. The prices range from \$4.99 and \$19.99.

MARCH 19, 2023
4th SUNDAY OF LENT
READING II – EPHESIANS 5:8-14

A **reading** from the **Letter** of **Saint Paul** to the **Ephesians: Brothers** and **sisters**: / You were **once** darkness, / but **now** you are **light** in the **Lord**. / **Live** as **children** of light, / for light **produces every kind** of **goodness** / and **righteousness** and **truth**. / Try to **learn** what is **pleasing** to the Lord. / **Take no part** in the **fruitless** works of **darkness**; / rather **expose them**, for it is **shameful** even to **mention** / the things **done** by them in **secret**; / but **everything** exposed by the light becomes **visible**. / for everything that **becomes** visible is light. / **Therefore**, it says: / "**Awake, O sleeper**, / and **arise** from the **dead**, / and **Christ** will **give** you light."

R D C M G D A R K N E S S E O H D
S O H C I S E C R E T V Q V T N E
S N R E A D I N G I T S L E H E A
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S B W S S E L T I U R F T H E M O

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone number: _____

Parish: _____

Age, if 12 or younger _____ Age, if 13 or older _____



Scouts earn Pope Pius XII awards

Seven Boy Scouts in the Diocese of Victoria completed their Pope Pius XII religious medal recently. Catholic scouts can earn two different religious medals in scouting: The first is Ad Altare Dei, and the second is the Pope Pius XII. The Pope Pius award is to help scouts explore vocations (single, married, religious, ordained) and ministries in the Church as calls from God. It includes youth-led discussions on current issues facing the Church and society. The young men worked more than four months on this program, meeting Sunday evenings. The program ended with a retreat at Camp Mauritz where they led a discussion in a topic they felt the Catholic Church is facing currently or has faced in the past. The Very Rev. Jacob Koether celebrated morning Mass at the Chapel for the scouts. The Very Rev. Gabriel Bentil celebrated an evening Mass at the conclusion of the retreat. Pictured with Father Gabriel are Luke Ridley of Troop 364; Mikey Muniz Jr. of Troop 364; Joey Saenz of Troop 113; Marvin Cordes of Troop 364; Jayden Adames of Troop 364; Andrew Augustini of Troop 364; and Preston Janak of Troop 364. (Contributed Photo)

Journeys of Faith with Ceci



**Join us on a journey to Italy
with Father Gabriel Bentil
September 1 - 10, 2023**

Join Father Gabriel Bentil on an Italy Pilgrimage that starts in Assisi, home of St. Francis and St. Claire, Cascia and view the incorrupt body of St. Rita, Saint of Impossible Causes, the Holy House of Blessed Mother in Loreto, the beautiful town of Siena where we see the relics of St. Catherine, Orvieto to see the Eucharistic Miracle of Bolsena in the beautiful Cathedral, and ROME, where we attend the Papal Audience, tour the four Basilicas, the Colosseum and have a free day to explore on your own! **Registration online (or by paper form) is open!**



**Holy Land Pilgrimage
with Father Oscar Amos
November 10 - 20, 2023**

Pilgrimage to the Holy Land is an experience of a lifetime! Can you imagine walking in the footsteps of Our Lord...to see and touch the places of His birth, life and death? How will you feel as you walk the road of His passion to the place of His resurrection? Join us and see the Gospels come to life! **Registration online (or by paper form) is open!**

Date Change! Pilgrimage to Mexico City with Bishop Cahill, **August 25 - 31, 2023**.
Details coming soon!

Information and online fliers are found at www.selectinternationaltours.com
or contact me at ceci.triska@gmail.com and I will email it to you



Communion with Jesus will change suffering to healing

When I was in college, a professor once asked us to close our eyes and consider whether or not we were carrying a heavy burden or dealing with something serious in our lives. Then he asked us – the ones who thought they were weighed down – to raise our hands and open our eyes.

I remember thinking I would probably be the only one and, of course, that my burden was worse than anyone's. But I was surprised to find that almost everyone had his or her hands raised. And some people I thought were perfect, privileged and always happy looked just as dejected as the rest of us.

I wonder if we realize how many people are weighed down with heavy burdens, carrying crosses, making excruciating sacrifices, stretched thin and finding it difficult to breathe. It's easy to get so caught up in our own suffering that we fail to realize that others are probably suffering worse. It's also easy to get tricked into thinking,

In Communion

By Very Rev. Jacob Koether



because of the fake faces that we all put up (especially on social media), that we're the only ones who are suffering; that we're all alone, which just makes it that much worse.

Who said they could help us with our heavy burdens?

Jesus said, "Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest."

How?

"Take my yoke upon you and learn from me; for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light." (*Matthew*

11:28-30)

And what is that yoke?

It's His cross. "Surely, he has borne our infirmities and carried our diseases; ... upon him was the punishment that made us whole, ... the Lord has laid on him the iniquity of us all. ... The righteous one, my servant, shall make many righteous, and he shall bear their iniquities." (*Isaiah 53:4-6, 11*)

Jesus wants to help us carry our suffering and, even more, He wants to transform it into something that can be healing and redemptive. Because Jesus is God, when He suffers, suffering changes. And He can change ours if we're connected to Him, or in communion with Him. This mystery is on clear display in the Eucharistic Sacrifice of the Holy Mass and our reception of the consecrated host in Holy Communion.

In the Mass, we are yoked to Christ and can become a sacrifice along with Him. Jesus

is the perfect victim (or hostia in Latin), whose sacrificial offering restores and heals, and when we receive His Body and Blood in the host (hostia), we become an offering, too, which results in our restoration and healing.

As St. Paul says, "I appeal to you therefore, brothers and sisters, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship." (*Romans 12:1*) This is only possible through communion with Jesus Christ.

Are you anxious, overworked, caring for a sick relative, feeling isolated, experiencing a physical ailment? In short, are you weary and carrying heavy burdens? During these years of the Eucharistic Revival in the United States, I invite you to rediscover the power of the Mass to change your sufferings into healing worship.

Bring your burdens to Jesus in the Eucharist, receive His sacrifice in the host, and let Him lift you to heaven. You'll find His burden is light and, in Him, your burdens will be lightened as well.

• *The Very Rev. Jacob Koether, pastor of Our Lady of Sorrows in Victoria, serves as episcopal vicar for Evangelization and Catechesis for the Diocese of Victoria.*

Summer opportunities for youth

Registration is now open for Camp David and Rocky Mountain High.

Camp David is an opportunity for junior high youth (entering sixth grade through exiting eighth grade) and elementary youth (entering third grade through exiting fifth grade).

Rocky Mountain High is for high school youth (exiting ninth grade through exiting 12th grade).

Also, save the date for Quo Vadis, which

will take place July 16-19. More information about that retreat, which is for young men who want to explore the priesthood, will be available at a later date.

For more information go to <https://www.victoriadiocese.org/youth-and-young-adult-ministry>.

Brochures on the website are available to print and share with youth who might benefit from these activities.



Our Lady of Lourdes Holy Name Society

Sponsors 56th Annual Chicken / Sausage Dinner

BBQ Chicken or Sausage, Potato Salad and Pinto Beans
\$12 per plate • All Plates Are To-Go

Sunday, March 26 • 10:30 a.m.

Our Lady of Lourdes Church
105 N. William St.

Plates may be taken into the basement to eat.



Safe Environment

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

Contact:

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

If person is in immediate danger call 911.

and

- Shannon Thomas, LMSW, Coordinator of Pastoral Care and Outreach, Diocese of Victoria, (361) 827-7186, pastoralcare@victoriadiocese.org.

or

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

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



If sexual abuse by a member of clergy has occurred in another diocese, the Diocese of Victoria will help bring your concerns to church officials.

For assistance contact Shannon Thomas at (361) 827-7186 or pastoralcare@victoriadiocese.org.

Es un buen mes para anteponer el valentía a la precaución

Queridos hermanos y hermanas,

La larga tradición de la Iglesia enseña que a lo largo de este tiempo de Cuaresma purificamos nuestros corazones y mentes a través de la oración, el ayuno y la limosna. El Catecismo Católico #1434 dice: “La penitencia interior del cristiano puede expresarse de muchas y diversas maneras. La Escritura y los Padres insisten sobre todo en tres formas: el ayuno, la oración y la limosna, que expresan la conversión en relación con uno mismo, con Dios y con los demás”.

Una de nuestras prácticas de Cuaresma en muchos hogares es el Plato de Arroz, donde se invita a los jóvenes (¡y al resto de nosotros también!) a rezar, renunciar a una comida, ahorrar algo de dinero y donarlo para ayudar a los demás. La oración y la actividad ayudan a establecer una conexión entre la persona que hace la ofrenda y la persona que la recibe.

A través de la reflexión más profunda de la temporada, llegamos a comprender en nuestros corazones que todos somos hijos de un Dios amoroso. Puede encontrar más información sobre este programa en <https://www.crsricebowl.org/>.

El programa Plato de Arroz adquiere un significado especial para mí este año, ya que

Mensaje del Pastor

By Obispo Brendan Cahill



ahora sirvo en la junta de Catholic Relief Services.

El 15 y 16 de marzo asistiré a una reunión de la junta en Baltimore. Una de las sesiones de esta reunión será lo que llamamos una “inmersión profunda” en un área específica donde está trabajando Catholic Relief Services.

Este año, el obispo Albert Agyenta de Navrongo-Bolgatanga, Ghana, será el invitado de honor de la reunión. Entre otros temas, nos centraremos en la Iniciativa de Paz del Sahel. Se puede encontrar más información sobre esta iniciativa en: <https://www.crs.org/media-center/current-issues/sahel-crisis-facts-and-how-help>.

Al informar sobre esta iniciativa, CRS afirma que el hambre y la violencia en Burkina-Faso, Níger y Malí se han extendido a los

países vecinos de Ghana y Costa de Marfil. Nuestro trabajo establece una conexión de fe, esperanza y amor entre la gente de África occidental y la gente del sur de Texas.

La conexión es aún más fuerte aquí porque muchos de nuestros sacerdotes conocen personalmente al obispo Agyenta. Cuando visité a algunos de los obispos en Ghana el año pasado, compartieron conmigo algunos

de los desafíos que enfrentan, la fortaleza de su fe en Jesús y su aprecio por el buen trabajo de CRS en la región.

Algunos de los obispos afirmaron que CRS defiende las verdades de nuestra fe católica en el trabajo caritativo. Cualquier apoyo que brindamos a CRS ayuda directamente a nuestros hermanos y hermanas en todo el mundo.

Que ustedes y sus familias sean bendecidos durante la temporada de Cuaresma con una comprensión más profunda de la misericordia que fluye del corazón de Jesús, y que nuestra oración, ayuno y limosna nos lleven a una unión más profunda con Jesús y nuestros hermanos y hermanas en todo el mundo.

¡Mantengámonos unos a otros en oración!
+Brendan

Actividades de la Oficina del Ministerio Hispano

La visión de la Oficina del Ministerio Hispano es desarrollar, promover y llevar a cabo eventos que ayuden a la comunidad Hispana al encuentro personal con Jesucristo, así como una continua formación para adultos que ayude a profundizar e incrementar esta relación interpersonal. Por tal motivo, nos complace anunciar que este año tendremos nuestra segunda Conferencia Católica Hispana el 16 de septiembre en el Centro de Catedral en la ciudad de Victoria.

Además, contaremos con formación continua para adultos en primavera de este año. Tendremos dos cursos: Curso de Formación Cristiana, para todos aquellos que quieran

profundizar en su fe; y Curso de Evangelios Sinópticos para todos aquellos que ya hayan tomado el primer curso. Más información serán dadas próximamente.

Finalmente, este año contaremos con un Retiro Espiritual Bilingüe de tres días en el centro de renovación espiritual diocesano con un sacerdote invitado que nos ayudara a meditar en el amor y misericordia de Dios fundados en la Eucaristía. Este retiro se está programando para el mes de noviembre. Estaremos actualizando nuestras redes sociales y páginas web con más información sobre todos estos eventos.



Monica Aluko es una de las muchas personas de su pueblo de Awardone que solía depender de la agricultura para su sustento, pero ya no puede hacerlo debido a los patrones climáticos cambiantes. Su aldea se encuentra en la Región del Alto Este de Ghana y fue una de las varias afectadas por la sequía y las inundaciones en 2007. Catholic Relief Services, a través de una Comunidad de Ahorros y Préstamos Internos, ha hecho posible que Mónica y otras personas compren materias primas para hacer y vender canastas. Algunos incluso se han diversificado hacia el procesamiento y la porcicultura de arroz y manteca de karité. (Michael Stulman/Servicios Católicos de Ayuda)

Did you Know?

If you have been thinking about a Place of Rest did you know we have burial plots available at Resurrection Cemetery and at Cemetery 4 in Old Victoria?

We also offer a peaceful setting in our Columbarium for those who plan to be cremated.

For more information, contact

Victoria Catholic Cemeteries, 361-573-0828

We are more than happy to discuss the various options we have to offer.

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Help us grow

GANADO — Bishop Brendan Cahill celebrated the Blessing of Seed and Soil Mass Feb. 11. Bart and Karen Hajavsky, owners of BH Genetics, a seed corn company, hosted the Mass at their home in Ganado for the second year in a row. They also have hosted it at their business site. Before the Mass, farmers placed samples of their soil and seeds to be blessed. Bishop Cahill selected some readings from the Catholic Rural Life prayer book. Sherry Kainer, one member of Catholic Rural Life's Diocese of Victoria chapter was instrumental in coordinating the special Mass. Several DOV priests and deacons celebrated alongside Bishop Cahill. Kainer reminded the gathering of the variety of agricultural endeavors in the 10-county area of the dioceses, including row crops, wine-making, ranching, cheese-making, fish farming, pecan orchards and more. On Oct. 28, the diocese will celebrate a Harvest Mass of Thanksgiving at the Whistling Duck Winery in Weimar. (Janet Jones/The Catholic Lighthouse)



Sunday Readings from March 5 to April 4

March 5 ~ 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 26 ~ 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

March 12 ~ 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

April 2 ~ Palm Sunday of the Lord's Passion
Matthew 21:1-11 (Procession - Gospel)
Isaiah 50:4-7
Psalms 22:8-9, 17-18, 19-20, 23-24
Philippians 2:6-11

March 19 ~ 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

Matthew 26:14—27:66
April 4 ~ Chrim Mass
Isaiah 61:1-3a, 6a, 8b-9
Psalms 89:21-22, 25 and 27
Revelations 1:5-8
Luke 4:16-21

For daily and Sunday readings, as well as a daily reflection video, visit
www.usccb.org/bible/readings.

Brought to you by: Catholic Communications Campaign



Women's Conference April 22

"She had a sister named Mary who sat beside the Lord at his feet listening to him speak." (Luke 10:39)



Mass with Bishop Brendan Cahill

• Meg Kilmer, speaker, blogger and Hobo for Christ, who also travels the world telling people about the fierce and tender love of God.

"At His Feet: Finding Blessing in the Busy" is the theme for the upcoming Diocese of Victoria Women's Conference set for April 22.

Bishop Brendan Cahill will celebrate Mass at 8 a.m. that day at the Cathedral of Our Lady of Victory. Sign in begins at 9:30 at the Cathedral Center and the day includes a slate of four speakers, including:

• Emily Wilson, a speaker, YouTuber, author, wife and mom who travels the world sharing her witness of faith at conferences and events.

• Dr. Michael Fonseca, speaker, author, program coordinator and president of God's Embrace Ministries.

• The Very Rev. Jacob Koether, pastor of Our Lady of Sorrows and Capilla de Santisima Trinidad in Victoria as well as episcopal vicar of evangelization and catechesis for the diocese.

Cost for the day is \$40 per person. Purchase five tickets and get the sixth one free. Online registration can be found at www.victoriadiocese.org/2023womensconference. For more information contact Stacy Oeding at stacy.oeding@godsembrace.org.

Register Here:
victoriadiocese.org/2023womensconference



Rates are on the rise!

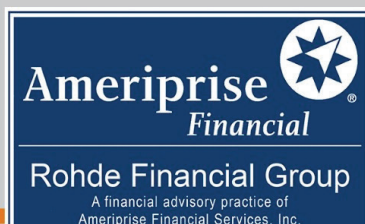


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"Follow me and I will make you fishers of men."

Matthew 4:18-22

Meals • Picnics and More

March

Port Lavaca – Our Lady of the Gulf Altar Society hosts its annual Lenten Women's Retreat March 4, 8 a.m. to noon at St. Jude's Hall, 300 W. Austin St. The Rev. Richard Barfield will be the speaker. Registration from 8 to 8:45 a.m. followed by First Saturday Latin Mass. Refreshments after Mass. Luncheon to be served and cost is \$10. For information or to pre-register, call Nancy Thompson, 361-212-5838, or Rosy Weaver, 361-482-8030.

Hilje – St. Procopius Spring Festival March 5 at the parish hall. Serving fried chicken, white rice, gravy and corn beginning at 11 a.m. (drive-thru/plates-to-go ONLY) for \$15 each. There will be a bake sale and raffle.

Cuero – Lenten Mission 2023 with Father Michael Andrade of Clovis, California on March 6-8 entitled Seeking Communion with God *Encountering the Lord in Prayer*. Begins each night at 6 p.m. at St. Mihael Church (309 E. Church St.) followed by exposition and confession.

Blessing – The Knights of Columbus Council #4307 is sponsoring a Lenten shrimp etouffe and gumbo meal fundraiser on March 12, at the St. Peter's Church Parish Hall. Serving will start at 10:30 a.m. The meal will consist of shrimp etouffe and gumbo with rice, dessert, and tea or coffee. A large bowl with dessert and beverage is \$12 each. A raffle and auction will also be held during the day. The proceeds of the fundraiser will be used for Knights of Columbus state charities and high school senior scholarships.

New Taiton – St. John Nepomucene Altar Society Annual Fried Chicken and homemade dressing dinner and Spring Festival, March 12, at the Taiton Community Center. Serving begins at 11 a.m. with dine-in or plate-to-go for \$12 each. Starting at 11:30 a.m. there will be a country store, bingo, cake walk, kids games and auction (12:30 p.m.).

April

Hallettsville – Day Retreat for Grieving Parents, April 15, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Doors open at 9:30 at Sacred Heart Catholic Church Family Center, 306 Glendale. Coping with the death of a child/children is very difficult. Parents are overwhelmed by the grief that follows. Grief does not end in a prescribed number of days, weeks, months or years. Presentations by counselor and clergy, stages of grief, parents who have experienced the death of a child as well as meeting other parents who have lost a child/children. You will not be required to share anything this day. We understand it takes courage just to come to the day retreat. Snacks and lunch will be provided. There is no charge. Please register at victoriadiocese.org/grief-support, or contact Pat Hoelscher at 979-257-9984 or phoelscher@victoriadiocese.org.

Wharton – Holy Family Church Spring Gala will be held on April 29, at the Family Life Center (2009 Briar Lane). The Hawaiian theme event begins at 5 p.m., dinner at 6 and live auction at 7. Dance is from 8 till midnight. Music provided by The Texas Continentals. Tickets are \$50 each. There will also be a silent auction and U-pick-it also. Call Gary or Irene Hlavinka at 979-531-9412 for tickets or more information.

Amor Meus

Contact: Sr. Digna Vela, IWBS
(361) 575-7111 / e-mail: amormeus@yahoo.com
website: www.amormeusspiritualitycenter.org
IWBS Convent • 1101 NE Water St. • Victoria

Solemn Vespers

Sundays through April 2 – In the Season of Lent, you are invited to join the IWBS Sisters, pray Solemn Vespers in their chapel at Incarnate Word Convent (1101 N. E. Water St.), Victoria at 5 p.m. Please enter the side door of the chapel by way of the front entrance.

Ministries • Ongoing Activities

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

Catholic Family Services – To find Catholic organizations that focus on family, visit the Catholic Association of Catholic Family Life Ministers at <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 <http://www.couragerc.net>.

Crisis Pregnancy Center of Victoria – A sister organization to the Gabriel Project staffed by volunteers that offers help to girls and women who find themselves in a difficult situation due to an unplanned pregnancy. Office located at 1501 E. Red River, is open 1-4 p.m. on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays. Free pregnancy tests offered and medical referrals are made for prenatal care. New volunteers are welcome. For information call 361-575-6171.

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 – 2023 Dates: April 21-23, Aug. 4-6 and Nov. 10-12. Registration is on a first-come, first-served basis. Fee must accompany registration form. For information, call 361-573-0828 or visit <http://www.victoriadiocese.org>.

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 – Are you an adult, 18 years or older experiencing the death of a loved one? Grief Group meets on the 1st and 3rd Thursday evenings from 6:45 to 8 p.m. at Holy Family Catholic Church. Please call Sharon at 361-578-7572 before attending.

Mission Trip Planned

The next mission trip to Las Obras in Antigua, Guatemala, will take place July 9-16. 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. Registration opened Feb. 1. For more information, visit the website at <https://www.coramdeotexas.org/>.



Father Dan
Morales

Grief Ministry – Please join Strength for the Journey team for their monthly meeting, 6:30-8 pm. March 14 in the parish hall at Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary Catholic Church, 108 6th St. in Ganado. The meeting is open to anyone who has experienced the death of a child at any age. A Day Retreat for Grieving Parents is April 15 at Sacred Heart in Hallettsville. For more information, contact Pat Hoelscher 979-257-9984 or phoelscher@victoriadiocese.org.

id.9:16 Ministry – For adults in their 20s and 30s, single or married. Held at Holy Family in Victoria every first Thursday of the month. Starts with 6 p.m. Mass followed by dinner and a talk live streamed from the headquarters in Michigan and fellowship. It is open to all young adults of the diocese. For information, or to RSVP for events, e-mail id916victoria@gmail.com.

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.

Mothers of Grace – A mothers' group at the Cathedral of Our Lady of Victory. For information, contact Leslie Book at book.leslie@gmail.com or visit their Facebook page at www.facebook.com/Mothersofgraceolv/.

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>. Also in the Cuero area contact, Ashley Rodriguez at 361-293-0700 or e-mail ashleyfay09@gmail.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, Texas. Peer counseling is available for those suffering the loss of a baby due to miscarriage, stillbirth, infant death or abortion. For information, call Therese at 361-258-1514, e-mail raphaelsrefuge@att.net, or visit <http://www.raphaelsrefuge.org>.

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



Retreats a chance to refocus spiritual life

Continued from pg. 1

love and foster discipleship. Most likely any practicing Catholic has heard a number of testimonies from people who returned on fire for the Lord and ready to live more holy lives.

Father Jacob Mendoza, pastor of St. Michael's in Cuero, said he defines ACTS retreats as an "experience" more than a retreat. (If you know, you know.) But it does check a few of the boxes, particularly getting away from everyday distractions to focus on building a relationship with God and his Church.

Father Jacob designed another men's retreat, "Get Behind Me Satan," as a follow-up to ACTS, which has a slower pace and is focused on the life of St. Peter. He said time for silence, reflection and rest are important

in order to come back from a retreat feeling "rested and rejuvenated."

Not only that, the practice of making retreats more than once is vital to staying on track spiritually. People often leave a retreat making personal commitments to live holier in some way. But, being human, people fail and need a chance to recommit themselves to their spiritual development.

Sister Marian Sturm, IWBS, a spiritual director and retreat facilitator for Amor Meus, operated at the Incarnate Word and Blessed Sacrament Convent, said, "A retreat is for everybody. It's a need that we have."

According to Sister Marian, the "restless, empty, bored with life" feelings that most people experience at times indicates it is probably time to get away and listen to God.



Deacons and their wives from the Diocese of Victoria were on retreat at the Spiritual Renewal Center recently. The clergy is required to take time off for a spiritual retreat at least once a year. (Janet Jones/The Catholic Lighthouse)

"That is a sign that God is calling and they can't hear the message," she said.

That's why many retreats are done in silence with direction from a spiritual director. "The language of God is silence. You have to be quiet to hear Him," said Sister Digna Vela, IWBS, a spiritual director with Amor Meus.

Sister Digna said the silence is heaven to many, but can be hard for others. "One person said it was too silent and left," she said. Later she called and wanted to come back. "She had to grow into it."

Another reason for silence is to not distract others who are on retreat and trying to reflect on their prayer life and the desires of their hearts.

The silent retreats do have some time for talking in the form of sharing, which many people enjoy and might cause others to struggle a bit.

Sister Digna, an extrovert, and Sister Marian, an introvert, have received silence differently. Sister Digna loved it and embraced it right away. Sister Marian said she had to adjust to the long periods of quiet.

Bishop Brendan Cahill said about retreats that he thinks of looking through a camera lens. "The image I use is to refocus. What's most important and what's most beautiful?" he said, adding that, in the course of busyness, things can get "blurry" and it's important to ask ourselves, "Where is Jesus Christ in it?"

"The Church in her wisdom," Bishop Cahill said, requires priests to at least take a five-day retreat each year. "I don't think we would take the time if it weren't required."

Last year, Bishop Cahill made a 30-day silent retreat, something he had wanted to do for a long time and finally found the time to do it. "I thought I would fight it," he said.

"I'm a talker."

But, he said, he enjoyed the "peeling away of everything." He had no TV, no radio, just lots of quiet. "The silence is really important to clear your heart," he said.

Part of what makes a good retreat, according to Father Jacob and Bishop Cahill, is having a spiritual director who can

lead you through the process so the time given for reflection is focused and fruitful. Sister Marian agreed that a retreat director has to be in tune with the retreatants through

understanding and listening.

During Lent, there are lots of opportunities for retreats. Many of them are parish retreats (Check the parish bulletins.). Some are "mini" retreats. Some take only one full day. There are even a slew of online retreats being promoted as a quick Google search will prove.

But one of the elements of having a good retreat is a change in location if possible to avoid distraction. But if distractions are a problem, Sister Marian suggests having a "sacred word" to bring oneself back in focus. Hers is "Jesus."

Those who may want to consider longer retreats can review the offerings of Amor Meus at www.amormeusspiritualitycenter.org.

God's Embrace Ministries in Schulenburg is another place that offers a variety of retreats as well as spiritual direction, instruction, pilgrimages and more. Their offerings are listed on their website at www.godsembrace.org.

The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want. He makes me lie down in green pastures. He leads me beside still waters. He restores my soul. He leads me in paths of righteousness for his name's sake. Psalm 23

Prayer of absolution gets more precise wording

Continued from pg. 1

The line "poured out the Holy Spirit" previously read "sent the Holy Spirit among us." The phrase "may God grant you pardon and peace" is only a one-word change: It previously read "may God give you pardon and peace."

The changes add "a little bit more richness to the language," according to Monsignor Richard Hilgartner, a former executive director of the USCCB's Secretariat of Divine Worship who is now pastor of St. Joseph Parish in Cockeysville, Maryland.

"God's granting something that we don't deserve, and that's what forgiveness is. It's something that we don't earn or deserve," Hilgartner told the Archdiocese of Baltimore newspaper The Catholic Review.

The sacrament of penance, also called reconciliation or confession, is the means through which God grants pardon for sins through the priest's ministry. In the sacrament, the contrite penitent discloses his or her sins to a Catholic priest who grants sacramental absolution. The penitent makes an act of contrition in which he or she resolves to not sin again. The priest generally instructs the penitent to perform an act of satisfaction, usually called a penance. This can take the form of prayer, such as

praying three "Hail Marys," for example.

The Vatican's Dicastery for Divine Worship and the Discipline of the Sacraments approved the translation in April 2022. The new language for the priest's absolution is allowed as of Ash Wednesday, the start of Lent. Priests must use the new language starting on Divine Mercy Sunday, April 16, the first Sunday after Easter 2023.

Hilgartner noted that the liturgical season of Lent is a penitential time when many Catholics especially seek out the sacrament of reconciliation. He told the Catholic Review that many Catholics feel peace and relief after going to confession, especially if they

have been away from the sacrament for a long time.

"Inevitably, people say, 'I feel so much better. I feel like a burden has been lifted,' because that's what's happening. God is casting behind his back all our sins, taking them away from us in a way that we don't know how to do for ourselves," he said. "I hear often about how people feel literally unburdened by this happening. And it's the great gift — that the Lord's taking this upon himself. For us, this is what the cross is all about, that he takes all of our sins to the cross so that we don't have to."

