

Inside ...

5 Priests get assignments

14 PI classes on the Bible start Aug. 22

15 School News

18 Mother Elizabeth Ann Seton Awards



The Catholic Lighthouse

The Cradle of Texas Immigration



OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE DIOCESE OF VICTORIA IN TEXAS

VOL. 37, NO. 1

www.victoriadiocese.org



May 2023



Transitional deacons Luke Prihoda, left, and Ryan Kapavik are pictured here with Bishop Brendan Cahill after serving during the Chrism Mass on the Tuesday of Holy Week. (Regina Janak/The Catholic Lighthouse)

Diocese celebrates ordination of two seminarians May 13

JANET JONES

The Catholic Lighthouse

The Diocese of Victoria gains two new “homegrown” priests on May 13 with the ordination of Deacon Ryan Kapavik and Deacon Luke Prihoda by Bishop Brendan Cahill. The Ordination Mass is at 10 a.m. at Our Lady of Victory Cathedral in Victoria.

The people of the diocese show their love to the seminarians through prayer, moral support and financial contributions to their education.

“I have definitely felt that love all of these years,” said Deacon Kapavik, who first felt a calling while a high-school junior at St. Paul in Shiner.

Deacon Prihoda was formed in his faith by devout parents and the

Catholic community in Weimar. He will be the 10th man to be ordained a priest from that parish. His calling came a little later in life after he lived his dream of being a pro baseball player for several years.

The two were ordained to the transitional diaconate last year on June 11 and began serving as ordained ministers. “I think it’s just solidified for me the call of service to the people,” Kapavik said.

After ordination, Kapavik will be assigned to Holy Family Catholic Church in Victoria as parochial vicar, and Prihoda will serve as parochial vicar at St. Rose of Lima in Schulenburg.

Kapavik also will serve as a chaplain for the Victoria Police Department, because, as Bishop Cahill

See Diocese celebrates, pg. 5

Parishes welcome new members at Easter Vigil services

JANET JONES

The Catholic Lighthouse

During the Easter Vigil celebrations across the Diocese of Victoria, about 150 people joined the Church.

Jack Wise, 16, was among those who were welcomed into full communion with the Church this year.

“Since converting to Catholicism, it feels like God has been in my life every single

day,” he said.

Wise said had previously attended a Baptist church, but had never been baptized. “I wanted to be baptized,” he said.

He was introduced to the Catholic faith when his sister, Jordan, converted. He would attend Mass with her, he said, and he slowly began to understand that Catholicism was

See Parishes welcome new members, pg. 20

Jack Wise, 16, approaches the baptismal font at the Cathedral of Our Lady of Victory during the Easter Vigil Mass. (Janet Jones/The Catholic Lighthouse)





Consecration to Mary ‘a way to grow in humility, trust and friendship’

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Last month, I referred to the interpretation of the apparitions of Mary to the children at Fatima written by Cardinal Ratzinger in 2002. In his words, he expressed that the pathway to save souls was through devotion to the Immaculate Heart of Mary. The month of May is a beautiful time to reflect on this devotion, in which men and women offer themselves spiritually to Jesus through Mary.

St. Louis de Montfort wrote back in the 1600s, “Perfect consecration to Jesus is but a perfect and complete consecration of oneself to the Blessed Virgin, which is the devotion I teach; or in other words, it is the perfect renewal of the vows and promises of holy baptism.” (*True Devotion to the Blessed Virgin Mary, St. Louis de Montfort, Montfort Publications, Bayshore NY, 1975, p. 56*).

Based on the spirituality of St. Louis de Montfort, many authors have written ways to make a spiritual consecration to Mary.

About 15 years ago, I think, I followed

A Shepherd’s Message

By Bishop Brendan Cahill



the 33 days of preparation for total consecration to Mary, written by Father Hugh Gillespie. Since then, I’ve renewed my consecration following other spiritual writers, including St. Louis de Montfort. As I’m sharing this with you, I realize that I didn’t make my consecration to Mary until I was in my 40s.

I believe that God has his time and his paths, and I probably wasn’t ready until then. At that time, I was the rector of St. Mary’s Seminary in Houston, and one of my students talked with me about Marian devotion and the consecration to Mary. He

helped me overcome some of my fears (e.g., I didn’t want to make a promise that I couldn’t keep.). That particular seminarian didn’t become a priest, and he has remained active in the Church. I remember him sometimes in prayer with gratitude.

A couple of years after that consecration, I was given the task of finding a new spiritual director for the Legion of Mary. The previous spiritual director, Msgr. Glen Wearden, had died and we were looking for a replacement. He was a spiritual giant and would be hard to replace. Eventually, I decided that I should accept it myself, because I thought it would

be too much to place on anyone else. I’m still a spiritual director for the Legion of Mary, now reporting to Deacon Luan Tran in our Diocese of Victoria.

The consecration to Jesus through Mary has offered me a way to grow in humility, trust and friendship. Yes, God is in charge of time and desires the salvation of every soul he has brought into life. At a particular time, he sent his angel to Mary to ask her to become the mother of His Son. Because she said yes, we have the possibility of the fullness of life here on earth and eternal life in resurrected glory on the last day.

May you and your family have a blessed, joyful month of May, and may our hearts be united with the Immaculate Heart of Mary, offering our prayers and sacrifices for the salvation of souls, especially those in most need of God’s mercy.

+Brendan

Bishops find unity in Focolare spirituality

JANET JONES

The Catholic Lighthouse

Any Bishop in the Catholic Church can probably tell you to the minute when they got the call asking them to become a successor of the apostles. It’s a rare honor bestowed on a man chosen to be a spiritual leader to an expansive flock.

Just to put it in perspective, there are 15 dioceses in Texas, a state with close to 30 million people, with an estimated 5,900,000 being Catholic. Each diocese is different and so is each bishop.

Last year, Bishop Brendan Cahill joined in with a group of bishops who meet weekly via Zoom to pray for one another and to share their common and uncommon experiences. Just recently they gathered in San Antonio to spend time together in-person for an extended period of time.

Bishop Cahill said the group was formed out of the Focolare Movement, a charism that is focused on unity. “Our call is for unity and communion,” he said. “Bishops can seem so divided.”

He was invited to join them by Bishop Michael Mulvey of the Diocese of Corpus Christi. He said he considers Bishop Mulvey to be “sort of the godfather” of the group.

“Some of us have been meeting for eight or nine years,” Bishop Mulvey said. “It’s a very powerful thing for us to hear the joy and suffering of each other.”

Although they do get together at bishops conferences, he said those have a hectic pace that doesn’t really allow for the more personal conversations. Three years ago they decided to begin meeting in person once a year, Mulvey said. At the San Antonio gathering in late April, bishops came from dioceses in Seattle, Dodge City, Mississippi, and Tennessee. He said bishops around the world are participating in groups led by the Focolare spirituality.

Two key things, Bishop Mulvey said, are guiding the focus of the group. First is the idea that “where two or more are gathered” in Jesus’ name, he is there. The second based on “My God, My God, why have you forsaken me?” Sufferings are not deterrents, he said, but invitations to build communion.

Ultimately, the bishops want to see fulfilled the prayer of Jesus, “... that all of them may be one, Father, just as you are in me and I am in you.”

To see interviews with some of the bishops visit Catholic Television of San Antonio’s Facebook page here: <https://www.facebook.com/watch/?v=553691696879440>.

More information about the Focolare

movement is on the website www.focolare.us/word-of-life/



Around the table from left are Most Rev. Gustavo Garcia-Siller, Archbishop of San Antonio; Rev. Darryl D’Souza; Most. Rev. Michael Mulvey, Bishop of Corpus Christi; Most. Rev. Brendan Cahill; Most Rev. David Talley, Bishop of Memphis; Bishop Francois Beyrouti of the Melkite Catholic Church in Newton, Mass.; Bob Cumming; Cecilia Fuentes; Most Rev. Louis Kihneman III, Bishop of Biloxi; Most Rev. John Brungardt, Bishop of Dodge City; Frank Santucci, OMI; Enrico Donzelli; and Most Rev. Paul Etienne, Archbishop of Seattle. (Contributed Photo)



The Chancery Offices will be closed Monday, May 29, in observance of Memorial Day



Diocese of Victoria in Texas

Ministerio Hispano

Bishop Cahill's Schedule

May			
1	11 a.m. Diaconate Ordination for Joseph Blackburn at Our Lady of the Gulf; Port Lavaca	11	7 p.m. Eighth-Grade Bishop's Awards at the Cathedral of Our Lady of Victory
2	9 a.m. Legion of Mary Praesidium meeting; Cathedral Center	13	10 a.m. Priestly Ordination of Deacon Luke Prihoda and Deacon Ryan Kapavik at the Cathedral of Our Lady of Victory
4	10 a.m. Catholic Relief Services U.S. Engagement Committee meeting; virtual	14	9 a.m. Confirmation Mass for Immaculate Conception; Goliad
	6 p.m. Confirmation Mass for St. Andrew and St. Procopius; Hillje	15	4:30 p.m. meal with IWBS Sisters in Healthcare at IWBS Convent
5	Cahill Classic Golf Tournament; Tomball	16	6:30 a.m. Morning Air Radio interview
	6 p.m. Emmaus Center Roast and Toast at the Cathedral Center; Victoria		9 a.m. Legion of Mary Praesidium meeting; Cathedral Center
6	5 p.m. Confirmation Mass for St. Joseph; Yoakum		2 p.m. Grand Opening and Blessing of the new Point Comfort Seafarers Center; Point Comfort
7	9:30 a.m. Confirmation Mass for Holy Cross; Yorktown		6 p.m. Deacon's Community Board meeting; Hallettsville
	3 p.m. Confirmation Mass for Sts. Cyril and Methodius; Shiner	17	4 p.m. Building Board meeting; Chancery
8	2:30 p.m. Communities of Faith meeting	18	6 p.m. 12th annual "Evening with the Bishops"; Houston
	5 p.m. Diocesan Liturgical Commission meeting; Chancery	19-20	2023 National Maritime Day Celebration; Washington, D.C.
9	9 a.m. Legion of Mary Praesidium meeting; Cathedral Center	21	9:30 a.m. Confirmation Mass for St. Joseph; Moulton
10	10 a.m. Presbyteral Council meeting; Chancery		6 p.m. Confirmation Mass for St. Phillip; El Campo
	7 p.m. Confirmation Mass for Parish of the Nativity; Eagle Lake	22	1 p.m. adult confirmation at Stevenson Unit; Cuero
		23	Kenedy Memorial Foundation board of director's meeting; Corpus Christi
		24	Diocesan Staff Retreat
		27	7 p.m. Confirmation Mass for St. Agnes; Edna
		28	10 a.m. Confirmation Mass for St. John Bosco; Vanderbilt
			2 p.m. Confirmation Mass for Our Lady of Sorrows; Victoria
		29	Noon Mass with Missionary Catechists
		30	9 a.m. Legion of Mary Praesidium meeting; Cathedral Center
		31	6 p.m. Confirmation Mass for St. Mary; Victoria

June

1	University of St. Thomas board meeting; Houston
3	5:30 p.m. Mass for Junior Catholic Daughters at Holy Family; Victoria
4	8:30 a.m. Confirmation Mass for St. John; New Taiton



Providing Hosted Group Travel for over 20 years

Join us for lunch at our Monthly Travel Meeting to learn more on Thursday, May 25, 2023
Sky Restaurant in Victoria (77904)
11:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. Dutch Lunch
We look forward to seeing you!



Magnolia & The Silos - Waco
June 7-8: 2 day / 1 night

June 1-8, 2024
8 day / 7 nights
Inter-Island Hawaiian Cruise



Patti Fitzpatrick and Laurie Eder
Port Lavaca, TX Victoria, TX
361-552-2695 925-285-6658
For Trip Details See Website:
pathwayswithpatti.com or
Email: gowithlaurie@gmail.com

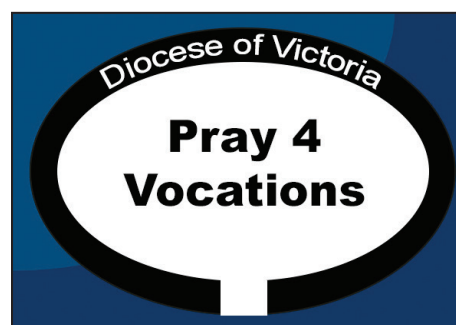
The Catholic Lighthouse
The Quality of Your Participation

USPS-001015 (ISSN 0894-7740)
The Catholic Lighthouse is published monthly at 1505 E. Mesquite Lane, Victoria, TX 77901.
Subscription rates are: \$7 per year within the diocese / \$10 outside the diocese.
E-mail local stories, photos or festival announcements to: lighthouse@victoriadiocese.org
(361) 573-0828 / (361) 573-5725 FAX • www.victoriadiocese.org

DEADLINE IS THE 15th OF THE PRECEDING MONTH
Periodical postage paid at Victoria, TX and additional Entry Offices
POSTMASTER: Send address changes to P.O. Box 4070, Victoria, TX 77903

The Catholic Lighthouse cannot be held liable, or in any way responsible for the content of any advertisement appearing within these pages. All claims, offers, guarantees, statements, etc., made by *The Catholic Lighthouse* advertisers are solely the responsibility of the advertiser. Deceptive or misleading advertising is never knowingly accepted. Complaints regarding advertising should be made directly to the advertiser or the Better Business Bureau.

Publisher:
The Most Rev. Brendan J. Cahill
Managing Editor:
Janet Jones
jjones@victoriadiocese.org
Communications Assistant/Graphic Specialist:
Regina Matus-Janak
janakr@victoriadiocese.org





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

Acolyte

Freddie Kloesel

Catholic Daughters of the Americas
Court #347, Cuero

Catholic Daughters of the Americas
Court #1604, Shiner

Don & Frances Spring
In memory of Stuart Krischke

Candidate

Howard & Conchita Mannella

Transitional Deacon

Clarence J. Metzger

Priest

Estate of Dorothy Vinklerek

In memory of Dorothy Vinklerek

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

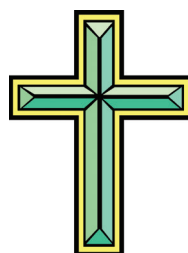
*Please remember in prayer the priests of the Diocese of Victoria,
who were ordained during the month of May:*

Rev. Joseph K. Mai	05/05/1970	Retired
Rev. Michael W. Petering	05/15/1999	St. Agnes Church, Edna
Rev. Greg E. Korenek	05/15/1993	Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Ganado
Rev. Edward J. Winkler	05/17/1986	Sacred Heart Church, Flatonia
Most Rev. Brendan J. Cahill	05/19/1990	Ordination to the Priesthood
Rev. Stephen Vacek	05/20/2017	Holy Cross Church, Bay City
Rev. Jacob Mendoza	05/20/2017	St. Michael Church, Cuero
Rev. Robert F. Guerra	05/20/2000	Parish of the Nativity Church, Eagle Lake
Rev. Philip L. Brune	05/24/2014	St. Robert Bellarmine Church, El Campo
Rev. Jasper J. Liggio	05/24/2014	St. Michael Church, Cuero
Rev. Msgr. John C. Bily	05/24/1958	Retired
Rev. Patrick S. Knippenberg	05/26/2012	Our Lady of Lourdes Church, Victoria
Rev. Daniel P. Kahlich	05/28/1966	Retired
Rev. Bryan O. Heyer	05/29/2004	Sts. Cyril and Methodius Church, Shiner
Rev. Kirby F. Hlavaty	05/29/1999	The Cathedral of Our Lady of Victory, Victoria
Most Rev. David E. Fellhauer	05/29/1965	Ordination to the Priesthood
	05/28/1990	Bishop Emeritus of the Diocese of Victoria
Rev. James Dvorak	05/30/2020	Sacred Heart, Hallettsville
Rev. Dalton Ervin	05/30/2020	The Cathedral of Our Lady of Victory, Victoria
Rev. Chase Goodman	05/30/2020	St. Rose of Lima, Schulenburg

Please remember in prayer the priests of the Diocese of Victoria, who died during the month of May:

Rev. Emmett Kolodzie	05/01/1986
Rev. Patrick Fidgeon	05/14/1994
Rev. William Doran	05/25/2000

*Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,
I will fear not evil, for you are with me;
your rod and your staff comfort me. (Psalms 23:4)*



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 >.**

April 21, 2023

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

Lector

In memory of Melvin Jurica by:

Donald and Karen Kutac
M/M Byron Eckhardt
Eugene and Jo Marie Krupala

In memory of Stuart Krischke by
Patrick and Karen Chaloupka

Acolyte

In memory of Stuart Krischke by:

Victor and Gail Dvorak
Don and Frances Spring

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

Lector

In memory of Linda Ruether by
Lambert and Carol Brune

• Rev. Kristopher L. Fuchs Seminary Burse

Acolyte

In loving memory of my husband, Robert
"Bobby" Welfl by Beatrice Welfl

In memory of our best friend forever,
Robert "Bobby" Welfl by
Paul and Helen Flessner

In honor of Rev. Kristopher Fuchs' birthday
May 13 and his 8th priestly ordination
anniversary by Paul and Helen Flessner

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

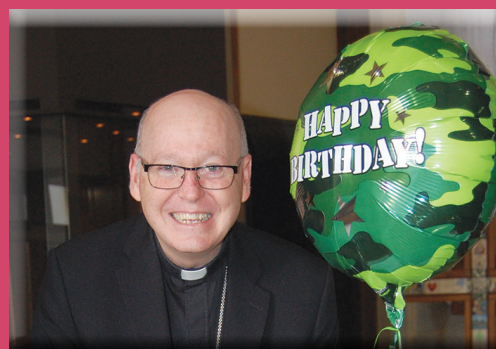
Happy Birthday to Our Seminarians

Deacon Joseph Blackburn is finishing up



Theology III and was ordained at Transitional Deacon on May 1. He will be serving at Holy Cross in East Bernard. His birthday is May 17. Write to Joseph at: Holy Cross Church, PO Box 1325, East Bernard, TX 77435.

Nelson Lagos is completing his first year of college at Holy Trinity Seminary in Dallas. Nelson is from Our Lady of the Gulf in Port Lavaca. His birthday is May 1. Write to Nelson at: St. Mary Church, PO Box 2448, Victoria, TX 77902.



**Happy Priestly
Ordination to Bishop
Cahill
May 19**

**Happy Priestly Ordination
to Bishop Emeritus
David Fellhauer on May 25
and May 29 Ordination as Bishop**



New assignments for priests announced during Chrism Mass

JANET JONES

The Catholic Lighthouse

VICTORIA — Chrism Mass is not only a celebration in which the bishop blesses the sacramental oils for the parishes of the diocese, it is a time when his unity with the priests of the diocese is manifested and their vows of obedience are celebrated and renewed.

This year, Bishop Brendan Cahill announced significant anniversaries and events for the clergy as well as the new assignments of priests.

On May 13, the diocese will gain two new priests through ordination — Deacon Ryan

Kapavik and Deacon Luke Prihoda.

After their ordination, Kapavik will be assigned as parochial vicar for Holy Family Catholic Church in Victoria and serve as chaplain for the Victoria Police Department. Prihoda will become parochial vicar for St. Rose of Lima in Schulenburg, he announced.

The following are other new assignments — most of which become effective June 1 — announced by Bishop Cahill:

- The Rev. Wayne Flagg, currently pastor of St. Michael in Weimar will become pastor of St. Andrew in Hillje and St. Procopius in Louise. They have been without a pastor since

the retirement of the Rev. Clement Quainoo in 2021. The Rev. Michael Rother, pastor of St. Philip in El Campo has served as administrator in the interim.

- Father Rother is also being reassigned. He will move to Hallettsville and serve as parochial vicar, transitioning to pastor next year when the Rev. Msgr. John Peters retires.

- The Rev. James Dvorak, currently serving as parochial vicar in Hallettsville, will become pastor of St. Anthony in Columbus and St. Roch in Mentz. The Rev. Augustine Asante, previous pastor of St. Anthony is now working as a chaplain at M.D. Anderson.

- The Rev. Dalton Ervin, currently parochial vicar at Our Lady of Victory parish in Victoria will become the pastor for St. Philip the Apostle in El Campo.

- OLV will gain two parochial vicars the Rev. Jonas Kuubeta, presently serving as parochial vicar at Holy Family in Victoria, and the Rev. Samuel Asante, scheduled to arrive from Ghana in August.

- The Rev. Chase Goodman, currently a parochial vicar at St. Rose in Schulenburg, will become pastor of St. Michael in Weimar and Sts. Cyril and Methodius Diocesan Shrine in Dubina.

- The Rev. Alexander Aboagye of Ghana will arrive in August to serve St. Rose of Lima in Schulenburg and its missions as parochial vicar.

- And the Rev. Derek Acquah, also from Ghana, will be assigned to Our Lady of the Gulf Church and Missions as parochial vicar. He, too, is scheduled to come in August.

Seminarian Joseph Blackburn will be ordained as a transitional deacon on May 1 at Our Lady of the Gulf in Port Lavaca. He will spend the last year as a seminarian in St. Mary's in Houston and also serving at Holy Cross in East Bernard.

Bishop Cahill announced significant anniversaries of priestly ordinations this year including:

- The Rev. Tommy Chen, 15 years
- The Rev. Dominic Nguyen, 20 years
- The Rev. Augustine Asante and the Rev. Parmenio Florez-Garcia, 25 years
- The Very Rev. Greg Korenek, 30 years
- The Rev. Wayne Flagg, 35 years
- The Rev. Peter Yeboah-Amanfo and the Rev. Samuel Appiasi, 40 years
- The Rev. Gabriel Maison, 45 years
- The Rev. Msgr. John Bily, 65 years
- Bishop Emeritus David Fellhauer, 58 years as a priest and 33 years as a bishop

Bishop Cahill also announced that the Rev. Antonio Perez of Our Lady of Mount Carmel in Wharton was incardinated into the Diocese of Victoria on March 22. He came to our diocese from the Archdiocese of Cusco in Peru and felt a calling to serve as a priest of this diocese.



Final procession at Chrism Mass on April 4. (Regina Janak/Catholic Lighthouse)

Diocese celebrates ordination of two seminarians May 13

Continued from pg. 1

suggested during the Chrism Mass when announcing assignments, he is youthful and has the energy to handle 3 a.m. calls. Kapavik said he looks forward to being attentive to that ministry as well as serving at Holy Family, a large parish. "I think that there is enough there to keep a young priest busy. There's always something going on there," he said.

Prihoda is also happy to start his service at the parish in Schulenburg and start living his vocation. "The seminary can only train us for so much," he said, explaining that he is ready to enter into the suffering of the people in the community, "lifting them up to the Lord." He also looks forward to being a minister simply through his presence. He said he wants to be visible and have people know that their priests are attainable and approachable.

Seminarians serve a "pastoral year" during their formation, working in a parish in their diocese.

Kapavik served at St. Mary's in Victoria. He said he discovered a passion for teaching RCIA during his year there. "There were times that Father Kristopher (Fuchs) would be gone

and ask me to teach. When I did, I really felt the Spirit working through me and in me. It was life-giving." He said it was different than teaching children in Catholic School, because the adults are not required to be in class. They are there because they have a thirst to know more about the faith. "It was a great opportunity to use what I had been learning."

Prihoda spent his pastoral year in Cuero, an experience of working in a parish with a school in a community where he can really get to know people. He said it is important to him to focus on learning everyone's name.

Both have spent the past 11 months since their ordination preparing in their own ways. Prihoda said he has spent a lot of time writing notes to express his gratitude to his family members and friends who have supported him throughout his formation, also offering holy hours and rosaries. He also has worked on time management, especially since he was assigned as a deacon at East Bernard while he finished his studies at St. Mary's Seminary in Houston. He wants to make sure he does not overlook the menial or "not fun" tasks that

must be done while he also enjoys preparing though reading the scriptures and understanding how the Word of God meshes with the realities of life's experiences.

Kapavik said, "There's so many things I've been preparing for — to be a spiritual father. I've been praying especially to be able to configure myself to Christ the High Priest."

As a deacon, Kapavik has gained some experience in preaching homilies. "I was nervous about how good of a preacher I would be," he said. But he realized he was not giving himself enough credit. "I have noticed how people responded. I grew in confidence and self-awareness."

One of Kapavik's biggest influencers in pursuing the priesthood, like many others in the diocese, was Rev. Dan Morales, who served as vocations director for many years in the diocese. He said it seems providential that he spent his pastoral year at St. Mary's, a parish "Father Dan" served, and is now at Holy Family where Father Dan was pastor until his death in September of 2016.

Kapavik began serving at the altar at a

very young age, like many, if not most, Catholic school children. He attended a vocation camp while in high school "where I believe I received my calling," he said during a podcast interview with former Family Evangelization Director Justin Reyes. "I felt this great desire to serve God's people."

Prihoda was not eyeing the priesthood in his school days, but followed his passion for playing baseball all the way to the Minor League. He spent several years playing in numerous cities across the country and coaching as well.

It was after his playing days and some years working in the business world (a career he did not love) that he decided to pursue coaching baseball. While at Texas A&M he attended an ACTS retreat where another retreatant saw in him the potential for the priesthood. A year later he returned to ACTS as a team member, yet still not considering the seminary. But there was a calling. After a discernment retreat at St. Mary's, he gave himself 40 days to let the Holy Spirit guide his decision.



Visit Presidio La Bahia May 13 for Trades Day

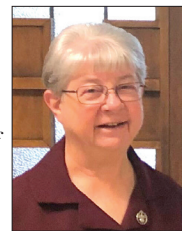
GOLIAD — Come to Presidio La Bahia on May 13, for Historic Trades Day. This living history demonstration will explore the trades that were a part of the economy and daily existence of colonial Texas. Skilled craftsmen from across the state will demonstrate various trades that would have been common in Texas from prior to the Texian War for Independence well into the Republic and early Statehood eras.



Dress for the weather as this event takes place out of doors. Admission is \$5 for adults, \$4.50 for seniors, \$2 for children 6-11, under 6 are free. All events subject to change. Please monitor our Facebook page for more up to date information or call 361-645-3752.

Look to faith traditions to foster environmental health

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 fifth in the series that will appear monthly.



Sister Marian Sturm, IWBS

Significant shifts in temperature, weather patterns, water accessibility and pest populations are putting stress on agriculture production. The National Academy of Sciences says that for every 1 degree Celsius increase in global mean temperature, global yields of wheat, maize, rice and soybeans will be reduced greatly. How will farming and distribution effectively and sustainably meet our global growing need?

God's creation is meant to sustain us all. Saving our ecosystems and universe depends on us all. Taking seriously our call to steward the earth (Genesis 1: 26, 28-30), we must recognize what is happening to earth and its people.

As of June 2019, the carbon level was 414 parts per million (ppm) on the Keeling graph. This increased concentration of greenhouse gases absorbs and emits heat radiation, resulting in heated local weather and warmed global temperature, which is now at the level it was 14 million years ago. In the 2015 Paris Climate Agreement, 196 countries pledged to reduce greenhouse gases in order to limit global warming to not more than 2 degrees Celsius (C) by 2060. Staying below 2 degrees C will require nearly total de-carbonization of global economic activity by 2060. It is estimated that we are currently at a 1.2-Celsius temperature increase.

In 60 years, atmospheric carbon from fossil fuel burning, the main human-caused factor in escalating global warming now, has doubled. Every step of the fossil fuel cycle – from extraction and processing to distribution and consumption – leads to contamination of the environment. A good stewardship solution is to reduce fossil fuel use, utilize solar, wind and other market-ready forms of renewable energy, and apply energy more efficiently.

Also, addressing agriculture-driven carbon, methane and nitrous oxide emissions is critical to reducing climate change. Livestock farming, deforestation and other land uses account for 24 percent of global greenhouse gas emissions. Methane and nitrous oxide emissions, though only one-fourth of all gas emissions worldwide, represent 22 percent of global GHGs and are more potent than carbon dioxide. Good stewardship calls for de-carbonizing livestock farming. Some ways are: regenerative farming, adding seaweed and probiotics to animal diets, breeding low-methane cows and capturing the methane to produce bioenergy.

Globally, about 40 percent of agricultural soil is degraded by loss of topsoil, and excessive use of nitrogen fertilizer, responsible for 13 percent of global nitrous oxide emissions. Good stewardship could engage soil management through regenerative farming and cover crops. These help reduce synthetic nitrogen use, keep the soil healthy, care for resources, insure better production and sustainably meet growth needs. A film, "Kiss the Ground" (www.kisstheground.com) by Josh Tickell, and sponsored by Interfaith Power & Light, offers information regarding regenerative farming. Precision technology farming can also monitor soil and plant health. Indoor vertical farming as well as community gardens, permaculture, based on natural ecosystems for sustainable food production and supporting local farmers' markets can be options.

Other contributors to greenhouse gases are trash and food waste. The U.S. is the biggest producer of trash on the planet, with about 40 percent of food thrown away, as well as non-degradable plastics, polluting landfills. Composting food can draw down carbon into the soil and nourish it. Recycling, eliminating plastics, and living with only what we need can reduce trash waste.

Greenhouse gas emissions impact our food production and the health of all life, especially the most vulnerable communities. With a prediction of 2.2 billion more people by 2050, 49 percent more food will be needed to feed this global population, along with water. Complicating this, developing countries growing their economies will want beef and dairy products also. This demand will increase the agricultural greenhouse gases if no action is taken.

Because we do not have infinite resources, how can we produce and distribute food equitably? Our spiritual traditions can contribute to healing the world, soil health and human health. We have 30 years to choose alternatives to move in the right direction.

Contact Sister Marian at maristurm@yahoo.com.

37th Annual SHINER Catholic Church Spring PICNIC Sunday May 28, 2023 At the KC Park - 102 South Ave. G in Shiner, Texas



Pre - Picnic Event on Saturday, May 27th
Motorcycle Run - Registration 11:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.
Contact Michael Picha (361) 293-0058 or
Lance Thompson (361) 293-8132

--- DINNER ---
10:30 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.
Air Conditioned Dining Room
◆ DINE IN PLATES \$13.00 ◆
Plates Include THREE MEATS!
◆ Picnic Stew ◆ Fried Chicken ◆
◆ Country Sausage and Trimmings ◆
◆ DRIVE THRU PLATES TO GO \$15.00 ◆
From 10:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.
Or UNTIL SOLD OUT at the
KASPAR PAVILION IN GREEN DICKSON PARK

COUNTRY STORE OPENS at 8 a.m.
Canned & Baked Goods
Kolaches & Pigs-in-a-Blanket

BIG COUNTRY AUCTION STARTS at 12 p.m.
Cattle Auction 3 p.m.

BINGO in A/C Dining Room
3 p.m. - 7 p.m.

GROCERY WHEEL - 5 p.m.

Washer Tourney STARTS at 4 p.m.
by old dining hall

◆ **MUZIKA** ◆ **MUZIKA** ◆
FREE MUSIC & DANCING
Inside AIR CONDITIONED Hall



11:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

Rusty Steins

2:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.

The Shiner Hobo Band

4:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.

Mark Halata & Texavia

MUSIC OUTSIDE

10:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. *Das Ist Lustig*

12:30 p.m. - 2:00 p.m. *Michael Dutka*
10 year old Rising Star!

2:00 p.m. - 4:30 p.m. *Blue Denim*

4:30 p.m. - 7:00 p.m. *Stephanie Ross and*
The Southern Drive Band

7:00 p.m. - 10:30 p.m. *Chris Rybak Band*

--- DANCE ---

9:00 p.m. – 12:00p.m.

with **THE EMOTIONS**

Admission FREE for ages 21 and over

Famous **Picnic Hamburgers**
Hot off the grill all afternoon-evening!

Shiner Sausage Wraps & Nachos

Drawing for Raffle Prizes 10:00 p.m.

PETTING ZOO 2:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.

**Plant Wheel, Ring Toss, Ball Throw,
Wheel of Fortune, and other games!**

FUN FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY!

For more information call (361) 594.3836

Go To: www.sscmshiner.org



Adoration, family life help form men seeking priesthood

BY KEVIN J. JONES
Catholic New Agency

More than 450 men are set to be ordained priests this year, and the survey of their ordination class shows that the overwhelming majority of priests-to-be were raised Catholic in intact families and individually showed habits of frequent church service and regular prayer life.

“On this day, let us thank God for continuing to call men and women to serve him and his Church as priests, religious, and consecrated persons,” Bishop Earl Boyea of Lansing, Michigan, said April 25.

Boyea chairs the U.S. bishops’ Commit-

tee on Clergy, Consecrated Life, and Vocations. On Tuesday the committee released the “Ordination Class of 2023 Study” from the Georgetown University-based Center for Applied Research in the Apostolate (CARA). The survey was released ahead of the World Day of Prayer for Vocations, marked by the Catholic Church this year on April 30, the Fourth Sunday of Easter.

CARA sought survey responses from the 458 seminarians to be ordained this year. It received 334 responses, a response rate of 73 percent. Responses came from ordinands at 116 U.S. dioceses and 24 different religious institutions.

Diocesan ordinands’ median age is 30,

while ordinands for religious institutes are slightly older, with a median age of 34. The youngest respondent was 25 years old and the oldest was 67.

Catholic upbringing in stable families

The seminarians to be ordained, also known as ordinands, are overwhelmingly “cradle Catholics.” About 93% of ordinands were baptized Catholic as infants. Another 96% were raised by their biological parents. About 92% were raised by a married couple living together. For 84% of ordinands, both parents were Catholic. One in three respondents had a relative who is a priest or religious.

Boyea especially noted the importance of the family life of the prospective priests.

“Surveys of recently professed men and women religious and men ordained to the priesthood show that families and encouragement from the parish priests alongside Catholic schools provide optimal environments for a vocational call to grow,” he said.

Involved in parish life

More than 63% of survey respondents said their parish priest had been an encouraging influence on their vocation, followed by a fellow parishioner, a friend, their mother, father, or teacher or catechist. Church ministry is another common habit for prospective priests:

About 72% of prospective priests have been altar servers, while about half served as lectors and 40% served as extraordinary ministers of the Eucharist. Another 33% served as catechists, while slightly smaller percentages served in youth or campus ministry. About 23% had been cantors or members of the music ministry.

Devotional life marked by regular prayer

The survey also shows commonalities in devotional life. Among respondents, 73% regularly took part in eucharistic adoration. Another 66% regularly prayed the rosary. And 45% were in prayer or Bible groups. Lectio divina was a regular practice for 33% of respondents, who also reported participation in college or high school retreats. More than half of ordinands had participated in their parish youth group and another 27% had been participants in Catholic campus ministry.

Educational background

The survey found that less than half of new priests attended Catholic schools: About 43% of respondents had attended a Catholic elementary school (K-8). As many as 34% attended a Catholic high school. About 11% were home-schooled at some point in their childhood. Another 35% of respondents attended a Catholic college.

**Avoid Mark Risk!
How about an Annuity?**

4.25% for 3 Years
with Bail Out Option

5.60% for 5 Years
with Bail Out Option



Call TODAY! Hollub Agency
Case A Hollub
979-725-8459

Credited rates effective 04/23/2023 and are subject to change without notice. Early withdrawals may be subject to Surrender Charges and Market Value Adjustments. The IRS may impose penalties for early withdrawals from qualified plans. Contracts issued by American Century Life Insurance Company. Annuity products are not FDIC insured. Annuity products contain charges, fees and limitations. Annuity products and/or features may not be available in all states and rates may vary by state.

Thank you top sponsors of the 2023 Roast & Toast:

to benefit the Emmaus Counseling Center

Archangels

Our Lady’s Healing Center, Seadrift
David and Donna Schmidt

The Dodson, Oakley, Schaar & Swearingen Families

Guardian Angels

Our Lady of Victory in Victoria, St. Mary’s in Victoria,
Janecka Insurance, Holy Family in Victoria, Hardy McCullough
and CivilCorp (The Galvans)

We would also like to thank
Bishop Brendan Cahill, Lynn and Tim Miori and
the parishes of St. Joseph in Yoakum, St. Ann in Hochheim,
Queen of Peace in Sweet Home and St. John in Koerth.

**Special thanks to Father Tommy Chen,
our roastee and one awesome supporter.**



It's a good time to ask yourself some questions

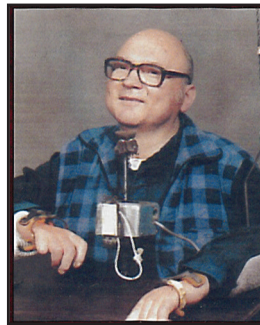
EDITOR'S NOTE: Father Charles Kram wrote the following sermon for the Seventh Sunday of Easter, Cycle A. He titled it "Prayerful Waiting."

We live in a world where the pace is fast. There are so many things to do and places to go. The person who is not careful is soon caught up in a whirlwind of activity with little time to think about what it is all about.

But life in this world is only for a while and we all need some quiet time to be alone and to ask ourselves some questions. Questions such as, "Do I still live by the principles I believed in years ago?"

When we are young and idealistic, we see and criticize and rebel against the faults of our elders. Then, as we gradually grow older, we develop faults of our own. The ones who, half a generation ago, staged sit-ins and burned their colleges and took their professors prisoners in protest against the establishment have by now fallen into the same patterns as those of their elders.

I remember how, as a teenager, I thought it was terribly old-fashioned to shake hands when meeting someone, because that is what our parents did. Then, when I saw the young people in a neighboring town do it, it suddenly became the thing to do.



1929-2000

Father Charles Kram Corner

"Am I satisfied with myself?"

Think of some of the things you criticized in your parents in the past. Are you now doing the same things yourself?

Another question you might ask is, "Am I satisfied with myself?"

We should all keep trying to improve our habits, which includes our attitudes. For example, if you tend to criticize and find fault with the good that others do, you might first ask yourself, "Could I do as well?"

Is it not true that often we criticize someone we dislike for doing the same thing we approve of in someone we like? We must try to change our attitude to one of looking for things to admire and imitate in others rather

than just looking for their faults. A person whom others continually criticize will be most appreciative of a compliment from you.

This is the season of the year when it is most appropriate for us to rededicate ourselves to the Lord, for in this season we celebrate first the Resurrection, by which Jesus triumphed over sin and death, and then his ascension into heaven on the 40th day, to share God's power and prepare a place for

us, and then the descent of the Holy Spirit on the 50th day.

So now, between today and the feast of Pentecost, we spend a time of prayerful waiting, to celebrate the birthday of the Church, and the sending of the disciples to spread the Good News of the Gospel to the ends of the earth on a mission in which we all have a share.

So ... how do we look at the future? We look at it with the firm hope that, in spite of our weakness in the midst of the hubbub of our temporary existence on this earth, we might, with the Lord's constant help, be patient with the faults of others and struggle courageously against our own. Not to criticize and condemn, but to love and encourage one another in every struggle until all things are fulfilled.

Lord Jesus, thank you for the truths you have given us to live by. Help us sincerely to examine ourselves on our faithfulness to what we believe. Grant that when our struggles and our waiting are over, your promises to all of us may indeed come true.

Seminarian scholarships offered through Catholic Life Insurance

SAN ANTONIO — Catholic Life Insurance is now accepting applications for the 2023 Msgr. Henkes and Msgr. Stuebben Seminarian scholarships.

Two scholarships valued at \$2,000 each are awarded annually to help offset the tuition expenses of those entering the Roman Catholic priesthood.

The deadline to apply is June 15, 2023.

Msgr. Henkes Seminarian Scholarship

Established in 1987, The Msgr. Henkes Scholarship honors the late Rev. Msgr. Albert George Henkes, who served as Catholic Life's Spiritual Advisor for 27 years.

The scholarship is open to any resident of Texas, Alabama, Arizona, Colorado, Florida, Georgia, Kansas, Louisiana, Mississippi, Nebraska, New Mexico, and Oklahoma who has enrolled in a Roman Catholic Seminary anywhere throughout the world.

Scholarships through this fund have been awarded to 92 seminarians to date.

Msgr. Stuebben Seminarian Scholarship

Established in 1994, the Msgr. Stuebben Seminarian Scholarship honors the late Rev. Msgr. Lawrence J. Stuebben, who served as Catholic Life's Spiritual Advisor for eight years. Seminarians applying for this scholarship must attend Assumption Seminary in San Antonio. Approximately 13 dioceses throughout the United States send seminarians to study at Assumption Seminary where Msgr. Stuebben once served as rector. Fifty-eight seminarians have earned scholarships through this fund.

Applications may be found online at www.cliu.com under "Giving Back." For information, email branch@cliu.com, or call 210-828-9921 or 1-800-262-2548.

Founded in 1901, Catholic Life Insurance offers life insurance, retirement and Medicare supplement products to individuals and businesses living in Texas, Alabama, Arizona, Colorado, Florida, Georgia, Kansas, Louisiana, Mississippi, Nebraska, New Mexico, and Oklahoma.

HelpOurMarriage.org
RETROUVAILLE
A LIFELINE FOR MARRIED COUPLES

Next Victoria Area Weekend
July 28 - 30, 2023

For confidential inquiries call:
John or Jennifer Vincent
(800) 470-2230 / (361) 580-2770
email: jbvjov@sbcglobal.net
or visit the web site listed above

Small gestures are perfect examples of evangelization

I travel down Laurent Street in Victoria pretty much every day on my way to and from the convent and the Chancery. I travel down that road so much, the car could probably get there on its own.

Many times on the way to the office, I see vehicles in line for a certain Mexican restaurant. There are so many cars, they are blocking traffic. As I drive by, I think to myself, “Those must be some excellent breakfast tacos that people don’t care about breaking the law in order to get one.” Still haven’t tried one to find out for sure, but maybe one day.

Thinking about that took me back to our faith. How, when it began, it was illegal to spread the good news. In some places of the world, it still is, and it could lead to one’s death. However, the news is so good that one can’t keep it to oneself, and, therefore, people are going to share it, not caring if it is illegal.

In this country, we have it a little easier. It is not illegal to practice our faith. It will not cause our death to share our faith. Yet there is that separation of church and state, and there are some places where we are asked not to be so “expressive.” It seems to be getting harder to spread the Good News. But maybe it’s not as hard as we think.

In March, we had Catholic Advocacy Day in Austin. During lunch, our bishop kept saying he was going to eat with the people. I kept

Finding Beauty in Mystery

By Sister Rosario Resendez, TWBS



telling him that the bishops were supposed to eat somewhere else, but he was determined that he was supposed to be with the people. I kept looking around and didn’t see any other bishops, so, as is my nature, I began to have anxiety thinking the other bishops were going to be looking for him. I saw one of my religious friends, Sister Melissa Cessac, CDP, from San Antonio and the bishop and I went to talk with her and her class of students. The students just loved him, but I was still preoccupied thinking he was not where he was supposed to be.

Finally, after lunch with us, he left to go where the other bishops were, and I could breathe again. Later, when talking to Sister Melissa, I told her how I was having anxiety thinking the bishop was missing his meeting and wasn’t where he was supposed to be but kept saying he wanted to eat with the people.

Sister Melissa looked at me and smiled

saying, “He was where he was supposed to be; he was with the people.” I blinked in realization that I was worried over this small thing when the bishop was evangelizing without even trying. The shepherd was with the sheep.

For my birthday, I get taken out to a restaurant with a group of friends. I usually invite sisters from my community, along with other friends. This year, I picked a restaurant with very generous servings, so before the day of the dinner, I told my sisters to take their own to-go containers, because I knew they wouldn’t finish everything. That way, we didn’t have to use the restaurant’s disposable containers that were probably made of Styrofoam. When the time came, we sisters brought out our reusable containers for our leftovers. My friend turned to me and asked if I brought the container from home. I told him that I did because I’m trying to save the environment one plate at a time. I said it jokingly, but told him that I tried to take Pope Francis’ “Laudato Si” seriously. He was amazed that the sisters brought their own reusable containers and that I had insisted upon it. He told me, “You’re evangelizing with this little action.” I had not considered that. I was just trying to reduce the amount of garbage we produce.

Not too long ago, I was going through a rough time. Things were being said about me that were not true, but still hurtful. I was deep-

ly hurt, though on the exterior no one could tell. Then I received a note from someone who said she reads my articles and how much she enjoys them. Later that same week at H-E-B, I was stopped by someone who also told me she reads my articles and how she looks forward to them. Then a friend of mine brought me a basket of candy and a note thanking me for helping him. The words that were written in both notes and the words that were spoken by the lady in H-E-B were the exact opposite of what was causing me so much hurt, and they had no idea this was taking place. Those three instances happened the same week when I was at my lowest. Those three people allowed the Lord to use them to pull me out of a slump. Those three people did not need to write to me or tell me anything, but I believe that they were moved by the Holy Spirit to do so and, therefore, evangelized without even trying. They let me know that, no matter what, God knew my heart. At that moment, they truly were Jesus to me.

Evangelization ... “does not begin by seeking to convince others, but by bearing witness each day to the love that has watched over us and lifted us back up.” (Pope Francis, Jan. 11, 2023.)

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

ANNUITIES + IRAS



Moms need retirement plans, too.

Have you saved enough for retirement? Or, are you retired and need to manage your retirement income? Catholic Life offers flexible options tailored to fit your goals. With our IRAs and Annuities, rest assured that your savings is growing securely and steadily.

5.00%* APY

*2.80% Minimum Interest Rate Guaranteed for the Lifetime of the Certificate

CATHOLIC LIFE INSURANCE

Home Office: San Antonio, Texas • (210) 828-9921 • www.cliu.com

*Interest rates are subject to change & vary by product. #AS 05-23

Contact your nearest agent to learn more about your retirement plan options.



HALLETTSVILLE
Wendy Janak, FIC
(361) 798-4311



WEIMAR
Karen Kutac, FIC
(979) 743-0088



VICTORIA
Robert Melnar, FIC
(361) 550-8126



SCHULENBURG
Royce Shimek, FIC
(979) 743-4313



HALLETTSVILLE
Jennifer Kraatz
(361) 798-9181



WEIMAR
Mike Scardino, FIC
(979) 725-8860



SHINER
Patrick Klozik, FIC
(361) 594-8160



NADA/GARWOOD
Chris Merta, FIC
(979) 543-1059



Sts. Longinus and Faustina reveal the Wound that heals

“But He was pierced for our offenses, He was crushed for our wrongdoings; the punishment for our well-being was laid upon Him, and by His wounds we are healed.”
(Isaiah 53:5)

At the ninth hour (3 p.m.) on the Friday afternoon in the third decade A.D., a Roman centurion stood at the base of a cross, upon which hung a man considered criminal to most; the Messiah to a few.

The Gospel of John informs us that, “When they saw that He had already died ... one of the soldiers pierced his side, and immediately there came out blood and water.”

Moments before the soldier plunged the lance into the side of Jesus, he was just one of thousands of other low-level Roman forces, indistinct and to be nameless to history. But then he speared. And, while he did so with the intent of confirming the death of Jesus, it would result in bringing new life to himself. For on that day, he was the last human to wound Christ and the first to be healed by that wound. For what poured forth from the side of Christ poured also onto that soldier, and that was not mere bodily fluid seeping from the wound of one more criminal. This was the Living Water of baptism, the Sacred Blood of redemption that would transform the avowed pagan to live a life that cried out, “Truly this man is the Son of God” (Matthew 27:54).

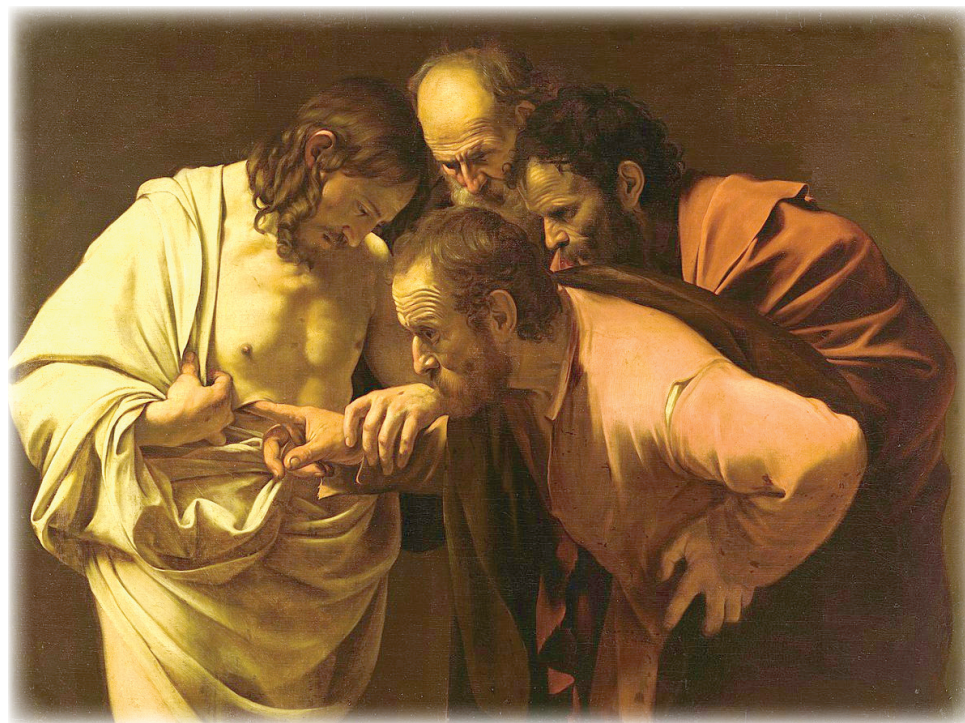
Indeed, St. Faustina would record Christ speaking clearly of his open side as the very source of Divine Mercy which had been “opened wide by the lance for all souls -- no one have I excluded!” (*Diary of St. Faustina, No. 1182*)

While Sacred Scripture is silent as to the soldier’s name, later apocryphal and gnostic texts would assign him a name derived from the Greek word for “lance” – Longinus.

Today, we can look at drawings of Longinus, the soldier who defiled the body of Jesus on the cross. Or we can choose to embrace the colossal statue of the St. Longinus that stands in one of the four main niches in St. Peter’s Basilica – a statue to a life changed through the Divine Mercy of Christ. It does not represent the conversion of one man alone. Rather, it is a call for all who are wounded, any who have wounded others, and to us for each time we pierce the side of Jesus through our own actions. A reminder to come to the Wounded Healer ... to let Wound speak to wound ... **“And by His wounds we are healed.”**

At Your Service

By Deacon Michael Tankersley



Ten days after the wound of Christ touched Longinus, the Wounded Healer would enter into the Upper Room to confront Thomas, who was wounded with doubt. Jesus offered “Shalom” – the profound peace and reconciliation only he can give – and invited Thomas, “Put your finger here and see my hands, and bring your hand and put it into my side.”

Notice this was not an offer to simply “feel around” or gently touch. This was a call to probe, to enter into His wound. I suspect that if humans without divine inspiration had scripted the entrance of Jesus, the resurrected Christ would have appeared in immaculate condition and without so much as a scratch as a definite sign of his total victory over death.

Instead, Jesus came with the fresh, raw, open wounds and invited the apostles to feel into them. But these wounds were not precisely the same as the original. They had been transformed. No longer were they the

bleeding wounds of suffering or the wounds of pain. These were the wounds that heal, the wounds that speak to the wounded, the wounds through which pour out Divine Mercy. It is into these wounds that Thomas is invited to enter, and, although Sacred Scripture does not state that Thomas actually touched these healing wounds of Christ, the

healing wounds of Christ touched Thomas. Like Longinus, Thomas was healed of his wounds of doubt and would echo the words of Longinus by proclaiming, “My Lord and my God!” (John 20-28)

When we see depictions of Doubting Thomas or hear of his name, we should be reminded to bring our doubts and despair to the Wounded Healer, to let Wound speak to wound. **“And by His wounds we are healed.”**

Nineteen hundred years later, the healing wounds of Christ touched another wounded soul – a young Polish nun who was crippled in poverty and, by lack of education, was rejected by several orders before admittance, and was often incapacitated by the scarred, tubercular lungs which would take her life at the age of 33.

But Wound spoke to wound and she became the communicator of the great message of God’s Divine Mercy to the world. Christ gave her directions for the creation of the image of Divine Mercy which would include two rays flowing from his wound: the red ray to symbolize the blood of Jesus and the white ray to symbolize the water that saves souls. In her diary, St. Faustina wrote that Jesus had told her, “These two rays issue forth from the very depths of My tender mercy when my agonized Heart was opened by a lance on the Cross.” (*Diary, No. 299*)

And so it is, my brothers and sisters, that the very lance of Longinus, which was meant to prove the Death of Christ on that day, instead released the flood of Divine Mercies offered to us all on this day. For anyone who comes to the Wounded Healer; for anyone who lets Christ’s Wounds speak to their wounds. **“And by His wounds we are healed.”**

JESUS, I TRUST IN YOU.

Letter to the Editor

In response to “At Your Service” by Deacon Mike Tankersley for April 2023:
Editor,

Thank you for the inspiring essay ‘The Crucifix is like polyphonic music for the eyes,’ by Deacon Tankersley. I’ve pulled that page to keep and reread. It offers such new insights for meditation upon the crucifix.

God bless all of you and your work.

Sincerely,
Ruth Fabian



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 May puzzle forms to arrive in The Catholic Lighthouse office, P. O. Box 4070, Victoria, TX 77903 by May 31 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 Pearl Street Market in Goliad, www.searching-for-jesus.com and Amazon. The prices range from \$4.99 and \$19.99.

Florine Mozisek, 82, of Houston was the March 2023 book winner.

PENTECOST: DAY
GOSPEL – JOHN 20:19-23

A **reading** from the **holy Gospel** according to **John**: On the **evening** of that **first day** of the **week**, / when the **doors** were **locked**, where the **disciples** were, / for **fear** of the Jews, / **Jesus came** and **stood** in their **midst** / and said to them, "**Peace** be with **you**." / When he **had** said this, he **showed** them his **hands** and his **side**. / The disciples **rejoiced** when they **saw** the **Lord**. / Jesus said to them **again**, "Peace be **with** you. / As the **Father** has **sent** me, so I **send** you." / And **when** he had said **this**, he **breathed** on them and **said** to them, / "**Receive** the **Holy Spirit**. / Whose **sins** you **forgive** are forgiven **them**, / and **whose** sins you **retain** are retained."



Name: _____
Address: _____
Phone number: _____
Parish: _____
Age, if 12 or younger _____ Age, if 13 or older _____



Helping moms and babies

VICTORIA — Members of the Our Lady of Victory Altar Society donated items to the Gabriel Project of the Crossroads and the Bethany Maternity Home during a recent meeting. Pictured are Vanessa DeDear, Gabriel Project representative; Jennifer Hessler; Aftan Puente, president; Viola Saenz corresponding officer; Kat Hickl, second vice president; Deacon Eddie Huse, Gabriel Project representative; and Sandy Munoz, recording secretary. (Contributed Photo)

Journeys of Faith with Ceci

Our Lady of Guadalupe Pilgrimage with Bishop Cahill August 25 - 31, 2023



Spend seven days in beautiful Mexico City with Bishop Cahill as we visit the Shrine of Our Lady of Guadalupe, the Pyramids of the Sun and Moon and enjoy a boat ride at the Xohimilco floating gardens. We will enjoy a special visit to the Sister of the IWBS at Convento de las Hermanas del Verbo Encarnado. This pilgrimage is full of faith and culture of the Mexican people!

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!**

Details coming soon! Bishop Cahill's Holy Land Pilgrimage February 23 to March 4, 2024

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



Eucharistic vessels reflect the beauty, mysteries of the Sacrament

In Communion



By Very Rev. Jacob Koether

In the church of St. Stanislaus Kostka parish in Chicago, there is a beautiful and very interesting vessel for holding the Blessed Sacrament, a uniquely designed monstrance that gives quite a bit to reflect on, especially as the Catholic Church in the United States enters more deeply into the national Eucharistic Revival.

Although this monstrance is different than most, every sacred vessel is meant to honor that which it holds and teach us about the reality that is present. Chalices and ciboria used during Mass to hold the sacred Body and Blood of Jesus, because of the high quality of their material, should make us realize that this is not natural food. The beautiful cloths used to cover the altar should make us think that something special happens there. Similarly, the monstrance in St. Stanislaus Kostka parish, named Our Lady of the Sign and the Ark of Mercy, has many things it wants to tell us about the One it is pointing to.

First, the general design of the monstrance is based on the Ark of the Covenant that God told Moses to make and to put in the Holy of Holies in the Tabernacle in the wilderness. The Ark of the Covenant for the Israelites was where they met God. If they wanted to encounter God in a specific time and place, they would direct themselves to the Ark. This was the literal center of their lives as their camp and all their tents would be situated around it.

Second, the Ark contained the tablets of the Ten Commandments (or the words of God), some of the manna that was given in the desert, and the staff of Aaron that blossomed miraculously to prove his legitimate priesthood. If you look closely in the pictures, you'll see these images engraved on the front.

Third, the top of the Ark, flanked on either side by adoring angels, was what was called the seat of mercy. Once a year, the high priest would offer a sacrifice and sprinkle its blood there, so reconciliation between the people and God could be renewed.

In the monstrance, instead of an empty space, above which the holy cloud of God's presence would rest, there is an image of Our Lady with outstretched arms, shown to be the new place of reconciliation.

Fourth, around Mary's head are stars, representing her role as the Queen of Heaven. Beneath her is a crescent moon representing her desire to always reflect the light of Christ, as the moon reflects the light of the sun.



A unique monstrance displayed at St. Stanislaus Kostka in Chicago shows how the Old Testament is revealed in the New Testament.



Deacon Michael McCloskey of Holy Name Cathedral, places the 12-inch host in the monstrance for adoration following the liturgy. Because of its unique size, the host had to be specially made for the icon.

(Photos by Karen Callaway/Chicago Catholic)

And at her heart is a radiant space for the Blessed Sacrament to reside.

In this monstrance there is so much we can learn as it leads us from Old Testament types to their New Testament fulfillments and into a deeper appreciation for what God is doing now. In the Blessed Sacrament, we encounter the living God in a greater way than the Israelites did in the wilderness. We don't approach stone tablets on which God's Word is written, but the Word of God Himself.

This Bread from Heaven, unlike the manna in the desert, satisfies the deepest parts of our souls and gives us strength for

eternal life. This is the Great and Eternal High Priest present now before us; the Lamb of God, whose Blood truly restores us to a right relationship with God, a sacrifice that was so complete it only had to be offered once. And Mary, the Mother of God, is now the greater seat of mercy, the vessel that gave us God-made-flesh, who is our Savior.

Every time we come close to the Eucharist, we walk on Holy Ground, like Moses as he came close to the burning bush on Mt. Sinai.

The Eucharist is not natural food. It's not just a symbol. This is not pretend. Through

the Eucharist, the all-powerful Creator of the universe, the risen and majestic Lord, unveils Himself in mystery and meets us in our present. If you haven't gone in a while, find a place for adoration and go spend some time with Jesus. With eyes of faith you'll be able to see something greater than that unique monstrance in Chicago.

•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.

Consagración a María ‘un camino para crecer en humildad, confianza y amistad’

Queridos hermanos y hermanas,

El mes pasado me referí a la interpretación de las apariciones de María a los niños en Fátima escrita por el Cardenal Ratzinger en 2002. En sus palabras expresó que el camino para salvar almas era a través de la devoción al Inmaculado Corazón de María. El mes de mayo es un hermoso tiempo para reflexionar sobre esta devoción, en la que hombres y mujeres se ofrecen espiritualmente a Jesús por medio de María.

San Luis de Montfort escribió en el siglo XVII: “La consagración perfecta a Jesús no es más que una consagración perfecta y completa de uno mismo a la Santísima Virgen, que es la devoción que enseño; o en otras palabras, es la renovación perfecta de

Mensaje del Pastor

By Obispo Brendan Cahill



los votos y promesas del santo bautismo”. (True Devotion to the Blessed Virgin Mary, St. Louis de Montfort, Montfort Publications, Bayshore NY, 1975, p. 56).

Basándose en la espiritualidad de San Luis de Montfort, muchos autores han escrito formas de hacer una consagración espiritual a María.

Hace unos 15 años, creo, seguí los 33 días de preparación para la consagración total a María, escritos por el Padre Hugh Gillespie. Desde entonces, he renovado mi consagración siguiendo a otros escritores espirituales, incluido San Luis de Montfort. Mientras comparto esto contigo, me doy cuenta de que no hice mi consagración a María hasta que cumplí los 40 años.

Yo creo que Dios tiene su tiempo y sus caminos, y probablemente yo no estaba listo hasta entonces. En ese momento, yo era el rector del Seminario de St. Mary en Houston, y uno de mis alumnos me habló sobre la devoción mariana y la consagración a María. Me ayudó a superar algunos de mis miedos (p. ej., no quería hacer una promesa que no pudiera cumplir). Ese seminarista en particular no se convirtió en sacerdote y se ha mantenido activo en la Iglesia. Lo recuerdo a veces en oración con gratitud.

Un par de años después de esa consagración, me dieron la tarea de encontrar un

nuevo director espiritual para la Legión de María. El anterior director espiritual, Mons. Glen Wearden, había muerto y estábamos buscando un reemplazo. Era un gigante espiritual y sería difícil de reemplazar. Eventualmente, decidí que debería aceptarlo yo mismo, porque pensé que sería demasiado para alguien más. Todavía soy director espiritual de la Legión de María, ahora reportando al Diácono Luan Tran en nuestra Diócesis de Victoria.

La consagración a Jesús a través de María me ha ofrecido un camino para crecer en humildad, confianza y amistad. Sí, Dios está a cargo del tiempo y desea la salvación de cada alma que ha traído a la vida. En un momento determinado, envió a su ángel a María para pedirle que se convirtiera en la madre de su Hijo. Porque ella dijo que sí, tenemos la posibilidad de la plenitud de la vida aquí en la tierra y la vida eterna en gloria resucitada en el último día.

Que usted y su familia tengan un bendecido y alegre mes de mayo, y que nuestros corazones estén unidos al Inmaculado Corazón de María, ofreciendo nuestras oraciones y sacrificios por la salvación de las almas, especialmente de las más necesitadas de la misericordia de Dios.

+Brendan

Sacerdotes celebrados durante la Misa Crismal

“Te abro mi corazón en este día, oh Padre Misericordioso. Envía tu Espíritu Santo a lo más profundo de mi ser, para que, de pies a cabeza, sea instrumento de tu sanación y misericordia; un cuerpo y un espíritu con mis hermanas y hermanos en toda la Diócesis de Victoria. Te pido escuchar antes de hablar, comprender antes de juzgar, amar antes de actuar, confiando en la fiel intercesión de María, mi Madre, te pido en el nombre de tu hijo, Jesucristo, a quien profeso como Señor, viviendo y reinando contigo. tú en el Espíritu Santo, Dios por los siglos de los siglos, Amén.”

El obispo Brendan Cahill escribió esta oración durante el Año de la Misericordia y la volvió a rezar al comienzo de su homilía durante la Misa Crismal, celebrada el martes 4 de abril. Se centró en la vocación de “nuestros amados sacerdotes”.

“Nuestros sacerdotes se ponen a nuestra disposición para que podamos conocer la misericordia de Dios”, dijo. “Para que podamos proclamarlo a otros”.

Dijo que la diócesis está bendecida con muchos sacerdotes y “no tenemos ninguna razón para no ir al sacramento de la confesión”.

También habló de la alegría de buscar el perdón para sí mismo a través de la reconciliación. “Sabemos que Dios nos ha perdonado; sabemos que Dios nos perdona; Sé que soy un pecador”, dijo el obispo Cahill, y agregó: “Pero sé que puedo volverme hacia Dios,

y Dios dice: ‘Te amo, te perdono, déjame tomarte de la mano y guiarte a través de tu vida.’”

El obispo Cahill expresó su agradecimiento por el trabajo y la dedicación de los sacerdotes, quienes renuevan sus votos durante la Misa Crismal y participan en la bendición del crisma y la Liturgia de la Eucaristía con el obispo Cahill.

“Es un sacerdocio y una Santa Iglesia Católica en todo el mundo”, dijo. A su vez, dio la bienvenida al padre Antonio Pérez, quien ha servido durante muchos años en la diócesis, pero fue incardinado recientemente. Agradeció al obispo de la Arquidiócesis de Cusco (Perú) donde el Padre Pérez sirvió anteriormente.

También recordó la relación de la Diócesis de Victoria con los obispos de Ghana y Columbia que han permitido que los sacerdotes sirvan en la diócesis.

Anunció aniversarios significativos y cambios de asignación de los sacerdotes y las próximas ordenaciones. “Y oraremos por ellos en sus transiciones”.

La Misa Crismal se lleva a cabo durante la Semana Santa de cada año para que el obispo pueda bendecir los aceites para refrescar y reponer los usados por los sacerdotes. Incluyen el Óleo de los Enfermos, el Óleo de los Catecúmenos y el Santo Crisma, utilizados en el sacramento del bautismo, confirmación y ordenación.

Rates are on the rise!



3mo. 4.35% APY

6mo. 4.80% APY

Money Market Fund 4.5%

Michele Rohde, AAMS

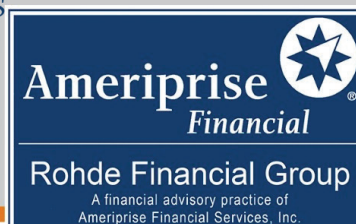
Financial Advisor

361-575-2600

5606 N Navarro St. Ste. 207

Victoria, TX 77904

michele.rohde@ampf.com



Ameriprise Certificates are issued by Ameriprise Certificate Company and distributed by Ameriprise Financial Services, LLC. Member FINRA and SIPC. Ameriprise certificates are backed by reserves of cash and qualified assets on deposit and are not federally or FDIC insured. Our third party certificates are FDIC insured. Rates effective 05-Apr-2023. Rates update weekly.



A Prayer to Saint Isidore, Patron of Country People



St. Isidore,
patron saint of farmers

Photo taken at Holy
Cross Church, East
Bernard

St. Isidore, patron saint of farmers, was himself a farm born in the city of Madrid, Spain, about the year 1110; His chief appeal is to those who, as he did, work the land. But his good qualities—whole-hearted trust in God, his enthusiasm and vigor in doing his job, his spirit of prayer and devotion to religious practice—these can profitably be admired and imitated by all laboring men, just as his wife Maria, can serve as a model for working men's wives. His feast day is celebrated throughout the United States on May 15.

GOOD Saint, we are told that your devotion to the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass was so great that you would rise before it was light in order to be able to attend Mass before beginning your work in the fields. Obtain for us, we pray you, some of that loving devotion to the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass. There it is that the fruits of our farm labor, bread and wine, are brought and offered to God by the priest. Then, in the consecration, Christ Himself, Body and Blood, Soul and Divinity, becomes present on our altars under the appearances of this same bread and wine. And in what was the altar bread. He comes to us to be the very food of our souls. If we deeply realize the value and beauty of Holy Mass, we will be very happy to attend as often as we possibly can.

Help us to understand that in the Mass we offer ourselves to God with Christ by the hands of the priest. There we can bring to God all that we do, and offer it to Him in union with His Holy Sacrifice. The oftener we do this now, the happier we shall be hereafter. Good Saint Isidore, bless us and our labors, that we may some day reap the reward of good works with you in heaven. Amen.



Sunday Readings from May 7 to June 11

May 7 ~ Fifth Sunday of Easter
Acts 6:1-7
Psalms 33:1-2, 4-5, 18-19
1 Peter 2:4-9
John 14:1-12

May 14 ~ Sixth Sunday of Easter
Acts 8:5-8, 14-17
Psalms 66:1-3, 4-5, 6-7, 16, 20
1 Peter 3:15-18
John 14:15-21

May 21 ~ The Ascension of the Lord
Acts 1:1-11
Psalms 47:2-3, 6-7, 8-9
Ephesians 1:17-23
Matthew 28:16-20

May 28 ~ Pentecost Sunday
Mass during the Day
Acts 2:1-11
Psalms 104:1, 24, 29-30, 31, 34
1 Corinthians 12:3b-7, 12-13
John 20:19-23

June 4 ~ The Solemnity of the
Most Holy Trinity
Exodus 34:4b-6, 8-9
Daniel 3:52, 53, 54, 55, 56
2 Corinthians 13:11-13
John 3:16-18

June 11 ~ Solemnity of the Body and
Blood of Christ
Deuteronomy 8:2-3, 14b-16a
Psalms 147:12-13, 14-15, 19-20
1 Corinthians 10:16-17
John 6:51-58

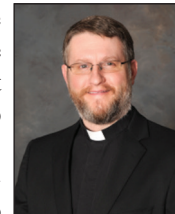
For daily and Sunday readings, as well as a daily reflection video, visit
www.usccb.org/bible/readings.

Brought to you by: Catholic Communications Campaign



Pastoral Institute course on Bible starts in August

VICTORIA — The Diocese of Victoria's Pastoral Institute begins anew in August with the "Introduction to the Bible and the Pentateuch," taught by the Very Rev. Jacob Koether.



Very Rev. Jacob
Koether

Father Koether will explain how the Bible came to be, and how Catholics read and interpret the Bible. The class begins Tuesday, Aug. 22, at the chancery office, 1505 E. Mesquite, and continues each Tuesday through Sept. 26. Time is 9:15 to 11:30 a.m.

The Pentateuch (Greek, meaning five books) refers to Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus,

Numbers and Deuteronomy, the first five books of the Jewish and Christian Bible.

The class will be in three formats:

1. in person at the chancery;
2. synchronously by joining the live class from home using a provided link; and
3. asynchronously by viewing and listening to the recorded class at your convenience through a password-protected web page.

Cost for the class will be \$30. A Catholic Study Bible (optional) can be purchased during registration for \$40. To register, visit www.victoriadiocese.org. For information, contact Christella Alvarez at calvarez@victoriadiocese.org, or call 361-573-0828, Ext. 2225.

About the instructor

Father Koether is the pastor of Our Lady of Sorrows and Capilla de la Santisima Trinidad in Victoria and the episcopal vicar of evangelization and catechesis for the Diocese of Victoria. He studied catechetics and philosophy at Franciscan University in Steubenville and was a member of the Priestly Discernment Program where he began his seminary formation. While at St. Mary Seminary in Houston he studied theology and received his M.Div., M.A. in theology as well as his bachelor of sacred theology degree. He recently completed his masters in catechetics and evangelization from Franciscan University.

Holy Family K of C Council #9088

Presents the

**TWENTY FIRST
ANNUAL**



FISHING TOURNAMENT

AUGUST 4 & 5

**PORT O'CONNOR COMMUNITY CENTER
AND PAVILLION**

**LIVE AUCTION ★ CASH PRIZES
SILENT AUCTION**

FRIDAY & SATURDAY MEALS AVAILABLE

FOR INFORMATION ON ENTRIES, CONTACT:

REX MAYES AT 361-649-2475

SISTER ANN MELETIO AT 361-485-2044

TONIA FOJTIK AT 361-649-3317

ALL PROCEEDS BENEFIT

NAZARETH ACADEMY SCHOOL, VICTORIA

Heavenly Helpers

Christian Store

(979) 543-2850

1603 N Mechanic

El Campo, TX 77437

M-F 9:30 - 5:30 Sat. 9:30 - 3:00

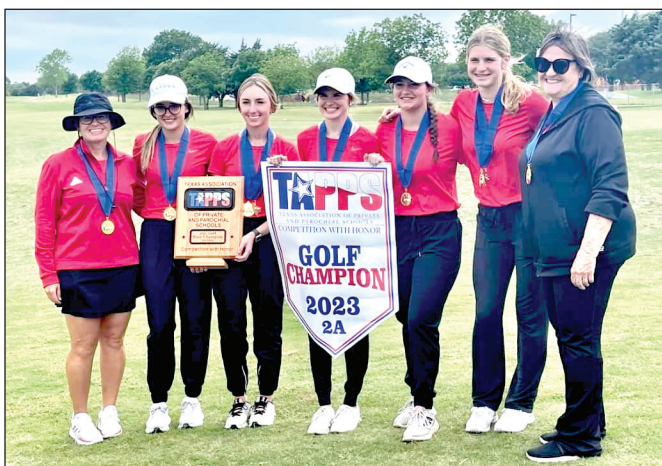
[www.facebook.com/
heavenlyhelpersonline](http://www.facebook.com/heavenlyhelpersonline)

*First Communion, Confirmation,
Bibles, Books, Rosaries, Medals,
Statues, Baptism & Wedding Items
Inspirational Gifts*



Statue donated to Sacred Heart Catholic School

HALLETTSVILLE — Dorothy Rother recently donated a Sacred Heart of Jesus statue in honor of the late Daniel Rother and also in honor of all her family. The statue will be placed in the front of the school. School leaders said they appreciate the support of the Daniel Rother Family throughout the years. Pictured is Mrs. Rother with Rev. Msgr. John Peters, Kevin Haas, principal of Sacred Heart Catholic School, and family members who have attended Sacred Heart Catholic School.



State winners

SHINER — Congratulations to the Lady Cardinals on bringing home the TAPPS 2A Golf State Championship.

They take the cake and the trophies

BAY CITY — Three Holy Cross Catholic School boys took home all three of the trophies at the Bay City Cub Scout Pack 4545's Annual Cake Auction fundraiser on March 24. The three categories — best Cub Scout theme, most unique and judge's choice were all awarded to HCCS boys. (Contributed Photo)



Earth Day contribution

BAY CITY -- Holy Cross Catholic School, in partnering with H-E-B grocery store to collect plastic bags for Earth Day in April, collected almost 1,700 plastic grocery bags to recycle. Pictured here are some 3K students with their work all tied up and ready for recycling. (Contributed Photo)

Sacred Heart Parish Spring 2023 Picnic

Celebrating the Church's 141st Anniversary

Sunday, May 28, 2023

Hallettsville

At the K.C. Hall in Hallettsville, Texas

DINNER: SERVING FROM 10:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.

Dining in the KC Hall

Drive thru Plates-to-Go: 10:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

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

Dinner Tickets: \$12

Short Memorial at 1:00 p.m. given by Rev. Msgr. John Peters

Inside the air-conditioned KC Hall

Cake Walk
Country Store
Religious Articles Booth
Bingo (Noon to 6:00 p.m.)



Washer Pitching Tournament
Begins at 5:00 p.m.

Delicious Hamburgers, Nachos,
Popcorn, Snow Cones, Lemonade
& Sodawater All Afternoon

Auction sale at 1:00 pm

Cattle, Quilts, Antiques, Homemade Canned Goods, Noodles, Vegetables, Outdoor Furniture & more

"20 GRAND GIVEAWAY"

Top Prize \$10,000
To be given away at Fall Parish Picnic
Sunday, September 3, 2023

--AUCTION & ACTIVITIES UNDER THE PAVILION--

CHURCH PICNIC RAFFLE TICKETS AVAILABLE FROM PARISHIONERS & AT PICNIC

60" Raptor XD Zero Turn Mower valued at \$4,000 plus 22 Cash Certificate Prizes valued at \$6,400 to be given away after the Auction.



Texas Sound Czech

Music on the Main Pavilion
Kovanda Czech Band – 11:00 am-1:00 pm
Free Dance on the Polka Pavilion/Biergarten
Texas Sound Czech & Red Ravens
1:00 p.m.-7:00 p.m.



Red Ravens

EVERYBODY WELCOME! FUN FOR ALL AGES!



TAPPS State Band
HALLETTSVILLE — Sacred Heart Band, led by Jacob Heck, came back to the school as the TAPPS Band Champion awards in the Class 2A.



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

Contact: Father Kristopher Fuchs
Director of Vocations
361-73-4328
vocations@victoriadiocese.org



KCs give to St. Michael

WEIMAR -- The Weimar Knights of Columbus recently donated \$5,000 to St. Michael Catholic School for a security door at the school. Standing in front of the new security door, from left, are Francis Janecka, treasurer; Judy Roeder, SMCS principal; Bill Briscoe, event coordinator; Herb Ulbrich, financial secretary; and Grand Knight Delphin Bartek. (Contributed Photo)

Online conference offered for Catholic homeschoolers

Contributed

Catholic homeschoolers are invited to gather virtually to be encouraged as they fulfill their mission to be the primary educators of their children June 9-10 for the “Cultivating Holiness in Your Homeschool” conference. Homeschool Connections, a provider of on-line classes both live and recorded for over a decade, are hosting the conference.

According to a press release from Homeschool Connections, homeschooling has seen a dramatic increase in the past few years due in part to the recent pandemic. They estimate that there are 3.1 million homeschoolers nationwide and many of these are Catholic.

While in-person conferences are making a return, an online format eliminates the costs for all involved, and allows families across international time zones to attend and meet via conference meet-ups. With no travel, parents can watch together and friends can plan watch parties.

Dr. Greg and Lisa Popcak, Catholic radio hosts and authors, will be the keynote speakers for the theme “How to be a more Loving, Connected, Caring and Catholic homeschool Family.”

The Rev. Joseph Gill, Jennifer Macintosh and other quality homeschool speakers are scheduled for live events. More than 20 additional recorded talks will be made available for attendees to choose from.

Also, a fully interactive vendor area is accessible throughout the event with scheduled live access to such sponsors as Franciscan University, Ignatius Press and Fiat Life Coaching and over 20 more exhibitors. Every attendee will also receive access to the content for a year giving them an opportunity to see everything available when it is most convenient.

For more information, visit catholichomeschoolconference.com.

**St. Michael's
Catholic
Church**

309 E.
Church St.
Cuero, TX

FESTIVAL

LIVE MUSIC

RUSTY STEINS POLKA BAND

*FOOD*RAFFLE*

BEER GARDEN

LIVE AUCTION

SILENT AUCTION

COUNTRY STORE

BINGO

AUCTION STARTS AT 12:15 P.M. INSIDE HALL

<p>SUNDAY MAY 21, 2023</p>	<p>Roast Beef, Gravy, Potatoes, & Green Beans</p> <p>---- Tickets \$12.00 ----</p> <p><i>Serving from 11:00 A.M. – 1:00 P.M. Dining On-Site or Drive Thru for Plates To-Go</i></p>
---------------------------------------	--



Fire Prevention poster winners

EL CAMPO — These artistic students, representing St. Philip Catholic School, recently placed at the district level Fire Prevention Poster Contest. Their posters are now off to compete at the state contest later this summer. Pictured, from left, are Jayme Perez, second grade, second-place Primary; Ansleigh Merta, third grade, first-place Intermediate; Hayes Tarver, third grade, second-place Intermediate; Kylan Ermis, third grade, third-place Intermediate; Paislyn Drapela, fifth grade, second-place Middle School. Presenting their awards is Frank Olsovsky from the El Campo Volunteer Fire Department. *(Contributed Photo)*



Sacred Heart teacher earns state honor

HALLETTSVILLE — Mrs. GERALYN KLIMITCHEK recently received the Texas Catholic Conference of Bishops 2022-2023 High School Teacher of the Year Award. On hand for the award presentation was Bishop Brendan Cahill; Dr. John Quarry, Diocese of Victoria School Superintendent; Ashley Novosad from the DOV Office of Catholic Schools; and Michael Seger, president of the DOV School Advisory Council. This is the second time in the history of the Diocese of Victoria that a teacher from the diocese was recognized by the Texas Catholic Conference of Bishops. Mrs. Klmitchek has taught at Sacred Heart for more than 40 years and still brings life and passion to her daily high school science classes. There are currently 67 Catholic High Schools in the State of Texas serving more than 23,000 High School students. Pictured, from left, are Kevin Haas, Sacred Heart School principal, Msgr. John Peters, pastor of Sacred Heart Parish, the Rev. James Dvorak, parochial vicar, Charles Klmitchek, Bishop Cahill, Mrs. Klmitchek, Dr. Quarry, Sister Colette Kouba, IWBS, Ashley Novosad, Michael Seger and former principal David Smolik. *(Contributed Photo)*



Living Stations

PORT LAVACA — Students at Our Lady of the Gulf Catholic School re-enact the passion of Christ with living Stations of the Cross during Lent. *(Contributed Photo)*

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.



Bishop Brendan Cahill presented the Mother Elizabeth Ann Seton Awards on April 27 at the KC Hall in Shiner. Pictured with him, from left, are award recipients Tim Respondek, Kenneth Stock, Lora Beth Robicheaux, Sandra Warnken, Kyle Wallis, Cathy Divin, Andrea Wallis, Bishop Cahill, Bethany Muzny (front), Wendy Janak (back), Chris Stefka, Victor Aviles, April Buzzell and Jason Mikeska. (Janet Jones/The Catholic Lighthouse)

Schools grant Mother Seton Awards to 13 exemplary volunteers

SHINER – The 2023 Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton Awards ceremony and dinner took place April 27 at the KC hall in Shiner. Each year, schools in the Diocese of Victoria choose an individual or couple to receive the honor for their outstanding volunteerism.

The DOV's Office of Catholic Schools organizes and hosts the dinner and awards ceremony in partnership with the local school associations.

This year, the recipients were:

- Lora Beth Robicheaux of Holy Cross in Bay City
- April Buzzell of Nazareth Academy in Victoria
- Victor Aviles of Our Lady

of the Gulf in Port Lavaca

- Jason Mikeska of Our Lady of Victory in Victoria
- Buck and Wendy Janak of Sacred Heart Catholic School of Hallettsville
- Bethany Muzny of St. Anthony Catholic School in Columbus
- Chris Stefka of St. Joseph High School in Victoria
- Tim Respondek of St. Joseph Catholic School in Yoakum
- Teresa Hiles of St. Michael's Catholic School in Cuero
- Cathy Divin of St. Michael Catholic School in Weimar
- Kyle and Andrea Wallis of St. Philip Catholic School in El Campo

- Sandra Warnken of St. Rose of Lima Catholic School in Schulenburg

- Kenneth Stock of Shiner Catholic Schools in Shiner

Mother Seton was the first American-born saint, known for her conversion to Catholicism even in the face of rejection by others. She was a widowed mother of five who faced poverty and other hardships. But she managed to establish the first Catholic parochial school in the U.S. in Baltimore, Md., the Daughters of Charity religious congregation and the first Catholic orphanage in the nation. She died in 1821 and was canonized by Pope Paul VI in 1975.



Dr. John Quarry, superintendent of Catholic schools for the Diocese of Victoria, leads prayers for the group gathered in Shiner on April 27 to celebrate outstanding volunteers in their schools. Behind him, from left, are Diocesan School Advisory Committee member Ralph Buentello, DSAC President Michael Seger, Bishop Cahill and Ashley Novosad, executive assistant for the DOV's Office of Catholic Schools. (Janet Jones/The Catholic Lighthouse)

Are you invested properly? Get a second opinion.



Kenny French Sr
Financial Advisor

1501 E Mockingbird Ln Ste 102
Victoria, TX 77904
361-576-0178

Edward Jones
MAKING SENSE OF INVESTING
edwardjones.com

Member SIPC



Crisis Pregnancy Ministry

24 Hour Hotline: 361-576-1156

THE
Gabriel Project
OF THE CROSSROADS

Celebrating over 20 Years
of Service to the Crossroads!

Victoria, Jackson, Calhoun, Lavaca, Matagorda, Wharton, DeWitt, Colorado, Fayette, & Goliad.

We Provide Hope, Help, & Healing!

Bethlehem Maternity Home Celebrated a 2 year Anniversary April 9th!

March Stats: Mother Baby Services Served 28 Moms & Babies
Bethlehem Maternity Home Served 2 Moms & Babies.



VictoriaGabrielProject.org

Bethlehem Maternity Home

Meals • Picnics and More

May

Victoria – Holy Family Festival May 7 in the Activity Center (704 Malette Dr.). A pork steak dinner with German potatoes, green beans and cole slaw for \$12 each with **dine-in only** from 10:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Hamburgers available. Online auction bidding opens April 29-May 6 at 5 p.m. Live auction starts at 12:30 p.m. Games and something for everyone.

Hostyn – **Holy Rosary** Mayfest May 7, starting with Mass at 10 a.m. under the tent. A barbecue pork and sausage dinner from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. (dine-in) and until 12:30 p.m. (drive-thru) for \$14 each plate. Hamburgers available after 3 p.m. Auction (1 p.m.), bingo (1:30 p.m.), games, country store, cake wheel, and more. Music throughout the day by Texas Sound Check and Czechaholics. For more information go to www.hostynplumcatholic.org or Facebook page Queen of the Holy Rosary-Hostyn/Sts. Peter & Paul-Plum Catholic Churches.

Victoria – St. Mary's Altar Society retreat, Tuesday, May 9, with Father Kristopher Fuch's as guest speaker. Registration begins at 8:30 a.m. at the Parish Hall (401 S. Liberty St.). Admission is free. Please RSVP by calling Anne at 361-648-2008 or Virginia 361-550-3053.

Wharton – The Catholic Daughters Court 1990 will have the annual Pre-Mother's Day bake sale on Friday, May 12, beginning at 7:30 a.m. at the Holy Family Life Center.

Cuero – St. Micahel Festival, May 21, see ad on pg. 16.

Hallettsville – Sacred Heart Picnic, May 28, see ad on pg. 15.

Shiner – Sts. Cyril and Methodius Picnic, May 28, see ad on pg. 6.

June

Flatonia – Sacred Heart Spring Picnic will be June 4. Mass at 10:00 a.m. followed by a kettle fried chicken, stew diner for \$13 per plate. Also, a live auction, country store, cornhole tournament, children's games, with something for everyone to enjoy!

Port Lavaca – Our Lady of the Gulf Catholic Daughters, Court 2267 Annual Games Party, June 4, 1-4:30 p.m., St. Jude's Hall, 300 W. Austin St. Admission is \$8 per person. Bring your favorite games. There will be a raffle, silent auction, door prizes and refreshments. For information or to reserve a table, call Nancy at 361-212-5838 or Frances at 361-550-5370.

Ganado – Paul Rymniak will offer a Healing Service at Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary parish June 5-7. The Monday night (June 5) schedule will include a Mass at 6 p.m. celebrated by Bishop Brendan Cahill. The healing service starts at 7. On Tuesday and Wednesday (June 6,7) the service starts at 7 p.m. The address of the church is 108 S Sixth St. Call the church at 361-771-3425 if you need more information.

East Bernard – Annual Czech Kolache Klobase Festival, June 10, 10:30 a.m.-8 p.m. at Riverside Hall. Sponsored by KJT Society No. 40. Admission is \$10 per person (covers parking and all events); children 12 and under are free. Entertainment indoors and under pavilion with water fan-cooled comfort. Sausage/barbecued chicken plate lunches

available for purchase beginning 11 a.m. Hamburgers/sausage sandwiches available after noon. Arts/crafts, cakewalk, kolache eating contest and silent auction. For information, go to www.kkfest.com or call 979-533-1902.

St. Mary – St. Mary's Picnic June 11 at the parish hall (1648 FM 340 just outside of Hallettsville). Mass will be celebrated at 9:15 a.m. A stew and sausage dinner begins at 10:30 a.m. Auction, bingo, cake and plant walk, country store, children's games and more. Live music from 10:30 a.m. to 9 p.m.

Schulenburg – St. Rose of Lima Annual Parish Picnic, June 11 at the KC Hall. A fried chicken and sausage dinner will be served starting at 11 a.m. Games, music and more throughout the day.

Ammansville – St. John the Baptist (FM 1383) Fathers Day Picnic, June 18. A fried chicken and sausage dinner will be served. Entertainment throughout the day.

Plum – Sts. Peter and Paul Plum Feast, June 25. Serving sausage and fried chicken from 11 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Auction starts at 1:30 p.m.; music during the day. There will be a free dance from 6 to 9:30 p.m.

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

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: 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.

Grief Ministry – Please join Strength for the Journey team for their monthly meeting, 6:30-8 p.m. May 9 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. For more information, contact Pat Hoelscher 979-257-9984 or phoelscher@victoriadiocese.org.

i.d.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 jbvjov@sbcglobal.net or 361-580-2770; or call 800-470-2230; or visit <http://www.helpourmarriage.org>



Bishop Cahill washes and kisses the feet of inmates at the Stevenson Unit in Cuero on Holy Thursday. (Janet Jones/The Catholic Lighthouse)

Information about Kolbe Prison Ministry

Kolbe Prison Ministries is named after Saint Maximilian Kolbe who was martyred in a German concentration camp during World War II. He is the patron Saint of prisoners.

The ministry needs volunteers to attend and help with RCIA classes, Bible studies, Communion services, prison retreat reunions and more. According to the organization's web site, "A number of men and women who initially dragged their feet and reluctantly volunteered as a retreat team member found the ministry to be very uplifting and rewarding ... and they became repeat volunteers."

To find out more, visit www.kolbeprisonministries.org. Go to the "Contact Us" section to email representatives if you are interesting in becoming a volunteer.

Foot washing a powerful sign of love, service

JANET JONES

The Catholic Lighthouse

CUERO — "Jesus is asking each one of us, 'Will you allow me to wash your feet?'" Bishop Cahill said during his homily at a Holy Thursday Mass at the Clarence Stevenson Unit.

Soon after, the bishop, assisted by Deacon Alfonso Moreno of Gonzales, washed the feet of inmates and a couple of prison employees as well.

Many of the group gathered in the gymnasium were visibly moved by the gesture if not the Mass itself.

During the foot-washing, Adam Rodriguez, who has been incarcerated at the unit for six months, wept. He said he was reminded of the cleansing, purifying power of Christ's love. He said the prison was fortunate to have the bishop celebrate Mass for them on the holy day.

Because of the Kolbe Prison Ministry,

a Catholic group of people who visit and minister to inmates in Texas, he is moving back to the Church from which he separated himself for a while.

"My mother died about 15 years ago. The last thing she told me was not to stray from God," Rodriguez said. "That's the first thing I did, and nothing good has happened since then," he said.

He said he "did something terrible" and knows he has to make amends for his crime, but also must return to having a relationship with God.

Many of the inmates participated in setting up the gymnasium for Mass and also participated in the liturgy. One of the inmates said the prison ministers have helped bring many Catholics back to practicing their faith. They have RCIA and CCD classes as well. On May 22, according to Hermes Silva, one of the Kolbe Ministry leaders, 27 inmates will be receiving the sacrament of confirmation.

Bishop Cahill was there to remind them of Jesus' love and show them that all Christians are called to service. Jesus instituted the priesthood, he said, to continue to share God's love. "He calls a priest to be with the people ... to love and give mercy to God's people."

The act of foot-washing, he said, is not a reenactment of an ancient mystery or ancient reality, "Jesus does it here today, at the Stevenson Unit in Cuero."



Adam Rodriguez, inmate at Stevenson Unit in Cuero, is moved to tears as Bishop Cahill washes the feet of prisoners on Holy Thursday. (Janet Jones/The Catholic Lighthouse)

Parishes welcome new members at Easter Vigil services

Continued from pg. 1

not what many had told him it was. Specifically, he said, he was told by some that Catholics worship Mary and other saints, a common misconception of some non-Catholics. He asked questions and said his sister would always provide an answer or find an answer. He said he questioned the devotion to saints and the rote prayers that were "a little strange at first."

Another of Wise's influences came when he joined the students body of St. Joseph High School this year. Prior to that, he was home-schooled. When his family decided he would go to a school campus, his parents felt St. Joe would be a better option than public school, he said. "It put me into the culture of the

Catholic Church," he said.

Wise also said his theology teacher, Michael Golla, helped provide guidance as he was deciding to go through the RCIA program during the first semester of the school year.

He remembers going to Mass for the first time with his sister. He said it wasn't strange or uncomfortable. "It was just like a freeing feeling — a feeling like I was loved."

And, finally, he experienced the Easter Vigil when he himself would receive the sacraments. "I was a little nervous, but I was more excited than anything, because it was finally happening," he said, "And it was like a weight was lifted off."

Megan Schott, Wise's principal, was present for his brief interview for *The Catholic Lighthouse*. It brought to mind her own conversion and the Easter Vigil 17 years ago when she joined the Church. "It's unlike anything I've ever done or ever will do," she said. "I'm really excited for Jack," she said. "We are now part of an ancient community."

The Easter Vigil, known as the "greatest and most noble of all solemnities," begins with a fire outside the church after sundown to show how the light dispels darkness. After blessing the fire, the celebrant lights the Pascal candle which has been etched with a cross, the symbols for Alpha and



Bishop Brendan Cahill shares the light while processing to the altar during the Easter Vigil Mass. (Janet Jones/The Catholic Lighthouse)

Omega and with the current year. After processing into the church the "Exultet" or the Proclamation of Easter recalling Jesus' Resurrection is read, followed by the Liturgy of the Word, that includes nine read-

ings to fully appreciate the gift of God's salvation.

After the candidates and catechumens receive the sacraments, all are invited to join them with a renewal of their baptismal vows.