

The Catholic Lighthouse

The Cradle of Texas Immigration



VOL. 26, NO. 4

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE DIOCESE OF VICTORIA IN TEXAS

August 2012



A Missionary Catechist Sister looks at the memorial to the 23 immigrant victims of the one-vehicle crash that occurred 10 miles south of Goliad July 22. The memorial shows an image of Saint Toribio Romo, the saint of immigrants who was martyred during the Cristero War in Mexico in the 1920s and 30s; the Honduran, Guatemalan and Mexican flags; and 23 lighted candles, one for each victim. Fifteen passengers have died; eight remain in critical condition.



Back to School, or more appropriately, Forward to School

Diocese of Victoria experiences second major immigrant tragedy in nine years

By Cynthia Brewer

For the second time in nine years, the Diocese of Victoria in Texas has become the site of an immigrant tragedy of large proportions.

Eleven of 23 people in a 2000 Ford 250 extended cab pickup were killed when it crashed about 10 miles southwest of Goliad at approximately 6:30 p.m., July 22, 2012. Since then, another four critically injured have died; eight remain in critical condition.

A Mass for the dead and injured migrants was held July 24 at 7:00 p.m. at Santisima Trinidad Church, the mission church of Our Lady of Sorrows in Victoria. Father Stan DeBoe, O.S.S.T., pastor of Our Lady of Sorrows Parish, was the celebrant.

In his homily, Father Stan

said that while he was preparing for the Mass and looking at the available readings the Church can use, he realized that the daily Gospel, Matt. 12: 46-50, must have been inspired by the Spirit, as the reading states, someone told Jesus his mother and brothers were wanting to see him, and he

responded, “Who is my mother? Who are my brothers?”

Jesus answered his own question by including all the people gathered there – crowds of people – in his new definition of who is a mother and brother.

See *Diocese of Victoria*, p. 13

New Look to *The Catholic Lighthouse*

By Cynthia Brewer

In an effort to reduce waste and better use diocesan funds, we’ve made some big changes to *The Catholic Lighthouse* newspaper this year.

Perhaps the most noticeable change to the newspaper is in this month’s issue – with the new dimensions of the paper. The August issue is now the same

size as all the other newspapers our printer, The Port Lavaca Wave, prints. As the printer will no longer have to readjust their equipment just for our paper, it is expected that the quality control will improve - no more blurry color pages. Our new size is 12 3/8” H x 11 3/8” W; because the new pages are smaller than the original paper, we will increase the number of pages to accommodate our content.

This past spring we asked those who wished to continue receiving the monthly paper to contact the chancery office. We

As we prepare our homes for the usual migration of our younger inhabitants to a nearby place of learning, i.e., school, we are also raising our expectations for their learning curves to soar. Whether it’s the usual 180-day school year or the increasingly popular 200-day choice, our students are our most prized

possessions and deserve the best that we have to offer them. Here are a few offerings that our Catholic schools are preparing to make available to youngsters throughout the DOVE – Diocese Of Victoria’s excellence in Education: Catholic Schools

From the moment that your students enter our halls, they will be met with the reminders that our schools are “incubators of learning in a Catholic Christian atmosphere” (paraphrased from His Eminence, the Most Reverend Cardinal Di’Nardo, Archbishop of Galveston-Houston). Our teachers are some of the most capable educators in the state, and perhaps, the nation, due to their extensive experience and certification. Our classrooms are welcoming places of learning with an average student-teacher ratio of 14:1 (average in Texas is beyond 22:1, Texas Education Agency reports for 2011-2012). Our schools are

See *New Look*, p. 7

See *Back to School*, p. 6

Marriage saving weekend coming to the Greater Victoria region – Aug. 17-19
~ see page 15 ~



Bishop Fellhauer's Schedule

August

- 9 6:00 p.m., Mass, Serra Club of Victoria seminarians' cookout, Holy Family Church, Victoria
- 11 6:00 p.m., Mass, Fourth Degree Knights of Columbus, Holy Family Church, Victoria
- 12 10:00 a.m., Mass, and dedication of new Activity Center and Early Childhood Center, St. Philip the Apostle Church, El Campo
- 13 5:00 p.m., Liturgical Commission meeting, Chancery Office
- 14 9:30 a.m., OCL meeting for parish catechetical leaders, Chancery Office
- 15 10:00 a.m., Mass, St. Mary Church, Praha
- 19 2:00 p.m., Final Profession, Sr. Louise Marie Jones, and First Profession, Sr. Patricia Marie Lohre, Incarnate Word Convent Chapel, Victoria
- 22 4:00 p.m., Diocesan Building Board meeting, Chancery Office
- 24 8:10 a.m., School Mass, Sts. Cyril and Methodius Church, Shiner
- 29 9:00 a.m., Catholic Schools meeting, Pastors and Principals, Chancery Office

September

- 1 Sacred Heart School Golf Tournament, Hallettsville
- 5 10:00 a.m., Presbyteral Council meeting, Chancery Office
- 9 4:00 p.m., Mass, Centennial celebration of St. Anthony Church, Palacios

Official Appointments By Most Rev. David E. Fellhauer

Effective July 5, 2012, the **Rev. Oliver Obele, M.S.P.**, is appointed Parochial Vicar, for the duration of his one-year sabbatical period, at Our Lady of the Gulf Church, Port Lavaca, and its mission churches.



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DEADLINE IS THE THIRD TUESDAY OF THE PRECEDING MONTH.

2012 BISHOP'S CHARITIES BANQUET— Under the auspices of the Victoria Diocese Knights of St. Gregory the Great, the annual Bishop's Charities Banquet was held July 12, 2012, at the Victoria Country Club.



The evening began with a social and then went into a buffet dinner with a full house. Newly ordained Father Patrick Knippenberg, parochial vicar of St. Mary Church in Victoria, led the invocation. Father Don Ruppert, pastor of Holy Cross in East Bernard, was the master of ceremonies. He introduced the Hon. George Wenzel, president of the KSG, and Hon. Hardy McCullough, secretary/treasurer who presented a \$10,000 donation to Bishop David E. Fellhauer for his charities. Bishop Fellhauer gave an update on some of the activities of the diocesan offices for the past 12 months, noting that the construction of the new building at the Spiritual Renewal Center that will sleep 48 people with a central gathering place was finished; and that there will be an increase of two young men to the seminary this fall, which brings the total number of diocesan seminarians to 11. The evening concluded with entertainment by Patrick Veit on accordion and benediction by Father David Berger, pastor of the Catholic Community of Cuero.

Thank You Notes

Dear Bishop Fellhauer,

I am in receipt of your check in the amount of \$39,148.22 representing the gifts of the people of the Diocese of Victoria to the Jerusalem Mother Church for the 2012 Good Friday collection. This gift will not only assist in the presentation of the Holy Places but will also help the people to whom the Franciscans of the Holy Land Custody minister.

In the name of the Friars and those to whom they minister, I express our deepest gratitude to you, Bishop Fellhauer, and to our Sisters and Brothers in the Diocese of Victoria, who continue to give most generously to help those who are in need! May God bless and reward all of you.

The Good Friday Collection is a Pontifical Collection and is absolutely vital. This collection helps support the Holy Land Shrines and also the educational, pastoral and charitable programs for the people there. The Custody cares for the poorest social classes, the Living Stones. I am sure you are well aware that it is not easy to be a Christian today in the Holy Land.

With deep appreciation, much gratitude and a promise of prayer for you and the People of God in the Diocese of Victoria, I am yours,

Sincerely and gratefully,

Bro. Joe Rogenski, OFM, Commissary of the Holy Land, St. Louis Region

DSA & Reflection of Faith Capital Campaign Updates

2012 DSA

Diocesan Goal:	\$ 1,623,907.00
Parish Pledge Totals:	\$ 622,141.84
Parish Contribution Totals:	\$ 540,372.51
Number of Parish Families Participating:	3,249

Reflection of Faith Capital Campaign

Diocesan Goal:	\$ 9,000,000.00
Parish Pledge Totals:	\$ 12,910,779.45
Parish Contribution Totals:	\$ 10,621,275.38
Number of Parish Families Participating:	6,769



First class of deacons celebrate 25 years

August 15, 2012, marks the 25th anniversary of the first class of permanent deacons to be ordained for the newly formed Diocese of Victoria. In 1987, Bishop Charles V. Grahmann ordained nine men to the permanent diaconate.

Those ordained were Fred F. Soto (Bloomington), Paul Patek Sr. (Shiner), Roberto Ricardo Ruiz (currently San Antonio), Michael Carl Vieira (Palacios), Luan Van Tran (Bay City), Joseph (Joey) Targac (Hallettsville), and Edward (Ed) Walter Wendel (El Campo); and Arthur (Dick) Wearden (Victoria) and Manuel Hernandez (Edna), both deceased.

As Father John Peters was the director of the Permanent Diaconate Program at the time of the deacons' ordination, he will be holding an anniversary picnic celebration for them on August 12 at his family farm near Hallettsville.

In next month's issue of *The Catholic Lighthouse* we hope to show "then and now" group photos of the deacons.

Let us show appreciation to the deacons and their wives for their dedication and devotion to the Church and its people.

What's Happening in Your Parish?



Please go to Yoakum's St. Joseph Parish Website at www.stjatholic-church.com/ to view Tower Restoration pictures of their mission church, St. Ann in Hochheim.

The site offers a slideshow, which gives a glimpse of the progression of the exterior work. Construction continues as the roof and stucco work are still to be done. It will be a while before parishioners return to the church as the work has been delayed due to the wonderful rain the area has received.

Also regarding St. Joseph Parish, their Annual 2012 Parish Picnic will be held this weekend, Sunday, August 5. See events page for all upcoming parish picnics and festivals.



Left photo: St. Ann before; below: damaged found; bottom left: bell tower work almost completed



The past makes room for the future

St. Joseph High School must remove a part of their past in order for their future to grow. To continue the Imagine More Campaign, which will include the building of the new Enrichment Center, named The David Pozzi Center, the beloved O'Connor home, donated to the school 15 years ago, is being demolished.

"The demolition and clean-up will take about one month and is being done now so that it will be complete before the start of school with our students on campus," said school president Mr. William McArdle. "We will be in a 'Design and Build' phase for the next four months with construction starting before the end of the year," he continued.

"The O'Connor family has been ex-

tremely supportive of St. Joseph High School and Catholic education in Victoria for so many years," Mr. McArdle said.

Just some of the uses of the home over the years have included theatre practices, AP testing, faculty meetings, a home for the Marianist Life Community, storage and even Revolutionary Time reenactments by Our Lady of Victory students.

"It has been a tremendous benefit for our students!," said Mr. McArdle.

Letter to the Editor

Words Make a Difference
Re: *The Catholic Lighthouse* - April 2012 - Homosexual Marriage: The Debate (p. 10)

Please do not ever write Homosexual Marriage again. You must write homosexual "marriage", otherwise you are promoting the concept that the impossible is possible, the immoral, moral.

God bless you,
R. Fabian, Schulenburg



Tami and Robby Burdge, Capital Campaign Co-Chairs take the first hit of demolition.



O'Connor House before demo.



Right, construction crew tears down the pool house.

St. Mary's Parish
Festival & Homecoming
Nada Community Center • Sept. 2

Barbecue Beef & Sausage Dinner • \$8 p/p 11-1:30
dine in the air-cooled hall
Plates-To-Go available with a drive-thru line open 11-1

Antique Tractor & Equipment
exhibition from 10-4~Parade of Tractors
Ladies' Bazaar • Waterslide • Karaoke
Train Ride • Bingo • Variety Walk • Kid's Games
Special Appearance by Rainbow the Clown

Free Dance with music by DJ Chad from 6:00-8:30 p.m.
Come When You Can - Leave When You Want - Plenty of Free Parking

Country Auction
1:00 p.m.

Food & Refreshments All Day



Seminary Burses

In Memory of ...

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 July 27, 2012

	TOTALS
— Rev. John C. Bily	
Previously reported	\$ 10,039.00
In memory of Lucy Lednick by Jesse and Nancy Lednick	25.00
In memory of Sr. Rose Okruhlik by Monica Melnar	25.00
Total	\$10,089.00
— Msgr. Edward F. Bily Burse #2	
Previously reported	\$120.00
In memory of Lucy Lednick by Jesse and Nancy Lednick	25.00
Total	\$145.00
— Rev. Jerome Caponi	
Previously reported	\$11,000.00
In memory of Marie Marek Luchak by John J. Marek	500.00
Total	\$11,500.00
— Catholic Family Fraternal of Texas – KJZT Burse #6	
Previously reported	\$13,330.98
In memory of Antonia Jahn by KJZT Society #2 of Hallettsville	5.00
In memory of Doris J. Pugh by KJZT Society #2 of Hallettsville	5.00
Total	\$13,340.98
— Knights of Columbus Victoria Council #1329 Burse #3	
Previously reported	\$11,782.50
In memory of Larry Knebel by K of C Victoria Council #1329	100.00
Total	\$11,882.50

— Rev. Charles Kolek, OSB, and John and Mary Kolek	
Previously reported	\$3,740.00
Donation from the Kolek Family Reunion	200.00
Donation by Frances Holan	100.00
Total	\$4,040.00
— Knights of Columbus Ganado Council #3204 Rev. Joseph Hybner	
Previously reported	\$2,901.00
In honor of Rev. Joseph Hybner's Retirement by Henry and Carolyn Janak	25.00
In memory of Patricia Ann Kurtz by Arnold and Rosemary Riske	10.00
Total	\$2,936.00
— Rev. John C. Peters Burse #5	
Previously reported	\$4,889.00
In honor of Melvin Janak's birthday celebration by Henry and Carolyn Janak	20.00
In memory of Max Machac by: Beth Waddell	20.00
Paul & Marilyn Jo Rutledge	40.00
Richard and Ruth Rouse	25.00
Ashley, Amy & Joshoua Grahmann	100.00
Dewayne and Carla Dopslauf	50.00
John and Rachel Post	50.00
J. P. and Beverly Krenek	25.00
In memory of Frank Rocha by Bobby & Joyce Appelt	25.00
In memory of Ernest E. Chaloupka by Willie E. Barborak	10.00
Total	\$5,254.00
— Rev. Jerome J. Stryk Burse #2	
Previously reported	\$19.50
In memory of Ed Patek by M/M Edwin Stryk	10.00
Total	\$29.50
— Will Wearden	
Previously reported	\$320.00
In memory of Will Wearden by Robert and Pam Kovar	200.00
Total	\$520.00

Additional Burses for donations:

- Rev. Joe Levya
- Rev. Marcus Valenta
- Rev. Godfrey F. Kuratko

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

Sister M. RONALDA PELTIER, IWBS

Sister M. RONALDA PELTIER, 80, of Victoria, died Thursday, June 28, 2012. She was born December 30, 1931, in Danbury, Texas to the late Ronald Samuel Peltier and Blandina Anna (Imhauser) Peltier. She a member of the Sisters of the Incarnate Word and Blessed Sacrament.



Sister RONALDA completed grammar school at Danbury Public School and graduated from Nazareth Academy in Victoria May 26, 1950. She entered Nazareth Convent as a candidate May 26, 1948. She became a postulant November 28, 1949, and became a novice September 3, 1950. She made her first profession of vows September 4, 1951, and final profession on September 5, 1954.

In her early years of ministry after profession, Sister RONALDA taught at Sacred Heart School in Crosby, Holy Cross School in East Bernard, Sacred Heart School in Floresville, St. Michael's School in Cuero and Our Lady of Perpetual Help School in Selma.

After eight years of teaching, in 1960, she entered the nursing program at Incarnate Word College in San Antonio. Sister RONALDA was awarded a Bachelor of Science degree in nursing. She received her certification as a registered nurse shortly after that. She ministered at Huth Memorial Hospital in Yoakum, Mercy Hospital in Jourdanton, and Cuero Community Hospital in Cuero. For three summers beginning in 1967, she attended St. Louis University in St. Louis, Missouri, to obtain

certification in hospital administration. She was administrator at Mercy hospital in Jourdanton, Cuero Community Hospital, and Huth Memorial Hospital in Yoakum. She was health care director at IWC for two years before returning to Jourdanton, where she became the director and instructor of the LVN School. She later served as director and instructor of the Victoria College LVN program in Gonzales at Warm Springs Hospital.

From 1988 to 2006, Sister RONALDA served on the General Council of the Congregation and assisted in various duties at Incarnate Word Convent using her gifts in nursing as a consultant. She resided in the congregation's infirmary since 2003.

Survivors: brothers, Wilfred (Margaret) Peltier of Alvin, Richard (Irene) Peltier of Manvel, Thomas (Lexa) Peltier of Huntsville, and sisters, Catherine Peltier Hechler of Danbury, and Dorothy Peltier Morrow of Angleton; sister-in-law, Esta (Beason) Peltier of Canyon Lake; special child – grandnephew Jerod Woodard, plus 147 beloved nieces, grandnieces, nephews and grandnephews.

Preceded in death by: parents; brothers, James Peltier, Jerome Peltier, Edmund Peltier, Ronald Peltier, and John Raymond Peltier who died in infancy.

Viewing of the body and scriptural rosary was held on Sunday, July 1, at Incarnate Word Convent. A wake service with Evening Praise and sharing of memories was held at the convent on July 1.

Funeral service was held at the convent Monday, July 2, with Rev. Phi Nguyen presiding. Burial followed at Catholic Cemetery No.3.

Pallbearers were her nephews.

Memorials: Incarnate Word Convent, Hospice of South Texas, or donor's choice.

KJZT DONATES—

KJZT Society No. 37 presented a check from their April fundraiser and matching funds from the home office in the amount of \$2,825 to Father Matthew Huehlefeld, pastor of St. Ann in Hochheim. These funds go toward the renovations, presently in progress, at St.



Ann. Shown presenting the check are l-r, Rose Mary and Dennis Havlik, Roberta Wenzel, Father Matthew, Ruby and Don Wiggington and Hailey Rickman.

**Missed out on this
year's vacation?
Make plans for 2013**

Peru:
Ancient
Land of
Mysteries



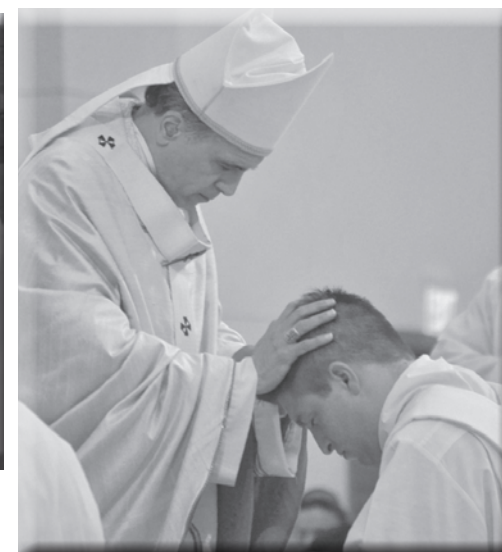
April 23 - May 4 - 2013

Holy Land with Jordan
Nov. 5-14 - 2013

Pathways ~with P atti
334 Jurek Road
Port Lavaca, TX 77979
361.552.2695 or 361.920.3216



From left, Fathers Alvaro Interiano, Alfonso Dat-Nhan Tran, Richard Lucian Millette, and Orrin Halepeska were all smiles as their families took pictures after their ordination Mass at Sacred Heart Co-Cathedral in Houston. Photos by Rebecca Torrellas/Texas Catholic Herald



Daniel Cardinal DiNardo lays his hands on Orrin Halepeska during the Rite of Ordination.



WEIMAR KNIGHTS PRESENT FAMILY AND KNIGHT OF THE YEAR AWARDS—Grand Knight, Martin Luchak, on behalf of all Weimar Knights, presented the Family of the Year Award to Henry and Bernice Schoenfeld who continue to be an inspiration to the council, parish, and community by supporting and strengthening Christian family life (top photo). Father John C. Bily received recognition as the Knight of the Year for his dedication to serving others. He truly has the "Passion to Serve" and serves as an inspiration

HONORARY LIFE MEMBERSHIPS—At the Weimar Knights of Columbus Council #2153 annual Appreciation Awards Banquet held July 7, 2012, Financial Secretary Herbert Ulbrich presented Honorary Life Membership Awards to Richard Vacek, 34 years of service; Melvin Guenther, 43 years of service; and Charles Hajovsky Jr., 48 years of service. Pictured from l. to r. are Grand Knight Martin Luchak, Richard Vacek, Melvin Guenther and Financial Secretary Herbert Ulbrich.



Goliad High graduate is ordained for the Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston

HOUSTON —Orrin Halepeska, who grew up in Meyersville, was recently ordained a diocesan priest with three others for the Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston by Daniel Cardinal DiNardo, who also served as the principal celebrant for the Ordination Mass.

Thirty-year-old Father Orrin Halepeska, the son of Gary and Abradella Halepeska and parishioners of Sts. Peter and Paul Parish in Meyersville, was ordained along with Alvaro Interiano, Richard Lucian Millette and Alfonso Dat-Nhan Tran at the Co-Cathedral of the Sacred Heart on June 2, 2012. Father Orrin has a sister, Jennifer Diebel, and brother, Zachary; his grandmother is Nikki Halepeska from St. Mary's Parish in Victoria.

Father Orrin attended elementary, middle, and high school in Goliad, and graduated from the University of Houston in Houston. His home parish in Houston was St. Rose of Lima.

Father Orrin attended St. Mary Semi-

nary in Houston. Before his ordination, he had been serving at St. Hyacinth Parish in Deer Park, Texas, and spent his pastoral year at St. Bernadette Parish in Houston; he will begin his first priestly assignment as parochial vicar at Christ the Redeemer Church in Houston.

In an archdiocesan profile, Father Orrin responded to the following questions:

When did you get 'The Call'? "I would say that the first time I thought about the

priesthood was when I was serving Mass in the first grade and thought, as the priest raised the host during consecration, 'I want to be a part of that.' Little did I know that was the beginning of my journey to the priesthood. I believe that my calling to the priesthood really grew while at the University of Houston where I became very involved in retreats, music and other ministries within the university and in the archdiocese."

What do you look forward to most about being a priest? "I look forward to being a diocesan priest because I get to serve and love the people of God from the time they are born until the time they are making their journey to their God," he said. "I look forward to helping them during this beautiful time – to hear and respond to our God who loves all of us," Father Orrin continued.

Happy Birthday!

Jasper Liggio will be starting Theology III at Holy Apostles Seminary in Cromwell, Ct.; his birthday is August 24. He is from the Shrine of the True Cross, Dickinson, Texas. Please show your support for this seminarian by writing to: Jasper Liggio, Holy Apostles Seminary, 33 Prospect Hill Road, Cromwell, CT 06416-2027.



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Patrick Janak, Father Kirby Hlavaty, and Gerard Janak watch as Mrs. Rita Janak, Bishop Fellhauer and Catholic School principal Neely Yackel cut the ribbon to officially open Shiner Catholic Schools' Janak Music Center.

Dedication of Janak Music Center

SHINER—On June 23, 2012, Shiner Catholic Schools held the dedication of its newest addition, the Janak Music Center. This building was made possible through the extreme generosity of the Rita Janak family in memory of Rita's late husband, Leo Janak, and the Dickson-Allen Foundation.

The building is a state of the art music center that will serve students in grades K-12 beginning in the 2012-13 school year.

Bishop David Fellhauer of the Diocese of Victoria was on hand for a special bless-

ing and ribbon cutting ceremony. The dedication was followed by tours of the music center, live music, and a dinner provided by the Janak family.

Mrs. Rita Janak told of the musical heritage of the Janak family, especially of the accomplishments of her sons Patrick and Gerard. The Janak sons entered the musical stage at an early age, taking music and accordion lessons from Mrs. Thulemeyer and renowned music teacher Hermann Grueneberg of Victoria. Their

Back to School, or more appropriately, Forward to School

Continued from p. 1

led by very competent administrators with more than a combined total of 180 years of Catholic administration. Our schools have provided and have been awarded more than \$500K in grants and scholarships for the 2011-2012 school session.

This school year promises to set another new record: The National Catholic Educational Association will hold its annual meeting in Texas for the first time in its history. The site for this first-ever event will be nearby at the George R. Brown Convention Center in the Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston in April 2013. Our schools and the other 300 Texas Catholic schools will be converging on the Gulf Coast city to discuss education, religion, finances, law, social media, and other topics of interest to the thousands of attendees from around the nation and the world.

Finally, as we all plan to return to the

classrooms and playgrounds, please accept my sincere thanks and gratitude to each of the students, parents, faculties and staffs, community members and friends of Catholic education, for your tireless support, dedication, and unbridled passion for excellence that you bring to the Diocese of Victoria. Without your centuries of prayers, advocacy, financial support and faithfulness, our Catholic schools would surely perish. You are the reason that we can boldly acclaim: We continue to offer a "F.I.R.S.T.-CLASS Education ... for life!"© (faith-integrity-respect-scholarship-tradition).

Mr. John E. Quary
Superintendent of
Catholic Schools –
Diocese of Victoria

musical career took them to perform at various area events and eventually to the Lawrence Welk Show.

She noted the importance of music in the Shiner community. "Music brings joy to so many people," she said. She named several bands and musicians and said most of them were self taught but all were responsible for the musical entertainment of the area.

She said she hoped the center would provide a beautiful setting for continuing the musical heritage of the school and community. She told the students to study hard and learn all they can.

Patrick Janak then played a medley of songs on his accordion and the Cardinal

Band, under the direction of Charles Coe, followed with the school song and Shiner polka.

Following the ribbon cutting, Bishop Fellhauer blessed the building, and all were invited to tour the center.

Architect for the building was Michael Branecky Associates of Flatonia, and David Adamek Construction of Shiner was the builder.

The center is furnished with state of the art musician chairs and sheet music stands. Also included are offices, rest rooms, and a storage area with cubicles.

(Story shortened and reprinted from The Shiner Gazette)

91th
Annual

SHINER CATHOLIC CHURCH
FALL PICNIC, SUNDAY, SEPT. 2, 2012
KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS PARK
(formerly LEGION PARK), SHINER, TX

--- DINNER ---
10:30 am – 2:00 pm
Dine in Air Conditioned Dining Room

Plate Includes THREE MEATS –
♦ Shiner Picnic Stew ♦ Fried Chicken ♦
♦ Country Sausage ♦ Trimmings ♦

\$8.00/Plate

Drive thru "Plates to Go" from
10:30 am to 12:30 pm at Legion Hall
(formerly Shiner KC Hall) on Hwy 90A
East

MUSIC & DANCING
Inside AIR CONDITIONED Hall
Free Admission

11 am – 2 pm
Accordion Music
By Local Accordion Players
2 - 4 pm
Shiner Hobo Band
4 - 8 pm
**The Dutchmasters and
Holub Polka Band**

OUTSIDE BIERGARTEN MUSIC
4 - 7 pm - Oma & The Oompahs
OUTSIDE BINGO PAVILION
7 - 11 pm - Los Kolaches

Masses
Saturday – 5:00 pm
(Polka Mass)
Sunday – 7:30 & 9:30 am

COUNTRY STORE
Canned and Baked Goods
Kolaches • Pigs-in-Blanket
Served from 8 am until ...

Drawing
Prizes given away at 10 pm

- Bingo with Merchandise or Cash Prizes
- Hamburgers & Hot Dogs
- Cake & Plant Wheels
- Shiner Picnic Tee Shirts
- Expanded Children's Activities

Fun for the Whole Family!!!

BIG COUNTRY AUCTION
12 Noon
Cattle Auction: 3:00 pm

ARTS & CRAFTS
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♦ THE EMOTIONS
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Website: www.sscmshiner.org

Reporting Abuse

If you or someone you know has been sexually abused by a member of the clergy or other church personnel, you can register a complaint.

- Call the Chancery at (361) 573-0828 and ask to speak with the bishop or the chancellor;
- or
- Call Rev. Gary Janak (979) 543-3770 or Sr. Emilie Eilers (361) 575-7111, Coordinators of Pastoral Care and Outreach;
- or
- Write to: Most Rev. David E. Fellhauer
Diocese of Victoria
P.O. Box 4070
Victoria, TX 77903
Mark your letter "Personal and Confidential"

We will also help you bring your concerns to Church officials outside the diocese if the abuse occurred elsewhere and you now reside in the Diocese of Victoria.

If you are unsure about bringing a complaint or would like further information, please contact: Rev. Gary Janak at (979) 543-3770.



Question Corner

By Father Kenneth Doyle
Catholic News Service



Funeral worries ... and baptism of the stillborn?

Putting a grandmother's funeral worries to rest

Q. My grandmother, who is in a nursing home, has used her life's savings to pay for her care. Now she is on Medicaid and any income that she has (namely, her Social Security monthly check) goes directly to the nursing home. (She is allowed \$30 a month to pay for her personal needs.)

For 35 years, she has been a member of our local Catholic parish. She owns a burial plot in our parish cemetery and has her funeral expenses prepaid. For many years, she contributed to the financial support of our parish but because of her current limited income, she is now unable to do so. She is terribly worried that the parish might refuse to host her funeral Mass and provide for her burial because she is not an active donor. If you could tell me the Church's position on this, perhaps I could put her mind at ease. (New Jersey)

A. I feel sad, and even a bit embarrassed, that such a question would even occur to your grandmother. Please assure her that her parish will certainly be willing to celebrate her funeral rites. First of all, even by right, this would seem the only logical conclusion from Canon No. 1176 of the Code of Canon Law, which says, "Deceased members of the Christian faithful must be given ecclesiastical funerals according to the norm of law" and from Canon No. 1177, which provides that "a funeral for any deceased member of the faithful must generally be celebrated in his or her parish church."

Leaving the law aside, Christian charity should dictate the decision. I don't know of any pastor --and hope that none exists -- who would refuse to host your grandmother's liturgy because of her understandable inability to contribute to the parish financially. (As a matter of fact, for the past 20 years as a pastor, I have made it a point never to look at the figures for an individual's parish donations so that my judgment will never be colored by those numbers.)

I know of parishes that decline to celebrate the funerals or weddings of someone who is neither registered as a parishioner

nor regularly attends services there. These tend to be larger city parishes that serve as a mecca for families desiring a funeral or a wedding because of the church's particular beauty or convenience -- and which often these days are staffed by only one priest. Such a guideline is probably reasonable in those circumstances. My tendency is to accommodate anyone who wants to come -- grateful simply because the family wants a religious setting for their service.

Can a stillborn receive the sacrament of baptism?

Q. A friend of mine had a child who was stillborn. The priest on duty declined to baptize the baby because, he said, baptism is only for the living. But I have heard of many stillborn babies who were baptized. Can you explain why this has changed? (Annapolis, Md.)

A. It is true that the sacraments of the church are meant for the living. Their purpose is to put us in touch with the power of the risen Christ in our daily lives. Baptism signifies the entrance of a person into the faith community of Christians, with the intention of putting that faith into action. A priest would never think of trying to give the eucharistic host to someone who had died nor could the baptism of a stillborn indicate the start of a lifelong effort to live out the Gospel.

And yet the grieving parents of a stillborn are dealing with such sadness already that a priest may well find it difficult to deny their requests. Since one is permitted to baptize conditionally if there is any doubt as to whether the moment of death has occurred, pastoral instincts would lead a priest to baptize a newborn on the slightest chance that there might be some life remaining. There are other situations where the child has clearly died, and these call for special tenderness.

What parents really are asking when they request baptism for a stillborn is whether their child is now with God. I find it helpful to reference the Catechism of the Catholic Church, No. 1261, which suggests that we can confidently entrust that

25th Annual Conference for Catechesis and Ministry *Year of Faith and the New Evangelization*

In his Apostolic Letter *Porta Fidei*, Pope Benedict XVI declared that a "Year of Faith" will begin on October 11, 2012. The first day of the Year of Faith is the fiftieth anniversary of the opening of the Second Vatican Council and also the twentieth anniversary of the Catechism of the Catholic Church.

At the 25th annual conference, Deacon Gerald DuPont, D.Min., of the Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston, will offer the keynote address, "Year of Faith and the New Evangelization". The Catholic publisher RCL/Benziger is sponsoring Mrs. Fanny C. Pedraza, D.Min., who will present her keynote address in Spanish, "Año de Fe y de Nueva Evangelización". Each will engage the conference participants with the late Pope John Paul II's call for a "new evangelization", which is aimed at all Catholics. The "new evangelization" offers faith, hope, love, and new life in Christ.

Recent studies continue to show that today we live in a secularized world where instant access to almost anything is available at the touch of a modern gadget. Yet, at the same time, many Catholics are disconnected from the Church and no longer practicing their faith. For this reason, there is a need for new methods, especially in the

area of technology and communication that can be utilized to reach out to those who have fallen away from the Church.

Therefore, this year many of the conference workshops will focus on Documents of Vatican II, the Catechism of the Catholic Church, and evangelization. The following workshops will be offered at the conference: Vatican II: 50

Years of Renewal in the Church; A Walk Through the Constitution on Sacred Liturgy; Constitution on Divine Revelation; Faithful Citizenship; Dogmatic Constitution on the Church; Theology of the Body for Middle School; The Catechism of the Catholic Church; Stewardship of the Earth; Bible 101; Prayer and the Saints; First Penance and First Communion -- What's It All About?; An Agent of Evangelization; Scripture in the Classroom; Ignatian Spirituality; and many, many more.

This year's conference will be held Saturday, September 29, 2012, at Holy Family Parish in Victoria. Registration information will be available online at the diocesan website www.victoriadiocese.org, in parish bulletins, *The Catholic Lighthouse*, and from the catechetical office [(361) 573-0828]. Group registration is encouraged.



Deacon Gerald DuPont, D.Min.



Mrs. Fanny C. Pedraza, D.Min.

XXV Annual Conference for Catechesis & Ministry
Year of Faith and the New Evangelization
Saturday, September 29, 2012 • Holy Family, Victoria



child to God's mercy, knowing from the Scriptures that God wants all people to be saved and that Jesus said, "Let the children come to me."

It can also be helpful, in the case of a stillborn, to use (from the church's Book of Blessings) the "Blessing of Parents After a Miscarriage." If the body of the child still is present, those prayers could also be combined with the parents naming the child and tracing the sign of the cross on the child's forehead, as parents would do at a baptism.

New Look to The Catholic Lighthouse

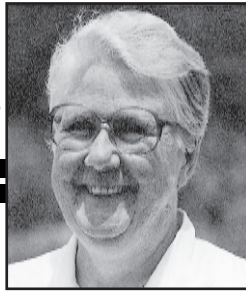
Continued from p. 1

had decided in June to "retire" at the end of August; this is why readers had seen notices of an opening for the position of editor. However, after much thought and prayer, this decision has been clarified and I feel the Lord is calling me to stay. I thank everyone for their support during these past two months.



SISTERLY THOUGHTS

By Sister Mildred Truchard, IWBS



Years of Relative Stability (Historical series, cont. since March 2012)

By the 1890's, the community of the Sisters of the Incarnate Word was well established in Victoria. The building spree of the 1870's had met the space needs of the school and convent for the time being. Numerous vocations, especially among the graduates of the school, increased the community with devoted religious who were dedicated educators. Bishop John Neraz of San

flourishing academy as the Sisters continued their day-by-day ministry of making the beloved Incarnate Word known and loved by their students.

Some people have expressed wonder why the Sisters did not get bored living within a cloistered institution with little access to the outside world. In response to this concern, I think that most of us understand that when a person feels called to his

ters were happy to have enough members so that they could respond to Bishop Neraz's request to begin a foundation in Hallettsville; consequently, three Sisters were welcomed by the pastor, Father John Anthony Forest, and began teaching the day after their arrival in 1882. If you want to follow up on this foundation, just ask anyone from Sacred Heart Parish in Hallettsville!

In spite of the many blessings that the Victoria community was experiencing, the Sisters would soon face some unexpected challenges. First of all, they suffered the loss of their beloved pastor and benefactor, Father Augustine Gardet, who died in 1892. A year later, Bishop Neraz, who had been a strong supporter of their educational endeavors, also died. His replacement, the new Bishop John Anthony Forest was no stranger to the Sisters; he had been a beloved pastor and friend of the Sisters during his prior service in the

Hallettsville area.

Another blow, this one financial, was dealt the Sisters when they no longer received the public school salaries which they had been receiving for four months each year. They chose to forfeit the salaries rather than give up the wearing of their religious habits when their garb became an issue.

It was soon afterward that Bishop Forest requested that the Sisters begin a foundation in Shiner; so in 1897 two Sisters from Victoria, one from Houston, and one from Brownsville went to Shiner. Check on some Shiner folks for their memories of the Sisters. *(To be continued)*

For more stories about the early days of the Sisters in Victoria – please come by the Gift Shop at Incarnate Word Convent and purchase Sister Alberta Novosad's new book: *TEXAS FOOTPRINTS in the Sands of Time*.



Students of Nazareth Academy celebrate Columbus Day in 1892.

Antonio, was a strong devotee of Catholic education, who appreciated the work of the Sisters. Their good friend and mentor, Father Augustine Gardet, the pastor of St. Mary's Church, who had given his house to the Sisters upon their arrival to Victoria in 1866, remained a strong spiritual and financial supporter. Immigrants who were arriving were sending their children to the school. If female students lived outside of commuting distance of the academy, they were accepted as boarders and lived in the convent. Moreover, the people of Victoria, regardless of their religious affiliation, had great respect for the Sisters and their teaching. God was indeed blessing the

or her specific life style (whether it be marriage, single, or ordained or consecrated), their love of God and others sustains them in the ordinary routine of life. I'm sure that all of us can think of persons, from all walks of life, who have served as the stars to which Pope Benedict referred when he wrote, "The true stars of our life are the people who have lived good lives. They are lights of hope. Certainly, Jesus Christ is the true light, the sun that has risen above all the shadows of history. But to reach him we also need lights close by—people who shine with his light and so guide us along our way. (Spe Salvi, 49)

During this time of progress, the Sis-

St. Mary • High Hill Parish Picnic



Spectacular
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at 10 p.m.



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Sunday, September 2, 2012

Flag Raising Ceremony at 9:30 a.m. • Polka Mass at 10:00 a.m. • Cakewalk 11:00 a.m.
Toy Walk • Country Store • Duck Pond • Ring Toss • Horseshoe Tournament at 1:00 p.m.
Ball Throw • Train Ride • Nachos • Hamburger Stand • High Hill Homemade Sausage
Souvenir Booth • Bingo (Lic.#3-00-0620320-9) 2:00 - 6:00 p.m.
Sweepstakes (Over 50 Prizes) Drawing at 9:00 p.m.

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Free Dance at Night by Texas Dream

Chicken & Stew Dinner

11:00 a.m. to ?

(German Potatoes, Sauerkraut, Green Beans, Peaches & Tea)

Adults - \$8 /Children \$4 (Dine-in) • (Drive-thru plates-to-go \$8)

Auction 1:00 p.m.



VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL—From July 9-13, 2012, St. Patrick’s Church in Bloomington hosted a camp titled Sonrock Kids Camp. Through Bible stories, the kids learned that we are accepted, protected, saved and forgiven by Jesus. They learned songs with hand motions, played games, and made crafts. The camp ended with a Mass celebrated by the parish pastor, Father Samuel Appiasi, followed by a meal.



WEIMAR KNIGHTS PRESENT SCHOLARSHIPS—Weimar KC Council #2153 Scholarship Chairman Willie Tichavsky presented five scholarships to local students. Pictured from left are Grand Knight Martin Luchak, and scholarship winners Dylan Blaha, Ryan Ramirez, Cody Kremling, Jamie Anders, Kaityn Sestak, and Scholarship Chairman Willie Tichavsky. The Weimar Knights of Columbus held their annual Appreciation Awards Banquet Saturday, July 07, 2012. The evening began with members attending Mass at Saint Michael Church with Father John C. Bily as celebrant. The celebration continued at the family center with a banquet meal and Grand Knight Martin Luchak reminding all brother knights about their commitment to serve their church, family and community.

ROCKY MOUNTAIN HIGH 2012—This year’s Rocky Mountain High Retreat was held, once again, at Pagosa Springs, Colorado. Forty young people participated in the retreat, which was staffed by 14 adults, including two seminarians, Philip Brune and Jacob Mendoza, and Father Dan Morales, director of vocations and pastor of St. Mary’s Parish in Victoria. The retreat, including travel time, was held from June 30 to July 8.

Inset: Because the local river was running too low, retreatants were unable to go rafting; therefore, they were provided with “messy games” at the camp instead. Father Dan played the part of the King and Wendy Eggert played the Queen. “This photo is proof that neither team defended us very well,” Wendy said.

**Pray for all the youth
returning back to school!**

Youth Calendar of Events

- Saturday, Sept. 22 – Foundations Renewing the Vision and Advocacy (Morning)
- Saturday, Sept. 22 – Foundations Pastoral Care (Afternoon)
- Sunday, Sept. 23 – YLT – Chancery - Victoria
- Monday, Oct. 1 – Last day to sign up for YLT
- Sunday, Oct. 7 – YLT – Chancery - Victoria
- Sunday, Oct. 14 – Confirmation Retreat for Candidates and Sponsors at St. Patrick’s in Bloomington
- Saturday, Nov. 3 – Foundations – Leadership Development – Planning and Programming (Morning)
- Saturday, Nov. 3 – Foundations – Prayer and Worship (Afternoon)
- Sunday, Nov. 4 – YLT – Chancery - Victoria
- Sunday, Dec. 9 – YLT – Chancery - Victoria
- Saturday/Sunday, Jan. 12/13 – YLT Retreat - Location TBA



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





Incarnate Word and Blessed Sacrament Jubilee 2012

On Sunday, July 8, 2012, five Sisters of the Incarnate Word and Blessed Sacrament celebrated the anniversaries of their professions at Incarnate Word Convent. The Most Reverend David Fellhauer, bishop of the Victoria Diocese, officiated at the 2:00 p.m. Mass. Also present and concelebrating were Bishop Michael Duca of Shreveport, Louisiana; Rev. Ronald Gonzales, S.J., Rev. Gary Janak, Rev. Eddie Winkler, and Father David Garcia, homilist. Those honored were Sister M. Michael Kopecky (75 years) and Sister Mary Juroske, Sister M. Laura Toman, Sister Marian Sturm and Sister M. Digna Vela (50 years). Together they have contributed 275 years of service to the Church in ministries of education, administration and pastoral services.

Sister M. Michael Kopecky

Sister M. Michael Kopecky, daughter of the late Joseph and Frances (Strauss) Kopecky, was born in Hallettsville, Texas. Sister Michael received her elementary education at Sacred Heart School in Hallettsville and graduated from Blessed Sacrament Academy in San Antonio. She entered Blessed Sacrament Convent and received the habit of the Sisters of the Incarnate Word and Blessed Sacrament on February 23, 1936. She made first profession of vows on June 10, 1937. Sister received a BA degree with a major in English and a minor in Spanish from Incarnate Word College in San Antonio and a MA degree with a major in history and a minor in education from the Catholic University of America.

During the 75 years as a professed member of the Sisters of the Incarnate Word and Blessed Sacrament, Sister Michael taught on the elementary, junior high, high school and college levels. She also served as local superior at Incarnate Word Convent in Victoria. She served as teacher and/or principal in the following schools: Sacred Heart School in Floresville, Nazareth Academy in Victoria, Sacred Heart School in La Grange, Holy Cross School in Bay City, Holy Cross School and St. Patrick School in Dallas, Blessed Sacrament Academy in San Antonio, and Holy Trinity School in Duquesne, Pa.

Though Sister Michael retired from full-time teaching in 1988, she remained active at Incarnate Word Convent where she assisted in chauffeuring and community shopping and served in music ministry. During her spare time Sister Michael liked to make

flower arrangements and engage in arts and crafts. Due to ill health, Sister Michael has resided in the IWC Infirmary.

Sister Marian Sturm

Sister Marian Sturm, daughter of the late Arnold and Mary (Kaptiza) Sturm, was born in Falls City, Texas. She completed grades one through eight in Falls City Elementary School and then did her high school studies at Nazareth Academy in Victoria. Sister then entered Nazareth Convent and received the habit of the Sisters of the Incarnate Word and Blessed Sacrament on July 30, 1961, and made her first profession



Sisters of Incarnate Word and Blessed Sacrament celebrating 50 years of religious profession are, standing left to right, Sister Marian Sturm, Sister Laura Toman, Sister Digna Vela, and Sister Mary Juroske. (inset) Sister Michael Kopecky celebrated her 75th jubilee.

of vows on August 6, 1962. She began her college education at Annunciation College in Victoria and then transferred to Incarnate Word College in San Antonio from which she received a B.A. degree with a major in biology and a minor in math. Sister then attended St. Mary's University in San Antonio where she achieved a master of arts degree with a major in theology.

During the 50 years as a professed member of the Sisters of the Incarnate Word and Blessed Sacrament, Sister Marian taught in the elementary grades of St. Leo School in San Antonio, St. Michael School in Weimar, and Nazareth Academy in Victoria. She continued with teaching on the high school level at St. Paul High School in Shiner, St. Joseph High School in Victoria and Sacred Heart High School

in Hallettsville. Sister was the religion and CCD coordinator in St. Mary's Parish in Nada, Holy Cross Parish in East Bernard, and St. Thomas the Apostle Parish in Huntsville.

After the Diocese of Victoria was created, Sister Marian served as the Director of the Reflection Process of the Diocese for a number of years. She has also served



Word and Blessed Sacrament on July 30, 1961. She made her first Profession of Vows on August 6, 1962. Sister earned her early credits from Annunciation College in Victoria and Incarnate Word College in San Antonio. She attended Our Lady of the Lake College in San Antonio from which she was awarded a B.A. degree with a major in English and a minor in history. She attended Southwest Texas State College in San Marcos and earned a M. Ed. with a major in Administration and a minor in Psychology/Sociology.

During the 50 years as a professed member of the Sisters of the Incarnate Word and Blessed Sacrament, Sister Laura taught at St. Michael School in Cuero. She served as principal at Our Lady of Perpetual Help in Selma, St. Michael School in Cuero, Sacred Heart School in Floresville, St. Patrick School in Dallas, St. Michael School in Weimar and Our Lady of Victory School in Victoria. During Sister Laura's 23-year leadership as principal of St. Michael School in Weimar, the school received numerous academic awards, culminating in its designation as a nationally recognized "Blue Ribbon School, 2006" by the U.S. Department of Education.

Sister Laura also served as Councilor in the Leadership of the Congregation from 1988 – 2000 along with work in the school. Presently, she has been elected as a Councilor for the Congregational Leadership for a six-year term along with being principal at Our Lady of Victory School in Victoria.

Sister M Digna Vela

Sister M Digna Vela, daughter of the late Emilio and Bertha (Cantu) Vela, was born in Port Lavaca, Texas. Sister Digna's early education was at Jefferson Elementary School and Travis Junior High School in Port Lavaca before she transferred to Nazareth Academy from where she obtained her high school diploma. She received the habit of the Sisters of the Incarnate Word and Blessed Sacrament on July 30, 1961, and pronounced her first vows on August 6, 1962. She began her college education at Annunciation College in Victoria and then transferred to Incarnate Word College in San Antonio from which she received a B.A. degree with a major in Spanish and a minor in English. Sister then attended St. Mary's University where she earned a M.A. degree with a major in theology. In August of 2011, Sister Digna completed a program for Spiritual Direction and Directed Retreat

as Director of Religious Education in St. Philip of Jesus Parish in San Antonio, Director of Faith Formation in St. Anthony Claret Parish in San Antonio, and Adult Faith Formation Director in St. Mark the Evangelist Parish in San Antonio. Sister enjoys playing Scrabble, dancing and reading mystery novels.

Sister M. Laura Toman

Sister M. Laura Toman, daughter of the late Raymond and Anne Rose (Sablatura) Toman, was born in Houston, Texas. After attending Ganado Public School the first four years of elementary school and Assumption School for the upper grades, Sister Laura attended Nazareth Academy. She entered Nazareth convent and received the habit of the Sisters of the Incarnate

Praised be the Incarnate Word!



Four hundred pieces of artwork were created by students from St. Anthony Catholic School in Columbus and displayed at the local Live Oak Art Center this past spring. Pictured with the artwork is SAS Principal John O'Leary, Superintendent John Quarry, SAS art teacher Delores Mullen, and Tommy Truchard, director of Live Oak Art Center.



JCDA MEMBERS CREATE CRAFTS FOR PARISH AUCTION—Throughout the year, St. Joseph, Yoakum, JCDA #206 members learned about Christian values and created projects to represent their beliefs. The members created these two individually hand-decorated tile crosses, which show scenes of respecting and celebrating LIFE! The vibrant and gorgeous crosses are on display at the Yoakum Heritage Museum until St. Joseph's Parish Picnic on August 5, 2012. They will then be up for auction at the church picnic to support the parish.



FIELD TRIP—On Saturday, July 21, 2012, members from the youth group at St. Robert Bellarmine Parish in El Campo traveled to Goliad to visit Presidio La Bahia, the Goliad State Park, and the mission churches at each site.

St. Anthony students display artwork at Live Oak Art Center

COLUMBUS—The second annual St. Anthony Student (SAS) Art Exhibition took place at the Live Oak Art Center in Columbus from April 22 to May 12 with 400 pieces of student artwork on display for the public to see.

The media of art presented in the exhibit included a variety from printmak-

ing, to ceramics, from acrylic painting to charcoal drawing and papier-mache.

SAS Art Teacher Delores Mullen said this year's exhibit was a year in the making with St. Anthony School students beginning work on art projects right after

See St. Anthony students, p. 12

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Victoria
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979-725-8919



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979-743-4313



Diane Shimek Cerny
Nada/El Campo
979-541-6346



Charles Leopold, FIC
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361-798-4311



Albert Smaistrila, FIC
East Bernard
979-335-4473



Eugene Rehak, FIC
Victoria
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Martin Hoke
El Campo
979-541-7179

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Home Office: San Antonio, Texas. #ASU 8.12



Donors stand before the restored church bell and its new tower at St. Peter Church in Blessing. The bell was originally donated by the parishioners of St. Peter's in 1928. This inscription is written in Czech on one side and in English on the other. The bell has not been used since the 1980's. It was recently polished and reset in the small bell tower for display.

St. Anthony students display artwork at Live Oak Art Center

Continued from p. 11

the conclusion of last year's exhibit in May. She also thanked Michael Fuller, a Colorado County resident, who donated 500 pounds of armadillo clay for student artwork during the year and fired every piece of clay that was part of the show.

Attending the exhibit reception were three generations of the Cantu family. Ray Cantu, father of SAS student, Daniel, commented on how truly blessed the school is to have a teacher of Mullen's talent passing down her knowledge of art and her talents to the students in art class. "She has brought out the creativity inside all of the students, which has helped broaden their minds, opening them to all kinds of

possibilities," Mr. Cantu said. "Nobody could pay her what she's worth because she is worth her weight in gold."

SAS Principal John O'Leary added that the wide variety of artwork on display is truly impressive and thanked Mrs. Mullen for all of her hard work in guiding the students in helping to find an interest and even love for art.

"This exhibit gives all students an opportunity to display their creativity," Principal O'Leary said.

The cost of the exhibit was underwritten by Shawna Collins, Andrea Schobel, Nicole Schobel and June Schobel, chairperson.

Blessing celebrates its centennial anniversary

Continued from p. 20

membership.

In 1947, Lots 1 – 12, Block 14 of BOTS were purchased to accommodate an Army chapel that was purchased from Camp Hulen Army Base in Palacios and moved to Blessing and remodeled. It was dedicated by Archbishop Robert Emmet Lucey on December 19, 1948. The original church building was converted into a parish hall and later sold to Frank Hahn of El Maton.

The St. Peter monument, a marble statue of St. Peter, was donated by The Holy Rosary Sodality. It was mounted on a granite base donated by Mr. and Mrs. Joe Kana and was dedicated on Thanksgiving Day, November 22, 1962.

On March 28, 1963, construction of a catechetical center was begun and later dedicated under the leadership of Father Edward Bily at a cost of \$52,000. Religious instructions were held in the center every Wednesday during the school year. It also served as a community center for meetings and social gatherings.

In 1975, a new church and rectory were built under the leadership of Father Jerome Stryk. Architect Robert E. Mor-

skovsky of San Antonio was the architect for the project. Edna Lumber Company was the general contractor. The cost of the project was \$205,000. The dedication was held on April 18, 1976, with Archbishop Patrick Flores of San Antonio presiding. The previous church building was sold to Andrew Olguin, and moved away. The old rectory was sold to John Hamala and moved to El Maton.

Father Peter Higgins was instrumental in expanding the existing catechetical center. He acquired donations beforehand, so that the center would be paid for upon completion.

In 2000, Dawdy family descendents, Richard and Emma Dawdy, bequeathed a portion of their estate to St. Peter Catholic Church, Blessing, and Holy Cross Catholic Church in Bay City.

On June 1, 2001, a new rectory was purchased (BOTS Block 16, Lots 17 – 20) and the old rectory was converted into a church office.

In 2008, St. Peter Catholic Church was listed with the Texas Historical Commission as a historic site in Texas. The marker is located in front of the church.

IWBS Jubilee 2012

Continued from p. 10

at Creighton University in Omaha, Neb.

During her 50 years of service as a professed member of the Sisters of the Incarnate Word and Blessed Sacrament, Sister Digna taught in the elementary and junior high schools at Our Lady of Victory School in Victoria, Immaculate Conception School in Sealy, St. Mary School in Nada, Our Lady of Perpetual Help School in Selma, and Holy Cross School in Bay City. Sister also ministered in the following high schools: Nazareth Academy in Victoria, Blessed Sacrament Academy in San Antonio and St. Joseph High School in Victoria. In 1990 Sister began ministry for the Diocese of Victoria as Director of Catechetical Ministry, serving in that capacity for 22 years. She is also presently involved in the IWBS Amor Meus Spirituality Center's activities.

Sister Mary Juroske

Sister Mary Juroske, daughter of the late Eddie and Olga (Pratka) Juroske, was born in Angleton, Texas. Sister Mary attended Industrial Elementary School and Lolita Junior High School before entering Naza-

areth Academy for her high school education. She entered Incarnate Word Convent and received the habit of the Sisters of the Incarnate Word and Blessed Sacrament on July 30, 1961, and made her first profession of vows on August 6, 1962. Sister Mary attended Annunciation College where she took Sacred Scripture classes as well as Dogmatic and Moral Theology courses. When her aptitude for art was perceived, she attended classes in oil painting, charcoal, water color, ceramics and other classes connected with the arts.

Sister Mary's culinary abilities and dietary knowledge were put to use at Incarnate Word Convent for a number of years. She was assigned to Nazareth Academy where she developed a clientele for private art lessons and assisted in the N.A. Pre-School Day Care with religion classes. At this time, Sister Mary assists as a volunteer aide at Nazareth Academy and teaches private art lessons. Sister Mary is involved in the IWBS Spirituality Center's activities. She also enjoys arts and crafts which she shares as gifts and contributes to the IWC Gift Shop.



St. Joseph Catholic Church

Picnic Time 139th Annual Parish *Inez, Texas*
Picnic

Sunday, September 9, 2012 Inez Community Center

**Fried Chicken, Brisket, Sausage
& All the Trimmings**

All Plates \$8.00

Plates to Go at 10:30 a.m. Serving Begins at 11:00 a.m.

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Diocese of Victoria experiences second major immigrant tragedy in nine years

Continued from p. 1

Father Stan asked, "How many of us would really extend our arms and indicate that everyone in our presence, especially in a crowd, is our mother and our brothers?"

"We might want to do that, but we know that as our eye might scan the crowd," he said, "something inside of us might be saying — except for him, except for her." But that is our goal, he said.

We don't know why the immigrants were passing through our community, Father Stan said, "Some may have been traveling to be united with family already here; some were seeking economic opportunities that may be denied them in their own countries."

"Whatever their reasons, when the truck came to the violent stop just miles from here, they became a part of our community," he said. "At that moment, lives ended and lives changed. OUR lives changed. In an instant the women in that truck became our sisters and our mothers, the men became our brothers and fathers, the two young girls became our sisters and daughters."

Father Stan went into further depth saying, "What we do here tonight has nothing to do with immigration policies, economic policies, or any of the political discussions that are whirling around us. If someone is here because they want to hear that, I am afraid that you will be disappointed."

"What we gather for tonight is about human dignity and justice," he continued. "It is about hearing the command of God repeated over and over again in the Hebrew and Christian Scriptures to treat the foreigner, the stranger, the marginalized as if they are one of us. Not hesitatingly, not begrudgingly, but with joy."

Following his homily, Sister Marie Garcia directed 23 members of the church community to light a candle, one for each passenger injured or killed in the wreck, before an image of Saint Toribio Romo, the saint of immigrants, who was martyred during the Cristero War in Mexico in the 1920s and 30s.

Apparent cause of crash:

The truck lost the tread of its front right wheel causing the driver to veer to the right and crash into two large trees, according to Goliad County DPS Trooper Gerald Bryant. As the speed limit in the area is 75 mph, it is estimated the vehicle was traveling at least

that fast, reported DPS Lt. Glen Garrett to *The Victoria Advocate*.

It has now been confirmed by Gregory Palmore, Office of Public Affairs - U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE), that the 22 passengers had originated from Guatemala and Honduras, while the driver was from Mexico. All are suspected to be illegal immigrants.

Men, women and children were among the 15 people who died; 12 were male and three were female.

Adrian Fulton of the Victoria Mortuary and Cremation Service, where as of July 24 eleven of the deceased were being held, told *The Catholic Lighthouse*, he has received more than 1,000 calls regarding the victims' possible identities, but that none of them had yet been identified. The dead range between the ages of eight and 25 or 30 years; two of those dead are girls about eight and 10 years of age, he said.

Since this initial interview, Jennifer Preyss of *The Victoria Advocate* has reported that 14 have been identified, six of those are alive and eight are dead. Nine remain unidentified.

Rev. John Peters, Vicar General of the Diocese of Victoria, sent, via the diocesan website, a message of condolence for all those involved in the accident.

Nine years ago, on May 14, 2003, Victoria was the site of the deadliest human trafficking case in U.S. history. Over 70 immigrants were found abandoned in a tractor-trailer a few miles outside of Victoria, alongside U.S. Hwy. 77 S. Nineteen immigrants had died from dehydration, hypothermia and suffocation, while 55 survived the suffocating conditions in the trailer.

In the June 25, 2012, Supreme Court decision to strike down provisions of an Arizona immigration law, Archbishop José H. Gomez of Los Angeles, chairman of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops Committee on Migration, urged state governments not to rush to pass laws similar to SB 1070 and called upon Congress to assume its responsibility and enact comprehensive immigration reform. He vowed that the Catholic Church in the United States would continue to fight for humane and just reform of the nation's immigration system.

"The Church will continue to stand by immigrants and their families and seek justice on their behalf," stated Archbishop Gomez.

Bishop says Father Tolton's heroic virtue a model for all Catholics

By Sean Gallagher and Mary Ann Garber
Catholic News Service

INDIANAPOLIS (CNS)— Bishop Edward K. Braxton of Belleville, Ill., July 19 urged black Catholics to imitate the heroic virtue of Father Augustus Tolton "because in baptism, confirmation and the Eucharist, we, too, are called to be saints."

Bishop Braxton made the remarks in his homily at the opening Mass of the National Black Catholic Congress XI, which was held in Indianapolis July 19 - 21. He was the principal celebrant, and several bishops and scores of priests concelebrated.

In reflecting on the past of black Catholics in the U.S., the bishop emphasized the story of Father Tolton, the first publicly recognized black priest in the U.S. who was the celebrant and homilist at the first congress in 1889.

Father Tolton died in 1897 at age 43. His sainthood cause is now being promoted.

In reflecting on the present state of black Catholics in the U.S., Bishop Braxton reviewed some of the findings of the "2011 National Black Catholic Survey," which in many instances showed that black Catholics are more engaged in the church than their white counterparts.

For example, he said that the survey showed that 62 percent of black Catholics find that their "spiritual, emotional and social needs are being met by their parishes," and that 48 percent of them attend Sunday Mass each week. On the other hand, 40.5 percent of white Catholics say that their parishes meet their needs and only 30.4 percent of them attend Mass weekly.

Donald Pope-Davis, a sociologist and one of the researchers, told National Black Catholic Congress XI participants July 19 that key findings of the survey indicate that black Catholics express their faith with greater vitality.

The survey found that "By almost every measure of religious engagement, African-American Catholics are considered stronger in their faith than white Catholics," Pope-Davis said.

Black Catholics "have a history of using religious expression as a social and cultural

way in which we engage in the community," he said. "For many of us, going to Mass, participating in the sacraments and engaging in the life of the parish is also a social opportunity. This is an important

finding because for us our faith is not just a religious conviction. It is also a cultural nuance that helps us think of the world in a particular way."

"One of the interesting things — and this may come as no surprise to you — is that one in four African-American Catholics perceive some form of racism in their parish," he said.

Asked about the scope of racial inclusiveness in parishes, he said, 31.5 percent of black

Catholics indicated that they are uncomfortable at church because they are one of the few people of color in their parish.

"This is a concern because our Catholic faith tells us that we are one in the body of Christ and we express our faith as a community," said Pope-Davis.

"Faith Engaged: Empower, Equip, Evangelize" was the theme for the congress, which focused on the discussion and approval of a pastoral plan for black Catholics as its main task.



Father Augustus Tolton

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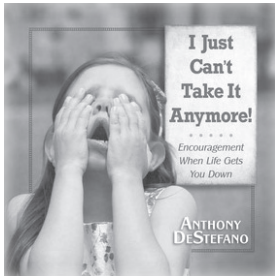
Through photos, especially chosen to bring out a smile, and carefully crafted sentiment, Anthony shares his delightful sense of humor, lifts the reader’s spirit, and plants a firm message of hope and encouragement.

Fun for all, this is one book that can be

given—or received—on any occasion!.

Anthony DeStefano is the bestselling author of *Ten Prayers God Always Says Yes To*, *A Travel Guide to Heaven*, *This Little Prayer of Mine*, and *Little Star*. He has received prestigious awards from religious organizations worldwide for his efforts to advance Christian beliefs in modern culture.

For a chance to win this book, please send in completed August puzzle form to *The Catholic Lighthouse*, P. O. Box 4070, Victoria, TX 77903 by August 27.



Couples need to set aside time to talk each day, papal message says

By Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY (CNS)—Going to Mass together and setting aside time each day to talk to each other are two simple practices that can help Catholic couples strengthen their marriage and be examples to others, said a papal message.

Pope Benedict XVI “invites Christian couples to be ‘the gentle and smiling face of the church,’ the best and most convincing heralds of love sustained and nourished by faith,” said a message to the participants in the international meeting of the Teams of Our Lady.

The group, a movement for Catholic couples started in France in 1938, was meeting in Brasilia, Brazil, July 21-26. The papal message to the couples was signed by Cardinal Tarcisio Bertone, Vatican secretary of state.

While pressures on married couples have increased since the movement’s founding, the message said, members continue to be committed to proclaiming,

“not only in words, but also through their lives, the fundamental truths about human love” and how it is a reflection of God’s love for humanity.

The movement helps couples recognize the grace of the sacrament of marriage and encourages them to attend Mass together, Cardinal Bertone said. It also gives them “simple and practical ideas to daily live an embodied spirituality for Christian spouses.”

One of the key ideas, he said, is “the ‘sit down,’ that is to say, a commitment to setting a regular time for personal dialogue between the spouses, in which each presents to the other, with all sincerity and in a climate of mutual listening, the issues and topics most important to life as a couple.”

“In our world, so marked by individualism, activism, eagerness and distraction,” Cardinal Bertone wrote, “sincere and constant dialogue between the spouses is essential for avoiding the emergence of misunderstandings that grow and harden,” and which can cause irreparable damage.

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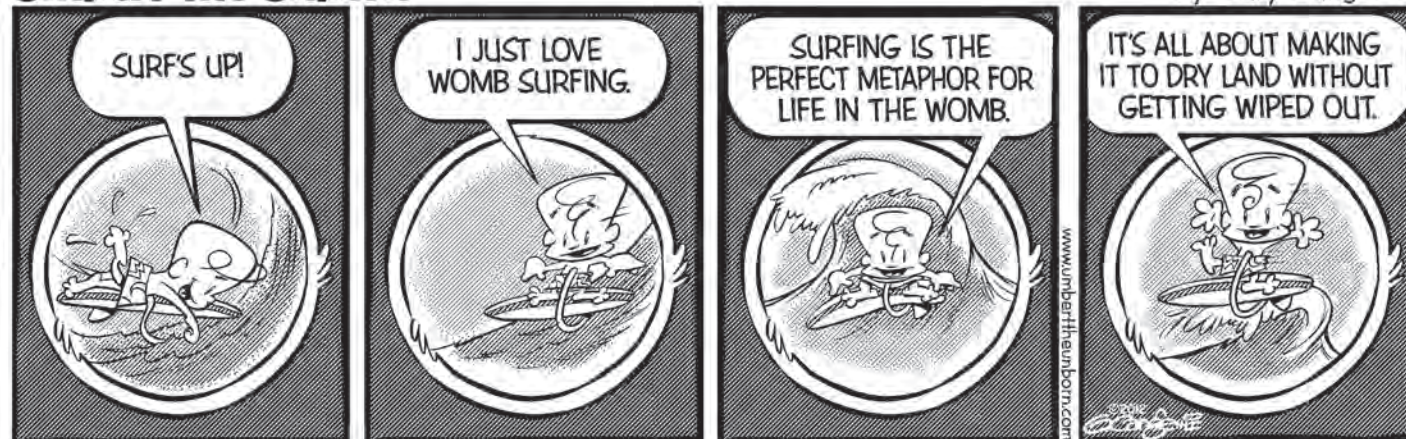
July Puzzle Contest Winners Chosen

The winner of the July puzzle contest and the book “Lifted by Angels – The Presence and Power of our Heavenly Guides

and Guardians” by Joel J. Miller and published by Thomas Nelson is Mildred Targac of Sts. Cyril & Methodius Parish in Shiner. The winners of the children’s contest are Lacie Grace Olivarez (4) of Sacred Heart in Hallettsville and Katelyn Bernsch (7) of Sts. Peter & Paul in Plum. They each will receive a gift from Incarnate Word Gift Shop.

The winner of the August Puzzle Contest will win “I Just Can’t Take It Anymore! ~ Encouragement When Life Gets You Down” by Anthony DeStefano and published by Harvest House. See review on this page. Please mail all completed August puzzle forms to arrive in *The Catholic Lighthouse* Office, P.O. Box 4070, Victoria, TX 77903, by August 27.

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If mental illness a factor, shooting suspect might be 'troubled soul'

WASHINGTON (CNS) — In the days following the shootings at an Aurora, Colo., movie theater that left 12 people dead and 58 others wounded, speculation arose about the mental state of the suspected shooter, James Holmes. Days after the July 20 tragedy, word was leaked to news outlets that Holmes reportedly had been seeing a psychiatrist at the University of Colorado and had sent his therapist a package that included a description of

a planned shooting spree. That possibility of such a package reveals a "cry for help" and perhaps indicates the suspect "was a troubled soul" according to Connie Rakitan, chair of the Chicago Archdiocesan Commission on Mental Illness, told Catholic News Service July 26. Sending it to a psychiatrist, and not to police, "points to the bigger issue of mental pain and mental illness," she added. Holmes was formally charged July 30. He faces 142 counts, which include a first-degree count for each of the 12 who died and attempted murder charges for those injured. It was not yet clear if his lawyers will mount an insanity defense.

Sunday Readings from Aug. 5 to Sept. 9

Aug. 5 — Eighteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time	Exodus 16:2-4, 12-15 Psalms 78:3-4, 23-24, 25, 54 Ephesians 4:17, 20-24 John 6:24-35
Aug. 12 — Nineteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time	1 Kings 19:4-8 Psalms 34:2-3, 4-5, 6-7, 8-9 Ephesians 4:30 - 5:2 John 6:41-51
Aug. 15 — Solemnity of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary	Revelations 11:19a; 12:1-6a, 10ab Psalms 45:10, 11, 12, 16 1 Corinthians 15:20-27 Luke 1:39-56
Aug. 19 — Twentieth Sunday in Ordinary Time	Proverbs 9:1-6 Psalms 34:2-3, 4-5, 6-7 Ephesians 5:15-20 John 6:51-58
Aug. 26 — Twenty-first Sunday in Ordinary Time	Joshua 1:1-2a, 15-17, 18b Psalms 34:2-3, 16-17, 18-19, 20-21 Ephesians 5:21-32 John 6:0-69
Sept. 2 — Twenty-second Sunday in Ordinary Time	Deuteronomy 4:1-2, 6-8 Psalms 15:2-3, 3-4, 4-5 James 1:17-18, 21b-22, 27 Mark 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23
Sept. 9 — Twenty-third Sunday in Ordinary Time	Isaiah 35:4-7a Psalms 146:7, 8-9, 9-10 James 2:1-5 Mark 7:31-37

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

www.usccb.org/bible/readings

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Like Olympic athletes, everyone can glorify God, archbishop says

MANCHESTER, England (CNS)—Athletes competing in the 2012 Summer Olympics serve as a reminder to all people to use their bodies to glorify God, the president of the Bishops' Conference of England and Wales said during a Mass of thanksgiving for the games. Archbishop Vincent Nichols of Westminster said during the July 28 Mass at Westminster Cathedral that the games can help people to understand the link between spirituality and sport. The archbishop's homily echoed the theme of the July 29 annual Day of Life of the Catholic Church in England and Wales on the importance of using one's body to praise God. He told the 900 Massgoers, some wearing national costumes, that the human body is beautiful in the eyes of God, even as it grew old, and always should be used to honor God, the creator of all. "We will see many fine sports (where) men and women use their bodies, their minds and their spirits in the quest for glory," Archbishop Nichols said. "But the message of the Gospel goes deeper. It reminds us, vividly, that our bodies are for the glory of God. Indeed our bodies are temples of the Holy Spirit. This does not detract from that physical achievement of sport, with its beauty, symmetry, harnessing of speed, finesse and power," he said. "Rather it enhances those achievements and gives them their deepest purpose -- that of giving glory to their Maker."

Pope Benedict XVI's Intentions ~ August 2012

General Intention: That prisoners may be treated with justice and respect for their human dignity.

Missionary Intention: Youth Witness to Christ. That young people, called to follow Christ, may be willing to proclaim and bear witness to the Gospel to the ends of the earth.

Marriage saving weekend coming to the Greater Victoria region – Aug. 17-19

Do you feel alone? Are you frustrated or angry with each other? Do you argue ... or have you just stopped talking to each other? Does talking about it only make it worse?

Retrouvaille (pronounced retro-vi and meaning "rediscovery") has helped thousands of couples at all stages of disillusionment or deep misery in their marriage. Most say that Retrouvaille was the lifeline that helped their marriage and their family.

This is a program for married couples that feel bored, disillusioned, frustrated, or angry in their marriage. Some experience coldness. Others experience conflict in their relationship. Most don't know how to change the situation or even communicate with their spouse about it.

Retrouvaille has helped thousands of couples experiencing difficulties in their marriage. It offers the chance to rediscover

yourself, your spouse, and a loving relationship in your marriage. Thousands headed for divorce have successfully saved their marriages by attending.

Retrouvaille is a not spiritual retreat, not a sensitivity group, not a seminar, and not a social gathering. It is designed to provide the tools to help get your marriage back on track. It will give you the opportunity to rediscover each other and examine your lives together in a new and positive way.

The Retrouvaille weekend to be held at the Spiritual Renewal Center in the Diocese of Victoria is scheduled for Aug. 17 – 19.

For confidential information about, or to register for, the upcoming program beginning with a weekend on Aug. 17-19, call John or Jennifer Vincent (361) 580-2770 or e-mail: jbvjov@sb-cglobal.net or visit the web site at <http://www.retrouvaille.org>.

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THE POPE ACTS

*Pope
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CNS photo from Reuters

Taking stock of pope's work year

By Francis X. Rocca
Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — We might call the period between the time the pope returns to the Vatican each fall and when he leaves for the papal summer residence at Castel Gandolfo (where he relocated this year July 3), the papal year. Almost all of the Vatican's important business gets done in this span, making it the most relevant unit of time to use when analyzing the papacy's activity and its implications for the church as a whole.

So what can the 2011-12 papal "term" tell us about where Pope Benedict XVI is leading the Church?

If there was one message that the Vatican's agenda and statements this year seemed designed to convey, it was that the world needs the Catholic Church's help to solve its most urgent social and economic problems.

In five speeches over the course of six months to U.S. bishops on their "ad limina" visits to Rome, Pope Benedict said that the health and prosperity of American society as a whole require the engagement of its Catholic citizens, in fidelity to the church's teaching on contentious matters, including marriage, abortion, euthanasia, immigration and education.

On a November visit to the West African country of Benin, the pope said that a "church reconciled within itself can become a prophetic sign of reconciliation in society," on a continent divided by often violent ethnic and religious conflicts.

Conceding no realm of human activity as beyond the Church's scope, the Vatican delved into the highly technical field of international finance with a controversial October document blaming the world's economic crisis on a "liberalism that spurns rules and controls" and proposing global regulation of the financial industry and international money supply.

Pope Benedict made it clear that the Church's appeals to secular society should be made not in terms of faith but in terms

of the "natural moral law" accessible to all through the use of reason. He notably included prominent agnostic "seekers of the truth" alongside religious leaders at an October meeting to promote peace and justice in Assisi, Italy.

Yet the pope also insisted that the Church's commitment to social justice must never be separated from a faith that transcends this world. During a trip to Mexico and Cuba in March, the pope said that the "Church is not a political power, it is not a party," and told a crowd of more than 600,000 at an outdoor Mass that "human strategies will not suffice to save us" from war and injustice.

The following month, the Vatican published a "doctrinal assessment" of the U.S. Leadership Conference of Women Religious. The document, which had been expressly approved by Pope Benedict, recognized the LCWR's adherence to Catholic teaching in its promotion of social justice, but concluded that the group's neglect of the Church's doctrine on a number of important moral issues, including abortion and euthanasia, reflected a crisis "characterized by a diminution of the fundamental Christological center and focus of religious consecration."

Pope Benedict also emphasized a link between the Church's contributions to society and its right to freedom of religion, which he championed against varying degrees of restriction in communist Cuba, Mexico with its legacy of anti-clericalism, and the U.S., where the Obama administration seeks to make private Catholic institutions provide insurance covering sterilizations and contraception, in violation of the Church's moral teaching.

In October, the pope removed Archbishop Carlo Maria Vigano, author of several leaked letters accusing specific Vatican officials of corruption and incompetence, from his job as secretary-general of the governor's office of Vatican City. In an apparent sign of esteem for the archbishop's ability and integrity, however, the pope

appointed him to the key post of nuncio to the U.S.

After months of furor over the leaks, in July, Pope Benedict defended Cardinal Tarcisio Bertone, the Vatican secretary of state, against "unjust criticism" in the Italian media, thus showing his appreciation for his longtime lieutenant.

The papal "term" marked another chapter in the ongoing narrative of the Vatican's relationship with the breakaway traditionalists of the Society of St. Pius X (SSPX), who reject some teachings of the 1962-65 Second Vatican Council and subsequent modernizing changes to the Church.

In September, the Vatican presented the

traditionalists with a "doctrinal preamble" outlining certain teachings, presumably including those of Vatican II, which the breakaway group would have to accept as a condition for reconciliation. In June, the Vatican presented them with a draft document proposing that a reintegrated society would hold the canonical status of a personal prelature, in effect an international diocese under the direct authority of the pope. As the Vatican awaited the traditionalists' final response to these overtures, in late June, Pope Benedict named U.S. Archbishop Augustine Di Noia to focus personally on the SSPX negotiations.

It is time to register for God's Embrace local three year program

God's Embrace Three Year Formation Program for 2012-2013 will begin in August. The First Year Program Classes "Understanding God in Our Lives" will be held in Blessing, Frelsburg, Schulenburg, and Victoria. The program classes will meet once a month on a designated evening for two and one-half hours at each location through May 2013. God's Embrace also offers four Weekend Retreats throughout the year for all participants and non-participants.

The God's Embrace Program and Retreats are facilitated by Michael Fonseca and are designed to give you a deep appreciation of Scripture, the Catholic Catechism, and Catholic Spirituality as offered to us by our saints and mystics. It is our hope that you will be renewed in your discipleship, and will want to help in the further renewal of our Church.

There is still room for more participants so please encourage all of your friends and family members to join us!

Registration has begun for the Saturday, August 11, Retreat Day "Our Call to Holiness", which will be held in Victoria at St. Mary's Activity Center from 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. for all new entrants in the First Year Program. Suggested registration fee donation is \$30.00. Lunch will be provided. Contact Sandy Reese to register.

Second Year Program Class will be held in El Campo.

Third Year Program Class will be held in Hallettsville.

Registration has begun for our September 14, 15, and 16 Weekend Retreat in Palacios at The Texas Baptist Encampment. Please register before Monday, September 10, so we can accommodate everyone's needs.

Registration has begun for our November 9, 10, and 11 Weekend Retreat in Palacios at The Texas Baptist Encampment. Please register before Monday, November 5, so we can accommodate everyone's needs.

Please note: At any time throughout the year you may invite others to our God's Embrace Program Classes or Weekend Retreats even though they are not regular participants!

For more information or registration please contact Sandy Reese at (979) 541-6881 or sandyreesefoaj@yahoo.com.

Church Etiquette

When we enter a church, we must always remember that our Lord is present in the tabernacle. A church is a sanctuary, a sacred place. It is of the utmost importance that everyone who enters a church enters with the respect and dignity that our God deserves. We should refrain from loud talking and socializing, even when Mass is not being celebrated. This includes funeral wake services, wedding rehearsals, wedding days and baptisms.

A church is not a place to bring in food and drinks, except for water for those who need it.

During the "Sign of Peace," we should limit that sign to a gentle hug or handshake with the persons close to us. The Lord is truly always present on the altar.

Remember this each and every time you come into his house.

*Reprinted from a local church bulletin.
Next month: Proper Dress for Mass*



DESTROYED BULDINGS SEEN AFTER FIGHTING IN HOMS, SYRIA—Destroyed buildings are seen after fighting in Homs, Syria, July 27. Manaf Tlass, a Syrian brigadier general and Syria's most prominent defector, offered himself up July 26 as a figure to unite the fractious opposition, saying he failed to persuade his former friend, President Bashar Assad, to end a bloody crackdown that has left thousands of Syrians dead. In Castel Gandolfo, Italy, Pope Benedict XVI renewed his appeal for peace in Syria and humanitarian assistance for civilians threatened by the ongoing fighting or seeking refuge far from home. "I continue to follow with apprehension the tragic and increasing episodes of violence in Syria with their sad sequence of deaths and injuries, including among civilians, and a huge number of people internally displaced or seeking refuge in neighboring countries," the pope said July 29. (CNS photo/Shaaam News Network handout via Reuters)

Bishops urge Congress to fix health law flaws after high court decision

WASHINGTON (CNS) — The U.S. Supreme Court's June 28 decision upholding the health reform law makes it even more urgent for Congress to act to fix the law's "fundamental flaws" on abortion funding, conscience protection and immigrants' access to health care, the U.S. bishops said. The court found that although the individual mandate in the 2010 health reform law does not pass constitutional muster under the Commerce Clause of the Constitution, it can be upheld as an acceptable exercise of Congress' taxing powers. In a 65-page opinion announced by Chief Justice John Roberts, five members of the court upheld the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act in full but limited the federal government's right to withhold its share of Medicaid funding from states that do not expand the health program for the low-income and disabled as mandated by the law. "The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops has not joined in efforts to repeal

the law in its entirety, and we do not do so today," said a USCCB news release issued shortly after the decision. "The decision of the Supreme Court neither diminishes the moral imperative to ensure decent health care for all, nor eliminates the need to correct (the law's) fundamental flaws." Sister Carol Keehan, president and CEO of the Catholic Health Association, said she was pleased that the health care law "has been found constitutional and will remain in effect." The Daughter of Charity noted that CHA had submitted friend-of-the-court briefs urging the court to find in favor of the individual mandate and the Medicaid expansion. "In the coming weeks and months, we will continue working closely with our members, Congress and the administration to implement the ACA as fairly and effectively as possible," she added. However, CHA has agreed with the bishops in urging the government to expand its definition of religious employers who are exempt from the requirement to provide contraceptives and sterilization free of charge to their employees.

No 'middle ground' possible with LCWR on key issues, Bishop Blair says

WASHINGTON (CNS) — There can be no "middle ground" on matters of faith and morals, the bishop who conducted the Vatican-ordered doctrinal assessment of the Leadership Conference of Women Religious said in an interview that aired July 25 on National Public Radio's "Fresh Air" program. Bishop Leonard P. Blair of Toledo, Ohio, one of two U.S. bishops assisting Archbishop J. Peter Sartain of Seattle in providing "review, guidance and approval, where necessary, of the work" of LCWR, was responding to a call for dialogue by Franciscan Sister Pat Farrell, LCWR president, on the same program July 17. "If by dialogue they mean that the doctrines of the church are negotiable and the bishops represent one position and the LCWR presents another position, and somehow we find a middle ground about basic church teaching on faith and morals, then no," he said. "I don't think that is the kind of dialogue that the Holy See would

Our Sunday Visitor to distribute L'Osservatore Romano's English edition

HUNTINGTON, Ind. (CNS) — The Vatican has chosen *Our Sunday Visitor* to be the exclusive distributor of the North American English edition of *L'Osservatore Romano*, the official Vatican newspaper. *Our Sunday Visitor* will begin distributing *L'Osservatore Romano* in August and also will provide order fulfillment, customer service, and marketing support for the newspaper. The focus will be promotion to individual Catholics, parishes, dioceses and other Catholic organizations. *L'Osservatore Romano* (Italian for "The Roman Observer"), founded in 1861, publishes papal discourses, texts and documents, reports on the events of the church and the pope, and

provides news of cultural debates and international life from the perspective of the Catholic Church. Celebrating its 100th anniversary this year, *Our Sunday Visitor* publishes several periodicals, including the largest national Catholic newspaper, *OSV Newsweekly*, plus *The Catholic Answer*, *The Priest*, *My Daily Visitor*, *Grace in Action* and *Take Out: Family Faith on the Go*. *Our Sunday Visitor* also has more than 1,700 Catholic book, pamphlet and textbook titles in print. In partnership with the Vatican publishing house Libreria Editrice Vaticana, *Our Sunday Visitor* has published more than 18 books by Pope Benedict XVI.

envision. "But if it's a dialogue about how to have the LCWR really educate and help the sisters to appreciate and accept church teaching and to implement it in their discussions and try to hear some of the questions or concerns they have about these issues, then that would be the dialogue," he added. Named in April 2008 to carry out a doctrinal assessment of LCWR, Bishop Blair submitted an eight-page report to the Vatican in July 2010. In April 2012, the Vatican announced a major reform of

LCWR, citing "serious doctrinal problems which affect many in consecrated life." The Maryland-based LCWR has about 1,500 leaders of U.S. women's religious communities as members and represents about 80 percent of the country's 57,000 women religious. Its canonical status is granted by the Vatican. The assessment said reform was needed to ensure LCWR's fidelity to Catholic teaching in areas that include abortion, euthanasia, women's ordination and homosexuality.

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Ongoing Events

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

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. Next weekend is Aug. 17-19. 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. See story on page 15.

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.wwme.org for Marriage Encounter Weekends offered outside the Diocese of Victoria.

Courage — Are you or a loved one experiencing homosexual attraction and looking for answers? Courage, an apostolate of the Catholic Church, ministers to persons with same-sex attraction and their loved ones. It has been endorsed by the [Pontifical Council for the Family](http://www.pontificalcouncilforfamily.org), and our beloved Blessed

John Paul II said of this ministry, "COURAGE is doing the work of God!" There is also an outreach called [EnCourage](http://www.ENCourage.org) which ministers to relatives, spouses, and friends of persons with same-sex attraction. From their website you will learn about same sex attraction and chastity. By developing an interior life of chastity, which is the universal call to all Christians, one can move beyond the confines of the homosexual identity to a more complete one in Christ. Also, find Chapter Meetings, Conferences, Days of Recollection, and Retreats. Go to <http://www.couragerc.net/>

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 website: www.beginningexperience.org; e-mail: sanantoniobe@yahoo.com; phone: (210) 734-2146.

Presidio La Bahia Museum and Visitor Center — a National Historic Landmark in Goliad — 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.

August

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

Yoakum — St. Joseph Parish Picnic Aug. 5

Palacios — St. Anthony Shrimporee Aug. 5

Victoria — KJZT #101 will have a Mass for living and deceased members at Our Lady of Victory Cathedral Sunday, Aug. 12, at 7:30 a.m.; catered breakfast following in the cafeteria. RSVP to Irene at (361) 573-2669.

Weimar — St. Michael Harvest Feast Aug. 12 at Veteran's Memorial Park. A fried-chicken and stew dinner will be served beginning at 11:00 a.m., adults and plates-to-go - \$8; children \$4. Drive-thru take-home plates will be available at St. Michael Family Center only. There will be entertainment for all to enjoy. The auction starts at 1:00 p.m. Music by Czecholics, Red Ravens, and Hitmen starting at 11:00 a.m. There will be a softball tournament (Saturday and Sunday) and a washer pitcher tournament on Sunday, contact Carl at (979) 966-5003 or Mark at (979) 484-6094 for information.

Praha — St. Mary Parish Picnic Aug. 15 on the parish grounds. The day will start with Mass at 10:00 a.m. celebrated by Bishop Fellhauer and visiting priests, followed by dinner featuring Praha stew and fried-chicken at \$8 p/p with dine-in or plates-to-go available from 11:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m. There will be a country store, bingo (1:00-5:00 p.m. and 6:00-10:00 p.m.), cakewalk, children's games, homemade ice cream and much more. The auction begins at 1:00 p.m. Music throughout the day with Central Texas Sounds (11:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. and 3:00-5:00 p.m.); Texas Sound Check (1:00-3:00 p.m. and 5:00-7:00 p.m.); and Incredible Music Makers (7:00-10:00 p.m.). Hamburgers will be available after 4:00 p.m. For more information contact Charlie Bartos, chairman, at (361) 865-2167 or go to www.stmarys-praha.com.

Hillje — St. Andrew Summer Festival Aug. 10 at the parish hall. A prime-beef barbecue and homemade sausage dinner will be served starting at 11:00 a.m. with serve yourself in the hall or drive-thru plates-to-go available.

Cistern — Sts. Cyril & Methodius will have their Annual Homecoming Picnic Aug. 26. The day starts with an old-fashioned trail ride; for more information contact David Urban at (361) 865-2301. Mass will be celebrated at 10:00 a.m. followed by a fried-chicken and V&V sausage dinner at \$8 p/p from 11:00

a.m.-1:00 p.m. with dine-in or drive-thru available. There will be an auction, games, bingo, magician and balloon artist, country store, music and more. Something for everyone!

Upcoming Events

High Hill — St. Mary Picnic Sept. 2 beginning with a flag raising ceremony at 9:30 a.m. followed by a Polka Mass at 10:00 a.m. There will be a chicken and stew dinner served starting at 11:00 a.m. at \$8 p/p with dine-in or drive-thru plates available. The auction begins at 1:00 p.m. There will be a cakewalk, games for the children, horseshoe tournament at 1:00 p.m., bingo, music by Texas Sound Check and Mark Halata/Texavia during the day with Texas Dream at night and a spectacular fireworks show at 10:00 p.m. See page 8 for more information.

Cuero — Our Lady of Guadalupe Jamaica Sept. 2 from 11:00 a.m.-11:00 p.m. at the parish hall grounds (207 Graham). A barbecue-brisket dinner will be served from 11:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. at \$8 p/p. Tamales will be for sale at \$8 per dozen. A Mexican dinner will be served in the evening at \$8 p/p. There will be many activities, food and refreshments, and music throughout the day with the auction beginning at 1:00 p.m. in the parish hall.

Shiner — Sts. Cyril and Methodius Picnic Sept. 2 at the Knights of Columbus Park (formerly American Legion) at 10:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. with dinner consisting of three meats - stew, fried-chicken and sausage at \$8 p/p. Drive-thru plates available at Legion Hall on Hwy. 90A. There will be many activities throughout the day along with music day and night. See page 6 for complete listing of music and happenings.

Hallettsville — Sacred Heart Festival Sept. 2 at the KC Hall with a country fried-chicken, stew, and homemade cornbread dressing dinner from 10:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. for dine-in (10:30 a.m.-1:00 p.m. for plates-to-go) at \$8 p/p. There will be inside a/c hall bingo (noon-6:00 p.m.), cakewalk, country store and religious articles booth. Music on the main pavilion with Kovanda Czech Band from 11:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. followed by the auction. Free dance on the Polka pavilion starts at 1:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. with Dujka Brothers and The Red Ravens. There will also be games, food, washer pitching tournament (5:00 p.m.), and more.

Nada — St. Mary Parish Festival and Homecoming Sept. 2 at the community center. A barbecue-beef and sausage dinner served from 11:00 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. for dine-in, or drive-thru plates-to-go available at \$8 p/p. The auction begins at 1:00 p.m. There will be entertainment, including Rainbow the Clown, throughout the day. See page 3 for more information.

Inez — St. Joseph Parish Picnic Sept. 9 at the community center. A fried-chicken, brisket and sausage dinner will be served. The auction starts at 1:00 p.m. There will be kids games, country store, cakewalk, silent auction and more. See page 12 for more information.

Yorktown — Holy Cross Church Parish Festival Sept. 9

Holman — St. Wenceslaus Parish Picnic Sept. 16

Victoria — Victoria County Annual Czech Heritage Festival Sept. 23 at the community center. More information to come or go to www.victoriaczechs.org.

Bay City — Our Lady of Guadalupe on Sept. 30 will celebrate the 75th anniversary of the first chapel established in Bay City for the Hispanic people. If you plan to attend please RSVP by Sept. 16 by calling the church office at (979) 245-2010 or e-mail olg2003@sbcglobal.net. More information in the next *Catholic Lighthouse*.

Bloomington — St. Patrick's Parish Picnic Sept. 30

El Campo — St. Philip the Apostle Parish Picnic Sept. 30 at the KC Hall (Armory Rd.) from 11:00 a.m.-7:00 p.m. A barbecue=beef and sausage dinner will be served with dine-in or plates-to-go available at \$8 p/p. The auction starts at 1:00 p.m. There will be games, cakewalk, rides, country store, bingo food and more throughout the afternoon. Music from 10:30-6:00 p.m. with Dujka Brothers and Al Sulak.



EVENTS

Hungerford—St. John Church Bazaar Oct. 7 at the community center. A barbecue dinner with sauerkraut will be served starting at 10:30 a.m. There will be an auction at 12:00 p.m. During the day there will be games, country store, cakewalk and much more. Everyone is welcome – fun for all!

Vanderbilt — Due to tornado damage, St. John Bosco Parish Picnic Oct. 7 will be at the Inez Community Center. Barbecue-brisket and sausage plates (catered by Werner's of Shiner) will be served from 11:00 a.m.-1:30 p.m. at \$8 p/p with plates-to-go available drive thru. The auction begins at 1:00 p.m. There will be games for kids, cakewalk, country store, live music, bingo starting at 5:30 p.m., with much more throughout the day.

Victoria—Nazareth Academy Festival Oct. 7

Victoria—Our Lady of Victory Festival Oct. 14

Wharton—Holy Family Fall Festival Oct. 21

Charity Golf Tournaments

El Campo—Pioneer Classic Golf Tournament, benefitting St. Philip Catholic School and Knights of Columbus Council 2490, Aug. 25 at the El Campo Country Club. Call Greg Witcher at (979) 543-1884 for registration and information.

San Antonio—SWING YOUR CLUB for A CAUSE Benefiting The Pilgrim Center of Hope Catholic Men's Conference. Want to support stronger men, marriages and families in Texas? Come play golf! The 6th Annual Pilgrim Center of Hope Golf Classic, benefitting the next Catholic Men's Conference event, is seeking individuals or teams of 4 to support this worthy cause Saturday, Aug. 25, at Silverhorn Golf Club of Texas. Only \$80 per player includes breakfast and BBQ awards banquet, green and cart fees, range balls, goody bag, PLUS replay card and Players Club pass to Silverhorn, one of the top-ranking courses in Texas. Register now - visit the website at <http://www.pilgrimcenterofhope.org/cmcc/golf12.php>

Weimar—KJT State Golf Tournament Saturday, Oct. 6—contact the KJT Home Office at (800) 245-8182 to reserve a spot for a four-person team.

Masses • Retreats • Conferences

Diocese—God's Embrace will be starting four new First Year Program Classes beginning in August in Blessing, Frelsburg, Schulenburg, and Victoria! There is still room for more participants. Please encourage all of your friends and family members to join us. First Year Program: Blessing, Monday, Aug. 6, 6:30-9:00 p.m.; Frelsburg, Tuesday, Aug. 7, 6:30 – 9:00 p.m.; Schulenburg, Thursday, Aug. 9, 6:30-9:00 p.m.; Victoria, Holy Family, Sunday, Aug. 12, 6 - 8:30 p.m. All First Year participants please mark your calendar for: "One Day Retreat" Saturday, August 11: Victoria, St. Mary Church - Activity Center, 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. Lunch will be provided. Please contact Sandy Reese, sandyreesefoaj@yahoo.com or (979) 541-6881, to register for the day. Learn more at www.godsembrace.net, click on Texas. See more information on page 16.

San Antonio—Bring your anxieties, worries, pain, grief, and struggles to a Eucharistic Healing Service Thursday, Aug. 9, 7:30-9:00 p.m. at St. Matthew Church, 10703 Wurzbach Rd., San Antonio. For more information: www.pilgrimcenterofhope.org/EHS.php

Victoria—Holy Family Church is sponsoring a Men's ACTS retreat Sept. 13–16 at the diocese's Spiritual Renewal Center. For an unforgettable experience, call Gerald Bryant at (361) 578-0926.

San Antonio—SPA FOR A WOMAN'S SOUL – The 11th Annual Catholic Women's Conference will be held Sept. 21-22 at Norris Conference Center at Wonderland Mall, 4522 Fredericksburg Rd., San Antonio. Registration is now open. Visit <http://CWCSanAntonio.com> or call (210) 521-3377. Sign up for exclusive Catholic Women's Conference Insider e-mails on the website at <http://www.pilgrimcenterofhope.org/cwc/>! Includes special messages from speakers, notice of discounts, tips, inspiration, and more! "Come to me, all you

who labor and are heavy-burdened, and I will give you rest" (Matthew 11:28).

Victoria—St. Mary's Altar Society will sponsor a half-day retreat on Monday, Sept. 24, in St. Mary's Activity Center. The Rev. Patrick Knippenberg will be the retreat master. Men and women are welcome. Registration is from 8:45-9:15 a.m. Lunch will be served after the 12:05 p.m. Mass. Retreat concludes after 1:00 p.m. There will be no charge, but please make reservations to Janell Kruppa at (361) 575-8166 or Lorraine Hebert at (361) 578-6589.

Victoria—Healing Mass and Prayer at Our Lady of Lourdes Church, 105 N. William St., on the first Saturday of the month at 10:00 a.m. with Father Phi Nguyen, chaplain of IWBS Convent. Mark your calendars now for next month. For more information, please contact Sister Louise Marie Jones at iwbsvoc2@yahoo.com.

Victoria—AMOR MEUS Spirituality Center Schedule August-December 2012 at Incarnate Word Convent — 1101 N.E. Water Street — Victoria, TX 77901 — 361-575-7111 — e-mail: amormeus@yahoo.com **Quiet Days of Retreat and Prayer:** Sept. 15 and Nov. 3 – A quiet day of prayer listening to the voice of God speaking in the stillness of your heart. Women and men are welcomed. A love offering is accepted for the day. You may purchase a box lunch for \$5 or bring your own lunch. Call for reservations. **Taizé Prayer:** Aug. 30, Oct. 18 and Dec. 6 – 7:00-8:00 p.m. — Amor Meus Prayer Room — A Taizé Prayer Service consists of music, song, chant, scriptural readings, meditation, and prayers of praise and intercession. **Advent Vespers:** Sundays in December — 5:00-5:45 p.m.

Shiner—Latin Masses will be celebrated by Father Bob Knippenberg at Sts. Cyril and Methodius Church every 1st & 3rd Sunday of the month at 11:00 a.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.actsmiissions.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/>.



Familia Cathedral – Barcelona, Spain

Father Gabriel Bentil needs pilgrims

Father Gabriel Bentil is still looking for pilgrims to go on a pilgrimage with him to the great shrines of the Blessed Mother in Europe. He will be the spiritual director of a 15-day Shrines of Spain – Portugal – France Pilgrimage from October 1 – 15, 2012. The tour coordinator is Betty Urbanovsky of El Campo, and the group leader will be Paul Mazoch.

Highlights will include Barcelona; Montserrat, Spain's most sacred mountain, to see the shrine of the Virgin of Montserrat (Black Madonna); the Basilica of Our Lady of the Pillar, the oldest church consecrated to the Blessed Virgin in Christendom; the Basilica of the Immaculate Conception, Lourdes, France; Loyola, the birthplace of St. Ignatius (Jesuits); Garabandal, Marian apparition site in Spain; Covadonga, Spain; St. James Church – Santiago de Compostela; and Fatima, Portugal, on Oct. 13, the anniversary of the last appearance of Our Lady to the three children in Fatima.

For further information, please contact Betty Urbanovsky (979) 332-3044 or Ceci Triska (979) 543-8575

SACRED HEART PARISH FALL PICNIC

Sunday, September 2, 2012
at the K.C. Hall in Hallettsville, Texas

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

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

Adults \$8.00 Children \$4.00

AUCTION on the Main
Pavilion at 1:00 p.m.

Music on the Main Pavilion
Kavanda Czech Band
11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Inside the air-conditioned KC Hall.
Bingo (Noon to 5:00 p.m.),
Cake Walk, Country Store &
Religious Articles Booth.

Free Dance on the
Polka Pavilion/Biergarten
Dujka Brothers &
The Red Ravens
1:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.

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



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Father Peter Yeboah-Amanfo, pastor of St. Peter's, and Bishop David Fellhauer prepare to cut the ribbon on the rededicated and restored bell. The bell was originally donated by the parishioners of St. Peter's in 1928. The inscription is written in Czech on one side and in English on the other side. The bell has not been used since the 1980's. It was recently polished and reset in the small bell tower for display.



Father Peter dancing to
"I'm So Happy"

Father Peter celebrates the parish's centennial in praise! *All photo's by Colleen's Camera Clicks (Colleen Vavra).*



Bishop David Fellhauer was the main celebrant of the Centennial Mass, Deacon Michael J. Rauen of the Diocese of Corpus Christi (l.) assists, while Father Peter (r.) concelebrates.



Bishop Fellhauer blesses the new Our Lady of Guadalupe fountain, Father Peter and Deacon Michael face him.

Blessing celebrates its centennial anniversary

BLESSING—On July 15, 2012, parishioners of St. Peter's Catholic Parish proudly celebrated the 100-year anniversary of the first Catholic Mass celebrated in Blessing. Bishop David E. Fellhauer was the main celebrant at the Centennial Mass, while Father Peter Yeboah-Amanfo, pastor, concelebrated, along with many visiting priests and his good friend Deacon Michael J. Rauen from Corpus Christi assisted.

The festivities began at 10 a.m. with Bishop Fellhauer rededicating the "Old Bell" and then striking it, calling all to worship. During the procession, which was led by Mariachi De Rogelio Cortines from Victoria, four new statues were blessed by the bishop: an Our Lady of Guadalupe outdoor fountain, two adoring angels at the tabernacle, and St. Michael the Archangel at the back of the church.

Lector Leticia Aparicio read the readings from the 15th Sunday in Ordinary Time, and Bishop Fellhauer read the Gospel, Mark 6:7-13, and delivered the homily. The altar gifts were presented

by parishioners Vincent and Cynthia Nemeč. Following Bishop Fellhauer's final blessing, all present were invited to St. Peter's Hall for the centennial meal and celebration.

Entertainment was provided by the Mariachis; Father Greg Korenek, pastor of Holy Cross Church in Bay City (accordion music); and John and Barbara Hickl and their "first-time" Polka Band.

St. Peter Parish History

Prepared by Cynthia Nemeč Centennial Chairman

The first Catholic Mass was said in Blessing on July 12, 1912, at the home of Mr. and Mrs. John Roach, Father Francis Palanche, assistant pastor of St. Mary in Victoria. There were five families present. Arrangements were made to have Mass held once a month. Mass was said in the homes of John Roach, Frank Cobb, and J. D. Murphy.

In January 1914, local Catholics began plans to erect a church. The Blessing

Town Site Company, owned by Jonathan E. Pierce, donated Lots 10, 11, and 12 of Block 15 of the Blessing Original Town Site (BOTS) for use as a church or school. As a memorial to loved ones, Alfred Fred Foisy agreed to bear the greater part of the expense.

The church was a wooden frame, Mission style structure that measured 30 by 50 feet with two towers on the west side. A Mission-style altar was donated by Ples and Elizabeth Dawdy and the wooden pews were donated by John R. and Margaret J. Rowles, the parents of Elizabeth Dawdy.

The new church was dedicated on April 20, 1915, by the Most Reverend John William Shaw, bishop of the San Antonio Diocese and later archbishop of New Orleans, along with Rev. J. X. Heck, pastor of St. Mary Church, Victoria; Msgr. Jacobus B. Schnetzer, pastor of Church of the Blessed Sacrament, Houston; and Rev. Francis Pallanche, pastor of Port Lavaca and administrator of Blessing.

The church was placed under the

patronage of St. Peter, "Prince of the Apostles". The music of the Mass was Gounod's "Convent Mass in C", sung by the new church choir, with Anita Hill as organist.

St. Peter Catholic Church was a mission parish attended by priests from Victoria, Port Lavaca, Edna, El Campo and Hillje. In 1927, John and Mary Murphy donated an acre of land for a Catholic cemetery as memorial to their son, Joseph F. Murphy (1920 – 1927), the first person to be buried there.

In 1929, the church was enlarged, adding a bell tower and choir loft. This remodeling changed the appearance of the church from its original Mission-style appearance.

The first resident priest was Father A. J. Weber, who served from 1930 to 1936. During the years of 1930-31, a rectory was built on a portion of lots 7, 8, and 9 of Block 15. In 1933, a wing was added to the church due to the increase in

See Blessing celebrates, p. 12