



RESPECT FOR LIFE MARCH HELD WITH EUCHARISTIC PROCESSION—A Eucharistic Procession and Respect for Life March was held Sunday, January 22, 2012, by parishioners of Sts. Cyril & Methodius Parish in Shiner, as a peaceful protest of the Roe vs. Wade decision of 1973. Marchers left Welhausen Park in Shiner at 3:00 p.m. following an opening prayer service. The procession made its way back to the church via Highway 90-A while praying the Rosary. The service concluded with a Litany for Life and Benediction. See more Pro-life activities on p. 2.

Bishops protest against Health and Human Services move

By Nancy Frazier O'Brien
Catholic News Service

WASHINGTON (CNS) — The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Secretary Kathleen Sebelius' Jan. 20 announced that religious organizations could delay but not opt out of a requirement that all health plans cover contraception and sterilization at no cost.

The reaction of Catholic leaders was strong.

Bishops across the country — including Archbishop Wilton D. Gregory of Atlanta, Archbishop Gregory M. Aymond of New Orleans and Bishop Robert N. Lynch of St. Petersburg, Fla. — were preparing letters to be read at all Masses during the Jan. 28-29 weekend.

Bishop Daniel R. Jenky of Peoria, Ill., enlisted the aid of St. Michael the Archangel in fighting “this unprecedented governmental assault upon the moral convictions of our faith.”

In a Jan. 24 letter to Peoria Catholics, he directed that the prayer of St. Michael be recited “for the freedom of the Catholic Church in America” during Sunday Masses at every parish, school, hospital, Newman center and religious house in the diocese.

“I am honestly horrified that the nation I have always loved

has come to this hateful and radical step in religious intolerance,” Bishop Jenky said in the letter.

“While it is primarily the laity who should take the leading role in political and legal action, as your bishop it is my clear responsibility to summon our local church into spiritual and temporal combat in defense of Catholic Christianity,” he added. “I strongly urge you not to be intimidated by extremist politicians or the malice of the cultural secularists arrayed against us.”

“We cannot — we will not — comply with this unjust law,” declared Bishop Thomas J. Olmsted of Phoenix in a Jan. 25 letter.

“Our parents and grandparents did not come to these shores to help build America’s cities and towns, its infrastructure and institutions, its enterprise and culture, only to have their posterity stripped of their God-given rights,” Bishop Olmsted said. “In generations past, the church has always been able to count on the faithful to stand up and protect her sacred rights and duties. I hope and trust she can count on this generation of Catholics to do the same.”

The Catholic bishops of Dallas and Fort Worth, Texas, said in

See Bishop protest, p. 8

NOTICE ~ Action Required ~

The Diocese of Victoria needs to hear from everyone who would like to have a physical copy of *The Catholic Lighthouse* newspaper delivered to their address.

The newspaper office wants to be sure that EVERYONE who wishes to receive a paper copy of *The Catholic Lighthouse* will receive it. They are not trying to limit the paper; they just want to be sure that it is being mailed only to those who want it.

We are unable to individually alert readers as to when the paper will be available online each month. However, it should be online by the Friday after the First Wednesday of each month, and/or no later than the 10th of each month.

Please send your name, address and phone number (for any questions we may have) to:

The Catholic Lighthouse
P. O. Box 4070
Victoria, TX 77903

www.victoriadiocese.org
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(request Regina)

Thank you so much for your support and patience.

Bishop Fellhauer to Make Fourth “Ad Limina” Visit

By Cynthia Brewer

Bishop David E. Fellhauer will be making his “ad limina” visit to the Vatican March 14 – 21, 2012, along with the bishops of Texas, Oklahoma and Arkansas — at least 18 bishops as well as some auxiliary bishops.

The Latin words “ad limina” mean, “to the Thresholds of the Apostles” — to venerate the tombs of the Apostles Peter and Paul.

According to Canon Law, every five years a bishop is bound to make a report to the Supreme Pontiff on the state of the diocese entrusted to him. He is also required to venerate the tombs of the Apostles Peter and Paul; this is done usually by celebrating a

Mass over their tombs — St. Peter’s, in the Basilica of St. Peter, and St. Paul’s in the Basilica of St. Paul Outside the Walls.

“This is one aspect of the unity between the pope and the bishops, and in fact the unity of the Church throughout the world,” Bishop Fellhauer said.

“We make reports to the Vatican every year,” he stated. “However, this report is considerably lengthier. This year’s Quinquennial Report (every fifth year) is 96-pages. It’s pretty detailed and elaborate.”

The Quinquennial Report covers almost every aspect of the diocese — from religious education, schools, to statistics and finances.

In the past, the “ad limina” visit included a personal visit with the pope. “When John Paul II was pope, the bishops met with him individually and in groups and said Masses together and shared meals,” Bishop Fellhauer said.

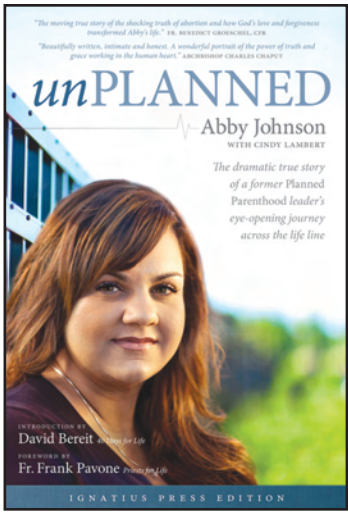
Pope Benedict has had to curtail his personal audiences with individual bishops during their visits.

An Oct. 21, 2011, Catholic News Service story reported, “In a quiet modification of a traditional format, the Vatican has dropped most of the individual private meetings between Pope Benedict XVI and bishops making their ‘ad limina’ visits

See Bishop Fellhauer, p. 4

Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, February 22, 2012

...now is a very acceptable time
...behold, now is the day of salvation
2 COR 6:2



Abby Johnson to speak in diocese

Abby Johnson, former Planned Parenthood clinic director, will be in Bay City and Hallettsville on February 26 and 27, telling her conversion story. Hear her in Bay City on Sunday, Feb. 26, at 7:30 p.m. at Keye Ingram Auditorium, 1507 Sycamore Dr.; and on Monday, Feb. 27, at 7:00 p.m. at Sacred Heart Church, 400 E. Fifth St., in Hallettsville.

DOVEDONATEDFOR THE MONUMENT OF THE INNOCENTS— Ken Andrews, of KK Creations, has donated a handmade wooden dove to Raphael's Refuge. It is to be painted and placed above the mural in the Chapel of the Holy Innocents. "The beautiful dove will complete the composition of the mural," said Midge Elam, director of the organization. "High above the painting will be the dove, a representation of the Holy Spirit of God, next is the Archangel Raphael, who is holding a baby, and lastly, is a fish." The mural is nearing completion, but still lacks lettering, installation of the dove, and paintings over two doors at the sides of the mural. Mr. Andrews is pictured in front of the mural; he is holding the wooden dove that he crafted. The monument is open to visitors during the day, seven days of the week. For information, call Midge at (361) 865-3021, e-mail at raphaelsrefuge@att.net, or check the updated website at www.raphaelsrefuge.org.



Jim Miksch (c.) donated buckets of pennies to "Pennies for Life." He and his late mother, Annie Blaine, had been collecting the pennies for years. Pictured are members of the local Catholic Daughters "Pennies for Life" committee: (from left) Financial Secretary Dorothy Ripper, Georgia Cerny, Dorothy Berger, Jim Miksch, Barbara Veselka, and Recording Secretary Lorine Machicek. Not pictured, but very busy in the effort, were committee members Ruth Fabian, Nichole Machalke and Donna Kunz. Sticker photo by Andy Behlen

Catholic Daughters raise "Pennies for Life"

SCHULENBURG—During the month of October 2011, Respect Life Month – established by the USCCB in 1972 – the Catholic Daughters of St. Rose of Lima Parish in Schulenburg collected "Pennies for Life." Catholic parishioners were asked to give one penny for each year of their life in thanks to God for the blessing of life. The money collected was given to the Victoria Diocese for purposes related to Respect Life activities.

This year's "Pennies for Life" fund-raiser received a special gift from Jim Miksch. Miksch, along with his late mother Annie Blaine, had collected pennies for years. After Blaine passed away in September, Miksch looked for a suitable charity to which he might donate the cache of pennies, which amounted to nearly two, full five-gallon pails, and decided that "Pennies for Life" was the best way to honor his mother.

"One of the Best" Candlelight Marches and talks

A fantastic speaker, beautiful weather, and a great crowd made for a successful Pro-life Candlelight March in Victoria on January 26, the 39th anniversary of Roe vs. Wade.

After having marched from Northside Baptist Church to Our Lady of Victory Cathedral, over 325 pro-life marchers were treated to a powerful talk by Father Tommy Chen, the director of Diocesan Pro-Life Concerns in the Victoria Diocese.

Father Tommy made a declaration of independence for the pro-life movement based on the United States Declaration of Independence. For those who would like to read something similar to his talk, please see his homily titled "The Right to Life used to be self-evident",

reprinted in *The Catholic Lighthouse* at www.victoriadiocese.org/lighthouse/lighthouse.htm; click on the March 2011 (p. 1) and April 2011 (p. 22) archives.

"A Baby Book"

To read and/or vote for a local woman's Pro-life poem, "A Baby Book", which she has entered into a Poetry Contest at Manhattan Declaration, please go to: <http://manhattandeclaration.org/poem.aspx?id=287>. The poem was written by Heather Kallus of Inez, Texas. To view other poems, please go to: <http://manhattandeclaration.org/poetry-submissions.aspx>.

by Gary Cangemi



Youth Ministry members of Sts. Cyril and Methodius Parish in Shiner make a pilgrimage to Washington, D.C., for the March for Life/Pro-Life Rally held on January 23, 2012.

Students from Shiner March for Life in Washington, D.C.

WASHINGTON, D.C.—Members of Sts. Cyril and Methodius Youth Ministry recently made a pilgrimage to Washington, D.C. where they joined in the March for Life/Pro-Life Rally on January 23, 2012. The students joined tens of thousands of other pro-life supporters braving the cold and rain to exercise their freedom of speech and petition to support the repeal of Roe v. Wade and express their unwavering belief that life begins at conception.

The event started with a Pro-Life Mass in the great, upper church of the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception with Cardinal Daniel Nicholas DiNardo, Archbishop of the Houston-Galveston Dio-

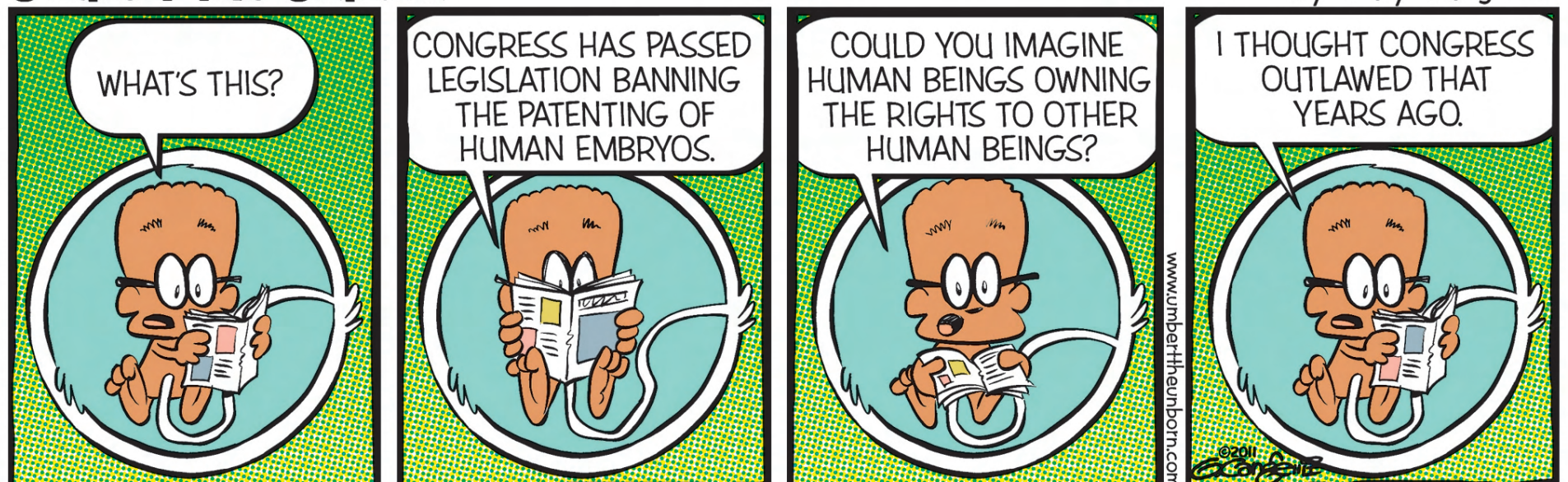
cese, as celebrant. Prior to the march they listened to numerous speakers including U.S. Speaker of the House John Boehner. The 36 participants wore bright yellow hooded sweatshirts with the words "Death Roe Survivor" printed on the back. The students and chaperones proudly marched from the National Mall and up Constitution Avenue to the steps of the Supreme Court Building. The epitaph on the back of the sweatshirts was designed by St. Paul H.S. junior Ted Wenske. Tim was interviewed and his statement published by the Catholic News Service, where in part he noted that "life from the moment of conception to death is sacred." The sweatshirts were generously

and graciously donated by several local sponsors.

The students, who worked hard to raise the money to attend this march, were afforded time to walk Arlington National Cemetery and pay prayerful tributes to the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier, the grave of the 35th President of the United States John F. Kennedy, and the most decorated American soldier of WWII Audie Murphy to name a few.

Along the way these students represented Shiner Catholic School, Sts. Cyril and Methodius Catholic Church and especially the city of Shiner, Texas, as if they were seasoned ambassadors of the community they proudly call home.

Umbert the Unborn





Bishop Fellhauer's Schedule

February

- 9 2:00 p.m., Our Lady of Victory School spelling bee, Victoria
- 11 7:00 a.m., Mass, Our Lady of Sorrows ACTS retreat, Spiritual Renewal Center
- 12 3:00 p.m., Mass honoring Father Joe Hybner, Sts. Cyril & Methodius Church, Cistern
- 13 5:00 p.m., Diocesan Liturgical Commission meeting, Chancery Office
- 15 4:00 p.m., Diocesan Building Board meeting, Chancery Office
- 16 5:00 p.m., Opening prayer, dinner, Catholic Schools principals' retreat, Spiritual Renewal Center
- 17 11:30 a.m., Mass, Catholic Schools principals' retreat, Spiritual Renewal Center
- 19 4:00 p.m., Mass, Knights of Columbus Fourth Degree Assembly Ladies Night, St. Andrew Church and Hall, Hillje
- 21 6:30 p.m., Social, 7:00 p.m., Distinguished Catholic Schools Alumni Awards dinner, The Oak Room Restaurant, Victoria
- 26 10:00 a.m., Mass, 60th Anniversary of CDA Court St. Rose, St. Rose of Lima Church, Schulenburg
3:00 p.m., Diocesan-wide Rite of Election, Call to Continued Conversion, Our Lady of Victory Cathedral

March

- 4 9:30 a.m., Mass and blessing of renovations of the rectory, St. John the Baptist Church, Ammannsville
- 7 10:00 a.m., Presbyteral Council meeting, Chancery Office
- 9 St. Michael Church and School, golf tournament, Cuero
- 10 5:30 p.m., Mass, Girl Scouts Religion Recognition Awards, Our Lady of Victory Cathedral
- 11 10:30 a.m., Mass, blessing of monument honoring the Sisters of Incarnate Word and Blessed Sacrament, Sacred Heart Church, Hallettsville
1:30 p.m., Catholic Knowledge Bowl, Holy Family Church, Victoria

DSA & Reflection of Faith Capital Campaign Updates

2011 DSA

Diocesan Goal:	\$ 1,471,384.00
Parish Pledge Totals:	\$ 769,620.73
Parish Contribution Totals:	\$ 755,884.23
Number of Parish Families Participating:	3,772

Reflection of Faith Capital Campaign

Diocesan Goal:	\$ 9,000,000.00
Parish Pledge Totals:	\$ 12,932,463.03
Parish Contribution Totals:	\$ 10,152,748.51
Number of Parish Families Participating:	6,768



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DEADLINE IS THE THIRD TUESDAY OF THE PRECEDING MONTH.

Thank You Notes

Dear Bishop Fellhauer:

Please accept my deepest appreciation to you and the people in the Diocese of Victoria for your generous contribution and heartfelt concern for the poor and disadvantaged around the world whose lives and dignity are at risk. Your support enables Catholic Relief Services to assist millions through infrastructure and agricultural projects, microfinance programs and global food programs overseas. Thanks to you, CRS can continue to provide secure havens of hope and peace around the world.

This letter serves as a formal acknowledgement of your recent donation to Catholic Relief Services for the following gift from the diocese: \$45,645.40 for SE Asia & Pacific Rim.

On behalf of all of us at CRS and those who will be touched by your compassionate generosity and spirit of humility, I am grateful for your steadfast support of our mission and leading the faithful in the Diocese of Victoria to live their faith in solidarity with the poor and marginalized people overseas.

May God bless you for your continued prayers and generous support,

Ken Hackett
President (Catholic Relief Services)

Dear Bishop Fellhauer:

On behalf of the Subcommittee on the Church in Latin America, I'd like to express my gratitude to you and your faithful for your contribution of \$25,196.99 to the 2011 Collection for the Church in Latin America.

As a result of your efforts, the subcommittee was able to award \$7.1 million dollars to 407 different projects in 2011. These projects included the formation of seminarians and religious; the promotion of youth ministry; the support of many pro-life and family ministry activities as well as the efforts of many thousands of priests, religious and laity who share the Gospel in some of the remotest areas of our hemisphere. As an example of the subcommittee's support to catechetical and sacramental preparation projects in countries such as Colombia and Honduras, our poster image for the 2012 Collection features some children about to receive their first communion.

The subcommittee also continues to support the Church in Haiti with the rebuilding of the many churches, convents, rectories and schools destroyed or damaged by the January 2010 earthquake. In 2012 we will see several of these projects under construction or near completion.

In a particular way, the Collection touches upon our ministry to the large number of Hispanic Catholics in the United States. The Collection offers an opportunity to show solidarity with the Church in their country of origin and to support the New Evangelization throughout the entire hemisphere. For many Catholic brothers and sisters, the Collection is an opportunity to continue learning about the people of Latin America and the expression of our Catholic faith in the continent.

Without you, our solidarity could not take shape into concrete programs that support the life and dignity of so many people in Latin America. On behalf of the subcommittee and those who benefit from the Collection, once again, thank you.

Sincerely yours in Christ,
Most Rev. José H. Gomez
Archbishop of Los Angeles
Chairman, USCCB Subcommittee
on the Church in Latin America



Band instruments needed for OLV

Our Lady of Victory School in Victoria is still looking for donations of band instruments that might be in your closet or attic that students at OLV could be using. They have extended their band program and are needing instruments for students who cannot afford to rent one. Please consider donating or lending it to OLV, and if you have a friend that has one, please mention this possibility.

For more information, please call OLV School at (361) 575-5391.

Common Practice of Penance for Lent

Dear Friends in Christ:

The season of Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, February 22. All Christ's faithful are obliged by Divine Law, each in his or her own way, to do penance.

"Be converted and do penance for all your iniquities, and iniquity shall not be your ruin" Ezech. 18:30.

However, so that all may be joined together in a certain common practice of penance, days and seasons of penance are officially prescribed by the Church. On these days, Catholic people are, in a special way, to devote themselves to prayer, to engage in works of piety and charity and to practice self-denial, especially by observing the fast and abstinence regulations prescribed by the Church, namely:

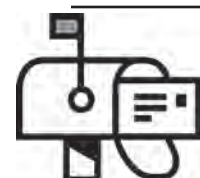
1. Fasting and abstinence from meat on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday.
2. Abstinence from meat on all Fridays of Lent. The law of abstinence from meat is required of all those fourteen years of age and older.
3. The law of the fast means that only one full meal may be taken during the day; two light meals are permitted in addition. The consumption of solid food between meals is prohibited, but liquids may be taken at any time.
4. The law of fast binds those between the ages of 18 and 59.

Those who, by reason of their young age, are not bound by the laws of fast and abstinence, should be taught the true meaning of penance.

Apart from the special Lenten activities of individuals and parishes, Lent affords a special opportunity for families. Penitential practices and devotions should be conducted on a family basis. Families are encouraged to remove the distractions to works of piety and reintroduce family prayer, Scripture services, and other appropriate devotions.

May this holy season of Lent be a time of conversion and renewal for all.

Sincerely yours in Christ,
Rev. Msgr. Thomas C. McLaughlin, V.G.
Chancellor, Diocese of Victoria



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The Mysterious Nature of "The Call."

By Deacon Patrick Knippenberg,
St. Mary's Seminary – Theology IV

As I approach my ordination to the priesthood, I can't but help in reflecting on the nine years of discernment that has brought me to this moment. My conversion to the Catholic faith from the Episcopal faith was filled in between with secular living that included no real faith at all.



When I was received into the Church on Easter 1998, I did not realize the plans that God had in store for me. As I was developing in my faith journey, the priest abuse scandals of 2001 were rocking the Church and I remember my pastor pointing out into the congregation that good men were needed to help the Church. It's as if my pastor was pointing at me, and my response was much like Samuel's: "Here I am Lord."

I questioned myself right away and said (to my chagrin), "I can't be a priest, that is reserved for holy men and I am such a sinner. As I walked out into the foyer of the church I was reeling from the thought (or call) I had received. For some reason I walked over to the religious pamphlets rack stand in the foyer and my eyes caught one title, the Jesus prayer. I picked it up

and read this simple yet profound prayer: "Lord Jesus Christ, Holy Son of the living God, have mercy on me, a sinner." I did not understand then as I do now but it was God's powerful grace working through me. Even though I did not understand fully the meaning behind this prayer, God was saying, "I know you are a sinner (and by my admission to this in the prayer) I want you to come and follow me."

I trusted this initial call, but the doubts of worthiness began to creep in and I found myself panicking and asking, "How can I quit the lucrative job I had and follow Jesus now at 38 years of age. People in my workplace did not know of my religious inklings, and how would I approach them and say, "God has called me to become a priest of the Roman Catholic Church!"? I imagined how the apostles felt when Jesus said, "Come follow me," and they immediately dropped what they were doing and followed. How does this happen? I can only say that this is the mysterious nature of "the call."

I entered seminary in the winter of 2003 and now nine years later I am being ordained a priest for the diocese of Victoria in Texas, and a journey that started nine years ago is continuing on for the rest of my life.

I thank all the people of Victoria and Bishop Fellhauer for granting me this opportunity to serve, and I thank God everyday by saying "Lord Jesus Christ, holy Son of the living God, have mercy on me, a sinner."

Seminary Burses

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

As of January 30, 2012

	TOTALS
— Rev. Joseph Hybner	
Previously Reported	\$2,481.00
In memory of Patricia Chumchal by Victoria Cnty Czech Heritage Society	<u>25.00</u>
Total	\$2,506.00

— Reverend John C. Peters Burse #5	
Previously Reported	\$2,899.00
In memory of John & Tillie Peters by Deacon Joey and Mary Targac	30.00
In memory of Joe & Olga Targac by Deacon Joey and Mary Targac	30.00
In honor of Fr. John Peters by:	
Carol Bludau	30.00
Jackie Pettus	40.00
Dorothy Jansky	50.00
Angela Hermes	100.00
In memory of Annie Henke by Leo & Dorothy Henke	<u>30.00</u>
Total	\$3,209.00

— Rev. Jerome J. Stryk	
Previously Reported	\$14,024.50
In memory of Lad Muras by:	
Bernard and Mary Grahmann	10.00
Stazy Hajek and Georgia Cerny	15.00
Stanley Stryk and family	50.00
Andy and Pauline Stryk	100.00
Larry Stryk	100.00
Irene Orsak	20.00
Helen Muras and children	300.00
Louis Stryk	50.00
Robert Stryk	5.00
Emil Lev	<u>10.00</u>
Total	\$14,684.50

— Knights Of Columbus #1329, Victoria	
Previously Reported	\$11,182.50
In memory of Ernest Innocenti by KofC Council 1329	100.00
In memory of Julius P Brzozowski by KofC Council 1329	<u>100.00</u>
Total	\$11,382.50

— Joseph R. Janak Burse #2	
Previously Reported	\$2,043.77
In memory of Rev. August Puchar by Margaret Kutac	<u>20.00</u>
Total	\$2,063.77

— Rev. Msgr. Edward Bartsch	
Previously Reported	\$5,745.00
In memory of Msgr. Edward Bartsch by Midge Elam	<u>25.00</u>
Total	\$5,770.00

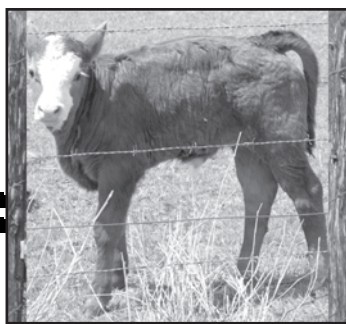
Existing Burses

- CDA St. Ann #369 Burse #2
- Rev. Msgr. Julius Petru Burse #2
- Rev. Joe Levya
- Rev. Marcus Valenta
- Rev. Godfrey F. Kuratko
- Rev. Msgr. John Hanacek
- Catholic Family Fraternal of Texas KJZT Burse #5
- Sophie Schmidt
- Rev. Sean Donohue Burse #2
- Rev. Msgr. Robert Schmidt
- Rev. Msgr. Vaclav Bily
- St. Mary's Church – Praha
- St. Mary's Church – High Hill
- Sr. Perpetua Hawes
- Sr. M. Barbara Konvicka
- Bill Schmidt
- Rev. Jerry Caponi
- These are just some of the burses available

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 BURSSES
DIOCESE OF VICTORIA
P. O. BOX 4070
VICTORIA, TX 77903

SHUTTIN' THE GATE



Editorial by Cynthia Brewer, editor

It's not the first time ... it'll be ok, and we'll get it right

I think it's a blessing that the English speaking Church has translated Pope John Paul II's Latin Edition of the Roman Missal, which he introduced in 2002. Now we can say the Mass parts in unison with our Catholic brothers and sisters throughout the world.

However, I wonder if anyone else gets as flustered as I do trying to keep up with the new language of the Third Edition of the Roman Missal?

I mean, during Mass I'm holding my Mass Card, which my parish dutifully purchased to help us with the big transition, and I'm rushing around, flipping it over, trying to find the prayer we're about to say, only to accidentally turn it upside down, and now the prayer's been said.

Or I go back to the Today's Missal and just follow it through the whole Mass so I'm ready when it's time for a response. That seems to work best for me, except on a weekday when I've got to then search near the back of the missalette to recite the day's Communion Song.

But wait, that's not all! When I go to the daily Mass at St. Mary's in Victoria, we sing the Holy, Holy, Holy and the Lamb of God (one of the few prayers not changed at all) in Latin, so I rush to our Music Issue song book and turn to song #859 and #863, so I can get all those Latin words correct.

It seems I've got a library of missals, missalettes, and Mass cards in my pew just trying to keep up.

I guess I've only got myself to blame. As an editor of a Catholic newspaper, I've been printing the people's parts of the new Roman Missal in *The Catholic Lighthouse* since October 2010 – every month for more than a year – in preparation of the changes that began on the first Sunday in Advent this liturgical year (Nov. 27, 2011).

My problem: I read the changes and placed them in the paper so everyone else would be aware of what was about to happen, but I didn't study the changes; I didn't practice them – and I still haven't!

But this isn't the first time I've experienced changes to the Catholic Mass; there's a reason this Roman Missal is titled the "Third Edition". The first and biggest change was with Vatican II, when, for the U. S. Church, the Mass language was changed from Latin to the vernacular: English. That happened in 1973, and I was

See It's not the first time, p. 7

Bishop Fellhauer to Make Fourth Ad Limina Visit

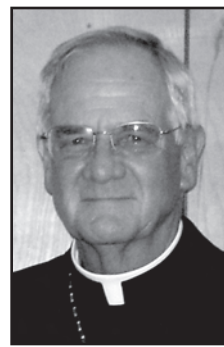
Continued from p. 1

to Rome.

"The unannounced change was instituted earlier this year, apparently in an effort to reduce the scheduling burden on the 84-year-old pope and to help cut through the backlog of 'ad limina' visits ..."

At least once they'll meet with the pope although it might not be individually.

Bishop Fellhauer has gone on three "ad limina" visits so far, each with Pope John Paul II. His last visit was in 2004. The visits are set for every five years; however, because of the illness and death of Pope John Paul II and the events surrounding the beginning of the pontificate of Pope Benedict XVI, the 2009 "ad limina" visit never occurred.



"The personal meetings with Pope JPII were always memorable," Bishop Fellhauer said. "At each meeting it was evident that his health had declined since the previous visit, but he was always alert and interested."

"One of the most memorable events of the previous 'ad limina' visits was being present at the canonization ceremony of Gianna Beretta Molla on May 16, 2004," he said. Saint Gianna, 1922 – 1962, is known as a wife, mother, doctor and pro-life witness.

"This will be the first 'ad limina' visit with Pope Benedict XVI; although, I've met him several times before he was elected pope," said Bishop Fellhauer.

Before becoming pope, Cardinal Ratzinger spent 24 years heading the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith.

"When we're there, we see not only the pope, but visit various congregations and offices of the Vatican, including the Congregations for the Doctrine of the Faith, Divine Worship, Clergy, Consecrated Life (the religious), Catholic Education (schools and seminaries), and Bishops," Bishop Fellhauer said.

Each office receives sections of the Quinquennial Report that apply to its responsibility; at each of the meetings with the congregations there is a frank discussion about the diocese.

"The Quinquennial Report is an honest report of the strengths and challenges of the diocese," Bishop Fellhauer said. "Among the challenges regularly noted are religious vocations. One of the bright spots among many is the involvement of so many lay women and men in the mission of the diocese," he concluded.

Join Us For Great Adventures

~ Mystery Tour ~
April 9-16

~ Jeanne Robertson/
Carl Hurley ~

Tuesday, March 13
at the Galveston Grand
Deadline for tickets, Feb. 14

\$135 includes lunch and gratuity

~ Rushmore & Badlands ~
June 11-20

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

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

Reporting Child Abuse

Hotline
1-800-252-5400



The first 10 teams to register
will receive a free CKB T-shirt!

The Diocese of Victoria 5th Annual Catholic Knowledge Bowl

March 11, 2012

Holy Family Parish
1:30 – 4:30 p.m.

Are you looking for a way to have fun, learn more about your faith, and possibly be a winner? If so, the fifth annual Catholic Knowledge Bowl is for you!!!

Early Registration Fee (before March 1): \$20 per team
After March 1: \$30 per team

PAYMENT MUST ACCOMPANY REGISTRATION

Registrations will not be accepted after March 7

For more information go to www.victoriadiocese.org or call (361) 573-0828

Weekday Communion services

By Father Kenneth Doyle
Catholic News Service

Q. In the area where I live, it used to be that, when a priest was not available for a weekday Mass, a deacon or eucharistic minister would distribute holy Communion within the context of a prayer service. But that practice has been discontinued; now instead, when a priest cannot be there for Mass, only a prayer service is offered and Communion is not given out.

We've asked several deacons to explain

this change, and their answers have varied: One said that Communion should not be regularly separated from the eucharistic sacrifice of the Mass; another felt that this helped to convey the notion that Sunday, the day of Christ's resurrection, is the special day when Communion is the norm; and a third remarked that the lack of daily Communion might prompt us to pray harder for more priests.

None of these answers satisfies me, as I was raised to believe that receiving this spiritual food every day was the ideal. What is the church's view on this? (Williamsburg, Va.)

A. Your question shows a sincere desire to be united as often as possible to Christ through Communion, and that is praiseworthy. The current thinking of the Church, however, is to discourage weekday Communion services, based on the essential link between reception of the Eucharist and the sacrifice of the Mass.

"Redemptionis Sacramentum," issued in 2004 by the Vatican Congregation for Divine Worship and the Discipline of the Sacraments, says of Communion services that "the diocesan bishop ... must not easily grant permission for such celebrations to be held on weekdays, especially in places where it is possible or would be possible to have the celebration of Mass on the preceding or the following Sunday" (No. 166).

In the Mass, which memorializes and makes real the death and resurrection of Jesus, worshippers unite their own sacrifices with that of Christ, and then are drawn into deeper intimacy by receiving in Communion the very gift they had offered, Jesus himself.

The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops Committee on the Liturgy (now called the Committee on Divine Worship) has noted that "every effort must be undertaken to avoid any confusion" between a Communion service and the celebration of the Mass.

(Questions may be sent to Father Kenneth Doyle at askfatherdoyle@gmail.com and 40 Hopewell St., Albany, N.Y. 12208.)



Do something special this Lent ~ join a Disciples on the Journey faith sharing group

The Diocese of Victoria's Lenten resource *Disciples on the Journey 2012* is now available in English and in Spanish. This is the opportune time to gather your small group leaders and invite new members to join a faith-sharing group this Lent. This year's edition of *Disciples on the Journey* includes commentaries for the Cycle B Sunday readings written by Sister Frances Cabrini Janvier, IWBS; Sister Miriam Perez, MCSH; and the Most Reverend David E. Fellhauer. The Reverend Robert Fisher, SVD, wrote the commentaries for the Cycle A scrutiny readings for this year's Lenten book. Call or come by to pick up copies of *Disciple on the Journey* at the chancery office anytime Monday – Friday 8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. Books can be sold in packs of ten for \$25 or individually at \$2.50 per book. Go to www.victoriadiocese.org to see a sample *Disciples on the Journey Lent 2012* or call 361-573-0828 for more information.

Youth Calendar of Events

- February 19—Youth Spectacular at Holy Family in Victoria – doors open at 11:00 a.m. – featuring RADIX
- March 10—Foundations Youth Ministry Class - 9:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m. (two part session February and March sessions) at the Chancery
- March 22—Retreat Formation/Policy and Procedure Session, Goliad, 6-8 p.m.
- March 25—Confirmation Retreat at St. Mary's in Victoria
- April 13—Bishop's Golf Tournament - Colony Creek Country Club, Victoria
- April 19—Retreat Formation/Policy and Procedure Session, OLV Library, 6:30-8:30 p.m.
- April 21—Foundations Youth Ministry Class - 9:00 - 12:00 Noon at the Chancery
- April 22—Youth Leadership Training (Camp David Planning) at the Chancery
- May 5—Foundations Youth Ministry Class - 9:00 - 12:00 Noon at the Chancery
- May 20—Retreat Formation/Policy and Procedure Session, Holy Family, Victoria
- June 10 - 12—Camp David - (Jr. High Camp) Session One at the Renewal Center
- June 13—Camp David - Elementary Day Camp at the Renewal Center
- June 13 - 15—Camp David - (Jr. High Camp) Session Two at the Renewal Center
- June 25 - 28—D-Week - Renewal Center
- June 30 - July 8—Rocky Mountain High Retreat in Pagosa Springs Colorado



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

For more information contact:

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

CCD students prepare for contest

The Knights of Columbus Council 9088 is once again sponsoring the Annual Catechism Contest for the Holy Family CCD Program.

Study booklets have been distributed to students in Grades 1-8. Parents were encouraged to study 10 minutes each night with their children, making this a family project. Parents have indicated that while studying with their children, they, too, learned a lot about the Catholic Faith. The classroom portion of the contest was a written test given on Wednesday, Jan. 18. The four top scores from each grade will

advance to the finals on Saturday, March 3, 2012. The winners in grades 1-8 will be awarded monetary prizes as follows: 1st place \$100, 2nd place \$30, 3rd place \$20, and the 4th place \$10.

Each student in the Finals Round will pick a question from the question box and will then hand it to the moderator who will read the question. The student will answer. If the answer is incorrect, the moderator will read the answer, and the next student will continue with another question. At the end of 30 minutes, the student with the highest score will be declared the winner.

The Key to Economic Recovery: The Social Justice Teachings of Our Popes

We Roman Catholics would be wise to seek guidance on social issues from the wealth of teachings on social justice in papal encyclicals. It is easy to become confused by paid political propagandists operating in "high gear" in an election year in time of economic crisis. Information is distorted and edited to suit the purpose of their client. Getting to the whole truth in any issue is a challenge. But Jesus said, "Be not afraid; I will be with you always". He promised to be present to guide us in stormy times. When He said to His Apostles: "Whoever hears you, hears Me" (Luke 10:16), He promised to speak to us through our popes and bishops, teaching us how to live the Gospel in all times and circumstances. (Cf. http://www.vatican.va/phome_en.htm) Political pundits do not have that assurance but are influenced by other forces in the marketplace. Papal statements are motivated by the command of Jesus Christ to "teach everything I have commanded you" (John 14:26 and 16:13) and supported by the promise: "I will be with you always, even to the end of days." (Matt. 28:20) Popes and bishops are accountable to Jesus Christ, not to the marketplace or to the market place's approval polls.

One favorite tactic of the marketplace today is to attack some proposed social reforms as "socialism" and further to identify that "socialism" with "communism". This is a form of subtle deception, and well-meaning Catholics are often victims of this manipulation of the public mind. Socialism is subject to various expressions that depend on the historical circumstances in which it has occurred, and so must the Church's evaluations of situations involving any form of socialism. To understand

both accurately, one must understand both socialism's origins and its growth as a movement. Historically, it does not always equate in all situations with "communism". Nor can it be stated that all "socialists" have been or are "communists". This is being implied by political propagandists in this election year, when their "sloganeers" are at their prime and fortune. Sincere people of faith are particularly vulnerable to their manipulations.

At the same time, Chapters 2 and 4 of the Acts of the Apostles, particularly in their description of the Early Church community "sharing all things in common", have been used by some to suggest that early Christians must have practiced a form of socialism or communism. However, socialistic communism has held that there is no natural human right to private property. And it is clear in Acts that goods that were freely shared were indeed private property, freely surrendered to the Apostles for the "common stores" to be distributed to those lacking the basics of human existence. It was a form of sacrificial love that moved the giver, imitating the sacrificial Love of the Lord Jesus who had freely given Himself up for them. It was the practice of Love for Jesus in the brothers and sisters (Matt. 25:40 and 45). It was a recognition of their unity as the Body of Christ. Paul proclaims, "If one member suffers, all the members suffer with it" (1 Cor. 12:26). It was this willingness to lay down one's life and goods in celebrating the "agape" meal that they associated with the celebration of the Lord's Supper. We are called to bear witness as that same Church of the Apostles in celebrating the Holy Sacrificial Meal, the Eucharist.

See *The Key to Economic Recovery*, p. 9

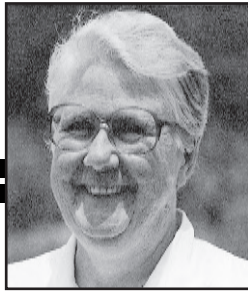
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SISTERLY THOUGHTS

By Sister Mildred Truchard, IWBS



Early Trials and Triumphs

Last month we began to follow the Incarnate Word and Blessed Sacrament Sisters and their early mission days in Texas. As one looks back over the many hardships that the pioneer Sisters had to endure, one has to appreciate the great faith that sustained them in their mission. We have already seen how an ill-fated delay in Vera Cruz, Mexico, resulted in the deaths, from yellow fever, of four of the young Sisters who were on their way from Europe to the foundation in South Texas.

Trials were numerous, yet they maintained faith and hope in their mission. For example, Brownsville, the site of the first American foundation, endured periodic epidemics of yellow fever, the fury of hurricanes, and post Mexican-American War raids. In spite of constantly struggling to keep up buildings and personnel, the Sisters were ably educating the children when the school was not closed by epidemics, raids, severe weather, or the U.S. Civil War.

Now, most of the fighting of the Civil War did not take place in Texas; however, Fort Brown in Brownsville was a target to be captured by the Union forces resulting in conflict for the local people, most of whom had fled when the violence began. Although the school was closed during the war, resulting in an absence of income, the monastery was protected by both armies; in fact, soldiers from both sides asked that their wives seek safety in the monastery with the Sisters. Commanding officers from both armies made sure that the Sisters – and the soldiers' wives – had ample provisions for survival.

Like the rest of the Gulf States, there was a blockade around the ports of entry. As a result, communication and movement of supplies to and from Europe and other states were cut off by the blockade. The inability to make contact with Europe and receive advice and support from the Sisters in France was difficult for the young foundation. Moreover, many of the civilians had fled when the Union army came to capture Brownsville. At that time, young

men in Texas were being forced into the Confederate Army.

I have read accounts of how the men went into hiding in the woods near a water source, such as a creek. Many were recent immigrants who had fled their former homelands in quest of freedom. They had no intention of fighting to preserve slavery! While they were in hiding, their wives would supply them with baskets of bread and they would kill wildlife for food. On moon-lit nights they would be able to sneak back to their homesteads and take care of necessary farm work. During the day, they would lie low until the Confederate officers would finally give up and decide not to waste any more time trying to find them.

When the war was over and the Union troops were leaving captured Brownsville, they did not destroy the city because of the kindness of the Sisters there; in fact, they only destroyed the fort, leaving all their provisions with the Sisters, who distributed them among the impoverished people who had remained in Brownsville.

After the war, the school reopened and the student body continued to grow in numbers. It was at this time that Bishop Dubuis of Texas requested that the Sisters begin a school in Victoria. After Mother St. Claire Valentine's arrival with the surviving volunteers she had recruited from France and Ireland, the Bishop's dream could be realized. The Sisters arrived in Victoria December 21, 1866, and opened the eagerly-awaited school on January 7, 1867! (To be continued.)

Father Janak runs his 2nd Chevron marathon

Father Gary Janak, pastor of St. Philip the Apostle Parish in El Campo, competed in the Chevron Houston Marathon on January 15, 2012, marking his 2nd marathon. This year he completed the 26.2 mile event in 4 hours, 29 minutes and 8 seconds, beating last year's time by 29 minutes. Congratulations to Father Gary!



FATHER DAN MORALES' PARENTS CELEBRATE 60TH ANNIVERSARY—Paz and Andrea Morales, the parents of Father Dan Morales, pastor of St. Mary's Parish in Victoria, celebrated their 60th Wedding Anniversary December 30, 2011, at St. Mary Church. They were married December 23, 1951, at St. Anthony in Palacios by Father Joseph Till. Pictured is Rev. Frank Lenz, Rev. Bryan Heyer (the Morales' pastor at St. Anthony of Padua in Palacios), Bishop Oscar Cantu (auxiliary of San Antonio and friend of the family), Mrs. and Mr. Morales, Rev. Dan Morales and Rev. Charles Dwomoh (the Morales' former pastor).



OLG CATHOLIC DAUGHTERS BRING JOY TO NURSING CENTER—Local Catholic Daughters, joined by Junior Catholic Daughters, Court #2267, of Our Lady of the Gulf visited the Port Lavaca Nursing & Rehabilitation Center before Christmas 2011 to bring Christmas joy to the residents, by singing Christmas Carols and passing out goodies and gifts. "Nursing home resident, Jeanie Lindley, was very happy to be included in the photo," said Glenda Stavinoha. Pictured, from l. to r., are CDA and JCDA members: Carol Stewart, Alicia Morales, Megan Morales, Cassarah Calzada, Kayla Calzada, Cori Acosta, Haley Acosta, Mary Moreno, Jeanie Lindley (resident), and Glenda Stavinoha. Not pictured but participating was Adrian Galindo and Kasie Galindo with JCDA.

Introduction to the New Testament and the Synoptic Gospels

Adult Catholics from St. Ann's in Point Comfort, Holy Cross in East Bernard as well as numerous Catholics from parishes in Victoria and surrounding cities will be taking the Pastoral Institute course Introduction to the New Testament and the Synoptic Gospels beginning Tuesday, February 21, 2012. This study will explore

how the New Testament came to be written with discussion on the similarities of the Gospels of Mark, Matthew, and Luke.

Cost for this six-week class is \$20 per person. The Catholic Study Bible is used as a text and can be purchased at any of the sites. Register online at www.victoriadiocese.org or call 361-573-0828.

ST. MARY CHURCH - VICTORIA
188TH ANNIVERSARY
ANNUAL PARISH FESTIVAL
Sunday, February 12, 2012
10:30 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.
Victoria Community Center

FRIED CHICKEN MEAL
Serving 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.
\$8.00 PER PLATE
Curb Service Available
Bid Auction at 12:30 p.m.

Quilts • Antiques • Crafts • Collectibles
Beer Garden • Cake Wheel • Concessions
Bingo • Silent Auction • Games for Children
Jewelry • Plants • Country Store
2011 Toyota Corolla Sport +
GIVE AWAY
(Lic.#1-74-1109707-8)

REMEMBERING NANCY KRENEK

The word school brings to mind academics. But what is the value and importance of Catholic schools? Does St. Philip School embody the teachings of the Church?

Seldom do we realize the reach of the arms of Catholic teachings. Often we ask ourselves, are the words I am saying in prayer or in everyday life sound as if they come from God or do my actions reflect those of the hands and feet of Christ?

This year, St. Philip School and much of the greater community has seen, felt and known the impact of its works. Due to the tragic death of one of the members of the St. Philip School faculty, many have witnessed the beauty of what it means to be a part of the Catholic school system. Nancy Krenek lived a life of prayer and service. Students, former students, and faculty know that Nancy brings us closer to Jesus, even in her own death. An outpouring of love and care for the family and her school and parish family has and is still occurring. We are showing a little more kindness and mindful of God's grace in our lives. Prayers are said, cards have been made, donations given. The loss is profound. More importantly, however, is the feeling of love and appreciation for having been touched by a faithful servant.

Nancy Krenek: Wife, Mother, Teacher, Aide, Bus Driver, Playground Monitor, Sister, Daughter, Friend..... BELOVED.





Students are happy to go to school at St. Philip the Apostle School in El Campo.

Christ is the reason for St. Philip

EL CAMPO—"Be it known to all that Christ is the reason for our school. He is the unseen, but ever present teacher in our classrooms. He is the model for our faculty and the inspiration of our students." Our mission statement, lived out through the lives of all staff, teachers, administrators, and students, is one reason so many families choose St. Philip Catholic School for their children.

Student enrollment begins at age three in our pre-kindergarten program providing children the foundation of personal spirituality, faith development, and a strong academic program. The St. Philip campus also includes grades kindergarten through eighth grade. There are many activities across the grade levels offering opportunity for growth and enrichment.

Our students and faculty have the opportunity to attend Mass weekly where the students learn the Mass through active participation in the liturgical ministries. In

the classroom, our teachers and administration strive for academic excellence, which includes the use of technology and other diversification methods so that every student can succeed. Extracurricular activities such as athletics, One Act Play, and P.S.I.A. offer students opportunities to develop skills, gain sportsmanship, and allow new interests to be pursued.

One of our greatest assets that can be felt upon entering our school is the unique support our school has from our families, parish and local community. So many individuals and organizations continue to work together for a common goal of strengthening the faithfulness of the next generation.

Our Catholic identity shines brightly as we embody and strive to live out our motto: "To know, love and serve God and others." St. Philip School is a place where we recognize and support that a Catholic education is a lifelong gift to our children.

Parents provide valuable services in the Teacher's Aide Program

Our Lady of Victory School is very blessed to have an active and supportive parent community. Parent involvement in our school exemplifies a strong commitment to Catholic education and contributes to the success and excellence of Our Lady of Victory. Educational studies show that students whose parents are involved in the school perform better academically and at Our Lady of Victory we recognize and enjoy the many benefits of parents taking an active role in the life of our school.

Parents provide valuable services of time, talent and treasure to Our Lady of Victory School. They assist teachers daily in the classroom through the school's Teacher's Aide Program. The parents must

attend workshops twice a year, instructing them on educational issues such as confidentiality, rules and regulations, and teacher and student expectations in the classroom. The Teacher's Aide Program is an integral part of the success of our Contract System, a Montessori based instructional program taught in grades Pre-K3 through 6. Aides also help supervise students in the library, in the cafeteria, and on the playground. This

year approximately 45 parents participate in the Teacher's Aide Program. These parents are not only parents of current students, but parents of former students and grandparents who continue to give their time because they believe in an OLV education. Parents also teach eighth grade electives, sharing their talents in homemaking, wood shop and journalism.



Above, parents, and even grandparents, are an asset to Our Lady of Victory's Teacher's Aide Program.

Parents serve as room mothers, substitute teachers, academic and athletic coaches and scout leaders.

They help in the school office, with special projects and events, technology support, and regularly attend school Masses and liturgies. They take an active role in PTC and School Advisory Council.

Our Lady of Victory School's active parent community enable OLV to provide services that help make our school run efficiently and provide excellent educational opportunities for our students.

Holy Cross Catholic School Celebrates Catholic Schools Week

BAY CITY—To kick off Catholic schools week Mayor Bricker, former student of Holy Cross School, presented our School with a proclamation recognizing the week of January 30- February 3 as

the nation by serving students from all economic backgrounds and giving them a strong academic and moral foundation, allowing them to succeed in life, serving in the government, industry, business, non-



Holy Cross students perform a dance they learned in P.E. for their family during a family dinner and dance.



Older students present gifts to the younger classes during the Christmas holiday.

Catholic Schools Week. Catholic Schools Week is a time to celebrate the enduring value of Catholic education. Each year at this time, we focus on the gift that Catholic education provides to America's young people and its contributions to our church, our communities and our nation. Catholic schools give a high level of service to

profit and educational fields. Our students are committed to a continual formation of a Christian community. We share the same faith, the same values, and the same love for each other. Students at Holy Cross are always ready to reach out to our neighboring communities. We organized a clothing and food drive to help with those in Bastrop that were affected by the fires. We also collected money to send to the Southwest Indian Foundation so that they can purchase food baskets and wood stoves for the people of the Navajo Reservation. Holy Cross Catholic School also strives to bring our school community closer by having a family dinner and dance. The students learned a dance during P.E. to perform for their parents and we ended the evening with lots of music and dancing fun for all!



Faith ... Academics ... Service Our Lady of the Gulf

PORT LAVACA—This year's Catholic Schools Week logo provided a list of three items to remind us all of the core values a Catholic education should provide.

Last, but certainly not least on this list, was service. Providing an opportunity for our youth to serve, to give back, and to make a difference is an incredible gift to each student, their families and the future of our communities. Each year, Our Lady of the Gulf endeavors to provide such meaningful experiences to all our students but particularly our graduating class as they prepare to move onto high school and beyond.

This year the 8th grade class of 2012 is performing a wetland restoration project at Calhoun County's Little Chocolate Bayou Park. The students are working on re-establishing an area of the park that was originally designated as a nature area to

preserve critical coastal habitat. Over the years, the area has suffered abuse from the unauthorized use of motorized vehicles through the soft tideland. The destruction of the native plants led to shoreline erosion, which the students repaired by transplanting spartina alterniflora, or smooth cordgrass, into the tidal zone and protecting it with the slit fencing. They also used their kayaking skills to bring the spartina from a harvest area on Chocolate Bay. This ongoing collaborative project with Texas Sea Grant will not only improve and restore the natural habitat, but it will strengthen the leadership, knowledge, and skills of our graduating eight graders.

They are making a difference and with God's Grace, this service experience, along with their faith and academic background, will help them grow into servant leaders within our community and beyond.



Faculty, staff passionate and dedicated to success

YOAKUM—The hallways of St. Joseph Catholic School in Yoakum are decorated with displays of student work, the classrooms are strategically arranged for superior academic comprehension, and the door to the principal's office is always "open!"

St. Joseph School in Yoakum is the



(above) The 8th grade class makes cards thanking the US military members for their service.

(right) The 3rd grade class receives a demonstration of the ladder fire truck.

and weekly, they attend Mass with their teachers and other members of the church community. Our students at SJS have the opportunity to participate in the parts of the Mass, creating first-rate skills in speech, self-confidence and individual growth. Each grade level takes turns going to the local nursing homes to celebrate the Mass with residents and to involve themselves with a deeper learning of the importance of the liturgy. This also instills a sense of vocation in the students, personally witnessing the life of priesthood through the Mass and other literature found throughout the school.

In our community, the students partake in several activities including helping

ultimate educational foundation for its students. The faculty and staff are passionately dedicated to the success of each individual child, continuously praising them forward to accomplish scholastic goals. Although, SJS is consistently recognized for its service-oriented and excelled efforts, we are excited to have the opportunity to participate in Catholic Schools Week to highlight our strengths to our community.

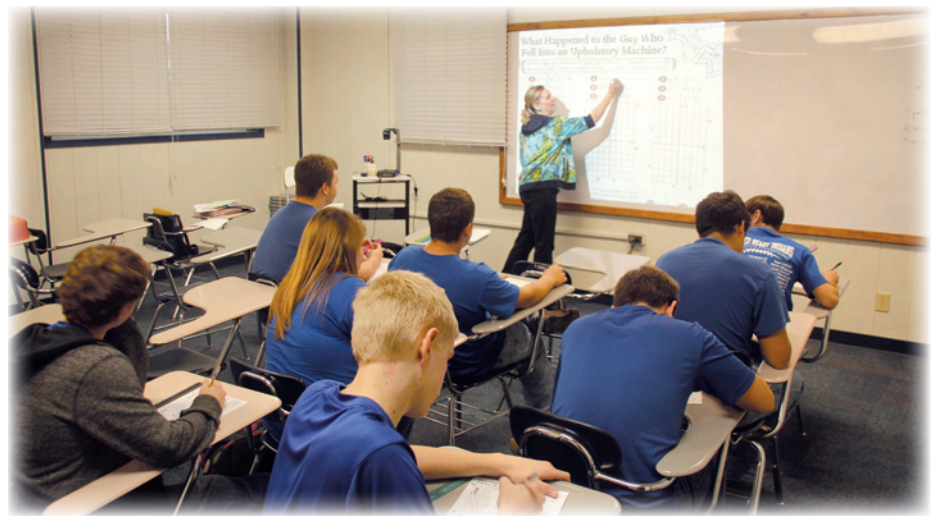
The students at St. Joseph School are active in their parish, the community, the nation, and within the student body as well as with school volunteers and their teachers!

Daily, the students at SJS experience faith through the Religion curriculum,

local sewing clubs make quilts, participating in collections throughout the year, and recently, decorating "going-green" totes in an effort to help our community recycle and save on the excessive use of plastic.

We ensure that our students serve and honor our nation through VFW writing contests, Veteran's Day programs and prayer chains for our local and national law enforcement, firefighters, and military.

The students at SJS have the advantage of excelling academically, while establishing a strong work ethic and a dignified character of the community.



Sacred Heart students learn with the best in technology in their new classrooms.

Sacred Heart Catholic School Expansion Planned – Vision Committee Formed

HALLETTSVILLE—In January, 1882, three sisters from the congregation of the Sisters of the Incarnate Word and Blessed Sacrament came to Hallettsville to open a motherhouse, novitiate and boarding school for girls, and a day school for boys and girls. Now, 130 years later, Sacred Heart Catholic School serves students in grades kindergarten through 12, and continues to grow.

As our enrollment continues to increase, our needs become greater also. The school currently serves students from Hallettsville, Ezzell, Flatonia, Fordtran, La Grange, Moulton, Schulenburg, Sweet Home, Vysehrad, Weimar, Yoakum, Columbus, Rice, Rosanky, Rock Island, Sheridan, and Smithville. The Sacred Heart Catholic School advisory council recognized the need for a Vision Committee to discuss future needs and plans for enhancing our educational programs. The committee consists of parents, teachers, School Advisory Council members, school administration, pastor, and volunteers.

During the summer of 2010, the original living quarters of the Sisters of the Incarnate Word and Blessed Sacrament were re-structured to create two new classrooms, storage, and restrooms. The classrooms are used for high school math and biol-

ogy classes. During the summer of 2011 the classrooms were completed with the installation of new floors, windows, and ceilings, all funded by a grant from the Dickson-Allen Foundation.

A long-term plan (2-3 years) is to build a new Advanced Learning Center (ALC) which would include a library, computer lab, music room for K-8, and specialized reading lab. The present elementary library would become a primary grade classroom. The classrooms in the junior high annex would be enlarged to accommodate for the increased use of technology, learning centers, and larger classes.

Sacred Heart Catholic School is proud of its rich history. With the expansion and renovations of the original campus, the school will continue to carry on the goals of the three sisters from the congregation of the Sisters of the Incarnate Word and Blessed Sacrament who had their "vision" for a Catholic school in Hallettsville, Texas, in January of 1882.

For more information about Sacred Heart Catholic School, please visit our website at www.shschool.org, and view the video. You may also call the school at 361-798-4251 to schedule a tour of the campus.



140 students bring blankets and pillows and take over the gym floor to watch the school-wide movie presentation.

St. Anthony students are tight knit family

COLUMBUS—Catholic Schools Week is not just one week in January. At St. Anthony Catholic School, we begin the festivities months ahead of time by dividing our school (4k-8th grade) into teams. Each teacher heads a team and together with the students, they come up with inspirational names.

The actual Catholic Schools Week is spent focusing on the theme for this year. FAITH is displayed throughout the week but especially in our opening Mass on Sunday. The whole school enters church wearing their team colors while carrying banners displaying their team names. There is also time set aside for a school-wide rosary. ACADEMICS are a constant focus all year but we highlight it this week with a spelling bee. SERVICE is the biggest focus for our week. As teams, we start our week cleaning our school and the neighborhood.

We also gather items and write letters to soldiers serving overseas. This year, a nephew of our Kindergarten teacher will receive our packages of love.

The school has many wonderful traditions including our dress up themes. The crowd favorite has to be "I'd Rather Be" day. The students dress up (or down) in clothes that represent what they would rather be doing than going to school.

The 7th Annual Field Day is held in the gym where all 11 teams compete. At the end of the day, the 8th grade will take on the staff for the annual volleyball game. Our week concludes with Mass, a team lunch in the teachers' rooms, and a school-wide movie in the cafeteria. Afterwards, the teams' awards are presented. From 8th grade to 4k, the students become a tight knit family after the week of Faith, Academics and Service.

When we were asked what makes St. Michael in Weimar special ... OUR RESPONSE:

We are special because...

- We do very well in PSIA District and State Meets annually.
- Over half the faculty and staff has been employed here for 25 years or more.
- 2006 Nationally recognized as a Blue Ribbon School. We were the first in the Victoria Diocese!
- We have a strong tradition of an annual 8th grade trip to Washington D.C. for over 25 years.
- Not only do we excel academically but athletically we do well. This year we won the championship for Division A in Volleyball, Basketball (boys and girls) and our coaching staff are 100% volunteers.
- Our Christmas Pageant is well known for miles around. We have to have two nights of performances each year to accommodate the large number of people who come to watch.

These are just a few of many things that make us special.



Last November, St. Michael School sent the troops supplies and also toys that were donated to an orphanage in Afghanistan. To show their appreciation, St. Michael's was given a flag and a certificate of authenticity. This American Flag was raised over the headquarters of the 176th Engineer Brigade during their service in Afghanistan. It was flown in honor of St. Michael School in appreciation of their encouragement and loyal support of the troops by HHC 176th Engineer Brigade on May 9, 2011. The certificate was signed by the Command Sergeant Major Richard L. Milford and USA Commanding Brigadier General Lester Simpson. The school had a special flag raising ceremony Thursday morning, January 5, 2012.



STJ students enjoy their lunch break outside with the campus statue of Mary.

Students learn with the newest technology

St. Joseph High School is a Catholic school committed to the educational ministry of the Catholic Church in the Diocese of Victoria. As a community inspired by the life of St. Joseph, protector, and nurturer of the Holy Family, we promote a peaceful, challenging and loving atmosphere that fosters spiritual growth and academic excellence for our family of students.

Founded in 1868 by Rev. Augustine Gardet as a school to educate young men, St. Joseph High School is now operated as a private co-ed school governed by the authority of our Board of Directors.

St. Joseph's professional faculty of dedicated teachers, with an average of 20 years of teaching experience, small class sizes, and a century of educational excellence provides our students with an opportunity to receive the highest quality of education.

Our students come from diverse backgrounds, each bringing a different view to the academic curriculum, while remaining true to the religious values, which have been the school's hallmark throughout its 144 year history. Grant programs are available for qualified students to apply for, ensuring that all students have access to a St. Joseph's education.

St. Joseph's courses are designed to

meet a wide range of student abilities and needs and include challenging advanced placement and dual credit courses. STJ students work with state of the art computers, providing a strong foundation in technology and online research opportunities which prepare our students for a successful future. All students enroll in a four year theology program based on the teachings of Jesus Christ. Our community of faith is strengthened through morning prayer, weekly and monthly Masses, student led Christian organizations and annual spiritual retreats.

Students can participate in a variety of extracurricular activities, including a wide range of athletics, band, choir, cheerleading, and drill team – each providing unique opportunities for promoting school spirit and gaining knowledge that will make them leaders of tomorrow.

Our students traditionally lead the Victoria community in the number of students accepted into universities and recognized by scholarship programs.

At St. Joseph, lifelong friendships begin and the foundation for a lifetime of learning and success is established. We encourage you to share the story of St. Joseph's heritage by enrolling your student...You'll Love the Journey!

145 Years Later, Nazareth Academy Continues the Tradition of Excellence

Year 2012 marks the 145th birthday of Nazareth Academy, an achievement that makes Nazareth the school with the most tradition in the Victoria Crossroads area. In fact, Nazareth is the fourth longest running educational institution in the state of Texas. In 1867, under the leadership of Mother St. Claire Valentine, Nazareth Academy (then known as the Convent School) was opened. From those humble beginnings, thanks to the dedication of the Sisters of the Incarnate Word and Blessed Sacrament, Nazareth's road to excellence commenced. From the Convent School in 1867, to an elementary, intermediate, and high school in 1917, to incorporation as Nazareth Academy in 1921, to state accreditation in 1923, to a PreK3-8th Grade school in 1976,

is unmatched by any school. Further, Nazareth's well-rounded education and focus on producing future leaders is evidenced by two Nazareth graduates presently serving as the St. Joseph H.S. student



A well-rounded education at Nazareth Academy includes, in addition to faith and academics, a marching band, choir, athletics, school clubs, art and music, and a variety of elective classes.



Faith is an important part of the Nazareth Academy experience.

to being a four time Best Buy Teach Award winner for innovative use of technology (2006, 2007, 2008, 2009), and presently being named by Today's Catholic Teacher magazine as a nationally recognized Catholic School for Tomorrow (the only school in Victoria to be honored as such, and only 1 of 12 schools to be recognized nationwide), Nazareth Academy's combination of traditional and present excellence

body President, Humberto Sandigo, and Vice President, Kate Tucker.

A special gathering was held to commemorate Nazareth's anniversary and the following prayer by 8th grader, Jazmyne Alegria, was read:

"We have gathered here today to celebrate 145 years of Jet pride. We thank you, Lord, for giving Mother St. Claire Valentine the strength and courage to lead the Sisters of the Incarnate Word and

Blessed Sacrament to a small town named Victoria those many years ago, and for giving them the fortitude to persevere through tough times in order to serve us. We finally would like to thank you, Lord, for all of the past and present students, Sisters, and teachers and staff for all of their years of hard work. Help us to carry on with the strength the Sisters had for many more great years to come. Amen!"

A F.A.S.T finish in the race of life

St. Rose of Lima Catholic School – Schulenburg

SCHULENBURG—"There aren't enough hours in the day", "Where did the time go?", "I just can't keep up," we've all heard these familiar phrases. Everyone seems to agree that time seems to pass quicker than it used to. Today's hectic lifestyle pace is well... FAST!

Here at St. Rose of Lima Catholic School in Schulenburg, the school family has redefined what it means to be F.A.S.T. In the middle of the hectic schedule of school, sports and life they have made time to teach children a foundation that will benefit them for years after their graduation. As a Catholic school, St. Rose of Lima has the opportunity and responsibility to focus on Faith, Academics and Service – Together!

Faith is the focus at St. Rose of Lima. Daily prayer, weekly Masses, special religious ceremonies like our living rosary, advent wreath ceremony, Christ the King procession, May Crowning and other special events all build a strong community of faith where parents, students and staff walk together in the footsteps of Christ.

"Academically striving to give

each student every opportunity to develop his or her God given talents." These words



Father Tim Kosler, pastor of Saint Rose of Lima, brings up students during his homily on the feast of all saints. He emphasized the fact that we are all called to be saints and that the ultimate goal is to be with God in Heaven.

from the school mission statement recited daily recommit us to the dedication of high academic standards. Teachers prepare lessons to challenge and engage students daily and core curriculum challenges students academically, preparing them for success in their educational future.

Serving others is serving the Lord. St. Rose of Lima students spend countless hours each year

reaching out to those in need. This year during Catholic Schools Week the school adopted several service projects.

Together St. Rose of Lima students, faculty, staff, parents and supporters are a school family. It is a school family bound by Christ's love, which reminds us that the ultimate finish line is Heaven.

Succeeding in this race we call life requires that we set the proper pace with our eyes fixed on the proper goal. Students

at St. Rose of Lima are blessed with an educational experience that teaches them to balance academic excellence with time for devotion to their spiritual relationship with God and a commitment to serving the greater community. St. Rose helps students run the race of life while teaching lessons of how to get to the ultimate finish line, and F.A.S.T!



Kade Foster, first grader, counts bears to help solve math problems.



Catholic By Grace

By Denise Bossert
www.catholicbygrace.blogspot.com



Does Your “Spiritual Skirt” Still Fit?

In the summer of 2009, my husband and I went to a reunion on his side of the family. Aunt Lucia told a story about John’s grandmother. I never met Grandma Bossert. She passed away long before I married into the family. But Aunt Lucia said Grandma had a little black skirt. She’d owned it for as long as Aunt Lucia could remember. Grandma used the skirt as a kind of measuring tape to monitor weight gain. When she couldn’t get the side zipper to zip, she would cut back on what she ate until it fit her again.

I’ve seen pictures of Grandma Bossert. She looked like a Hollywood star even when she was well into her sixties, thanks to that little skirt and constant vigilance.

Our Church calendar is like Grandma’s skirt.

On fat Tuesday, we try on our spiritual skirts, and we realize that we have gotten a little out of shape. Our baptismal vows aren’t fitting like they should. And for 40 days, we submit to the process of self-denial and service to others. We ask for the grace to reorder our disordered lives, so that on Easter morning, we are ready to meet the Risen Lord.

We have ways of measuring our progress just as Grandma Bossert had her side zipper. We know what to do when things are out of control. Oh, we don’t have to put on sad faces and act sullen about the self-denial. Even Grandma Bossert could put on a thirty-dish meal for family while simultaneously keeping her eyes on that little black skirt. In fact, she let the season of self-denial turn her focus outward. Her attention went to those around her. Did they have enough to eat? Had they seen the Spätzle? Did they need more coffee?

Her focus was on the needs of those around her, even as she quietly modified her own habits.

That’s how we should be during Lent. We should remain faithful to our Lenten promises even as we let our energies turn outward. How can we simultaneously deny ourselves and also meet the needs of those in our midst? The Church has the answer: forty days of re-ordering our lives and offering ourselves up for others.

We become more like Christ when we enter into the season of Lent.

At the end of 40 days, we know that we could let things fall apart again, or we can ask God for the grace to keep our lives in the right order. Lessons learned during Lent stay with us – if we let them.

We learn to love. We learn how to be holy. We ask for the grace to overcome our weaknesses.

When we have self-doubt and don’t think we can make it, we study the lives of the saints and get inspired. We pick ourselves up and do a serious examination of conscience. We submit to the Sacrament of Reconciliation and lose the baggage we carry. We begin and end each day with a simple dedication of our day to God.

We make progress in personal sanctification by actively engaging the season of Lent. The spiritual equivalent to a little black skirt and an act of the will.

Go ahead. Do some self-assessment. Does the skirt fit? There are so many ways to learn to be holy – as many ways as there are Lenten promises. Pick one. Keep your promise. Turn your energy outward to those in need. Eventually your spiritual skirt will fit like a glove.

And just like Grandma Bossert, you will move about your kitchen with grace and dignity, asking everyone around you, Have you seen the Spätzle? I made it just for you.

Check out: catholicbygrace.blogspot.com

It’s not the first time ... eventually we’ll get it right

Continued from p. 4

old enough to realize what was happening; I just don’t remember it. According to the Liturgical Press, there was also a revision made in 1985. By this time I was a young adult who was very involved in the life of

the Church, but, again, I don’t remember going through the changes.

Whether the Mass changes were drastic or subtle, they don’t seem to have caused me any mental anguish; I just got on with it. Little by little, at every Mass, without realizing it, I memorized a bit more, until I knew all the “people’s parts” and then forgot that there was a time when I didn’t know them.

So although now I sigh when I’ve got to reach down for my Mass Card or missalette, there will come a time when I won’t even remember having to make these adjustments. I’m sure in another 10 years, I’ll say, “I don’t even remember going through those changes – it was such an easy transition!”



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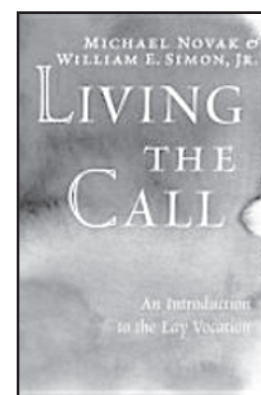


January Puzzle contest Winners Announced

The winner of the January contest and the book “The Art of Confession – Renewing Yourself Through the Practice of Honesty” by Paul Wilkes is Grace Rigamonti of Our Lady of Victory Cathedral in Victoria. The book may be purchased at www.workman.com. The winners of the children’s contest are Kaylie Ann Olivarez (6) from Sacred Heart Parish in Hallettsville and Emery Goerig (8) of St. Philip the Apostle School in El Campo (sent in with class). They each will receive a gift from Incarnate Word Gift Shop. The winner of the February Puzzle Contest will win “Living the Call ~ An Introduction to the Lay Vocation” by Michael Novak and William E. Simon Jr. Please mail all completed February puzzle forms to arrive in *The Catholic Lighthouse* Office, P. O. Box 4070, Victoria, TX 77903 by February 25, 2012.

“Living the Call” – to be next puzzle prize

The number of priests in the United States may be falling, but that doesn’t mean that Catholics are losing interest in serving God. Since 1965 more than 30,000 people have chosen to serve in church institutions. In fact, lay teachers outnumber nuns, brothers, and priests in Catholic schools. Never in the history of the Catholic Church have laypeople been asked to do so much for their faith. In *Living the Call*, philanthropist William E. Simon Jr. and theologian Michael Novak bring this historic shift to light.



Living the Call chronicles the lives of nine faithful laypeople who are serving the Church in diverse and important areas, from education to the lay ministries. Novak and Simon explain how these individuals discovered their calling and reveal how they have since transformed both their communities and their own spiritual lives thanks to a fantastic

new understanding and knowledge of God and the world in which we live.

This vibrant and growing population needs nurturing and encouragement, and

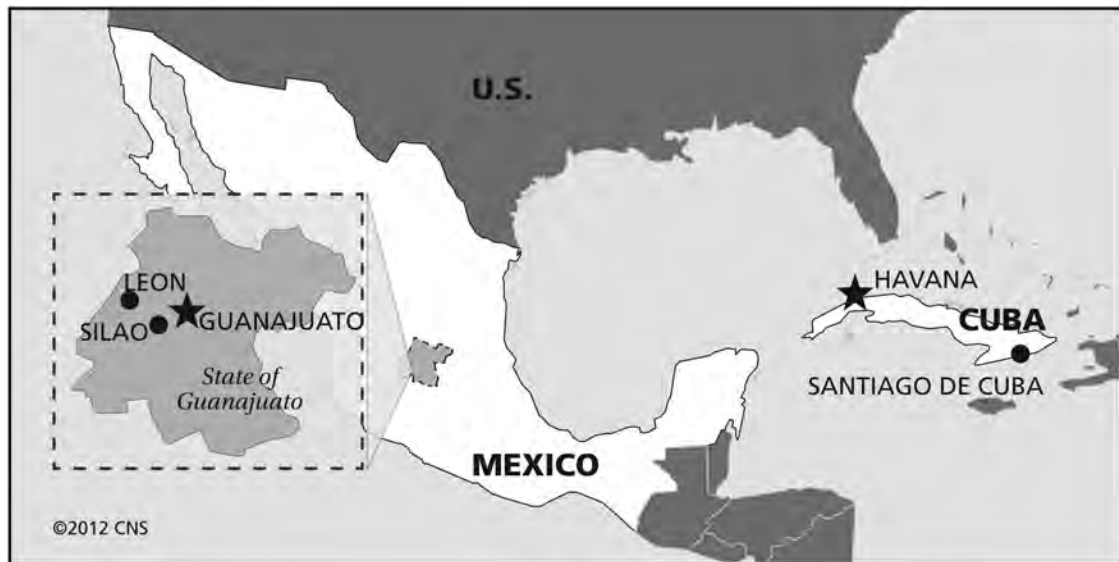
Living the Call offers unique, practical guidance to those who aspire to serve God. It offers an optimistic outlook on the Catholic Church that will inspire the faithful to consider the lay vocation as a rewarding part of their lives.

Living the Call is published by Encounter Books and may be purchased online. It is a 184-page hardcover, published August 2011, and sells for \$15.37 or lower on various websites. Please order at <http://www.encounterbooks.com>; type in title under search. Or you may send in your completed word search puzzle and contest form to *The Catholic Lighthouse* at P. O. Box 4070, Victoria, TX 77903 by February 25 for a chance to win.

Holy Father’s Intentions February 2012

General Intention: Access to Water. That all peoples may have access to water and other resources needed for daily life.

Missionary Intention: Health Workers. That the Lord may sustain the efforts of health workers assisting the sick and elderly in the world’s poorest regions.



PAPAL VISIT TO MEXICO AND CUBA—Pope Benedict XVI is scheduled to visit three cities in Mexico and two cities in Cuba March 23-28. (CNS graphic/Emily Thompson)

Pope will meet Mexican, Cuban presidents during visit in March

By Carol Glatz
Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Pope Benedict XVI will meet with Cuban President Raul Castro, Mexican President Felipe Calderon and bishops and Catholics from the region when he visits Mexico and Cuba March 23-28.

He will also deliver a message to the bishops of Latin America and the Caribbean as well as pray at the shrine of Our Lady of Charity of El Cobre in Cuba.

Vatican Radio released the pope's itinerary as detailed by the Mexican and Cuban bishops' conferences Jan. 2.

The pope will visit three cities in the state of Guanajuato in central Mexico; the Vatican spokesman had said Pope Benedict would not visit Mexico City because of the elevation — 7,900 feet above sea level — but the towns in Guanajuato are each about 5,900 feet above sea level.

In Cuba, he will make stops in Santiago de Cuba and the capital, Havana.

From Rome, the pope will arrive in Mexico March 23 at the airport in Leon, Guanajuato, where he will be received by President Calderon and Archbishop Jose Guadalupe Martin Rabago of Leon.

During his four-day stay in

Mexico, the pope will be staying at the Miraflores College in Leon, an institute run by religious sisters.

The pope will meet government officials and President Calderon March 24 at the Guanajuato state government house of Conde Rul. Later he will greet and bless those gathered at Peace Square.

He will celebrate Mass March 25 in Silao's Bicentennial Park, which is at the foot of the Cerro del Cubilete hill and its 67-foot-tall monument of Cristo Rey. Representatives of the 91 dioceses of Mexico will be present at the Mass.

Later in the day, the pope will celebrate evening prayer in Leon's cathedral and deliver a message for all the bishops of Mexico and the representatives of bishops' conferences of Latin America and the Caribbean.

The pope will leave Mexico March 26 for Cuba, where he will be welcomed at the Santiago de Cuba airport by President Castro, Archbishop Dionisio Guillermo Garcia Ibanez of Santiago de Cuba and representatives of the Cuban bishops' conference.

The pope will celebrate Mass in Antonio Maceo Revolution Square later that day. He will stay at a priests' residence in El Cobre.

The pope will make a private visit to the shrine of Our Lady of Charity of El Cobre March 27.

Afterward, he will head to the airport and fly to Havana where he will be welcomed by Cardinal Jaime Ortega Alamino of Havana, bishops and religious, government and civil leaders.

The pope will have an official meeting with President Castro and will meet with Cuban bishops at the apostolic nunciature, where the pope will be staying.

The pope will celebrate Mass March 28 in Jose Marti Revolution Square and leave later that day for Rome.

Confession: Celebration of mercy, not trial before prosecution

By Carol Glatz
Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Priests hearing confessions need to replace any negative or aggressive attitudes with meekness and mercy toward the penitent, said a Vatican expert on confession.

The sacrament of reconciliation "has led to a unilateral overemphasis on the accusation and listing of sins," said Bishop Gianfranco Girotti, regent of the Apostolic Penitentiary, a Vatican court that handles issues related to the sacrament of penance.

The end result is that "the thing that is absolutely central when listening to sin, that is, the blessed embrace of the merciful Father, is put on the backburner," he said.

The Italian bishop's comments, published Jan. 28 in the Vatican newspaper *L'Osservatore Romano*, were made in his address to a symposium for confessors held in Loreto, Italy.

"Isn't it true perhaps that at times confession takes on the semblance of a prosecuting tribunal rather than a celebration of forgiveness," and that the conversation takes on "inquisitorial or, in any case, indelicate tones," he asked.

A confessor is first and foremost a father who welcomes, listens and engages in dialogue, he said.

People going to confession "are seeking comfort, advice and forgiveness," he said. Often they are dealing with problems in their personal life or in their relationships; concerns about

Bishops protest against Health and Human Services move

Continued from p. 1

a joint statement that they "cannot stand by silently" in light of what they called "an unprecedented and untenable abrogation of religious freedom in the United States."

"This is part of a pattern in the United States that has degenerated from the recognition of religion as good and salutary in our society to religion being subjected to punitive discrimination," said the statement signed by Bishops Kevin J. Farrell of Dallas and Kevin W. Vann of Fort Worth and Dallas Auxiliary Bishops J. Douglas Deshotel and Mark J. Seitz.

They urged the nearly 2 million Catholics in North Texas, along with "other people of good will," to join them "by speaking out for the protection of conscience rights and religious liberty that are essential to the common good of our nation and in keeping with the basic human rights enshrined in our American way of life."

"I just think the Health and Human Services directive is totally uncalled for," Bishop David E. Fellhauer of the Diocese of Victoria said in an interview with the diocesan newspaper, *The*

Catholic Lighthouse.

Archbishop Allen H. Vigneron of Detroit, in a Jan. 21 statement, called on lawmakers in Washington to "step up, step in, and protect the rights of their fellow citizens from a government mandate that is truly unconscionable."

"This fight against the federal government's overreaching exercise of its power is everybody's fight," he added.

Archbishop Aymond, who was in Rome for his "ad limina" visit to Pope Benedict XVI, said Jan. 26 that he had already sent a letter to members of Congress protesting the HHS decision and now expected the Catholic faithful to take action.

"This is a critical time and one that will call for us to engage in public dialogue," he said. "We cannot stand by and allow this to move forward without speaking out."

Archbishop Aymond said Catholics "must be able to live the message of Christ in the U.S. and follow our conscience."

"We are not demanding that others live our Christian values, but we should have the right to do so," he added.

Bishop David A. Zubik of Pittsburgh called on Catholics in the Pittsburgh Diocese to "do all possible to rescind" the contraceptive mandate by writing to President Barack Obama, Sebelius and their members of Congress about this "unprecedented federal interference in the right of Catholics to serve their community without violating their fundamental moral beliefs."

Writing in *The Wall Street Journal* Jan. 25, Cardinal-designate Timothy M. Dolan of New York, president of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, said the HHS decision rejected the "loud and strong appeals" by "hundreds of religious institutions and hundreds of thousands of individual citizens" since the comment period began last August.

He said it is naive to think that contraception and sterilization will be "free" under the HHS mandate.

"There is no free lunch, and you can be sure there's no free abortion, sterilization or contraception," he wrote. "There will be a source of funding: you."

Speaking that evening at Fordham University in New York, the archbishop told reporters that President Obama had called him the morning of Jan. 20 "to tell me the somber news" before the HHS decision was announced publicly.

He said he felt "terribly let down, disappointed and disturbed" and found it difficult to reconcile the decision with what the president had told him during a meeting in November — "that he considered the protection of conscience sacred, that he didn't want anything his administration would do to impede the work of the church that he claimed he held in high regard, particularly in the area of health care, education, works of charity and justice."

contraception, separation or divorce; or difficulties between parent and child, he said.

"As confessors we are called to show mercy and hope, to be fathers more than judges, to take on the penitent's pain and listen with much patience," he said.

"All of this has nothing to do with being lax or permissive," he said, "rather it focuses on the inner liberation of the penitent," their feelings of remorse and repentance, and facilitating their reception of judgment, grace and mercy from God.

Bishop Girotti said a confessor "would commit a serious injustice" if he dared let his judgment and advice to the penitent be influenced

more by his own personal opinions and viewpoints than by church teaching and doctrine.

Priests must carefully control their reaction, including facial expressions and gestures, when hearing confession, he said.

The confessor should imitate Christ's gentleness and never display a sense of shock no matter how grave the sin, he said. The confessor must never pry for personal details, never show impatience or be in a hurry, and should instill a healthy fear of God, but not terror and should condemn the sin, not the sinner, he added.

Penitents open their heart and soul to the confessor because they see him as being "God's minister, and if instead they find in him severity, not mercy, or doubts and obscurity, and not the light of truth, they will have been truly deceived."



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THE POPE SPEAKS

Pope Benedict XVI



CNS photo from Reuters

Pope speaks on consecrated life and virginity

Catholic News Service

Pope Benedict XVI spoke in a Jan. 20 audience with students from one of Rome's oldest and most prominent seminaries, the Almo Collegio Capranica.

He held up the life of a young virgin and martyr as an example to seminarians of the total commitment to Christ required by young men seeking to enter the priesthood.

The pope also said that a solid cultural background and intellectual understanding of faith was essential in the formation of priests as spreaders of the word of God.

He told them that while martyrdom marks a final and heroic act, the "informed, free and mature" choice of virginity is rather the "fruit of a long friendship with Jesus" developed through close knowledge of his words and constant prayer.

Legend says St. Agnes died in 304 or 305 at the hands of the suitor she spurned so she could remain faithful only to Christ. Pope Benedict said the saint faced her fate with exemplary courage. Her martyrdom illustrates "the beauty of belonging to Christ without hesitation."

The path to the priesthood requires a similar level of commitment, the pope said, as well as integrity, well-roundedness, ascetic exercise and "heroic faith."

He reminded the seminary students that "faith has its own rational and intellectual dimension, which is essential to it," and that it is the student's responsibility to assimilate the "Christian synthesis of faith and reason."

A thorough cultural and intellectual grounding will make priests more effective as educators of the faith, the pope said.

St. Agnes is a popular Roman saint. The church of Sant'Agnese in Agone is dedicated to her and is located at Rome's Piazza Navona, where she was martyred.

Speaking at his weekly general audience Jan. 25, the pope said consecrated life entails giving oneself completely to God and living for others.

Pope Benedict continued his catechesis on Christian prayer, looking at the Last Supper, when Jesus instituted the Eucharist and the ministerial priesthood.

He said Jesus prayed for God's intercession for his disciples, who, like himself, "do not belong to the world."

Consecration also entails going on missions, the pope said, as Jesus told God, "As you sent me into the world, so I sent them into the world."

"The consecrated person exists for others, is given to others,"

Outline of basic Mormon beliefs and practices

WASHINGTON (CNS) — More than 14 million people belong to the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, which has its headquarters in Salt Lake City. Members are referred to as Mormons. About 5 million live in the United States, making the faith group the fourth largest in the country. The church was established April 6, 1830, by Joseph Smith, who is considered a prophet. According to information on the church's website, <http://lds.org>, Mormons describe themselves as a restoration of Christianity. The site notes that the church is not Protestant, evangelical, Catholic or Orthodox but espouses values of morality, civility and family similar to those of most other Christian faiths. According to a recent Pew Forum poll, six in 10 Mormons think Americans are uninformed about their religious beliefs. The study showed that a number of tenets central to the teachings of the Mormon faith are not shared by other Christian traditions including beliefs that: God the Father and Jesus Christ are separate, physical beings; the Book of Mormon was written by ancient prophets; families can be bound together for all eternity in temple ceremonies; the church's website addresses possible misconceptions about the faith and its practices in the "frequently asked questions" section.

and no longer lives for oneself, the pope said.

"For the disciples it will be to continue Jesus' mission, to be given to God in order to be in mission for everyone," said the pope.

The pope prayed that all Christians follow suit and "open our own prayers to the needs of our neighbors and the whole world."

Jesus also prayed that his disciples "may all be one," as the pope recalled the closing of the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, which ended Jan. 25.

The pope asked that everyone pray "for the gift of the visible unity of all Christ's followers, so that the world may believe in the Son and in the father who sent him."

While the desire for Christian unity lies in the hearts of all the faithful, that unity also "must appear clearly in history so that the world may believe — an aim (that is) very hands-on and concrete," he said.

Combined stories by Carol Glatz and Sarah Delaney (CNS)

Women's religious orders work to ward off sex trafficking at Super Bowl

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Picking up from efforts to stem sex trafficking at the 2010 World Cup in South Africa, 11 women's religious orders from Indiana and Michigan are working to stop sex trafficking at this year's Super Bowl. The orders are members of the Coalition for Corporate Responsibility for Indiana and Michigan, established in the early 1990s. The coalition is a member of the Interfaith Center for Corporate Responsibility, which spearheaded the anti-sex trafficking efforts two years ago in South Africa. The nuns aren't always the biggest football fans, but they've picked up some of the terminology. When ICCR's human trafficking working group mentioned during its meeting last June that Super Bowl XLVI would be held in Indianapolis, "we picked up the ball and ran with it," said Sister Ann Oestreich, an Immaculate Heart of Mary sister who ministers as justice coordinator for the Sisters of the Holy Cross in South Bend, Ind., and is the two-state coalition's justice co-chair. "In CCRIM, we had done a process

Sunday Readings from Feb. 5 to Mar. 11

February 5 — Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time	Job 7:1-4, 6-7 Psalms 147:1-2, 3-4, 5-6 1 Corinthians 9:16:19, 22-23 Mark 1:29-39
February 12 — Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time	Leviticus 13:1-2, 44-46 Psalms 32:1-2, 5, 11 1 Corinthians 10:31-11:1 Mark 1:40-45
February 19 — Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time	Isaiah 43:18-19, 21-22, 24b-25 Psalms 41:2-3, 4-5, 13-14 2 Corinthians 1:18-22 Mark 2:1-12
February 22 — Ash Wednesday	Joel 2:12-18 Psalms 51:3-4, 5-6ab, 12-13, 14, 17 2 Corinthians 5:20-6:2 Mark 6:1-6, 16-18
February 26 — First Sunday of Lent	Genesis 9:8-15 Psalms 25:4-5, 6-7, 8-9 1 Peter 3:18-22 Mark 1:12-15
March 4 — Second Sunday of Lent	Genesis 22:1-2, 9a, 10-13, 15-18 Psalms 116:10, 15, 16-17, 18-19 Romans 8:31b-34 Mark 9:2-10
March 11 — Third Sunday of Lent	Exodus 20:1-17 Psalms 19:8, 9, 10, 11 1 Corinthians 1:22-25 John 2:2-13-25

Lent Begins

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www.usccb.org/bible/readings

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in terms of picking one issue that was important to all of our members. Prior to the Super Bowl, the issue of human trafficking came up," Sister Ann told Catholic News Service during a Jan. 12 telephone interview from South Bend. "It's such a broad issue. How do we get at it as investors, as socially responsible investors? So we decided to take a look at the hospitality industry and purchasing stock in their companies so we could get into a conversation with the hotels." Coalition representatives contacted the federal Department of Health and Human Services for assistance. "We asked for printed copies of brochures on their website, and HHS was kind enough, when they heard what we were doing, to provide 2,000 printed copies of those brochures."

Vatican, Palestinian leaders talk on church rights

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — The Vatican and the Palestine Liberation Organization are continuing talks aimed at a formal agreement regulating and promoting the presence and activity of the Catholic Church in the Palestinian territories. Vatican and PLO representatives met Jan. 28 at the headquarters of the Palestinian president in Ramallah. For years the Vatican has been engaged in similar discussions with the government of Israel. Talks continue with the Israelis, particularly on issues dealing with finances and taxation of church-owned property.

The Key To Economic Recovery

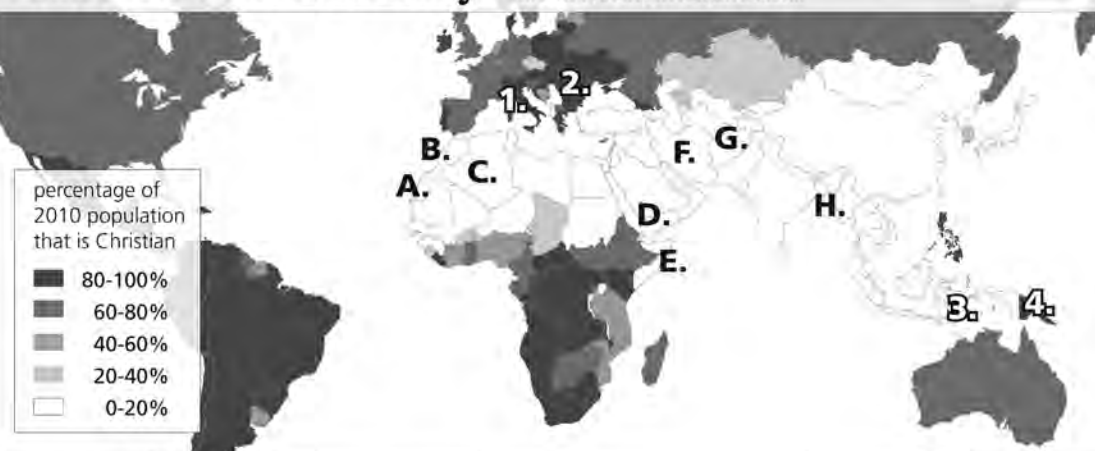
Continued from p. 5

The Catholic Encyclopedia says, "Socialism is . . . a deliberate attempt to relieve . . . the existing social conditions, which are regarded as intolerable." Through reason, some socialists understood the natural call to address injustice against others, but their method was often the use of force. We Christians are called by Faith to act with justice toward others because we freely choose to love them—without

discrimination—as children of God. Socialism must be given credit for valid criticism of social systems that allow some human beings to exploit others, even though the solutions proposed by some forms of socialism may not be compatible with Christian social teachings. Jesus taught us that doing justice with love is to be his disciples' response to unjust social systems (John 13:35). *To be continued.*

Global Christianity

Countries with the lowest percentages of Christians are in North Africa and Asia.



COUNTRIES THAT ARE MORE THAN 99% CHRISTIAN
1. VATICAN CITY 2. ROMANIA 3. EAST TIMOR 4. PAPUA NEW GUINEA

COUNTRIES THAT ARE LESS THAN .1% CHRISTIAN
A. WESTERN SAHARA B. MOROCCO C. ALGERIA D. YEMEN E. SOMALIA F. IRAN G. AFGHANISTAN H. BANGLADESH

Source: The Pew Forum on Religion & Public Life

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Special Collections

Aid to Church in Europe (Ash Wednesday)

February 22

Operation Rice Bowl - Sundays of Lent and Easter Ongoing Events

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

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. Please call Sharon at (361) 578-7572 before attending.

Gabriel Project—a ministry providing help to pregnant women in a crisis pregnancy – an alternative to abortion – holds monthly meetings open to everyone interested. Meetings, including a light supper, are held in Victoria the 2nd Tuesday of each month at 101 W. Convent, behind St. Mary's Catholic Church, at 6:30 p.m. An Angel Workshop is held at the same location the 3rd Saturday of each month from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Please call Barbara at (361) 649-1612 or Linda at 655-3008 for more information. Meetings are held the 4th Tuesday of each month at Holy Family Church in Wharton (2011 Briar Lane) 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: April 27-29, June 29-July 1, Sept. 7-9 and Nov. 16-18. For more info., call (361) 573-0828 ext. 2230. All registrations are on a first come, first serve basis. Fee must accompany registration form.

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

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

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

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

Goliad—Presidio La Bahia Museum and Visitor Center — a National Historic Landmark — is the only Spanish fort in the possession of the Catholic Church in North America. A tour program is available to groups. The Presidio is open daily from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. and is closed on major holidays. On March 24 and 25, the 27th Annual Goliad Massacre - Fort Defiance Living History Program will be held – Saturday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Candlelight Tours 7 to 9 p.m.; Sunday, following the Massacre Reenactment at 10:00 a.m. there will be a memorial service and a pilgrimage to the Fannin Memorial. 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.presidiolabaha.org.

Picnics, Activities, etc. February

Swiss Alps (Schulenburg)—The 4th Annual Triumphs Rock-N-Roll for the Red & White to benefit St. Rose of Lima Catholic School in Schulenburg will be held Saturday, Feb. 11, at Swiss Alp Dance Hall from 8:30 p.m. to midnight. Included is a live auction of only one item at intermission – an AUTOGRAPHED PAUL McCARTNEY ELECTRIC GUITAR,

with a certificate of authenticity and appraisal, and a silent auction of romantic getaways. Doors will open at 7:30 p.m. and admission is \$30 p.p.; private tables are available – make reservations at (979) 743-3080 and (979) 743-3117. For additional information, please contact fogle4@verizon.net or stacyoeding@hotmail.com.

Victoria—St. Mary Parish Festival Feb. 12 at the community center from 10:30 a.m.-6:00 p.m. A fried-chicken meal will be served from 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at \$8 p/p with curb service available. Live auction begins at 12:30 p.m. There will be booths and games for everyone. See pg. 6 for more information.

Victoria—Holy Family Games Party Feb. 16 from 6:00 to 9:00 p.m. at the activity center. There will be door prizes, food, silent auction and fun. Admission is \$7 p/p. RSVP to Jalayne Tupa at (361) 578-1606; Margaret Beekler at (361) 575-4997; or Milicent Bryarly at (361) 573-3736.

Shiner—Shiner Taste of Texas Gala, Saturday, Feb. 18, will feature the taste of San Antonio and will bring "Fiesta" to Shiner. Contact the church office at (361) 594-3836 for ticket information, deadline is Feb. 10. Proceeds will fund the Religious Education Endowment Fund.

Schulenburg—CDA Court St. Rose #1597 will hold its 19th Annual Fried-Chicken Dinner on Feb. 19 at the KC Hall. Serving begins at 11:00 a.m. with dine-in or plates-to-go available. Tickets are \$8 for adults, and plates-to-go and \$4 for children. There will be a cakewalk, silent auction and country store. KC Hall is located at 405 South Street, off of Highway 77.

Upcoming Events

Victoria—KJZT Society #101 will have a bake sale March 3 and 4 at Holy Family Church following each Mass.

Hungerford—KJT Society #79 and KJZT Society #57 will host their Annual Barbecue-Chicken and Sausage Dinner March 4 at the community center. Serving begins at 10:30 a.m. Plates-to-go will be available inside. There will be an auction, and a free dance will be held until 4:00 p.m. with music by The Texas Legacy Czech Band.

New Taiton—St. John's Altar Society Annual Chicken Dinner March 11 at the Taiton Community Center. Serving begins at 11:00 a.m. with fried-chicken, homemade dressing and all the trimmings. There will be dine-in or plates-to-go at \$8 p/p. There will also be an auction, cakewalk, country store and more.

Yoakum—St. Ann's Mission "Save the Bell Tower" kettle-fried steak dinner April 22 at St. Joseph's Family Center. The event is sponsored by KJZT Society #37.

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

Masses • Retreats • Conferences

Schulenburg—St. Rose of Lima Church Parish Mission, "The Fourth Cup", will be held Wednesday, Feb. 8, from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m.; Mass will be celebrated at 6:00 p.m. The mission will be facilitated by Michael Fonseca God's Embrace Renewal Centers-Victoria Diocese; www.GodsEmbrace.net. Michael Fonseca will also be available throughout the Victoria Diocese for 3-Year Spiritual Formation Programs, other Church Missions, Retreats, and Individual Spiritual Direction. For more information please contact Ralph Schmidt at (979) 743-5976 or Linda Schmidt at (979) 743-9539 or e-mail at signaws29@hotmail.com.

Frelsburg—Sts. Peter and Paul Church Parish Mission, "Our Call to Holiness", will be held Thursday, Feb. 9, from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. The mission will be facilitated by Michael Fonseca God's Embrace Renewal Centers-Victoria Diocese; www.GodsEmbrace.net. For more information please contact Adeline Dvorak at (979) 732-5305 or adelinedvorak@gmail.com.

Eagle Lake—Come and Experience the Healing Power of Our Lord Jesus Christ! God's Embrace Renewal Centers and Father Robert Guerra invite you and your family and friends to attend their Healing Mass, Friday, Feb. 10, at 7:00 p.m. at the Parish of the Nativity, 308 Stevenson Street. For more information contact Sandy Reese: sandyreesefoaj@yahoo.com or (979) 541-6881.

El Campo—St. Philip the Apostle Church presents Sondra Abrahams Feb. 12, at 1:30 p.m. She is from Lake Charles, La. During a near-death experience on the operating table 40 years ago, after being given a drug that stopped her heart, she was given visions of the future. Following her recovery, she shares her experiences with people all over the world. She has been called a mystic and a visionary by priests and bishops, but the only title she claims is "Warrior for Christ". For more information, please contact St. Philip Church at (979) 543-3770.

Victoria—Amor Meus Spirituality Center invites you to a Taizé Prayer Experience on Feb. 23 from 7:00-8:00 p.m. in the prayer room, at Incarnate Word Convent (1101 N.E. Water Street). Taizé prayer service held in a candle-light atmosphere consists of music, song, chant, scriptural reading, meditation and prayers of intercession. For information call 361-575-7111.

Victoria—Amor Meus Lenten Vespers will be held at the Incarnate Word Convent Chapel (1101 N.E. Water St.) on the Sundays of Lent: Feb. 26, March 4, 11, 18, 25 and April 1; from 5:00 – 6:00 p.m. Evening Prayer (or Vespers) is an ancient prayer form that predates the Church. It is a gift from our Jewish brothers and sisters. Evening Prayer finds its base in the prayers of the Psalms. This prayer calls us to give praise and thanksgiving to our loving God. This prayer can prepare us for the great feast of Easter. For information, please call

(361) 575-7111.

Victoria—A concert featuring "Ge'la" of Ontario, California, will be held Wednesday, Feb. 29, at 7:00 p.m. at Our Lady of Sorrows Church; the theme will be "Come to the Father and accept His will". Through song and praise, Ge'la will share her testimony of how the Lord healed her of throat cancer.

San Antonio—Catholic Women's Luncheon – BY POPULAR DEMAND—upcoming luncheon open to men! When Catholic Answers' Sharon Lee Giganti spoke at our Catholic Women's Conference in October, men tried to sneak in to hear her speak! Now, she's returning to San Antonio for our Catholic Women's Luncheon. We've decided to let the men in! Why such curiosity? In Hollywood, Sharon taught philosophies from *A Course in Miracles* and *The Secret* which ended up harming the lives of her students and loved ones. Now, she teaches God's truths and exposes the lies of new age practices. See her at the Catholic Women's Luncheon (men welcome) "The Lies We Buy: Exposing Spiritual Dangers" Saturday, March 3, 11:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m. at the Doubletree Hotel - Loop 410 at McCullough. Register now at www.pilgrimcenterofhope.org/womensluncheon.php or call the Pilgrim Center of Hope: (210) 521-3377.

San Antonio—7th Annual Catholic Men's Conference, sponsored by the Pilgrim Center of Hope, will be held Friday, 5:00 p.m., March 23, to Saturday, ending with Mass at 4:00 p.m., March 24 at St. Matthew McDonald Center, 10703 Wurzbach Parkway. Registration is \$35 p/p before March 9/ \$45 thereafter; military and student discounts; clergy, religious and seminarians attend free. Register online at CMCSanAntonio.com (registration includes Saturday breakfast and lunch). Questions: go to website or call (210) 521-3377.

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

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

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

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.

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

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

Pilgrimages, Tours, etc.

For more information call Betty Urbanovsky at (979) 543-2333 or burbanovsky@sbcglobal.net.

Have an event??? Contact us at
(361) 573-5725 (FAX)
or e-mail: janakr@victoriadiocese.org



URGENT Adorers and Substitutes Needed

St. Mary's Adoration Chapel in Victoria is in need of adorers of the eucharistic Jesus and always in need of substitutes.

Openings: Mon. 8-9 a.m.;
Tues. 9-10 a.m. and 10-11 a.m. and 7-8 p.m.

If you would like to commit to one of these hours or to fill in when an adorer needs a substitute, please call Cleo Boldt at 573-6161 or St. Mary Rectory at 573-4328.



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More photos of St. Joseph Church, Inez

By Cynthia Brewer

Because we were tight for space in the January issue of The Catholic Lighthouse, we were only able to print one picture of the newly renovated St. Joseph Church in Inez; therefore, we're taking advantage of a little more space in this issue to highlight the parish's big expansion. The church building doubled in size to accommodate the growing parish, which was blessed on December 4, 2011.

The original building was a traditional church with an aisle and pews on either side, now it is the cruciform shape with a left and right wing for additional seating and the choir.

From top left: 1.) The left wing of the sanctuary; 2.) Father Gabriel Bentil, Deacon Steve Borowicz and Bishop David Fellhauer accept gifts for the altar; 3.) new tabernacle made in Italy and donated by a parish family; 4.) attending the blessing is one of the pillars of the church, the parish's eldest member, Mrs. Hattie Leita; 5.) Bishop Fellhauer dedicates the altar, which was made originally for Bishop Grahmann's home chapel by the late Knight of St. Gregory Al Hessler; 6.) original section of St. Joseph Church; and 7.) the right wing of the sanctuary with choir.

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Bert Kenna, FIC Yoakum 361-293-9657	Clifton Lau, FIC Victoria 361-573-3669	Eugene Rehak, FIC Victoria 361-575-4982
Patrick Klozik, FIC Shiner 361-594-8160	Charles Leopold, FIC Hallettsville 361-798-4311	Royce Shimek, FIC Schulenburg 979-743-4313
Michael Koeth Weimar 979-725-1111	Barbara McCain, FIC Victoria 361-649-1612	Albert Smaistrila, FIC East Bernard 979-335-4473
Robert Melnar, FIC Victoria 361-578-2957	Mike Scardino Weimar 979-725-8860	Martin Hoke El Campo 979-541-7179

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45		\$31/87	\$26.87	\$55.42	\$46.25	\$103.33	\$85.00

BT 1/12



Fourth generation now using 101-year-old baptismal dress

By Mary Rose Barta,
Sts. Cyril & Methodius Parish, Shiner

An heirloom can be defined as a valued possession passed down in a family through succeeding generations. With that in mind, there is no doubt that a baptismal dress that has been handed down from generation to generation is a unique family heirloom.

This delicate, lace-edged baptismal dress was handmade in 1910 by the late Sister Aloysius Peselmann, IWBS, as a baptismal dress for the children of the late Theo and Mary (Peselmann) Hermes of Hallettsville. In addition to the eight members of that Hermes family being baptized in the dress, many of the members of the second, third and fourth generations have also received the sacrament of baptism while wearing it. To date, the total number of persons to be baptized in this garment now stand at 85. Over the years the dress has been carefully and gently cared for, leaving the family heirloom in excellent condition for a 101-year-old garment.

Records that were hand written by the late Elizabeth (Hermes) Henke many years ago made it possible to trace the names and dates of birth and baptism of each person baptized. These pages have now been reproduced and a

computer generated version of the records is kept with the dress as it makes its way to other descendants of the Hermes family for their baptismal day.



Grayson Robert Whited, son of James and Tammy Whited of Austin, Texas, and grandson of Robert and Barbara Grahmann of Hallettsville, Texas, is a member of the fourth generation of Hermes family descendants and was baptized in the 101-year-old family-baptismal dress on November 27, 2011, at Sacred Heart Church, Hallettsville, by his great uncle, Msgr. James Henke.



Charles and Mary Merta Osina of St. John Parish in New Taiton have been married for over 73 years.

Longest married couple in diocese announced

Beginning in the November issue of *The Catholic Lighthouse*, we've been asking readers to send in names of couples they think might be the longest married couple in the Diocese of Victoria.

We have come up with a winning couple: Charles and Mary Merta Osina of St. John Parish in New Taiton. They have been married for 73 and one-half years. Charles was born August 1, 1917, and Mary was born September 26, 1917. They were married on July 19, 1938, at St. John's Church in Taiton.

They have five children: Eugene (wife Joyce), David, (Lynn), Charles III (Patty), Greg (Annette) and Jeff (Kelly); 14 grandchildren and seven great grandchildren.

Father Gary Janak, pastor of St. Philip the Apostle Parish in El Campo, submit-

ted their names to the contest. He had celebrated their 70th wedding anniversary with them almost four years ago.

Since they're the winners of the contest, they have their picture printed in *The Catholic Lighthouse* and will receive a gift certificate.

Runner ups were:

~Romanus and Helen Stuekerjuergen of St. Mary's Parish in Victoria submitted by Cindy Brewer. They were married June 19, 1943, at Foster Field Chapel by Father John J. Glennon (chaplain).

~Edward and Merlene Jurek, of Sacred Heart in Flatonia submitted by Kathy Mladenka. They were married June 17, 1944, at Ellington Field by Chaplain Cullen. They both love to dance and still enjoy going to area dances.

Inspiration

You two are an inspiration to the world.
Looking at you, we know that
soulmates can find and keep each other,
commitment means something,
a great team can overcome life's troubles,
and love triumphs over all.

By Joanna Fuchs



Sister Louise Marie tells her vocation story to St. Joseph, Yoakum, and St. Rose, Schulenburg, 5th graders in the convent chapel.



Sister Amata Hollas teaches Our Lady of Victory students the history of the IWBS Sisters.

Sister Charlene Machala teaches "Christ be Our Light" to St. Michael, Weimar, students.



Kaitlyn Herman (l.) and Madison O'Hara (r.) look to purchase items at the Sister's Gift Shop, which is open to the public.

Sister Laura Toman, principal of OLV School, shares her story of the time she spent in Kenya, Africa, on mission with Sister Rebecca Janacek, IWBS.



Catholic School 5th graders introduced to vocations

On January 10 and 11, 2012, 195 fifth graders from the Catholic Schools in the Diocese of Victoria attended Church Vocation Awareness Days at Incarnate Word Convent in Victoria. The students heard a number of religious and priests talk about their own experience of religious life and the priesthood. Sister Laura Toman showed pictures and told stories of her recent mission to Kenya, Africa, during "A Missionary's Experience;" Sister Louise Marie Jones and Father Phi Nguyen explained "Different Lifestyles;" Sister Amata Hollas gave

tours of the IWBS museum, "Visit Hall of Memories;" Sister Gregoria Berger assisted students in making purchases in the Gift Shop; and Sister Charlene Machala taught students the song "Christ Be Our Light" for the closing ceremony. The day culminated in a prayer service that highlighted the gifts of the Holy Spirit. The Vocation Awareness Days are sponsored by the Vocations Office of the Diocese of Victoria, The Serra Club, Knights of Columbus Council No. 1329 and the Catholic Daughters of Court St. Ann No. 369, both of Victoria.



Three students from St. Joseph High School in Victoria received perfect scores on subtests of the SAT®. Pictured, l. to r., are the senior students: Chris Mason, David Du and Christian Wenske.

Three STJ students receive perfect scores on subtests of the SAT®

The SAT® (Scholastic Aptitude Test) is a standardized test for college admissions and is intended to assess a student's readiness for college. Scores tell college admissions staff how a student did compared with other students who took the test and are reported on a scale from 200-800.

Chris Mason, a St. Joseph High School senior, received a perfect score of 800 on the critical reading subtest of the SAT.

He is the son of John and Gail Mason of Victoria.

David Du, a sophomore at St. Joseph High School, received a perfect score on the math subtest of the SAT. He is the son of Dr. Yong and Lily Du of Victoria.

Christian Wenske, a St. Joseph High School senior, received a perfect score on the math subtest of the SAT. He is the son of Michael and Mary Wenske of Victoria.