

The Catholic Lighthouse

The Cradle of Texas Immigration



VOL. 25, NO. 12

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE DIOCESE OF VICTORIA IN TEXAS

April 2012



Pope Benedict XVI greets Bishop David E. Fellhauer of Victoria, Texas, during a March 15 meeting at the Vatican. Bishops from Texas, Oklahoma and Arkansas were making their “ad limina” visits to the Vatican to report on the status of their dioceses. (CNS photo / L’Osservatore Romano)

‘Ad limina’ visits are occasion to grow in unity, Texas archbishop says

By Cindy Wooden, Catholic News Service, and Cynthia Brewer

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — “Ad limina” visits are an occasion for bishops to confirm and strengthen their unity with one another and with Pope Benedict XVI in order to give a more effective witness to the Gospel, said the archbishop of San Antonio.

In the mission to evangelize, “our unity is an imperative,” Archbishop Gustavo Garcia-Siller told other bishops from Texas, Oklahoma and Arkansas during his homily March 15 as the bishops began their “ad limina” visits by celebrating Mass in St. Peter’s Basilica.

The visits to Rome, required on a regular basis of the heads of dioceses around the world, are formally called “ad limina apostolorum,” which means “to

the threshold of the apostles” Peter and Paul, who were martyred in Rome. The visits include meetings with the pope and with Vatican officials to share information and concerns, but they are structured around Mass and other moments of prayer.

Pope Benedict met the Region X bishops in groups, based on the region’s three provinces – Archdiocese of San Antonio, Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston and Archdiocese of Oklahoma City. Bishop David E. Fellhauer, of the Diocese of Victoria, met the pope with the Province of Galveston-Houston.

During his homily at the Mass in St. Peter’s, Archbishop Garcia-Siller drew lessons from the Gospel reading in which Jesus tells the crowd, “Every kingdom divided against itself will be laid waste.”

The archbishop told his fellow bishops, “In the super-charged environment in which we minister today, my brothers, let us not allow others to divide us, to set us against one another.”

“Here in the Eternal City, let us renew our bond of charity with one another and with the entire college of bishops with and under the headship of the successor of Peter, Pope Benedict,” he said.

The archbishop said that “the dream of Jesus” was that his followers would be one so that the world would believe, and the prayer and pilgrimage aspect of the “ad limina” visits would give the bishops an opportunity to solidify their unity.

He prayed that Mary would help the bishops grow in communion “so that through us many more will come to believe Jesus

See ‘Ad limina’ visit, p. 12

Recap of pope’s visit to Mexico, Cuba

By Francis X. Rocca and Cindy Wooden
Catholic News Service

SILAO, Mexico and HAVANA (CNS) — The overriding message of the pope’s public statements during his three days in Mexico, March 23-26, was that this troubled country, and the region in general, cannot solve their problems – which include poverty, inequality, corruption and violence – by following the prescriptions of secular ideologies.

Instead, the pope said, peace and justice in this world require a divinely inspired change in the human heart.

“When addressing the deeper dimension of personal and community life, human strategies will not suffice to save us,” the pope said in his homily during an outdoor Mass at Guanajuato Bicentennial Park March 25.

“We must have recourse to the one who alone can give life in its fullness, because he is the essence of life and its author.”

Echoing his earlier critiques of liberation theology, a Marxist-influenced movement that found prominent supporters among Latin American Catholics during the 1970s and ‘80s, Pope Benedict told reporters accompanying him on the plane from Rome that the “church is not a political power, it is not a party ... it is a moral reality, a moral power.”

Yet the pope made it clear that he was not encouraging believers to withdraw into a private kind of piety uninvolved with worldly affairs.

Christian hope, the pope told an audience that included Mexican President Felipe Calderon, does not merely console the faithful with the promise of personal immortality.

The theological virtue of hope, he said, inspires Catholics to “transform the present structures and events that are less than satisfactory and seem immovable or insurmountable, while also helping those who do not see meaning or a future in life.”

The practical expression of this inspiration, the pope said, is the Church’s extensive charitable activities, which help “those who suffer from hunger, lack shelter, or are in need in some way in their life.”

That point seemed particularly relevant to the second half of Pope Benedict’s Latin America visit, to Cuba March 26-28, where he was to mark the 400th anniversary of the country’s Virgin of Charity of El Cobre.

Catholic charities in Cuba have become notably active in recent years, sometimes in

See *The Pope Speaks*, p. 9



For contacting *The Catholic Lighthouse* – please keep the calls coming

By Cynthia Brewer

Thank you to all those who have sent in donations for their subscription to *The Catholic Lighthouse*!

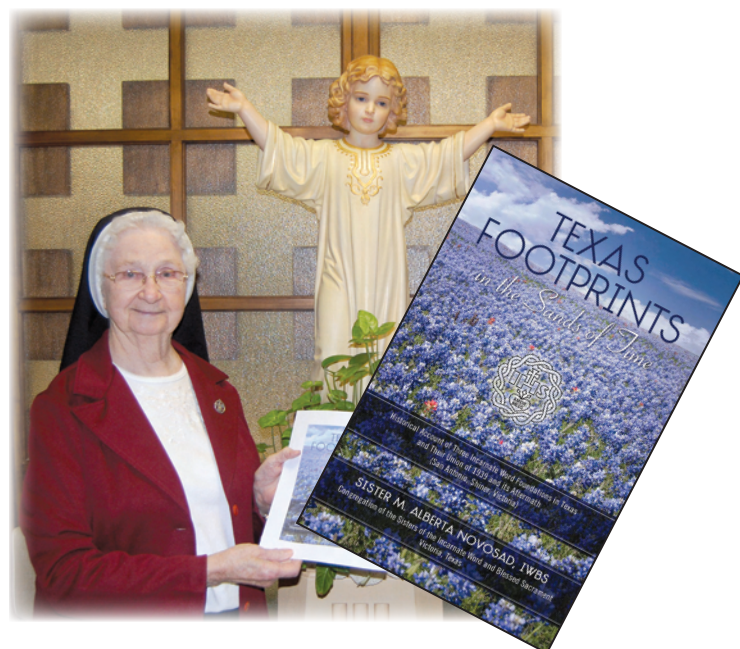
This is not necessary, as the paper is to go out, free of charge, to all Catholics in the diocese who wish to receive it. The cost of the diocesan newspaper is “paid for” by DSA contributions; however, the subscription donations are warmly accepted and do help with the cost of the production and distribution of the paper. Thank you so much.

Beginning with the June issue, *The Catholic Lighthouse* will only be sent to those who have contacted the chancery office by May 15, letting us know they want to continue receiving it. May 15 is the cut-off date.

To continue receiving the paper, please let us know you still want it by going to the diocesan website: www.victoriadiocese.org, call Regina at (361) 573-0828, or send a note with your address to *The Catholic Lighthouse*, P. O. Box 4070, Victoria, TX 77903.

Please do so by May 15. If at a later date you find that you miss receiving the newspaper by mail, or if your computer has difficulty accessing the web edition of the paper, you may contact our office, give us your address, and be put back on the mailing list.

Thank you for your support and patience.



Sister M. Alberta Novosad, IWBS, displays what will be the cover of her book, *TEXAS FOOTPRINTS in the Sands of Time*, in front of the statue of The Incarnate Word in the foyer of the IWBS Convent in Victoria.

IWBS Sisters’ Texas history published

By Cynthia Brewer

After spending 20 years at Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Parish in Houston, Sister Alberta Novosad, IWBS, came home to Incarnate Word Convent, not to retire, but to write a book on the history of the Union of the Incarnate Word and Blessed Sacrament (IWBS) Sisters of Texas and its aftermath.

She has completed the work, titling it “*TEXAS FOOTPRINTS in the Sands of Time*”.

Until 1939, the IWBS Sisters in Texas were three independent monasteries: Blessed Sacrament

in Hallettsville/San Antonio, St. Ludmila in Shiner, and Nazareth in Victoria.

That year, the IWBS Communities decided to unite the three monasteries and create one formation house for the novitiate. Victoria was chosen from the three sites, with the approval of Archbishop A. J. Drossaerts of San Antonio.

“Different people encouraged me to write the history of the Victoria IWBS Sisters in Texas, particularly of that period

See *Incarnate Word*, p. 5



Bishop Fellhauer's Schedule

April

- 5 6:30 p.m., Mass of the Lord's Supper, Our Lady of Victory Cathedral
- 6 12:15 p.m., Way of the Cross, Holy Trinity Chapel, Silver City
- 7 8:00 p.m., Easter Vigil, Our Lady of Victory Cathedral
- 11 7:00 p.m., Confirmation Mass, St. Mary Church, Nada
- 12 6:30 p.m., Confirmation Mass, Our Lady of Mount Carmel Church, Wharton
- 13 Annual Knights of Columbus Council #9088 Bishop's Invitational Golf Tournament, Colony Creek Country Club
- 14 5:00 p.m., Confirmation Mass and 100th Anniversary celebration of Corner Stone of St. Joseph Church, Yoakum
- 15 10:00 a.m., Confirmation Mass, Our Lady of Lourdes Church, Victoria
2:00 p.m., Confirmation Mass, Our Lady of Victory Cathedral
- 18 7:00 p.m., Confirmation Mass, St. Michael Church, Weimar
- 19 8:30 a.m., Mass, Incarnate Word Convent Chapel, Chapter elections, Victoria
- 20 7:00 p.m., Confirmation Mass, Our Lady of Guadalupe Church, Bay City
- 21 6:00 p.m., Confirmation Mass, Holy Family Church, Victoria
- 22 7:30 a.m., Confirmation Mass, St. Rose of Lima Church, Schulenburg
11:00 a.m., Confirmation Mass, Holy Cross Church, East Bernard
3:00 p.m., Confirmation Mass, Holy Cross Church, Bay City
- 23 10:00 a.m., Texas Bishops' meeting, Chancery Office, Austin
- 24 11:00 a.m., Mass, Texas Catholic Correctional Ministry, Spiritual Renewal Center, Victoria
4:00 p.m., Diocesan Building Board meeting, Chancery Office
- 25 7:00 p.m., Confirmation Mass, Holy Family Church, Wharton, including St. Joseph Church, Boling
- 26 7:00 p.m., 8th grade religion awards, Our Lady of Victory Cathedral
- 27 7:00 p.m., Confirmation Mass, St. Robert Bellarmine Church, El Campo
- 28 5:00 p.m., Confirmation Mass, St. Mary Church, Victoria
- 29 9:00 a.m., Confirmation Mass, St. Joseph Church, Inez
2:00 p.m., Confirmation Mass, St. Anthony of Padua Church, Palacios

May

- 2 10:00 a.m., Presbyteral Council meeting, Chancery Office
7:00 p.m., Confirmation Mass, Parish of the Nativity, Eagle Lake
- 4 5:00 p.m., Mass, social, and meal for Sister Digna's farewell, Chancery Staff
- 5 5:00 p.m., Confirmation Mass, Sts. Cyril and Methodius Church, Shiner
- 6 10:30 a.m., Confirmation Mass, St. Agnes Church, Edna
6:00 p.m., Confirmation Mass, Assumption Church, Ganado
- 8 1:00-5:00 p.m., Going away reception for Sister Digna, Chancery Office
- 9 10:00 a.m., Priests and Lay Pension Board meeting, Chancery Office



OUTFITTING THE BISHOP FOR ROME—The Fourth Degree Knights of Columbus Archbishop Drossaerts Assembly #1131 in El Campo presented Bishop David E. Fellhauer with a jacket for his "ad limina" visit to Rome, which he attended March 13 – 21. The assembly personalized the bishop's jacket by having the Diocese of Victoria's Coat of Arms embroidered upon it. Grand Knight Greg Witcher (left) and Faithful Navigator Blair Couey (right) presented the jacket to the bishop at the chancery office a couple of days before his trip was to begin. Also, at the assembly's recent Ladies' Night, an annual event with which the KC members honor their wives, Faithful Navigator Blair Couey presented a check to Bishop Fellhauer in the amount of \$2,500 for the sick and infirmed priests of the diocese.

Thank You Notes

Dear Mr. Brown,
We have received your recent check for \$28,377.47. This amount has been posted to the 2011 Collection for the Catholic Communication Campaign and will appear in our annual report.
I am grateful for your assistance in facilitating the generous gifts of the parishioners in your diocese.
Sincerely,
Patrick Markey
Executive Director of the USCCB
Office of National Collections

Your Excellency:
On behalf of the Holy Father, I gratefully acknowledge the check in the amount of \$8,201.77, which you sent to the Apostolic Nunciature as the Peter's Pence contribution from the Diocese of Victoria for 2011.

"I thank you [and your faithful] because in some way, with this initiative of human and evangelical solidarity, you give concrete expression to the concern of Peter's Successor for those in conditions of particular need. We know that the authenticity of our faithfulness to the Gospel may also be measured in terms of the real attention and concern we strive to show towards others, especially the weakest and marginalized. Thus charitable service, which can take many forms, becomes a privileged method of evangelization, in the light of Jesus' own teaching." ~ Address of Pope Benedict XVI to the Members of the Circle of St. Peter, April 3, 2009.

I assure you that this sum will be transmitted to the Secretariat of State on your behalf.

May God, who is infinitely generous, reward you and continue to bless you and the faithful under your pastoral care.

With prayerful regards, I am
Sincerely yours in Christ,
Carlo Maria Viganò
Apostolic Nuncio (Papal Ambassador to the United States)

Official Appointments By Most Rev. David E. Fellhauer

Effective March 6, 2012, the resignation of **Permanent Deacon Anthony Warzecha** from diaconal duties at St. Michael Church, Cuero, is accepted.

Effective March 8, 2012, the **Rev. John C. Peters** is appointed Vicar General of the Diocese of Victoria, while retaining his current parochial assignments.

Effective March 8, 2012, the **Rev. Matthew H. Huehlefeld, JCL**, is appointed Vicar Forane (Dean) of the Hallettsville Deanery.

DSA & Reflection of Faith Capital Campaign Updates

| | |
|--|-----------------|
| 2012 DSA | |
| Diocesan Goal: | \$ 1,623,907.00 |
| Parish Pledge Totals: | \$ 368,966.94 |
| Parish Contribution Totals: | \$ 278,507.94 |
| Number of Parish Families Participating: | 1,927 |

| | |
|---|------------------|
| Reflection of Faith Capital Campaign | |
| Diocesan Goal: | \$ 9,000,000.00 |
| Parish Pledge Totals: | \$ 12,922,872.52 |
| Parish Contribution Totals: | \$ 10,341,415.46 |
| Number of Parish Families Participating: | 6,769 |

Capital Campaign Is Winding Down

Through January 31, 2012, the funds for the Capital Campaign have been disbursed as follows:

| | |
|-----------------------------|----------------|
| Spiritual Renewal Center - | \$4,605,707.97 |
| Parishes - | \$2,689,439.87 |
| Catholic School Endowment - | \$1,369,179.60 |
| Priest's Pension Fund - | \$1,094,933.49 |
| Religious Education - | \$ 301,150.67 |

*Your gifts have made a great impact in the diocese.
Please continue to make your pledge payments.*



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DEADLINE IS THE THIRD TUESDAY OF THE PRECEDING MONTH.



Seminary Burses

Seminary burses are a permanent fund used for the education of future priests for the Diocese of Victoria. The goal of each burse is \$15,000. The interest from this amount is applied yearly to the education of seminarians. The burses are in memory of or in honor of an individual priest or lay persons, living or deceased. Publication of the burses will appear periodically when new contributions are received.

As of March 28, 2012

| | |
|--|--------------|
| — CDA #369 St. Ann Burse #2 | |
| Previously Reported | \$8,748.99 |
| In memory of Dora Villarreal by CDA Court #369 | 25.00 |
| In memory of Anne Motal by CDA Court #369 | 50.00 |
| Total | \$8,823.99 |
| — Diocese Of Victoria General | |
| Previously Reported | \$100,839.00 |
| In memory of Betty Stevenson by M/M R. H. Bochat | 25.00 |
| In memory of Debra Wearden Hampton by Theresa and James Wearden | 100.00 |
| In memory of Deacon Dick Wearden by Theresa and James Wearden | 100.00 |
| Total | \$101,064.00 |
| — Reverend John C. Peters Burse #5 | |
| Previously Reported | \$3,279.00 |
| In memory of Anita M. Kallus by Serra Club of the Diocese of Victoria NW | 25.00 |
| In memory of Bea Heinzl by Serra Club of the Diocese of Victoria NW | 25.00 |
| In memory of Josephine Janak by Hubert and Betty Novak | 15.00 |
| In memory of Anita M. Kallus by Theresa Pesek | 100.00 |
| Donation by CDA Court #797 Hallettsville in memory of: | |
| Anita Kallus | 25.00 |
| Annie J. Henke | 25.00 |
| Caroline Polasek | 25.00 |
| Emmerlin Dworsky | 25.00 |
| Josephine Janak | 25.00 |
| Henrie Mae Patek | 25.00 |
| In memory of Donald R. Havel by a friend | 100.00 |
| In memory of Bea Heinzl by Frank and Rita Zaruba | 25.00 |
| Total | \$3,719.00 |
| — Rev. Celestino Say | |
| Previously Reported | \$4,960.00 |
| In memory of Matthew Spann by Jeff and Denise Dickinson | 100.00 |
| Donation by Catholic Life Insurance | 480.00 |
| Total | \$5,540.00 |

| | |
|--|-------------|
| — Sophie Schmidt | |
| Previously Reported | \$540.00 |
| In memory of Leroy Kloesel by Hubert and Betty Novak | 15.00 |
| Total | \$555.00 |
| — Msgr. Robert Schmidt | |
| Previously Reported | \$50.00 |
| In memory of Leroy Kloesel by Hubert and Betty Novak | 15.00 |
| Total | \$65.00 |
| — KJZT, Catholic Family Fraternal Of Texas | |
| Previously Reported | \$13,325.98 |
| In memory of Bea Heinzl by KJZT Society #2 of Hallettsville | 5.00 |
| Total | \$13,330.98 |
| — Frs. Okrulik & Verderame | |
| Previously Reported | \$10,557.89 |
| In memory of Rev. Vincent Verderame by Mrs. Felicia Perrone | 100.00 |
| Total | \$10,657.89 |
| — Rev. John C. Bily | |
| Previously Reported | \$9,684.00 |
| In memory of Frank Grunewald by James and Barbara Janak | 20.00 |
| Total | \$9,704.00 |
| — Joseph R. Janak Burse #2 | |
| Previously Reported | \$2,063.77 |
| In memory of Josephine Janak by Victor and Doris Janak | 10.00 |
| In memory of Anton Bujnoch by Victor and Doris Janak | 10.00 |
| Total | \$2,083.77 |
| — Rev. Msgr. Edward Bartsch | |
| Previously Reported | \$5,770.00 |
| In memory of Msgr. Bartsch on anniversary of his death by Verna Goertz | 1,000.00 |
| Total | \$6,770.00 |

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

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



During the last week of February, dozens of volunteers spent days preparing the DSA mail out, which went to over 20,000 parishioners of the Diocese of Victoria. Jeri Joseph, who works in the Business Office, is responsible for coordinating this kick off.

2012 DSA Kick-off

Every year you are asked to contribute to the Diocesan Services Appeal (DSA). The funds collected are used to cover the cost of operating the diocese. As you are probably aware, your parish is assessed a specific amount to go towards the support of the diocese. The monies you contribute through the DSA reduce the amount your parish will pay at the end of the year. Monies collected in excess of the DSA goal

are rebated to the parishes that exceeded their goal.

Each month, *The Catholic Lighthouse* will feature one chancery office that is supported by you through the DSA.

You might be asking yourself, "What does the business office do for me"? It is a good question and Finance Officer Mike Brown will attempt to answer that question.

The *business office* is one of the departments that might not touch any parishioners directly; it is not part of the pastoral mission of the Church. However, we do touch everyone indirectly. The business office is responsible for administering the diocesan insurance program, both property and casualty and health. Did you know we administer the program that insures over \$260,000,000 of property located within our diocese? Additionally, we administer the health insurance program that insures more than 450 employees and family members in the diocese. Under the direction of the bishop, the business office is responsible for administering all of the temporal goods of the diocese. These areas include all financial matters, insurance programs, human resources, building projects, building maintenance, legal matters, contracts, property management, DSA, and accounting.

Thank you for supporting the Diocesan Services Appeal.

Celebration of Appreciation and Farewell for Sr. Digna Vela, IWBS Tuesday, May 8, 2012

The Most Reverend David E. Fellhauer is having a reception to honor Sister Digna Vela, IWBS, for 22 years of service as director in the Office of Catechetical Ministry for the Diocese of Victoria. Everyone is cordially invited to attend this affair on Tuesday, May 8, 2012, at the chancery anytime between 1:00 – 5:00 p.m. Call (361) 573-0828 or e-mail tstarnes@victoriadiocese.org to RSVP.



Sister Digna's duties and contributions to catechetical ministry are vast. As director, she organized and offered training and support to parish catechetical leaders and catechists alike. She established the *Organization of Catechetical Leadership* (OCL) as a means to provide for the professional and spiritual needs of those involved in catechetical ministry. The coordination and arrangement of the *Annual Conference for Catechesis and Ministry*, which attracts hundreds of people each year, is also under her direction. Wanting to reach inactive Catholics and a wider audience, in 1998 Sister Digna began a Sunday morning thirty-minute television broadcast in which *The Christopher Closeup Series* was used on the local TV station. She has managed the *Library & Media Center* from its inception, and in 2000 Sister Digna worked to make it accessible through the Internet. It houses approximately 7,000 books and over 1,700 videos.

In 2000, Bishop Fellhauer appointed her to oversee and coordinate *Disciples in Mission*, a diocesan-sponsored program for evangelization. Through the program, over 9,000 people in the diocese participated in small faith-sharing groups during the Lenten season for three consecutive years.

To encourage the continuation of Lenten faith-sharing, in 2003 Sister Digna helped to develop *Disciples on the Journey* (DJ). After nine years of production, DJ has been sold to hundreds of parishes throughout the United States. Virtually thousands of Catholics have benefited from this Lenten resource due to her hard work and dedication.

In 2004, Sister brought the concept of whole-community catechesis to the diocese through the *Generations of Faith* program developed by John Roberto and the Center for Ministry Development. She orchestrated the first *Catholic Knowledge Bowl* (CKB) in 2007 to offer yet another avenue for learning more about the Catholic faith. The CKB has become an annual diocesan event. She has also provided opportunities for retreats and days of reflection for numerous people throughout the diocese.

Countless theological, catechetical, and methodology courses for adults have been offered through the Pastoral Institute extended and short-term programs under Sister Digna's direction and leadership. In 2007, using innovative technology and the Internet, she began offering classes to an even larger audience through "distance learning." This method has enabled more people to attend classes without leaving their local parishes.

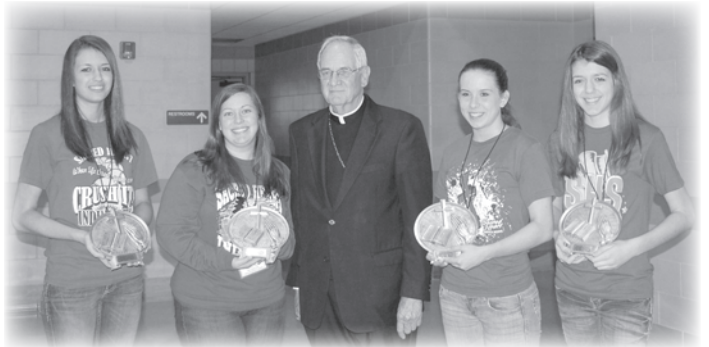
Sister Digna also served in all levels of leadership for the *Texas Catholic Conference for Religious Education* and was on the board and representative council for the *National Conference of Catechetical Leadership*; she maintained membership with other professional organizations as well.

A desire for God's love to be manifested in the world has precipitated Sr. Digna's zeal to bring the "good news" of Jesus through her vocation and her tireless dedication to working in the Office of Catechetical Ministry in the Diocese of Victoria for

DAY OF CHAMPIONS – CATHOLIC KNOWLEDGE BOWL

—On Sunday, March 11, 2012, twenty-four teams participated in The Fifth Annual Catholic Knowledge Bowl at Holy Family Church in Victoria.

Competition was intense between the 11 adult teams, 11 teen teams, and the family teams. The Most Reverend David E. Fellhauer and the Reverend Bob Knippenberg called out a total of 120 questions during the three-round competition. Everyone was a winner. First Place Winners: in the Adult Division — KC Council #9088 (Holy Family, Victoria) with Eddie Huse, Victor Keefe, Clyde Svetlik, and Gerald Bludau; in the Family Division — The Cardinals (Sts. Cyril & Methodius, Shiner) with Jennifer Peters, Mary Machacek, Sarah Peters, and Stevie-Nicole Peters; and in the Teen Division — The Blue Albatrosses (Sacred Heart High School, Hallettsville) with Emily Kossa, Emily Seyl, Hannah Hines, and Sara Seyl. Pictured is the Teen Division The Blue Albatrosses from Hallettsville with Bishop David E. Fellhauer.



Happy Birthday!

Kristopher Fuchs is in Theology I at Pontifical College Josephinum in Columbus, Ohio. His home parish is St. Michael the Archangel, Needville, and his birthday is May 13. Please show your support for this seminarian by writing to: Kristopher Fuchs, Pontifical College Josephinum, 7625 North High Street, Columbus, OH 43235.



Pray for Vocations to the priesthood & religious life!

Join Us For Great Adventures

~ Rushmore & Badlands ~
June 11-20

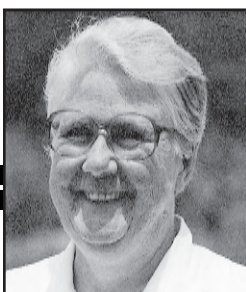
~ Imperial Cities ~
Prague • Vienna • Budapest
Sept. 10-20

Hawaii • Norwegian Cruise
Nov. 10-18

Pathways with Patti
334 Jurek Road
Port Lavaca, TX 77979
361.552.2695 or 361.920.3216



SISTERLY THOUGHTS



By Sister Mildred Truchard, IWBS

More Early Triumphs and Trials

(Con't from last month)

The multi-day trip of those first Sisters by railroad from Port Lavaca may not have been an unusual experience at the time. Many parts of Texas did not even have rail transportation yet; the segment from Port Lavaca to Victoria had been completed in 1861, then destroyed during the U.S. Civil War, and then rebuilt by Union Troops during the Reconstruction following the Civil War. While travel by ship from port to port along the Gulf coast was quite dependable, most overland transportation was powered by oxen, mules, or horses. Roads, where they existed, often were muddy when it rained, or rutted and dusty when it didn't rain. A newly-arrived nun from Ireland wrote home that the peat bogs were nothing when compared with the Texan mud. A Galveston newspaper classified the roads in Victoria as the worst in the state. Travel by individuals, including the early missionaries to Texas, was best done on horseback.

According to some early accounts, the Sisters (and the Brothers who later staffed St. Joseph School in Victoria) on occasion traveled by buckboard, a wagon that had a board across the front that protected the driver and any passenger beside him from the horses' hoofs and any mud that might be kicked up. I don't know if the usual mode of transportation for the early religious in Texas was by private carriage or part of the public transportation (wagons and stage coaches) which accompanied the mail service. I do remember reading about the early Brothers at St. Joseph School returning to their headquarters in San Antonio in 1906 via stage coach. They started out early in the morning, rode all day and night with short stops to change horses, and arrived in San Antonio at the end of the next day. They were exhausted and some were seasick from the constant swaying of the suspended carriage body and the jolting as they traveled over the primitive roads. One has to admire these pioneers whose

ministry involved travel that now is done on hard-topped roads, in short periods of time, am in air-conditioned comfort.

As we had noted before, in spite of various trials, the Sisters and their "Convent School" were off to a successful start. I would imagine that their presence would have been a stabilizing force in Victoria during the aftermath of the Civil War. There were simmering hostilities, even among Catholics, between the former Confederates and those whose sympathies and loyalty may have been with the Union. The nearly 2000 citizens (1860 census indicated a population of 1986, including 521 slaves) were adjusting to a new way of understanding the human rights of each of God's children after the announcement in Galveston on June 19, 1865, that all slaves were to be freed. If they, as many did, continued to work for their former masters they were to be paid.

Unfortunately, the evil institution of slavery had been accepted as part of life by many of the property owners of the South. Prior to the war, Catholic slaveholders were obliged to make sure that their slaves were to receive religious education, that their marriages were to be respected and that their families would not be separated. After the slaves were freed, the U.S. Bishops (yes, the bishops met periodically) declared that the bishops and priests were to see that the Church would take care of the spiritual needs of the recently freed persons. Unfortunately, for many of them to be fully integrated into society would be a long pains taking journey.

Today, as we face the cultural, political, and social upheavals of our times, we may find it enriching to remember how our early founders brought the presence of God to their era through their faith and generosity. May we all imitate them.

And may we all experience the blessings of the Easter Season.



ST. ROSE OF LIMA SCHOOL HELPS THE POOR—Mrs. Rosanne Gallia (left), principal at St. Rose of Lima School, presents a check to Mrs. Rita Brossmann, representing the Schulenburg Area Food Pantry. Through The Souper Bowl of Caring, St. Rose of Lima Parish and School, along with the area churches of St. Mary, High Hill; St. John, Ammannsville; St. John the Baptist, St. John; Ascension of Our Lord, Moravia; and St. Wenceslaus, Holman, collected \$1,300 for the Schulenburg Area Food Pantry.

NEEDED! ~ Youth Ministry Coordinator for three parishes

A coordinator who will be responsible for facilitating an existing tri-parish based pastoral ministry with youth is needed for the parishes of St. Anthony, Columbus; St. Roch, Mentz; and Sts. Peter & Paul, Frelsburg. Youth Ministry qualifications include: deep Catholic faith and prayer life and a degree, certification, or equivalent training in youth ministry. If interested, please contact: Deacon Doug Tromblee; St. Roch Parish; (979) 733-4430; doug@thetromblees.com.

Papal Solutions To Economic Crises: Part III

By Sr. Elizabeth Riebschlaeger, CCVI
e-mail: elzrcevi@gmail.com
cell phone: (361) 676-20921

The description by John XXIII of the times of Leo XIII could apply to today's crisis equally: "Unregulated competition had succumbed to its own inherent tendencies to the point of practically destroying itself. It had given rise to a great accumulation of wealth, and, in the process, concentrated a despotic economic power in the hands of a few "who for the most part are not the owners, but only the trustees and directors of invested funds, which they administer at their own good pleasure." (John XXIII in "Mother and Teacher", May 1961)

Pope John XXIII also went on to say "...the outlook that prevailed on economic matters was for the most part a purely naturalistic one, which denied any correlation between economics and morality. Personal gain was considered the only valid motive for economic activity. In business the main operative principle was that of free and unrestricted competition. Interest on capital, prices—whether of goods or of services—profits and wages, were to be determined by the purely mechanical application of the laws of the market place. Every precaution was to be taken to prevent the civil authority from intervening in any way in economic matters." Leo XIII had stated: "The civil power must not serve the advantage of any one individual, or of some few persons, inasmuch as it was established for the common good of all."

John Paul II's 1987 "On Social Concerns" addressed modern social problems, suggesting solutions. In "The Hundredth Year", he recalled and updated "Rerum Novarum" on its centennial, and "the preferential option for the poor" on the eve of communism's collapse in Eastern Europe and the Soviet Union. His wisdom focused on the form of government and economic system that would replace a failed system. Once again, a pope warned of the dangers to human dignity and the common good from both capitalism and communism. And once again, the world of excessive capitalism, unregulated greed and materialistic

consumers failed to listen.

Desperate workers exploited by the excessive greed of some capitalists are vulnerable to the theories of atheistic socialism, which has accounted for its success in places like Latin America in the 1960's. Pope John XXIII understood this and asked US religious orders to send 10% of their personnel to go there to bring them the hope of the Gospel. It also explains why some were labeled "communists" and martyred there by those in power. Applying principles of the Gospel to the economic system in place proved to be incompatible with the status quo. Archbishop Oscar Romero's martyrdom as he celebrated the Eucharist in his cathedral in San Salvador is but one example of the violence against the Church's teachings.

It may well be that the Lord's Catholic disciples will be held more to account for the current economic crisis than will any socialist seeking to relieve peoples' sufferings from the excesses of the unbridled greed powering capitalism and consumerism. After all, we are the ones professing Christianity and the dignity of human life. In over a century of teachings by our popes, we have the wisdom and moral foundation for rebuilding the houses of our national and world economies on the solid foundation of the Gospel and the Spirit that inspires those teachings. Heeding Popes Leo, John XXIII, John Paul II and Jesus' own Gospel will balance our fear of socialism's errors with a healthy repentance for the role that materialism and greedy consumerism have played in the current economic crisis.

If Catholics in the market places of life and halls of power, motivated by Christian Love, can live the moral principles taught by our popes with regard to economics and the common good of all, the *Light of our Faith* will shine so brightly that no one will look to socialism or communism to bring them shelter and bread. Our deeds' witness to the faith will have assured that there is enough for all. We would have made visible once again, that Life and message of Jesus to the world: "I have come that they might have life, and have it to the full" (John 10:10).

Catholics Care. Catholic Vote – an Introduction

From the USCCB Media Relations Blog

With Super Tuesday now behind us, more and more Americans are turning their attention to politics, specifically, to the local, state and federal elections on November 6, and as they do so, one in four of those Americans is Catholic.

In the 2008 election, Catholics comprised a quarter of the electorate, by far the largest single religious denomination. They achieved this statistical feat in spite of making up less than a quarter of the total population. So not only are they a formidable demographic, but an over-represented one at the polls. We'd like to think this is a sign that U.S. Catholics tend to be civic minded and informed when it comes to the issues that affect them, their country and the rest of the world. In short, hopefully it's because they care.

To feed this demand, this blog is entering the election year fray with a weekly [monthly for monthly newspapers] series, *Catholics care. Catholic vote*, which will run from now through May. As the politicians and pundits ramp up their rhetoric, this series will unpack and explore the themes addressed by the U.S. bishops in *Forming Consciences for Faithful Citizenship*, their document on political responsibility. This will include everything from issues affecting human life and dignity, to hot-button social concerns in our country today, to the principles that shape the con-

science formation and civic involvement of Catholics.

Stay tuned!

Our mission is to present the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops to the media, and the media to the bishops. As Media Relations staff at the USCCB, our purpose with this blog will be to report on the activities of the U.S. bishops conference and discuss those matters of the faith and the Church that we encounter in our work, especially as they appear or are discussed in the media.

Editor's note: If you don't want to wait until next month, see the other postings at: <http://uscbbmedia.blogspot.com/>

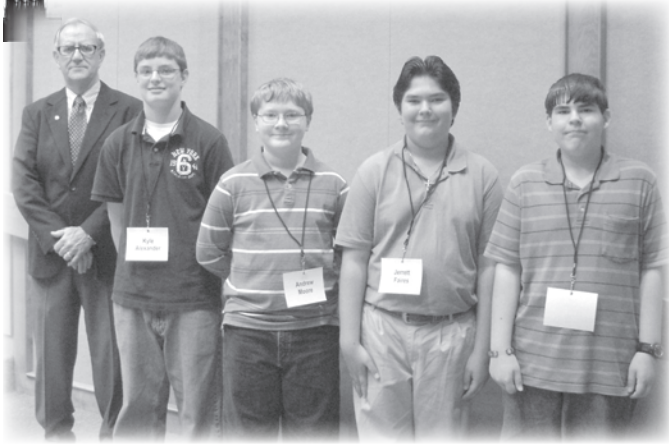
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The 7th grade winners of the Holy Family Parish Annual Catechism Contest are shown with KC #9088 Grand Knight Charles Bluntzer (l.). The contest was held March 3. From left are winners: 1st place Kyle Alexander; 2nd place Andrew Moore; 3rd place tie: Sean Casey and Jerrett Faires.

Post Catechism Contest Report

The finals of Victoria Holy Family Parish Fifth Annual Catechism Contest, sponsored by Knights of Columbus Council #9088, were held in the auditorium of the education building on Saturday, March 3, 2012. Master of Ceremonies of the event was Grand Knight Charles Bluntzer. The judges were Betty Migura, Elizabeth Klecka and Cheryl Benavidez. Emory Migura was in charge of timing the contest. Thanks to the generosity of the K.C. Council, the following prizes were awarded each of the winners in Grades 1-8: First Place: \$100; Second Place: \$30; Third Place: \$20; Fourth Place: \$10.

Winners were as follows: Grade 1: 1st Joshua Bonorden, 2nd Alison Lerma, 3rd Lynsey Brown, 4th Justis Trenck; Grade 2: 1st Cassidy Zimmermann, 2nd Wyatt Borden, 3rd Blane Zepelin, 4th Jake Plunkett; Grade 3: 1st Emma Pratkan, 2nd Xavier Moore; 3rd Kieran Grones; 4th Syndi Popp; Grade 4: 1st Jayden Kueker, 2nd Jake Risinger, 3rd Trent Nieto, 4th Sarah Saenz; Grade 5: 1st Alexander Bonorden, 2nd Joseph Andruss, 3rd Kagan Migl, 4th Walker Bordovsky; Grade 6: 1st Myah Mallory, 2nd Fernando DeLeon, 3rd Blaine Harrison, 4th Valyn Rosalez; Grade 7: 1st Kyle Alexander, 2nd Andrew

Moore, 3rd Place Tie Sean Casey and Jerrett Faires; Grade 8: 1st Place Tie Samuel Bonorden and Reid Polasek, 2nd Bryan Sturm, 3rd Joshua Calzada.

The following students scored the highest in their grades on the written test but were unable to participate in the finals: Chelsea Carroll, Nicholas Hilscher, Reid Goodwine, Kesli Pratkan, Caleb Hayden and Lauren Cortez.

To qualify for the finals, the students took a written test in the classroom and made one of the four top scores in each grade. The students were given a "question-answer" type booklet during the year and encouraged to study ten minutes each night.

The Catechism Contest originated in Holy Family's CCD Program in response to Pope John Paul II in "Catechesis in Our Time" when he said: "A certain memorization of the words of Jesus, of important Bible passages, of the Ten Commandments, of the essential prayers, of key doctrinal ideas, etc. far from being opposed to the dignity of young Christians, or constituting an obstacle to personal dialogue with the Lord, is a real need, as the synod fathers forcefully recalled."

Incarnate Word Sisters Texas history published

Continued from p. 1

to the present time. When I retired from my ministry in Houston to Incarnate Word Convent in Victoria, General Superior Sister Evelyn Korenek told me she still wanted me to write the book."

"I got the responsibility to write the book, because I remember some of the process that took place at the time of the Union," Sister Alberta said. "I had just entered the convent; I was very young when I had experienced it."

"We also have many original documents in the Incarnate Word Convent Archives," Sister Alberta said. Three years ago, she began writing the history, using the documents in the Archives, where she continues to do research work.

Sister Alberta found her publisher by going through the Houston phone book. After calling 25 publishers, some of whom had closed, moved or didn't publish books like hers, she found Pat Springle with Baxter Publishing in Friendswood, Texas, who was very helpful.

Texas Footprints in the Sands of Time will be released by Baxter Publishing after April 10, 2012. The 400-page, hard-back book will include many photos and will sell for \$29.95. It may be purchased at the Incarnate Word Convent Gift Shop in Victoria. Sister also hopes to sell the book at VIVA Bookstore in San Antonio and possibly at SACCO and MARY REGINA in Houston.

On June 11, she will have a book signing and make a presentation at the Victoria County Genealogical Society. She looks forward to holding more signings in Victoria, possibly in conjunction with Nazareth Academy, where she taught for 20 years and St. Joseph High School, where she was once principal.

"Do everything in love."

1 Corinthians 16:14

Catechumens and Candidates to enter the Church this Easter

By Cynthia Brewer

The Rite of Election and Call to Continuing Conversion was celebrated on the first Sunday of Lent, February 26, 2012, at Our Lady of Victory Cathedral with Bishop David E. Fellhauer presiding.

Thirty-three Catechumens and 80 candidates were presented to Bishop Fellhauer and affirmed by their sponsors and the present Catholic assembly. Following the rite, participants were invited to tour the chancery building.

Catechumens are those who wish to enter the Church and will receive the three rites of initiation: baptism, confirmation, and the Eucharist, on Easter Vigil. Can-

didates are those who have been baptized into the Christian faith, but are awaiting acceptance into the fullness of the faith by receiving confirmation and the Eucharist on Holy Saturday evening (Easter Vigil).

A special thanks goes to those who assisted in the rite: Father Ty Bazar, master of ceremonies and creator of worship aid; Cynthia Goerig, organist; Daniel Berglund, cantor; Sister Digna Vela, IWBS, coordinator of the chancery reception; and St. Alberta CDA Court #1381 of Ganado, reception hosts.

Please make new members of your parish feel very welcomed and loved.

See photos on page 6.

Youth Calendar of Events

- April 13—Bishop's Golf Tournament - Colony Creek Country Club, Victoria
- April 19—Retreat Formation/Policy and Procedure Session, OLV Library, 6:30-8:30 p.m.
- April 21—Foundations Youth Ministry Class - 9:00 - 12:00 noon at the chancery
- April 22—Youth Leadership Training (Camp David Planning) at the chancery
- May 5—Foundations Youth Ministry Class - 9:00 - 12:00 noon at the chancery
- May 20—Retreat Formation/Policy and Procedure Session, Holy Family, Victoria
- June 10 - 12—Camp David - (Jr. High Camp) Session One at the Renewal Center
- June 13—Camp David - Elementary Day Camp at the Renewal Center
- June 13 - 15—Camp David - (Jr. High Camp) Session Two at the Renewal Center
- June 25 - 28—D-Week - Renewal Center
- June 30 - July 8—Rocky Mountain High Retreat in Pagosa Springs Colorado



Find us now on Facebook! At Diocese of Victoria – Youth Ministry

For more information contact:

Wendy Eggert at the Office of Youth Ministry at (361) 573-0828 ext. 2250, e-mail at weggert@victoriadiocese.org, new youth office e-mail ym@victoriadiocese.org or, visit our website at www.victoriadiocese.org/youthoffice

St. Joseph High School News

Soccer Students Win District Awards: Recently, three STJ students received All-District recognition in soccer. Winners included Chris Kisalus, named as First Team All-District; Brian Gann won Second Team All-District, and Logan Spahn received Honorable Mention.

Regional Solo & Ensemble Contest: Two instrumental students of the STJ band program were awarded first division medals on March 3 at the Regional Solo & Ensemble Contest sponsored by the TPSMEA in Addison, Texas. Advancing

to the state competition for a gold medal performance on a Regional Class I Solo are Wyatt Fraga on trumpet and Josh Guerra on alto saxophone. The State Instrumental Contest will be on May 26 at Richland College in Dallas.

Five Choir soloists advance to state: Students of the STJ Choral program were awarded 28 first division gold medals on February 25 at the Regional TPSMEA Solo & Ensemble Contest. The contest was hosted by Providence High School in San Antonio. Qualifying to advance to the state competition by winning a Gold Medal in performance on a Class I Solo are Jaclyn Boozalis, Theo Boozalis, Johanna Hoang, Meghan Mead, and Katie Streeter.

V.A.S.E. Winners: Several STJ students participated in the Visual Arts Scholastic Event on February 25 hosted by Victoria West High School. Students who received a superior rating and medals were Mary Gower, prismacolor pencil drawing; Hannah Kolle, multi-media design; Pooja Parikh, acrylic painting; Hailey Sanders, photography (2); and Chloe Shoemake, pastel painting.

Sacred Heart Student Named National Merit Scholarship Finalist

HALLETTSVILLE—The National Merit Scholarship Corporation (NMSC) has announced that Emily Kossa, a senior at Sacred Heart Catholic School in Hallettsville, has advanced to Finalist standing in the National Merit Scholarship Program. Emily is the daughter of Michael and Linda Kossa of LaGrange. She has been accepted to Texas A&M University. The selection of 8,400 Merit Scholarship winners from the group of more than 15,000 Finalists is now in progress. Announcements will be made in April, May and July.

St. Michael **Spring Festival** *Weimar, Texas*

Sunday, April 29

Fried Chicken & Sausage Dinner
at 11:00 a.m. - Adults \$8.00 - Children \$4
Drive-Thru Plates & Plates-To-Go \$8.00

Veterans Memorial Park
Drive-Thru Take-Home Plates will be available at
St. Michael Family Center Only

Music By:
Czechaholics & Red Ravens
11:00 a.m.-9:00 p.m.

Auction - 1 p.m.
Country Store
Cakewalk
Children's Activities
Bingo - 1:30-5:30 p.m.
Lic. 1-74-1110101-1
And Much More!





Members of CDA Court Mary Queen of the Snows #1588 and clergy gathered on January 22, 2012, to celebrate the 60th anniversary of the local Catholic Daughters Court. Pictured from left are Mary Labay, treasurer; Joani Dungen, financial secretary; Rev. Augustine Asante, court chaplain; Rev. Donald Ruppert, state clergy consultant; Paula Frnka, regent; Carolyn Malik, state regent; Lorraine Novosad, vice regent; and Barbara Moeller, recording secretary.

Catholic Daughters Court Celebrates 60 Years

COLUMBUS—On December 17, 1951, thirty-five ladies at St. Anthony Parish in Columbus, came together to form Court Mary Queen of the Snows. State Regent Minnie LeBlanc, with the assistance of the Weimar degree team, instituted the new court. Sixty years later, on January 22, 2012, the members of Court Mary Queen of the Snows gathered to celebrate the determination of the charter members, to recognize its members, and to celebrate the works of the organization.

The day began with Holy Mass, followed by a luncheon reception and program. Court Regent Paula Frnka and officers recognized Elvira Kahlich and Emma Schneider as the last living charter members of the court.

In addition, eight members (Bea Baron, Linda Blair, Tricia Hobaugh, Ruth Kunz, Rose Olivarez, Julie Pulido, Mary Stavinoha and Yvonne Wagner) were presented 25-year pins and three members (Elrose Baumgart, Joann Moeller and Ruby Nelson) were presented 50-year pins.

State Regent Carolyn Malik congratulated the court on its anniversary. She spoke about life in 1951 and how things have changed. Despite the changes, she emphasized that the mission of CDA has remained constant. Keynote speaker Reverend Donald Ruppert continued with the history of CDA, pointing out that CDA members continue to be God's light by their many charitable works.



ST. JOSEPH KNOWLEDGE BOWL SCORES HIGHEST OVER ALL OF VICTORIA'S KNOWLEDGE BOWL TEAMS—Two St. Joseph High School student teams recently placed first and second overall, for both teens and adults, in the 18th Annual Victoria Knowledge Bowl held February 17, 2012, at the Victoria College Student Center. A total of 34 teams took part in the competition hosted by the Victoria Rotary clubs and a record 12 student teams participated. The first place *We Are Smarticus* team members, pictured above, included: Christian Wenske, Madalynn Kainer, Hira Malik, and Ian Mead. The second place *St. Joseph Starships* team members (not pictured) included: Clara Allen, Theodore Booza-lis, Johanna Hoang, and Katie Streeter. The Victoria Knowledge Bowl is in its 18th year and is used as a fund-raiser for the Victoria Adult Literacy Council. *The Victoria Advocate*, under the direction of former *Advocate* editor Jim Bishop, had sponsored the city's Knowledge Bowl for 12 years. For the past six years the Victoria Rotary Clubs have sponsored the fun-filled competition on behalf of the Victoria Adult Literacy Council.

Eighteen IWBS Sisters attended the dedication of a monument honoring the Sisters and their service to Sacred Heart School.



SHS Monument honors Sisters of Incarnate Word & Blessed Sacrament

Reprinted with permission from the Hallettsville Tribune

HALLETTSVILLE—On Sunday, March 11, 2012, Sacred Heart Parish/School dedicated a monument to honor the Sisters of the Incarnate Word and Blessed Sacrament for their 130 years of service to the community. Bishop David E. Fellhauer, bishop of the Diocese of Victoria, presided at the 10:30 a.m. Mass, concelebrated by Father John Peters, pastor. Eighteen Sisters of the Incarnate Word and Blessed Sacrament were present to represent the order. Other special guests were the superintendent of Catholic Schools of the Diocese of Victoria, John

Quary, and the donor of the monument, Dorothy Bujnoch, in memory of her father, Victor Grafe, and her husband, George Bujnoch, both staunch supporters of Sacred Heart Catholic School. After the Liturgy, Principal David Smolik expressed his gratitude to the Sisters for their role in his life and that of his family, as well as so many other students from Grades 1-12 at Sacred Heart School. He told of his inspiration to do something to honor them, and how the monument came to be. Sister Emiliana Grafe, one of the 33 vocations from Sacred Heart Parish/School, presented the history of the school from its roots

to the present day. Highlights included the fact that the three Sisters who arrived on Jan. 5, 1882, to establish the school, began to teach the next day, Jan. 6. (Excerpts from the History of Lavaca County Schools, and the History of Lavaca County by Paul Boethel showed that high academic standards were kept up from the beginning. "Besides the primary and intermediate departments, instruction was given in the regular high school studies, together with music, Latin, Spanish, French and German." Local records stated that Bohemian was also taught as well as various forms of art and needlework, and even agriculture.) In his closing remarks, Father John Peters thanked Bishop Fellhauer for his presence. He also recognized the Sisters present and expressed his gratitude for the Sisters founding Sacred Heart Catholic School and their continued service in the school. The congregation then proceeded outside to the monument, located between the church and school, near the flagpole, for the blessing. The front of the monument contains information about the founding of the school and the names of the 33 vocations of the order from Sacred Heart Parish. The names of all the Sisters (136) who taught in the school, fill the back of the monument.



JCDA HONORS SENIOR CITIZENS ON NATIONAL JCDA DAY—On Thursday, February 16, 2012, the JCDA #1604 girls of Shiner met at the Shiner Catholic School Cafeteria and baked over 80-dozen cookies for delivery to Shiner Nursing and Rehab Center on Sunday, February 19, 2012, for National JCDA Day. As there were over 35 JCDA #1604 girls who assisted with the baking, just a few of the girls were able to be shown with a sample of their cookies; they are, from left to right, Victoria Kusak, Seryna Garza, Mary Adamek, State JCDA President; Carolyn Malik, State CDA Regent; Jessi Pesek, Ashlyn Patek and Mallory Grabarkievtz.



(above) Thirty-three catechumens from 14 parishes in the Diocese of Victoria are planning to enter the Catholic Church. Here they are pictured at the Rite of Election, held the first Sunday of Lent, February 26, 2012.

(below) From 15 parishes within the Diocese of Victoria, 80 candidates plan to join the Catholic Church. They are pictured at the Rite of Election, held the first Sunday of Lent, February 26, 2012.

See story on page 5.





KJT DONATES TO DIOCESAN PRIESTS AND RELIGIOUS—The Catholic Union of Texas (KJT) State Spiritual Director Rev. Bob Knippenberg presented two checks to Bishop David E. Fellhauer on February 28, 2012, on behalf of diocesan priests and religious. One check was in the amount of \$6,620 for the Priest and Religious Retirement Fund for the Diocese of Victoria; the other check was in the amount of \$675 for the Priest Education Fund for the Diocese of Victoria. The KJT adopted the

Priest and Religious Retirement Fund and the Priest Education Fund as their statewide charity projects in 2011 as a token of their appreciation for the service that our priests and other religious have given throughout the years. The checks represent donations that were made on behalf of the KJT societies located in our diocese.

MOULTON WRITERS WIN 2012 TEXAS RIGHT TO LIFE ESSAY CONTESTS—Three young men from Moulton entered the state-wide, pro-life essay contest and garnered top prizes. Pictured from l. to r. are the contestants and winners: Ted Wenske, 2nd place Senior Division and winner of \$150.00; James Wenske, 1st place in Junior Division and winner of \$200.00; and Samuel Wenske, 2nd place Junior Division, winner of \$150.00. Ted is a junior at St. Paul High School and son of Elizabeth and Ben Wenske; James is in 8th grade at Moulton High School, and is the son of Mary Ann and Patrick Wenske; Samuel is a freshman at St. Paul High School and also is the son of Elizabeth and Ben Wenske. All three essays were submitted to the National Right to Life for the National Contest.



Pictured (top) are the diocesan winners of the boys' KC State Free Throw Contest: Blake Weiss (l.), Goliad, 2nd place; and Greyson Munsch, Alleyton, 1st place.

Diocesan winners of the girls' KC State Free Throw Contest, (middle photo) left: Nicole Hoelscher, Columbus, 3rd place; Jesse Berger, Yoakum, 3rd place; (bottom photo) Amanda Mitchon, Moulton, 3rd place; and Malori Mitchon, Moulton, 1st place.

Four Girls / Two Boys place in State KC Free Throw ~ Two Place First

SAN ANTONIO—First place winners from the Knights of Columbus Diocesan Free Throw Contest held Feb. 19, 2012, in Hallettsville went on to the KC State Free Throw Contest at the Antonian College Preparatory School in San Antonio March 3.

Taking first place in state for their age groups were 14-year-old Malori Mitchon of Moulton and 11-year-old Greyson Munsch of Alleyton.

Other state winners from the Diocese of Victoria were, girls: 10-year-old Nicole Hoelscher, Columbus, 3rd place; 11-year-old Amanda Mitchon, Moulton, 3rd place; and 13-year-old Jesse Berger, Yoakum, 3rd place; and from the boys category was 13-year-old Blake Weiss, Goliad, 2nd place.

Congratulations to all who attended the state competition and thank you to the Knights of Columbus members who organized and assisted with the contests.



ST. ROSE OF LIMA BENEFITS FROM KJT SOCIETY #129—At the request of Catholic Union of Texas (KJT) St. Augustine Society #129 in Schulenburg, the KJT Home Office awarded a \$400 Catholic Education Grant to St. Rose Catholic School in Schulenburg towards the renovation of the main school building. Pictured from left are Society #129 Treasurer James Prihoda, Principal Rosanne E. Gallia and Society #129 President Matthew Prihoda.

God's Embrace Expands

The three-year spiritual program, God's Embrace, directed by Michael Fonseca, is growing profoundly! In August it will expand to include four new first-year programs within the diocese. "Come and See" evenings will be held in May so those interested can meet Michael, members of the program, and get more information. The "Come and See" evenings will be held from 6:30 – 8:30 p.m.: Sunday, May 6, Blessing-St. Peter Church Hall; Monday, May 7, Victoria-Holy Family Church: St. Peter Parish Hall Building A; Tuesday, May 8, Frelsburg-St. Peter and Paul Parish Hall; Thursday, May 10, Schulenburg-St. Rose Family Life Center. Each town mentioned will have it's own First Year Program!

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Catholic By Grace

By Denise Bossert
www.catholicbygrace.blogspot.com



Love one another as I love you

About a year ago, I ran across this quote by St. John of the Cross, “At the evening of life, we will be judged by our love” (CCC 1022). It was one of those quotes I just couldn’t shake off. Sometimes, the words of the saints are like that. If they convict, they stick.

God did not say, “Don’t hate.” If he had, I would probably come out all right. He did not say, “Love me and treat everyone else as you see fit.” If he had, I might be okay in that last great evaluation.

He did not say that it was okay for me to love only those I understand, only those who never hurt my feelings, only those who make my life a bit easier.

He said to love the unreasonable. The unpredictable. Those who make my life harder and sometimes practically impossible. When I love the unreasonable, unpredictable and impossible ones, I come closest to loving the way Jesus Christ loves me.

I’m commanded to love them. Even on nights when I’m tired. Even in mornings when I’ve spilled coffee on myself. Even when the dog throws up on the carpet, and the laundry room smells like there’s a gas leak, and the engine light in my car is going off again - and that’s when they decide to try my patience even further. Even then.

Even when old hurts resurface. Even when I did everything right and things still turn out really, really rotten.

One day, I’ll be judged by Love on how much I loved even in these moments.

I can get my theology right. I can learn how to pray the rosary and genuflect. I can

go to confession monthly and attend Mass weekly – or even daily. I can read the Daily Office, pray the Angelus, and recite the Chaplet of Divine Mercy.

I can show up for an hour of Adoration and read every book my spiritual advisor recommends.

I can even write a column about how wonderful it is to be Catholic.

But if I don’t have love, I am nothing. St. Paul describes the loveless Christian as a clanging cymbal. I might garner some attention, but it’s pointless – ridiculous even – if I fail to love as Christ loves me.

All of these good and holy things that I do are a tragic waste if I refuse to let them change me. I must respond to grace, respond to divine love and let that love flow from me to others. If I don’t get that lesson mastered, everything that I’ve said, written or done, won’t matter.

In the evening of this life, we will be judged by the One who is Love on whether or not we have loved each other as He has loved us. Now that’s a sobering thought.

Even so, it is not a reason to despair. We are fully capable of learning how to love as Christ has loved us. The saints have shown us that our faith can change us. We can learn this final and most important lesson. These things – the Mass, our prayers, the Sacraments, Lent, sacrifice, pilgrimages, and Sacred Scripture – these are the things that change our hearts.

They are venues for grace.

They have turned sinners into saints before. And, by the grace of God, they can change even me.

Pope offers condolences to Coptic Orthodox on death of patriarch

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Praising the ecumenical commitment of the late Coptic Orthodox Pope Shenouda III of Alexandria, Pope Benedict XVI offered his condolences to Orthodox Christians in Egypt on the death of their patriarch. Pope Shenouda, who served as patriarch of the Coptic Orthodox Church for 41 years, died March 17 at the age of 88. In a message released at the Vatican the next day, Pope Benedict said he wanted to express his condolences and “brotherly compassion” to the bishops, priests and faithful of the Coptic Orthodox Church, which includes about 10 percent of Egypt’s population of 82 million people. The vast majority of Christians in Egypt belong to Pope Shenouda’s church and his four decades as patriarch often involved standing up for the rights of the country’s Christian minority and working with the Muslim majority to promote human rights

and the common good. “The Catholic Church as a whole shares the grief that afflicts the Orthodox Copts,” Pope Benedict said, and Catholics pray that “the God of all mercy may receive Pope Shenouda in his joy, his peace and light.” Maronite Catholic Patriarch Bechara Rai, who traveled from Lebanon to Egypt March 17 as part of a pastoral visit to Egypt’s 4,000 Maronite Catholics, had been scheduled to meet with Pope Shenouda at 4 p.m. that day. “We were told in the morning that the meeting would not be possible because the pope’s health had deteriorated badly,” Archbishop Paul Sayah, vicar general of the Maronite Patriarchate in Lebanon, told CNS by e-mail March 18. The patriarch had advanced the date of his visit to Egypt, Archbishop Sayah said, “because we knew of the state of (Pope Shenouda’s) health.”

Pope’s Intentions ~ April 2012

General Intention: Vocations. That many young people may hear the call of Christ and follow him in the priesthood and religious life.

Missionary Intention: Christ, Hope for Africans. That the risen Christ may be a sign of certain hope for the men and women of the African continent.

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| COPTIC | ROMANIANS | UKRAINIAN |

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March Puzzle Contest Winners Announced

The winner of the March puzzle contest and the book “The Donkey That No One Could Ride” by Anthony DeStefano is Ms. Irene Zissa of Sts. Cyril & Methodius Parish in Shiner. The book is published by Harvest House Publishers and may be purchased online or borrowed from the diocesan library. The winners of the children’s contest are Matthew Heath (12) of Our Lady of Victory Cathedral and Dustin Roberts (9) of St. Philip the Apostle School in El Campo (sent in with class). They each will receive a gift from Incarnate Word Gift Shop. The winner of the April Puzzle Contest will win “Were You There?” Please mail completed puzzle forms to arrive in *The Catholic Lighthouse* office, P. O. Box 4070, Victoria, TX 77903 by April 25.

Were You There? ~ Stations of the Cross to be April Puzzle Prize

Inspiring meditations from a leading Black Catholic writer combined with stunning art from Africa offer a unique spiritual journey for this Lent or any time of the year.

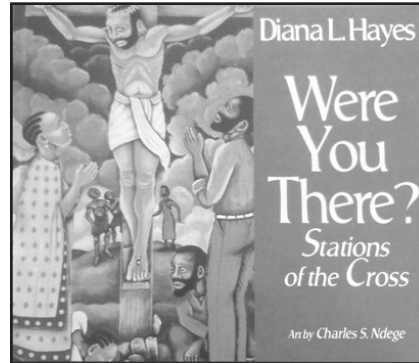
What can we learn from the son of the carpenter, the Son of God, about our lives and the path we should follow? To contemplate this powerful re-enactment of Jesus’ Passion – where Jerusalem is an African village, and all the characters are African – we reflect

upon our own lives and burdens: family divisions, community clashes, poverty and racism, sins of commission and omission.

Where does our path lead? Even when things seem hopeless, we do know this: Jesus’ message and ministry, his suffering, death and resurrection, have fed and nurtured Christians for 2000 years. We understand the life of faith is ever enriched by the One who knows our sufferings, who has suffered for us and with us. This is our comfort and our strength.

Were You There? is published by Maryknoll’s Orbis Books and written by Diana L. Hayes who teaches at Georgetown University. A popular lecturer she is co-editor (with Cyprian Davis) of *Taking Down*

Our Harps: Black Catholics in the United States. Charles Ndege, a self-taught artist, was commissioned to paint these Stations of the Cross in Saint Joseph Mukasa Church



in Mwanza, Tanzania. The paperback book is 112 pages and has 14 full-color illustrations. It sells for \$20 and may be purchased online at: <http://www.maryknollsocietymall.org>, or you may send in your completed word search puzzle and contest form to *The Catholic Lighthouse* at P. O.

Box 4070, Victoria, TX 77903 by April 25 for a chance to win it.

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

Reporting Child Abuse Hotline
1-800-252-5400



THE POPE SPEAKS

Pope Benedict XVI



CNS photo from Reuters

Recap of pope's visit to Mexico, Cuba

Continued from p. 1

cooperation with agencies of the state. After half a century of communist government and decades of official atheism there, Pope Benedict could hardly find more powerful evidence for the inadequacy of secular solutions than the church's growing role in caring for Cuba's poor.

While the pope said his message was motivated by faith and the desire to share it, he insisted that societies themselves are better off when people are free to profess their faith and when faith-based schools and social services are allowed to operate.

Preparing to leave Cuba at the end of a three-day pastoral visit, Pope Benedict XVI made his first reference to the U.S. embargo of the island and the embargo's impact on the country's poor.

All Cubans need to work together to build a renewed and reconciled society, but progress is difficult given a "lack of material resources, a situation which is worsened when restrictive

economic measures, imposed from outside the country, unfairly burden its people," the pope said March 28 during his official farewell ceremony. He did not mention the United States by name.

The pope said that peaceful coexistence requires individuals and nations to "reject immovable positions and unilateral viewpoints, which tend to make understanding more difficult and efforts at cooperation ineffective."

"Patience and sincere dialogue" are necessary, he said.

Before departing from Havana's Jose Marti International Airport for his return flight to Rome, Pope Benedict told government officials and the Cuban public that he was convinced that, wherever Jesus Christ is present, "discouragement yields to hope, goodness dispels uncertainties and a powerful force opens up the horizon to beneficial and unexpected possibilities."

Free APP for dramatized Gospel of Mark

In preparation for the upcoming *Year of Faith*, Truth & Life has developed a powerful APP for the dramatized Catholic audio Gospel of Mark, and their goal is to give this APP away free to anyone in the world that would like to receive it. This free APP includes the entire written text of the RSV-Catholic Edition New Testament and the fully-dramatized audio of the Gospel of Mark.

If, after listening to this free APP, one wishes to choose the full Truth & Life Dramatized Audio Bible New Testament CD set, one may do so for \$31.49 on <http://truthandlifebible.com/> or [Amazon.com](http://amazon.com).

The Truth & Life (RSV-CE) New Testament is 22-hours in length; features more than 75 actors, including many award-winning actors; movie-quality sound effects and an original music score. This 'radio-drama' style audio presentation brings the eternal words of the New Testament to life, it's not just read. It features a foreword by Pope Benedict XVI, endorsed by Cardinal Francis George, and was produced by Carl Amari and EWTN's Raymond Arroyo.

The link for the FREE APP is <http://www.truthandlifeapp.com/>

Sunday Readings from Apr. 8 to May 13

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| April 8 — <i>The Resurrection of the Lord ~ The Mass of Easter Sunday</i> | Acts 10:34a, 37-43 Psalms 118:1-2, 16-17, 22-23 Colossians 3:1-4 1 Corinthians 5:6b-8 |
| April 15 — Second Sunday of Easter | Acts 4:32-35 Psalms 118:2-4, 13-15, 22-24 1 John 5:1-6 John 20:19-31 |
| April 22 — Third Sunday of Easter | Acts 3:13-15, 17-19 Psalms 4:2, 4, 7-8, 9 1 John 2:1-5a Luke 24:35-48 |
| April 29 — Fourth Sunday of Easter | Acts 4:8-12 Psalms 118:1, 8-9, 21-23, 26, 28, 29 1 John 3:1-2 John 10:11-18 |
| May 6 — Fifth Sunday of Easter | Acts 9:266-31 Psalms 22:26-27, 28, 30, 31-32 1 John 3:18-24 John 15:1-8 |
| May 13 — Sixth Sunday of Easter | Acts 10:25-26, 34-35, 44-48 Psalms 98: 1, 2-3, 3-4 1 John 4:7-10 John 15:9-17 |

All daily and Sunday readings, as well as a daily reflection video, are available in text or video at:

www.usccb.org/bible/readings

Brought to you by the Catholic Communications Campaign — please be generous.

Prayer for the Protection of Religious Liberty

O GOD OUR CREATOR, from your provident hand we have received our right to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. You have called us as your people and given us the right and the duty to worship you, the only true God, and your Son, Jesus Christ. Through the power and working of your Holy Spirit, you call us to live out our faith in the midst of the world, bringing the light and the saving truth of the Gospel to every corner of society.

We ask you to bless us in our vigilance for the gift of religious liberty. Give us the strength of mind and heart to readily defend our freedoms when they are threatened; give us courage in making our voices heard on behalf of the rights of your Church and the freedom of conscience of all people of faith.

Grant, we pray, O heavenly Father, a clear and united voice to all your sons and daughters gathered in your Church in this decisive hour in the history of our nation, so that, with every trial withstood and every danger overcome—for the sake of our children, our grandchildren, and all who come after us— this great land will always be "one nation, under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all."

We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

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Editor's Note: The U.S. bishops are urging Catholics and "all people of faith" across the nation to join them in prayer and fasting for religious freedom and conscience protection. Please go to <http://www.usccb.org/conscience> to be continually updated on events concerning Conscience Protection. Bulk packages of "Prayer for Religious Liberty" prayer cards can be ordered at <http://www.usccbpublishing.org> for \$12 per bulk 100 cards.

Twenty Something

By Christina Capecchi
E-mail: Christina@ReadChristina.com



Catholics missing from Italian shipwreck still inspire

This month we mark the 100th anniversary of the sinking of the Titanic, and the luxury liner buried two and a half miles below the Atlantic bobs to the surface once again.

But I keep circling back to the shipwreck of 2012, the cruise liner Costa Concordia that struck a reef off the Italian island Giglio one Friday night in January. Of the 32 casualties, only two Americans remain missing, a retired couple from Minnesota: Barb Heil, 70, and her husband, Jerry, 69, parents of four and devout Catholics.

They had waited their whole lives to take a cruise like this one, having paid for years of Catholic school tuition and medical bills from a bout with cancer. Finally, their chance had come — time to see the Vatican City and Tuscany's rolling hills.

Four days after the shipwreck, a reporting assignment brought me to Barb and Jerry's parish, St. Pius X in White Bear Lake, a mile and a half from their blue Ranch-style home. Their fingerprints were everywhere.

As I pulled up to the church the maintenance guy Randy was changing the marquee sign on the front lawn, removing the words

"school book fair" and loading the message "Barb Jerry prayer service."

In the front entrance I passed boxes of raffle tickets for the parish festival three weeks away. Barb and Jerry's envelope was not there. They must have retrieved it before leaving on their trip.

A little further in, sign-ups for volunteer positions were taped on a table. On the second sheet, Barb had written her name in loopy cursive, committing to a kitchen duty to be fulfilled Sunday, Feb. 12: "hot dogs 10:45 am-1:45 pm."

The small Eucharistic Adoration chapel tucked behind the sacristy was occupied by four parishioners. Jerry and Barb attended daily Mass and weekly adoration, and now that chapel was being filled in their honor. I flipped through the register, a three-ringer binder marked with arrivals and departures at every hour, overlapping five or 10 minutes. Outside the chapel door, a turquoise Mead notebook held petitions for Barb and Jerry scrawled in black ink. "Peace," someone wrote, "closure for their family."

One of the parishioners in adoration was Dennis Bechel,

71, who belonged to the same Knights of Columbus council Jerry had served on.

"It's a shock," Dennis told me. "You become almost like a second family when you're involved in a church community like St. Pius."

I learned that Jerry taught adult faith formation and had helped set up the church's first website. Barb, meanwhile, was an active volunteer at the Dorothy Day homeless shelter.

One month later I was back at St. Pius attending the memorial Mass for Barb and Jerry.

We sang "Be Not Afraid," and during his homily the priest addressed the scenario playing out in all our minds. He gave us the words we want to believe: "I can imagine them very calmly allowing others to get ahead, not pushing others, probably figuring it was going to be OK." Surely, he said, Barb and Jerry were praying as they waited their turn.

When I reviewed all my reporting notes, it was hard to find anything unrelated to Catholicism. As a 20-something imagining what the rest of my life will look like, that inspired me.

For me that's the takeaway, that's the testimony: to be so wholly Catholic that there is nothing outside your faith, nothing untouched, nothing walled off, nothing hidden. It's where you begin and end and where you dwell all day. It's not showy or pious, it's just who you are — Catholic, through and through.

Christina Capecchi is a freelance writer from Inver Grove Heights, Minn.

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Homosexual Marriage: The Debate

Craig Turner
Candid Comments

Many groups, both on websites and quoted in the news, state that there is discrimination against homosexuals who wish to marry and that marriage between same-sex partners is “a fundamental human right.” A recent headline stated, *Hillary Clinton Declares ‘Gay Rights Are Human Rights.’* The article began, “The U.S. has publicly declared it will fight discrimination against gays and lesbians abroad” who wish to marry. The article continued by quoting administration officials who say that the U.S. government will deny foreign aid to poor nations that do not legalize homosexual marriage. Another example is the main web page of the National Center for Lesbian Rights, which states, “The freedom to choose whether and whom to marry is a fundamental human right.”



Craig Turner

Those fiery words of rhetoric bring up some fundamental questions: Is it truly a human right for two men or two women to marry? Is it discrimination when two people of the same sex are denied a marriage certificate? Finally, are there any similar historical cases that can shed light upon this issue?

The first question one is compelled to ask is whether opposition to homosexual marriage is truly discrimination. There are many historical examples of discrimination to draw from to see what discrimination is: slavery in the United States, prejudices against Jews, lack of equal rights for women, and genocide against a race or tribe. With slavery we see that there was a prejudice in this country against blacks — a race. With the prejudices against Jews, it was intolerance of their ethnicity and religion. The movement to win equal rights for women was an effort to combat discrimination against a person by reason of her sex. And with genocide, the prejudice has been against a person’s race or tribe. A list might look like this: slavery (race)

injustices against Jews (ethnicity) lack of equal rights for women (gender) genocide (race/ethnicity/nationality/tribe).

Prejudices against any of those groups manifested itself as discrimination against them as a people, which should be contrasted with, say, the actions they perform. The actions a person performs do get judged, but we can’t say that if someone dislikes or even outlaws a particular action it is discrimination. A list of actions might be: eating, drinking, driving, folding laundry, and walking down a street. There are thousands of actions to choose from, each of them a deed a person performs. With that in mind, it is important to establish that it is impossible to be prejudiced against a person’s action. For example:

- Is it prejudiced to condemn someone who doesn’t stop at stop signs?
- Is it discrimination to object to someone who jaywalks at intersections?
- Is it unjust to condemn someone who doesn’t pay taxes?

Because these examples are actions people perform, the principles that apply to them would apply to marriage:

- Is it prejudiced to outlaw polygamy?
- Is it unjust to condemn marriage between siblings?
- Is it bigoted to outlaw marriage between a father and son?

Can the people in each of these groups claim that there is a “universal human right” for them to be able to choose whomever they wish to marry? Recall the statement on the main web page of the National Center for Lesbian Rights: “The freedom to choose whether and whom to marry is a fundamental human right.” It is not a fundamental human right for people of the same sex to marry any more than it would be for two siblings to marry. If we allow marriage between people of the same sex, we then open up marriage literally to whomever anyone may choose.

After some reflection, nearly everyone will agree that to marry is an action. (Note that “to marry” is a verb.) Our laws and regulations must hold in check the landslide of combinations that will result if same-sex marriages are allowed. We regulate all sorts of actions in our society, so why should we stop when the debate turns to marriage? Therefore, it is important to conclude that there is no prejudice or discrimination when someone objects to another’s actions. A law against homosexual marriage today is no more an instance of bigotry or prejudice than the laws in the United States that were passed in the 1800s to outlaw polygamy.

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Youth Ministry Job Opening: Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary Parish in Ganado is seeking a full-time Youth Minister. For more information, contact Father Michael Lyons via e-mail at FaMiJoLy04@yahoo.com or (361) 771-3425.

Report documents anti-Christian prejudice, including laws, in Europe

By Jonathan Luxmoore
Catholic News Service

OXFORD, England (CNS) — A church-backed report has documented rising anti-Christian prejudice in Europe, despite calls for fairer legislation and measures to curb discrimination.

“Studies suggest 85 percent of hate crimes in Europe are directed against Christians — it is high time for the public debate to respond to this reality,” said Gudrun Kugler, director of the Vienna-based Observatory on Intolerance and Discrimination against Christians.

“A restrictive application of freedom of conscience is leading to professions such as magistrates, doctors, nurses and midwives as well as pharmacists slowly closing for Christians. Teachers and parents get into trouble when they disagree with state-defined sexual ethics,” Kugler said March 19.

Her agency’s 53-page report, published the same day, said incidents in 2011 had included a resolution by European legislators calling for a reassessment of legislation with “negative ramifications for Christians,” and a ruling by the European Court of Human Rights that Christian crosses could remain in Italian schools after a constitutional challenge.

It said “countless individuals and institutions” had warned of increasing anti-Christian intolerance and that the observatory had documented acts of vandalism, desecration, defamation and the exclusion of Christians from public and social life.

“Intolerant and discriminatory behavior results from opposition to individual traits of the Christian faith or moral positions that are intrinsically part of the Christian faith, as well as from a negative, categorical bias against Christians or Christianity as a whole,” the report said. “This behavior causes various sectors of society to be used as vehicles of intolerance and discrimination against Christians.”

Church leaders have urged better protection for Christian rights after complaints of prejudice across Europe.

In October 2010, the Council of European Bishops’ Conferences urged local bishops to help collect data on anti-Christian acts and “awaken public opinion.”

In a summer 2011 hate-crime report, the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe said violent anti-Christian discrimination had been monitored in Albania and Kosovo, but also in Austria, Belgium, France and Spain.

The observatory, founded in October 2010, monitors intolerance from media sources and victim testimonies; it briefs international governmental organizations such as the 54-country OSCE and the European Union’s Agency for Fundamental Rights.

Among cases this March, the report said a left-wing German group, Antifa Freiburg, had called for Christian places of worship to be burned, while a parish church had been attacked by arsonists at Herblay, France. A French government report had registered acts of desecration at 522 Christian sites, a 96 percent increase over two years.

The Vatican’s website was temporarily taken down by an anti-Catholic group, the report added, while the British government ruled that Christians had no right to wear a cross at work.

Welcoming the report, the Switzerland-based Council of European Bishops’ Conferences said it was “behind those who do not see their rights respected.”

“Values and fundamental rights proper to Europe, such as freedom of religion and legal recognition of churches, are far from being an established reality in some nations,” Bishop Andras Veres of Szombathely, Hungary, said in a statement on the council’s website.

Editor’s Note: The report is posted online at www.intoleranceagainstitians.eu.

“Studies suggest 85 percent of hate crimes in Europe are directed against Christians ...”

Gudrun Kugler

Deadly Prison Fire Highlights Need for Food For The Poor Prison Ministry ~ Nonviolent Offenders to be Freed ~

COCONUT CREEK, Fla. — Food For The Poor will release nonviolent offenders in the Dominican Republic, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras and Jamaica in time to spend Easter Holy Week with their families. These prisoners were incarcerated due to their inability to pay the required fines, even though the amounts in some cases are minimal. Sometimes by the time they are tried, they have spent years longer in jail than their prison sentence requires.

Since the inception of Food For The Poor’s Prison Ministry Program in 1998, Food For The Poor has assisted in freeing, training and reintroducing prisoners back into the community as productive citizens.

Most of the 358 inmates who were burned alive in February’s fire at the Comayagua prison in Honduras had never been charged or convicted, according to reports from *The Associated Press*.

“This case is neither the only one nor the first in the world,” said Cardinal Oscar Andrés Rodríguez Maradiaga, Archbishop of Tegucigalpa, Honduras, and a member of Food For The Poor’s Board of Directors.

On March 2, thanks to the generosity of Food For The Poor donors, eight nonviolent offenders at Pastoral Penitenciaría in San Pedro Sula, Honduras, had their petty fines paid, so they could be reunited with their

families.

Most of the nonviolent offenders to be released from prisons in Haiti were jailed because they stole food to feed their starving families. Last year, one man released during Easter’s Holy Week had been caught stealing food in the marketplace and had already served a two-month prison sentence because he was unable to pay the 75-cent fine.

Prison authorities have found Food For The Poor’s Prison Ministry Program to be so successful that they have implemented a similar program themselves. Some prisons now offer inmates jobs in the prison where they are held so that they can earn money to pay off their fines.

Twice a year — the week of Christmas and during Easter’s Holy Week — the Food For The Poor Prison Ministry Program releases inmates who have committed minor offenses. The ministry is based on the scripture, “...I was in prison and you visited me.” (Matthew 25: 31-46).

To support Food For The Poor’s Prison Ministry Program, checks payable to Food For The Poor can be mailed to 6401 Lyons Road, Coconut Creek, Fla. 33073. Please include reference number “SC# 74122” to ensure your donation is accurately routed. For more information, please visit www.foodforthe poor.org.

**Annual Spring Festival
St. Patrick’s Church
Bloomington (13316 State Hwy 185)**

Sunday, April 29

Serving Time: 11:00 a.m.

**\$7 P/P — BARBECUE BRISKET WITH POTATO SALAD,
BEANS, BREAD AND DESSERT**

**Plates-to-go available at 9:00 a.m.
curb service available**

Live Auction — 11:30 a.m.

**COUNTRY STORE • CAKEWALK
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For orders on Festival day: (361) 897-1398





Special Collections

Collection for Home Missions - Apr. 29

Ongoing Events

That Man is You! — The men's faith meetings will be held at three parishes in the diocese: Bay City, Holy Cross School cafeteria, Fridays, 5:45 to 7:15 a.m.; Ganado, Assumption parish hall, Wednesdays, 5:30 – 7:15 a.m.; and Victoria, Holy Family education building, Wednesdays, 5:45 – 7:00 a.m. All men are welcome; no fees. More information at: www.thatmanisyou.org or call the parish.

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

Gabriel Project—A ministry providing help to pregnant women in a crisis pregnancy — an alternative to abortion — holds monthly meetings open to everyone interested. Meetings, including a light supper, are held in Victoria the 2nd Tuesday of each month at 101 W. Convent, behind St. Mary's Catholic Church, at 6:30 p.m. An Angel Workshop is held at the same location the 3rd Saturday of each month from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Please call Barbara at (361) 649-1612 or Linda at 655-3008 for more information. Holy Family Church in Wharton (2011 Briar Lane) holds meetings the 4th Tuesday of each month at 6:30 p.m. For more information, please call (979) 532-3593 M-F, 9:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Catholic Family Services—For a listing of e-mail addresses and websites of Catholic organizations that focus on the family from marriage preparation to marriage enrichment, fatherhood, parenting, healing, bereavement, separated or divorced, and widowed, please go to the Catholic Association of Catholic Family Life Ministers at <http://www.nacflm.org/>

St. Francis and St. Clare Fraternity/Secular Franciscans—For more information, please go to their website at www.lostrescompaneros-sfo.org. For meeting dates, please call Mary Ann LeBlanc at (361) 575-1858.

Engaged Encounter—Register as soon as you have contacted your pastor due to limited space. *It is strongly recommended that you attend an encounter weekend four to six months prior to your wedding date.* For a registration form, contact your pastor, visit the website at www.victoriadiocese.org/family/ee.htm, or write to: Engaged Encounter, P.O. Box 4070, Victoria, Texas 77903. The weekend is held at the Spiritual Renewal Center. The 2012 dates are: June 29-July 1, Sept. 7-9 and Nov. 16-18. For more info., call (361) 573-0828 ext. 2230. All registrations are on a first come, first serve basis. Fee must accompany registration form.

Natural Family Planning—It is the only Church-approved form of family planning. For information about the Sympto-Thermal Method in the Victoria area and the NFP class schedules, please contact David and Annie Coffey at victorianfpteachers@yahoo.com.

Retrouvaille—A marriage-healing ministry in the Diocese of Victoria; the word Retrouvaille means 'rediscovery.' Retrouvaille is a program that offers the chance to rediscover yourself, your spouse, and the loving relationship in your marriage. Tens of thousands headed for divorce have successfully saved their marriages by attending. Go to www.retrouvaille.org for more information or contact John and Jennifer Vincent at jbvjov@sbcglobal.net or (361) 580-2770. Other contacts are at (800) 470-2230 and www.helpourmarriage.org

Marriage Encounter—The Marriage Encounter Weekend is no longer offered in the Diocese of Victoria. Retrouvaille, meaning rediscovery, is the only program offered in the diocese at this time to married couples who would like marriage help. For more information, please see the Retrouvaille notice (above), contact www.helpourmarriage.org, or go to www.wmne.org for Marriage Encounter Weekends offered outside the Diocese of Victoria.

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

Goliad—Presidio La Bahia Museum and Visitor Center — a National Historic Landmark — is the only Spanish fort in the possession of the Catholic Church in North America. A tour program is available to groups. The Presidio is open daily from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. and is closed on major holidays. Admission is \$4 (ages 12-59); \$3.50 for 60 and older and military personnel and \$1 (ages 6-11), with children five and younger admitted free. Group rates are available with advance reservations. A re-enactment will be available for school groups with advanced reservations. The fort is handicapped accessible. For more information call (361) 645-3752 or see the website at www.presidiolabahia.org.

Picnics, Activities, etc.

April

Beasley—St. Wenceslaus Church will have a barbecue-chicken and sausage dinner April 15 at the CCD building starting at 10:30 a.m. with plates at \$9 p/p. There will be a live auction starting at 11:30 a.m., games, music and entertainment for all ages.

Inez—Catholic Daughters Court St. Joseph, Protector of Mary #2475, will have a games party April 22 from 2:00-5:00 p.m. at the St. Joseph's Parish Hall. A donation of \$7 p/p is requested. There will be door prizes, refreshments and more. Reservations required, call Kathy Prukop at (361) 575-3559 or Mary Wagner at (361) 570-7393.

Yoakum—St. Ann's Mission "Roof Replacement" kettle-fried steak dinner April 22 at St. Joseph's Family Center. Serving 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at \$7.50 p/p with plates-to-go only.

There will be a country store outside. The event is sponsored by KJZT Society #37.

Victoria—St. Mary's Altar Society will hold its games party Tues., April 24, at the activity center (401 S. Liberty St.) from 11:30 a.m.-4:00 p.m. Admission is \$7 p/p (includes lunch, and refreshments). There will be a country store, door prizes and more. For reservations, call: Ann Carver at (361) 575-2050 or Martha Hamel at (361) 575-1932.

Bloomington—St. Patrick's Annual Spring Festival April 29. A barbecue-brisket dinner will be served starting at 11:00 a.m. See ad on page 10 for more information.

Weimar—St. Michael Spring Festival April 29 at Veterans Memorial Park. A fried-chicken and sausage dinner will be served starting at 11:00 a.m. with adult plates at \$8 p/p and children at \$4. Drive-thru take home plates available only at St. Michael Family Center at \$8 p/p. There will be games, auction at 1:00 p.m., food, music by Czechaholics and Red Ravens. See ad on page 5.

Victoria—CDA Court St. Ann Games Party April 29 from 1:00-4:30 p.m. at the KC Hall (3610 N. Ben Wilson). Admission is \$7 includes meal (served at 1:15 p.m.) and door prizes. There will also be a silent auction. Reservations required by calling Joan Schramek at (361) 485-2387 or Delores Schroller at (361) 575-6111.

Golf

Bay City—2nd Annual Bay City ACTS Community Golf Tournament will be held on Saturday, April 14, at the well-manicured Rio Colorado Golf Club in Bay City. The tournament will be a four-man scramble event. Registration begins at 7:00 a.m., with a shotgun start at 8:00 a.m. The cost for this event is only \$280 per four-man team. This price includes 18 holes of golf, riding cart, range balls, lunch and refreshments. Some of the side events planned are a 50/50 event, a putting event, tiger drive, closest to the pin, circle shot, long drive and closest to the line. To help us properly plan for this event, please pre-register by contacting Rene Villasana at (979) 476-0054 or Mike Allison at (979) 479-1370.

Upcoming Events

Hostyn—Holy Rosary Mayfest May 6 on the parish grounds (936 FM 2436, LaGrange). The day begins with Czech hymns at 9:30 a.m. followed by a Polka Mass. A barbecue-pork and sausage dinner will be served starting at 11:00 a.m. at \$8 p/p for adults and plates-to-go. Hamburgers available after 2:00 p.m. The auction starts at 1:00 p.m. There will be a country store, games, cake and plant wheel and much more. Music throughout the day with Texas Sound Check and Czechaholics.

Victoria—Holy Family Parish Festival May 6 at the community center with a barbecue-beef and sausage dinner starting with plates-to-go at the curb for fast service from 10:30 a.m.-1:00 p.m. or dine-in from 11:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m. There will be a cake wheel, children's games, country store, plant booth and more. Entertainment will be Rusty Steins in the dome and DJ Chris Hessler in the annex from 11:00 a.m.-12:30 p.m. A live auction begins at 1:00 p.m.

Hallettsville—Sacred Heart Parish Spring Festival May 27 at the KC Hall.

Shiner—Sts. Cyril and Methodius Spring Picnic May 27 at the American Legion Park.

East Bernard—Annual Czech Kolache-Klobase Festival June 9 at Riverside Hall.

St. Mary—St. Mary Parish Picnic June 10 at the parish hall (1648 FM 340, Hallettsville).

Schulenburg—St. Rose of Lima Annual Parish Picnic June 10 at KC Hall.

Bay City—Our Lady of Guadalupe Church Festival Barbecue Meal and Auction June 10 at the parish hall (12th Street and Ave. D). The barbecue-brisket dinner will be served from 11:00 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. at \$7 p/p with dine-in, pick-up or drive-thru available. Auction begins at 11:30 p.m.

Hallettsville—A Sacred Heart High School All Alumni Reunion will be held on June 23, at the KC Hall from 3:00-11:00 p.m. Please save this date and make your lodging reservations early. Call Irene Knebel at (361) 798-4942 if you would like to assist with the planning or preparation of the reunion.

Frelsburg—Sts. Peter and Paul Church Festival Aug. 5

Masses • Retreats • Conferences

Victoria—No Healing Mass on April 7 at Our Lady of Lourdes Church.

Victoria—Father Ronald Rolheiser will direct a retreat at the Spiritual Renewal Center April 20 – 22 with the theme, "The Paschal Mystery ~ How Do New Life and New Spirit Appear in Our Lives?" Father Rolheiser is currently serving as president of the Oblate School of Theology in San Antonio; he's written several books on spirituality and his weekly column is carried by over 60 newspapers worldwide. See www.ronrolheiser.com. The retreat costs \$170 p/p double occupancy (\$190 single) with a \$50 non-refundable deposit. Partial grants available. Make checks, with your name, address, telephone number and e-mail address, payable to Spirit Wind Ministry and mail to: Susan Oakley, 103 Woodmere, Victoria, TX 77904. Call Susan with questions: (361) 576-1515 or (361) 649-6391 or smoak53@msn.com.

Victoria—Healing Mass with stigmatist, visionary. Come join us at Our Lady of Lourdes Church, 105 N. William Street, Victoria, as Father Phi Nguyen, chaplain of IWBS convent, celebrates Mass and Healing Prayer on Saturday, May 19, at 10:00 a.m. Joining Father Phi in the healing service will be Emma De Guzman, a Filipino Catholic Evangelist, Stigmatist, Mystic, and Visionary who also has the gift of healing. Please note the May 5 Mass and Healing Service at Our Lady of Lourdes is being POSTPONED by Father Phi Nguyen to MAY 19 to accommodate the presence and healing gifts of Emma De Guzman.

Dallas—The 15th annual multi-denominational Dallas Benedictine Experience will take place at The Catholic Conference

and Formation Center June 20–23. This monastic experience is open to men and women, laity and clergy, of all denominations. Participants will live on the campus to experience the balanced way of life of The Rule of St. Benedict as it divides each day into private and group prayer, study, work, and leisure. The monastic experience will be led by two extraordinarily talented religious figures, Sister Mary Donald Corcoran, O.S.B. Cam., superior of Transfiguration Monastery (Roman Catholic) in Windsor, New York, and Father Daniel Forsythe, a Byzantine Catholic priest of the Archeparchy of Pittsburgh. Please call (214) 339-8483 (10:00 a.m. – 10:00 p.m. in Dallas) or e-mail heepspe@aol.com for more information.

Victoria—IWBS Sisters have released their calendar for the Amor Meus Spirituality Center. To learn more about their Retreats, Taize Prayer and Lenten Vespers, call (361) 575-7111 or e-mail amormeus@yahoo.com.

Victoria—Latin Masses will be celebrated by Father Bob Knippenberg at St. Mary's Church in Victoria every 2nd & 4th Sunday of the month at 1:00 p.m.

Victoria—Missing something in your life? Do you need an uplifting experience? Why not try some PRAISE and WORSHIP. Come join Incarnate Word Prayer Group on Monday nights from 7:30-9:00 p.m. at Incarnate Word Auditorium. For more information call Paula at (361) 575-7120 or Sister Louise Marie at (361) 575-7111.

Tivoli—Our Lady of Guadalupe Church invites you to a Healing Mass and Prayer Service every First Friday of the month at 7:00 p.m. Mark your calendars now for next month. Mass is followed by praise and worship/adoration, healing prayers, praying over, etc. Counseling available. Please come; bring your family and friends; and experience the healing touch of the Lord! For more information, please contact Rev. Gabriel P. Coelho at (361) 286-3349.

ACTS Retreats—For information on ACTS retreats, please go to ACTS Web site at www.actsmissions.org. For more information about the ACTS community movement in the El Campo Deanery, to download an upcoming ACTS retreat application, or to submit/view the prayer requests across the El Campo Deanery, please visit their site at <http://ecdeaneryacts.org/>.

Movie Reviews

PARENTS: See Hunger Games movie review at: <http://www.catholicnews.com/movies.htm>

The Hunger Games

NEW YORK (CNS) — Though presumably targeted — at least in part — at teens, the dystopian adventure "The Hunger Games" (Lionsgate) involves enough problematic content to give parents pause. Responsible oldsters will want to weigh the matter carefully before giving permission for clamoring kids to attend. In a post-apocalyptic North America, have-not youngsters from oppressed outlying districts are chosen at random to participate in the titular event, a televised survival tournament staged each year for the entertainment of the decadent elite who populate their society's luxurious capital city. The film contains considerable, sometimes gory, hand-to-hand and weapons violence and graphic images of bloody wounds. On the upside, foul language is entirely absent, as too is any sensual activity beyond kissing. So, despite the elements listed above, "The Hunger Games" may possibly prove acceptable for mature adolescents. The Catholic News Service classification is A-III — adults. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG-13 — parents strongly cautioned. Some material may be inappropriate for children under 13.

"October Baby" (Provident/Samuel Goldwyn)

NEW YORK (CNS) — A college freshman (Rachel Hendrix) plagued by chronic medical problems learns from her devoted parents (Jennifer Price and John Schneider) that they adopted her as an infant after she had survived an attempted abortion. Devastated and bewildered by the revelation, she sets out in search of her birth mother (Shari Rigby), accompanied on her journey by her best friend since childhood (Jason Burkey). In their feature debut, brothers Andrew and Jon Erwin helm a strongly pro-life message movie whose theme viewers dedicated to the dignity of all human beings will welcome unanimously. Opinions about the aesthetic package in which they wrap their point may be more divided. But adeptly shot bucolic settings and a strong performance by Jasmine Guy as a retired nurse who once worked in the abortion mill where the young heroine was almost killed are undeniable assets. Mature subject matter, potentially disturbing references. The Catholic News Service classification is A-II — adults and adolescents. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG-13 — parents strongly cautioned. Some material may be inappropriate for children under 13.



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Region X “Ad Limina” Visit



(left) Pope Benedict XVI poses for a photo with bishops from Texas during a March 15 meeting at the Vatican. From left are: Bishop David E. Fellhauer of Victoria; Bishop Joseph S. Vasquez of Austin; Auxiliary Bishop-designate George A. Sheltz of Galveston-Houston; Cardinal Daniel N. DiNardo of Galveston-Houston; Pope Benedict; Bishop Curtis J. Guillory of Beaumont; Bishop Daniel E. Flores of Brownsville; retired Bishop Raymundo J. Pena of Brownsville; Bishop W. Michael Mulvey of Corpus Christi; and Bishop Alvaro Corrada del Rio of Mayaguez, Puerto Rico, and the apostolic administrator of Tyler. Bishops from Texas, Oklahoma and Arkansas were making their “ad limina” visits to the Vatican to report on the status of their dioceses. (CNS photo/L’Osservatore Romano)

‘Ad limina’ visits are occasion to grow in unity, Texas archbishop says

Continued from p. 1

is Lord and that the truth he lived and proclaimed is in our midst – in the Church.”

Bishop Fellhauer said in addition to meeting with Pope Benedict, he also had meetings with nine Vatican offices and attended several receptions. The bishops of Region X made the meetings with the individual Vatican offices together.

With regards to memorable moments from his visit, Bishop Fellhauer said, “The audience with

the pope is always a memorable event and so is celebrating the Mass at the tombs of St. Peter and St. Paul. We also celebrated Mass at Blessed John Paul II’s tomb.

“I find being in St. Peter’s Basilica somewhat like a mini retreat,” Bishop Fellhauer said. “You can get off by yourself and avoid the larger groups of pilgrims and sightseers. I like to wander through St. Peter’s; it gives me a chance to pray for various intentions.”



Above:

Bishops from Texas, Oklahoma and Arkansas recite the Apostles’ Creed in front of the tomb of St. Peter before concelebrating Mass in the crypt of St. Peter’s Basilica at the Vatican March 15. (CNS photo/Paul Haring)



Above: Bishop David E. Fellhauer, left, concelebrates Mass with bishops from Texas, Oklahoma and Arkansas at the tomb of Blessed John Paul II in St. Peter’s Basilica at the Vatican March 20. (CNS photo/Paul Haring)

Bottom Center: Bishop David E. Fellhauer, second from right, talks with Bishop Daniel E. Flores of Brownsville, right, before the start of a meeting of bishops from Texas, Oklahoma and Arkansas at the Congregation for Clergy March 16 during their “ad limina” visits to the Vatican. (CNS photo/Paul Haring)



Above:

Bishop David E. Fellhauer (center-right) and W. Michael Mulvey of Corpus Christi (right), concelebrate Mass with other bishops from Texas, Oklahoma and Arkansas at the Altar of the Tomb of St. Peter in the crypt of St. Peter’s Basilica at the Vatican March 15. (CNS photo/Paul Haring)



FIRST ANNUAL DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI AWARD DINNER HELD—The Diocese of Victoria Office of Catholic Schools has inaugurated an annual award to go out to distinguished alumni of the diocesan schools. The first annual event took place at The Olde Victoria at The Oak Room on the evening of February 21, 2012. In opening remarks, Superintendent John E. Quarry stated, “It is my hope that this inaugural celebration will become a coveted annual event to spotlight the contributions and accomplishments of our alumni of Catholic education to, and beyond, the Diocese of Victoria.” Bishop David E. Fellhauer was in attendance and said the prayer before the meal. Alumni awardees are pictured l. to r., top row, beside Bishop Fellhauer and Mr. John Quarry: Dr. John D. Wagner, Class of ‘47, St. Ludmila Academy, Shiner; Mr. Jerry Lipinski, Class of ‘55, Holy Cross, Bay City; Mr. Coby Rod, Class of ‘90, St. Philip, El Campo; Mr. Claud B. Jacobs, Class of ‘60, St. Joseph, Yoakum; Mr. David Pozzi, Class of ‘61, St. Joseph High, Victoria; Mr. Charles W. Papacek, Class of ‘52, St. Michael, Cuero; front row: Mrs. Donna Kunz, Class of ‘78, St. Rose, Schulenburg; Ms. Gwen Hall, Class of ‘62, Our Lady of Victory; Ms. Doris Fenner, Class of ‘77, Sacred Heart High, Hallettsville; Mrs. Mary Frances Schaar, Class of ‘51, Nazareth Academy; Mrs. Billie Kusey, Class of ‘38, St. Michael, Weimar; and Mrs. Mary Kay Heffley, Class of ‘61, St. Anthony, Columbus. Each awardee received a Distinguished Alumni Award paperweight and certificate.

Distinguished Alumni!



Father John Peters, pastor of Hallettsville-area parishes, but graduate of Weimar Catholic School, congratulates his third-grade teacher, Mrs. Billie Kusey.

