

# The Catholic Lighthouse

The Cradle of Texas Immigration



VOL. 25, NO. 9

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE DIOCESE OF VICTORIA IN TEXAS

January 2012

## The Catholic Lighthouse to be reduced!

Chancery needs to hear from you if you wish to continue receiving newspaper

By Cynthia Brewer

The Diocese of Victoria wants to be sure parishioners are receiving their Catholic diocesan news in the most economical, technological and “green” way.

Beginning with this issue (January 2012), the diocesan newspaper, *The Catholic Lighthouse*, will become “greener and leaner”.

The Diocese of Victoria will begin printing a smaller, more lightweight newspaper, reducing its pages from 20 to 12 in an effort to reduce costs and the amount of paper it uses. By shortening the paper, it will use fewer resources and weigh less, thus cost less to mail it to each Catholic residence in the Diocese of Victoria.

The savings of printing and mailing a 12-page newspaper, compared to a 20-page paper, is nearly \$17,000 per year.

Also, because originally *The Catholic Lighthouse* was mandated to go to each and every Catholic family registered to a parish in the diocese, nearly 19,000 papers are mailed out each

month. Over a 12-month period, the postage costs come to nearly \$30,000 annually.

In an effort to streamline the distribution of the newspaper, the chancery office would like to mail the paper only to parishioners who wish to receive one in hard-copy (paper) form.

Those who would prefer to use today’s technology and read the paper solely on the diocesan website, may do so at <http://www.victoriadiocese.org> – often times days before the paper would arrive at one’s door.

In order to help the chancery get *The Catholic Lighthouse* to those who really enjoy receiving it, we need to hear from each and every family as to whether or not they wish to continue receiving the paper by mail.

If you would still like to continue receiving the diocesan newspaper in the mail, as opposed to reading it in “PDF format” on the diocesan website, please forward your name, address and phone number to the chancery office at (361) 573-0828 or send

an electronic form by going to [www.victoriadiocese.org](http://www.victoriadiocese.org) and clicking on the “RENEW YOUR SUBSCRIPTION TODAY” link on the homepage. You may also fill out the registration card that will be included in this year’s Diocesan Services Appeal (DSA), which you will be receiving in the mail soon.

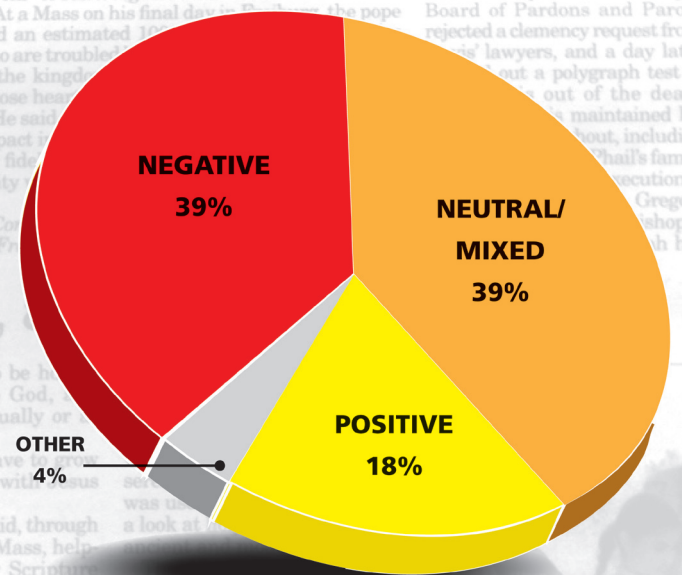
Notification must be received in the chancery office by March 31 if you wish to continue receiving *The Catholic Lighthouse*.

Thank you for your time and cooperation in letting us know how you’d like to receive your diocesan news.

~ **Candlelight March** ~  
**Will be held Thurs., Jan. 26**  
**starting at Northside Baptist and ending at Our Lady of Victory Cathedral**  
**See p. 2 for more info.**

## Print vs. Online

How would you feel if print versions of Catholic newspapers and magazines — including your diocesan newspaper or magazine — ceased publication and moved their operations entirely online?



Source: Center for Applied Research in the Apostolate ©2011 CNS

**PRINT VS. ONLINE**—Thirty-nine percent of respondents said they would respond negatively if Catholic newspapers and magazines ceased publication and moved their operations entirely online. (CNS graphic/Emily Thompson)



Pictured with Bishop David E. Fellhauer are the newly ordained deacons, Deacon Larry Koether (l) and Deacon Kenneth Fishbeck (r).

## Diocese celebrates the Rite of Ordination for two deacons

By Cynthia Brewer

Two permanent deacons have been called to the diaconate for the Diocese of Victoria.

On Saturday morning, December 17, 2011, Kenneth Wayne Fishbeck of St. Joseph’s Church in Moulton and Larry Wayne Koether of Holy Cross Church in Bay City were ordained by the Most Rev. David E. Fellhauer at the 10 a.m. Mass at Our Lady of Victory Cathedral in Victoria.

The ordination celebration was truly a family affair as a daughter of each deacon was a lector for the Mass; Jackie Fishbeck Horras read the first reading, Jeremiah 1:4-9, and Jessica Koether read 1 Tm. 3:8-10, 12-13a. Also, the deacons’ spouses, Mrs. Lynn Koether and Mrs.

Kathy Fishbeck, assisted their husbands with the investiture of the deacon’s stole and dalmatic, as well as presented the gifts.

Twelve deacons from throughout the diocese, as well as transitional deacon Patrick Knippenberg, honored Deacons Fishbeck and Koether with their presence at the ordination Mass, and Deacon John McCourt of Queen of the Holy Rosary Parish in Hostyn was the Deacon of the Word. Thirteen diocesan priests concelebrated the Mass. Father Tommy Chen, of Sacred Heart Church in Hallettsville, was the master of ceremonies.

Altar servers were diocesan seminarians: Jacob Koether, son of the newly ordained Deacon  
*See Diocese celebrates, p. 7*



At the pulpit, Father Gabriel Bentil, pastor of St. Joseph Parish in Inez, joyfully addresses his flock at the end of the Mass of Blessing December 4, 2011. The newly renovated church doubled in size and seating. The church added pale, iridescent tile behind its original crucifix to help match it to the larger wall space, and its new altar was the altar KSG Emil “Al” Hessler (deceased) originally built in the 1980s for Bishop Charles V. Grahmann’s home chapel.

## GOD IS SO GOOD!!!

**St. Joseph Church – the tallest building in “Beautiful Inez!”**

INEZ— “God is so Good” seems to be Father Gabriel Bentil’s favorite song; he’s always singing it at Mass because he wants everyone to know how true it is!

On Dec. 4, 2011, Father Gabriel had a great reason for singing God’s praises to his congregation – his parish church had been

renovated and was being blessed by Bishop David E. Fellhauer.

The designing of the addition began August 2009, the demolition and construction started in August 2010, and the project was completed in time for its blessing on Dec. 4, the following year.

With a great number of parishioners on the building board,

finance and parish councils, and the design team, the entire parish family was able to help Michael Maraggia and Fred Warzecha with the building board, Krueger Construction, the general contractor, and Heimsath & Associates, the architect firm, complete a magnificent structure in the ex-

*See St. Joseph Church, p. 2*





## Bishop Fellhauer's Schedule

### January

- 8-12** First week of Diocesan Priests' retreat, Spiritual Renewal Center
- 14** 4:30 p.m., Mass, St. Mary Church, Praha  
6:30 p.m., Mass, St. Joseph Church, Moulton
- 15** 6:30 a.m., Mass, St. Joseph Church, Moulton  
8:00 a.m., Mass, St. Mary Church, Praha  
9:30 a.m., Mass, St. Joseph Church, Moulton
- 15-19** Second week of Diocesan Priests' retreat, Spiritual Renewal Center
- 21** 10:00 a.m., Confirmation Mass, St. Anthony Church, Columbus, including Sts. Peter and Paul Church, Frelsberg, and St. Roch Church, Mentz
- 24** 4:00 p.m., Diocesan Building Board meeting, Chancery Office
- 29** 9:00 a.m., Mass, opening of Catholic Schools Week, Our Lady of Victory Cathedral

### February

- 9** 2:00 p.m., Our Lady of Victory School spelling bee, Victoria

## St. Joseph Church, the tallest building in "Beautiful Inez!"

*Continued from p. 1*

pected time.

The church building's size almost doubled from 3,500 sq. ft. with seating for 200 to 6,600 sq. ft. and seating for 400.

The church administrative assistant said, "We are most proud of the fact that we successfully organized and ran our own capital campaign without the use of a consultant!"

The Campaign Committee, led by John Zacek and Blaine Warzecha as co-chairman, raised over \$900,000 in pledge commitments.

A delicious appreciation celebration followed at the Inez Community Center.

The parish bulletin delivered a special thank you to the 600-plus parishioners and guests who were able to join in the joyful celebration of the Mass and dedication at St. Joseph's: "We offer prayers of thanksgiving for God's gifts of time, talent and treasure for each and every person who contributed to our campaign and the church renovation and expansion. Special thanks to The Most Reverend Bishop Fellhauer, the 4th Degree Knights, the Choir, Building Board, Pastoral and Finance Councils, Design Team and EVERYONE for making the celebration so memorable and special!"

A word from the pastor ...

After the completion of this beautiful church in "Beautiful Inez", a Psalm comes to my mind: 'If the Lord does not build a house, the work of the builders is useless' (Psalm 127.1). Therefore I would just like to thank and praise the Lord for all his blessings upon us and for enabling us to

build one of the most beautiful churches in the Diocese of Victoria.

If you are not told, you would not know that we renovated and added on to an old church, which was built in 1964. In other words, everything looks so new and beautiful in this church that there is the atmosphere of Godliness that inspires one to kneel before the Lord and pray.

All this was achieved through the combined efforts of our able leaders on the Building Board, Finance and Parish Councils, the Design Team, and the entire parish family.

To tell you, the whole project was completed in just 14 months. So you can imagine the number of meetings and discussions (and arguments!) that went into this project. I always thank God for all the good people who spent their Time, Talent and Treasure to make the church what it is now. Also, I thank the Heimsath Architects and the Krueger Construction Co. for their great work.

In case you are wondering how much the whole project cost, \$1.6 million is the answer.

"Growing Our Family of Faith" has been our theme for our Capital Campaign. This campaign is going very well, thanks to the pledges made and are being fulfilled by parishioners and friends of St. Joseph. I trust that God's blessings will always be with us so we can remain faithful to God."

~ From Father Gabriel Bentil

## Letter to the Editor

December 19, 2011

Dear Editor,

The points on the errors of socialism from the [www.americaneedsfatima.org](http://www.americaneedsfatima.org) website quoted in the last issue (P. 18) was a well-intentioned, but too narrow attempt to present Catholic social thought on a philosophy with a long and evolutionary history. **Socialism** is subject to various expressions that depend on the historical circumstances in which it has occurred. To understand them accurately, one must understand both socialism's origins and its growth as a movement. It does not always equate historically with "communism", nor can it be stated that all "socialists" have been or are "communists".

The Roman Catholic Encyclopedia states, "... modern Socialism is not a mere arbitrary exercise at state-building, but a deliberate attempt to relieve, on explicit principles, the existing social conditions, which are regarded as intolerable. The great inequalities of human life and opportunity, produced by the excessive concentration of wealth in the hands of a comparatively small section of the community," (description sound familiar?) "have been the cause and still are the stimulus of what is called the Socialistic movement." It should come as no surprise to informed Catholics that the ideas of socialism again have a chance to flourish in our current economic situation.

Thus, **socialism is rooted in an attempt—however misguided—to correct social injustices that have been observed.** But it does so on the basis of a solely materialistic solution with its limited view of the human person, which John Paul II noted both as bishop of Krakow and as Pope. Many popes address the same problems but on the basis of the Catholic concept of human life. The first encyclical in this vein was Pope Leo XIII's "Rerum Novarum: On the Condition of Workers" in 1891. In our own time, Blessed John Paul II also stated, "It may well be that materialism will prove to be a far more serious problem for the Church than was communism".

When we Roman Catholics fail to sow in our lives, the wisdom of one hundred years of teachings by Roman Pontiffs on economics and social justice (wheat), we can expect to reap what we sow in society (weeds). The warning of Jesus, "You cannot worship both God and money" rings true here. This year especially, Bethlehem and the Wise Men call us to reconsider our values system behind our economic choices and lifestyle. As we ponder the manger of the King born there as one of the economically oppressed poor of His day, let us ask ourselves the question, "Who or what do I really worship—i.e. for which I live and work?"

And it should come as no surprise that in Matthew 25, the eschatology of this Savior born in Bethlehem will proclaim that when He returns the Second time as Judge, he will do so on the basis of how we responded to the hungry, the homeless, the sick and the poor among us. May each of us live worthy of a place in His Kingdom of Love, Justice and Peace, now and forever.

A Blessed Christmas and New Year celebrating His Love among us,  
Sr. Elizabeth Riebschlaeger, CCVI  
Cuero, TX 77954

Next month, Sister Elizabeth will submit another article that will expand on the topics of socialism and the social justice encyclicals of the popes.

### Official Appointments By Most Rev. David E. Fellhauer

Effective December 17, 2011, newly-ordained **Deacon Kenneth W. Fishbeck** is appointed to exercise his ministry of Deacon at St. Joseph Church, Moulton.

Effective December 17, 2011, newly-ordained **Deacon Larry W. Koether** is appointed to exercise his ministry of Deacon at Holy Cross Church, Bay City.

### Pray for Vocations!

## Candlelight March for Life

The Victoria Candlelight March for Life will be held Thursday, January 26, at 7:00 p.m. Assembly and marching will begin at Northside Baptist Church parking lot at 4100 N. Laurent and continue to Our Lady of Victory Cathedral, 1309 E. Mesquite Lane, where a Pro-life speaker will address the assembly.

Candles will be provided, and a bus will be available to return "marchers" from OLV to Northside Baptist.

See page 11 for more Life events including El Campo's Sanctity of Life Celebration.

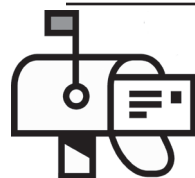
## DSA & Reflection of Faith Capital Campaign Updates

### 2011 DSA

Diocesan Goal:	\$ 1,471,384.00
Parish Pledge Totals:	\$ 760,995.73
Parish Contribution Totals:	\$ 741,879.73
Number of Parish Families Participating:	3,747

### Reflection of Faith Capital Campaign

Diocesan Goal:	\$ 9,000,000.00
Parish Pledge Totals:	\$ 12,937,977.45
Parish Contribution Totals:	\$ 10,057,911.61
Number of Parish Families Participating:	6,768



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#### Publisher

The Most Rev. David E. Fellhauer

#### Editor

Cynthia Brewer — e-mail:  
[cbrewer@victoriadiocese.org](mailto:cbrewer@victoriadiocese.org)

#### Production/Advertising

Regina Matus-Janak — e-mail: [janakr@victoriadiocese.org](mailto:janakr@victoriadiocese.org)

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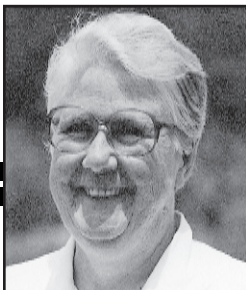
DEADLINE IS THE THIRD TUESDAY OF THE PRECEDING MONTH.





## SISTERLY THOUGHTS

By Sister Mildred Truchard, IWBS



### Time to Celebrate!

Most of us love to have reasons to celebrate. Many of us who are in any way associated with Nazareth Academy in Victoria may not realize that we have a special reason to celebrate. On January 7, the Academy will be celebrating 145 years since the opening of "The Convent School" in 1867. The fifty-five students who were enrolled that year enjoyed the distinction of attending the only school in the area. To see how this dream became a reality, we need to backtrack to a few years earlier.

In 1865, Bishop Claude Marie Dubuis, the second Bishop of Galveston, whose diocese included the entire state of

Texas, approached the Sisters of the Incarnate Word and Blessed Sacrament in Brownsville, Texas, and asked that they send some Sisters to Victoria to open a school. Now, the foundation in Brownsville, which had begun by four faith-filled Sisters from France in 1853, had endured many challenges and hardships - including extreme poverty, the ravages of the Civil War, yellow fever epidemics, and hurricanes. They could not see themselves sparing any Sisters for a new venture. After much prayer, they decided that if they could get some Sisters from Europe, they might be able to meet Bishop Dubuis' request. So Mother St. Claire Valentine, the superior, went alone to Europe to seek volunteers for the mission in Texas.

She was fortunate and gathered eight from France and four from Ireland. The eager group was given free passage on a warship and set sail toward their mission. I understand that the soldiers were very respectful to the Sisters even though it is reported that they were rather noisy at times. Unfortunately, the voyage came to an unhappy end for the Sisters when the ship arrived at Vera Cruz, Mexico. Their misfortune was two-fold: they missed the monthly ship from Vera Cruz to Texas, and except for Mother St. Claire, they all contracted yellow fever. As a result, four of the volunteers died before the party ever got to Texas. It was with a heavy heart that Mother St. Claire arrived in Brownsville with the survivors of the journey who immediately began the task of learning English to prepare themselves for bringing the Incarnate Word to the people of South Texas.

Providentially, the additional personnel would make the founding of a monastery and a school in Victoria a possibility. The Sisters held a community meeting and decided to respond affirmatively to Bishop Claude M. Dubuis' request. Five Sisters from Brownsville, including Mother St. Claire, Sister Paul Goux, Sister Mary

Louise Murray, Sister Mary of the Cross Murray, and Sister Justine Fonvielle were chosen for the foundation in Victoria. They were joined by a novice, Sister Regis Chavassieux, who came directly from France; actually she arrived in Victoria ten days before the group from Brownsville arrived on December 21, 1866. While she was waiting, Sister Regis had been hosted by the mayor, Mr. Juan Linn.

The Sisters were warmly welcomed by the people and their pastor, Father Augustine Gardet. Father Gardet offered the Sisters his four-room house which had previously been the post office. The Sisters didn't waste any time: Mother

St. Claire immediately hired a carpenter to build a room thirty-five feet by sixteen feet with a gallery six feet wide for the grand total of \$160.00. The Sisters were ready; the school opened on January 7, 1867.

Note: Next month we will continue to follow the Incarnate Word and Blessed Sacrament Sisters and their early mission days in Texas.

Next month we will continue to follow the Incarnate Word and Blessed Sacrament Sisters and their early mission days in Texas.



This was Father Gardet's house (formerly the post office) which served as the original Convent and School in January 1867. Unidentified children in front of pecan tree.



**TWO 50-YEAR KJT MEMBERSHIP PINS PRESENTED TO HOSTYN SOCIETY #3 MEMBERS**—KJT State President Christopher Urban, presented two 50-year membership pins November 20, 2011, to Hostyn Society #3 members: Douglas Janda and Ronald Goerig. Congratulations! Pictured are Hostyn KJT officers and family members of the recipients. Front row: Theodore Janda (father), recipient Douglas Janda, Ann Janda (mother); Jaqueline Goerig (daughter), recipient Ronald Goerig, and State President Christopher Urban. Back row: President Benedict Kallus, Chaplain, Deacon John McCourt, Vice-President Patrick Janda, Treasurer Theo Svec, and Secretary Ted Hoffmann.

### Busy fall for CWV Post 1269

Catholic War Veterans St. John's Post 1269, Victoria, has had a busy fall. Four members attended the 2011 National Convention in Orlando, Fl., in August. Mrs. Lupita Martinez presided at the convention and completed serving her two-year term as national president; however, she was quickly elected to serve as 2011-2012, three-year national director and the newly elected national president, Barbara Podbielniak of Ohio, appointed her to serve as 2012 National Convention chairlady. The 2012 National Convention will be held in Albuquerque, N.M.

In September the post had its Annual Awards and Installation Banquet at the CWV Post Home. Newly elected officers are president - Lupita Martinez, 1st vice-president - Toney Aguilar, 2nd vice-president - Lupe Gallardo, 3rd vice-president - Cecilia Garcia, secretary - Mary Reyes, treasurer - Cecilia Garcia, welfare officer - Toney Aguilar, historian - Carmen Nunez, ritual officer, Selina Driscoll, 3-year director - Nilda Reyna, 2-year director - Mary Reyes, 1-year director - Lena Quinonez, liaison officer - Ernest Cisneros, chaplain - Father Stan DeBoe, O.S.S.T.

Two events were held in October; first was the post's participation in the Chain for Life, and on October 16, they had

their Annual Turkey Dinner Fundraiser to help support their various community projects. It was a success and they are thankful for everyone who supported the event.

On November 6, the post attended Mass at St. Mary's Church in Praha, Texas, celebrated by Bishop David Fellhauer, and then participated in the following 49th Annual Veteran's Day Memorial Service.

This brings Post 1269 to November 11, when they participated in the Veteran's Day Parade in downtown Victoria.

The post's on-going projects include serving coffee at the Victoria VA Clinic and providing a monthly birthday party and bingo at Retama Manor Nursing Home. They lead the rosary at Retama Manor Nursing Home on the First Friday of each month and at Affectionate Arms Adult Day Health Care Center every 2nd and 4th Wednesday. They also volunteer at Our Lady of Sorrows Resale Shop when needed.

As one can see, they stay very busy.

St. John's Post 1269 Auxiliary is looking for new members to join them. Membership is authorized to Catholic mothers, wives, widows, sisters, daughters, nieces, grandmothers, granddaughters, aunts and in-laws, such as mothers-in-law, sisters-in-law, daughters-in-law, grandmothers-in-law, not less than eighteen (18) years of age, of living or deceased Catholic veterans, including the wife of an individual who is a Prisoner of War or Missing in Action, and provided further that such individual shall be admitted to membership; and provided further that the dues for such member shall be waived for so long as that member's dependent remains a Prisoner of War or Missing in Action. Membership in an Auxiliary is also authorized to any female who is qualified to be a member of the Catholic War Veterans of the United States of America, Inc.

Monthly meetings are held at the CWV Annex Building located right behind the CWV Hall, 1007 S. Main Street, on the 2nd Wednesday of the month. The Holy Rosary is prayed at 7:00 p.m., prior to the meeting which begins at 7:30 p.m.

The yearly dues are \$23. To join, please contact Mrs. Lupita Martinez at (361) 578-1489 or [danielm894@aol.com](mailto:danielm894@aol.com).

### In Memory of ...

#### Georgia M. Dulak Lyons dies, mother of Father Michael Lyons

WEST—Georgia Mary Dulak Lyons, 85, of West, passed away Friday, Dec. 30, 2011, at The Plaza Nursing Home in Richardson. She was born Feb. 3, 1926, in Elk, the daughter of August and Mary Ann Morris Dulak.

She attended the Cottonwood school and graduated from West High School in 1943 prior to attending Baylor University and Draughn's Business College. On June 5, 1948, she was united in marriage to John F. Lyons in Waco. She owned and operated the Playdium Swimming Pool in West from 1973 to 1988. She was a member of St. Mary's Catholic Church of the Assumption, where she served on the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults Team. She was also a member of the Catholic Daughters of America Court #829 and the S.P.J.S.T. Lodge No. 54. She enjoyed reading and traveling. She especially loved visiting with her children and spending time with her family and friends.

She is survived by her sons, Rev. Michael J. Lyons of Ganado, Tim Lyons and wife Teresa of Richardson; daughter, Mary Fletcher and husband Martin of Haledon,

NJ; sister, Frances Poteet of El Paso; 2 granddaughters, Holly and Emily Lyons; and many nieces, nephews, other relatives and friends.

She is preceded in death by her parents; husband; and brother, Edwin Dulak.

A Rosary was recited and Mass of Christian Burial was held Monday, Jan. 2, 2012, at St. Mary's Catholic Church of the Assumption in West, with Bishop David E. Fellhauer, Rev. Ed Karasek and Rev. Michael Lyons as celebrants. Private graveside services were held at Rosemount Cemetery in Waco.

Pallbearers were: Mark Poteet, Florentino Perez, Martin Fletcher, Christopher Massey, John R. Poteet and Kenneth McMorrough.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to West Senior Center, 200 Tokio Rd., West, TX 76691; or Catholic Daughters of America Court #829 of West.

You are invited to share your thoughts and memories of Georgia in her memorial guest book found at [www.aderholdfuneralhome.com](http://www.aderholdfuneralhome.com).

#### Prayer for Vocations

Heavenly Father, if it is your divine will, inspire many of our youth to say "Yes" to your special calling to be priests, sisters and brothers. Amen.



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## Everyone is Called to Live Virtuously

By Scott Hill, Theology II  
at St. Mary's Seminary, Houston  
Home parish: St. Roch, Mentz

When I was growing up, I never knew a priest prior to his ordination. My thought was priests are people who have always been priests and there's nothing else to them. But how wrong I was. Being at seminary helps us seminarians integrate the life of a priest and yet still enjoy our personal hobbies, such as hunting, going to football and baseball games, etc. (However, with the Astros moving to the A.L., I think I'll start watching the new Sugar Land team.)



At seminary we do study theology, but we also work on just being Catholic. Even the lives of seminarians, who drop out and do not become priests, are forever changed because seminary teaches them how to live virtuously. Everyone is called to live a virtuous life; however, the life of a priest is to live this way exponentially. That is why I mentioned it is important for priests and seminarians to continue doing the things they enjoy. Being in public is a way to grow in virtue (and living in Hous-

ton makes it easier). If all we did was hide in the seminary or rectory, we could never grow in virtue. By getting out we have the chance to lead by example as Christ did. That is what life is all about and what everyone is called to do — to live and love like Christ.

Along with living as Christ did, there are also four major steps we take in the seminary prior to being ordained priests. First are installations as lector and acolyte, then being called as a candidate to the diaconate, and finally being ordained as a transitional deacon. On November 20, I was installed as an acolyte by Bishop Fellhauer at St. Mary Seminary. The job of the acolyte as described in the General Instruction of the Roman Missal, no. 65, states: "The acolyte is instituted to serve at the altar and to assist the priest and deacon. In particular it is for him to prepare the altar and the vessels and, as a special minister of the Eucharist, to give communion to the faithful." Those in my class, who received this ministry with me, are called to help prepare for the holy sacrifice of the Mass and to distribute Holy Communion when necessary. For me, it is very special because it's another visible step towards the reality of being ordained a priest.

Thank you for your continuous prayers and support for the seminarians of this diocese as we strive to become virtuous priests.

## Congregation of Divine Providence celebrates 250th anniversary of founding

SAN ANTONIO—The Congregation of Divine Providence of San Antonio (CDP), along with six other Congregations that claim Blessed John Martin Moye as their founder or spiritual father, is planning a year-long celebration of the 250th anniversary of its institution. These Congregations of women religious trace their roots to 1762 France, when Father Moye sent young women into small villages to educate the poor. Celebrations will begin in January 2012, and will continue throughout the year. The Sisters of Divine Providence of San Antonio will host several events to recognize and honor the contributions of its Sisters, past and present.

Today, more than 3,000 Sisters of Divine Providence throughout the world continue to further the mission of the Church by responding to the spiritual and social needs of the times in Africa, Asia, Europe, and North and South America.

In 1866 two Sisters sailed to Texas to educate the children of immigrants. They established their first school in Austin but later settled in Castroville, Texas. Within twenty years the young band of Sisters grew and taught in more than twenty Texas schools. In 1886, however, the community was separated from its motherhouse in France.

The CDPs opened their first school

in San Antonio at St. Joseph Academy in 1875 and later moved the Congregation's headquarters to Our Lady of the Lake Convent in San Antonio. During their first hundred years in the U.S., they established or taught in more than 160 schools in Texas, Louisiana, Oklahoma, Missouri, Arkansas, California, and New Mexico.

In 1985, the Sisters of Divine Providence formed an Associates Program. They invited women and men to commit themselves to prayer and service by manifesting the charism and mission of the congregation in their daily lives, work, and prayer. In both Mexico and the United States, the CDP associates number almost 300 persons.

In the spirit of Blessed John Martin Moye and Mother St. Andrew Felton, their Texas foundress, the San Antonio based community currently ministers in eight states in the U.S. and in Mexico. Strengthened by trust in the Providence of God, they continue to promote the common good of all creation. They bring God's loving care to others through prayer, administration, teaching, nursing, working with the poor, ministering in parishes, and offering pastoral care to the sick.

Editor's note: Sister Joyce Jilek, CDP, lives and works in Columbus, Texas, at St. Anthony Church. Sister Louise Miksch, CDP, is now in San Antonio, but she once served the Catholic communities in Cuero and in Hostyn. Happy Anniversary, Sisters!

## Seminary Burses

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

As of January 10, 2012

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

— <b>Rev. John C. Bily</b>	
Previously Reported	\$9,539.00
In memory of Joe Fred Melnar by Jack and Anita Cordes	20.00
In memory of Ruth Ann Barton by Johnny A. Barton	100.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$9,659.00</b>

— <b>CDA #369 St. Ann Burse #2</b>	
Previously Reported	\$8,698.99
In memory of Lydia Mzyk by CDA Court #369	25.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$8,723.99</b>

— <b>Rev. Joseph Hybner</b>	
Previously Reported	\$2,456.00
Merry Christmas to Rev. Joseph Hybner by Midge Elam	25.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$2,481.00</b>

— <b>Msgr. Hubert J. Janak</b>	
Previously Reported	\$830.00
In memory of Mildred Janak by Janice Klekar	100.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$930.00</b>

— <b>K of C #1128 Yoakum</b>	
Previously Reported	\$1,220.84
In memory of SK Willie J. Vesely by K of C General Assembly	150.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$1,370.84</b>

— <b>Rev. Joseph Koebel</b>	
Previously Reported	\$6,818.00
In honor of Fr. Koebel by Paul, Jr. and Janis Phillips	10.00
In honor of Fr. Koebel by K of C Council #3371	500.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$7,328.00</b>

— <b>Rev. Charles Kolek, OSB, and John &amp; Mary Kolek</b>	
Previously Reported	\$3,420.00
In memory of Rev. Charles, John and Mary Kolek by the Family of Charles and Mary Kozel	300.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$3,720.00</b>

— <b>Frs. Okrulik &amp; Verdarme</b>	
Previously Reported	\$10,472.89
Merry Christmas to Paula Schoener by Charlene McAnany	50.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$10,522.89</b>

— <b>Our Lady Of Victory, Altar Society</b>	
Previously Reported	\$350.00
In memory of Bessie Janda by OLV Altar Society	25.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$375.00</b>

— <b>Rev. John C. Peters Burse #5</b>	
Previously Reported	\$2,564.00
In memory of Gilbert Butschek by Theresa Pesek	40.00
Frank and Bernadette Bludau	20.00
In memory of Henry Jalufka by Frank and Bernadette Bludau	10.00
Barbara Klozik	25.00
Quinton and Annette Raab	20.00
Dorothy Bujnoch	10.00

In honor of Fr. John by David & Joyce Smolik	25.00
Mrs. I.W. Fuller	25.00
Merry Christmas to Fr. John from Margaret Dornak	100.00
In honor of Fr. John's B-day from the staff of Sacred Heart	60.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$2,899.00</b>

— <b>Rev. Michael Rother</b>	
Previously Reported	\$4,260.00
In memory of I.C. Minks by Bernard and Madeline Rother	25.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$4,285.00</b>

— <b>Rev. Celestino Say</b>	
Previously Reported	\$4,790.00
In memory of Deacon Bill Long by Harold and Diane Heller	40.00
In memory of Blaine Sullivan by Harold and Diane Heller	10.00
In memory of Brian Najvar by Harold and Diane Heller	10.00
In honor of Rev. Celestino Say by Harold and Diane Heller	20.00
In memory of Doris Lyssy by Catholic Life Insurance Br.#51	50.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$4,920.00</b>

— <b>Rev. Jerome J. Stryk</b>	
Previously Reported	\$13,979.50
In memory of Lad Muras by Edwin and Julie Stryk	25.00
In memory of Jerry Mondrik by Edwin and Julie Stryk	10.00
In memory of Annie Kocian by Edwin and Julie Stryk	10.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$14,024.50</b>

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

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

## Happy Birthday!

**Philip Brune** is in his Pastoral Year at St. Anthony Church in Palacios. His home parish is Sts. Peter and Paul, Frelsburg, and his birthday is January 24. Please show your support for this seminarian by writing to: Philip Brune, St. Anthony of Padua, P. O. Box 900, Palacios, TX 77465.



## Percentage of Americans who are married reaches all-time low, Pew says

WASHINGTON (CNS) — With cohabitation, single-person households and single parenthood on the rise, the percentage of Americans who are currently married has reached an all-time low. A new report from the Pew Research Center analyzing Census Bureau data found that only 51 percent of Americans 18 and over were married in 2010, compared with 72 percent in 1960. Among Hispanics and African-Americans, the decline is even more steep. Fifty-five percent of white Americans were married in 2010, down from 74 percent 50 years earlier. But among Hispanics and blacks, married people are already in the minority. Forty-eight percent of Hispanics and 31 percent of African-Americans were married in 2010, compared with 72 percent and 61 percent, respectively, in 1960. The authors said it was "beyond the scope of this analysis to explain why marriage has declined," but they noted that its popularity has fallen less sharply among college graduates. The Pew report found that the median age at first marriage has been steadily rising for both men and women over the past five decades, from 22.8 for men and 20.3 for women in 1960. The median age in 2010 was 28.7 for men and 26.5 for women.

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**HOSTYN KJT SOCIETY PRESENTS YNIA A CHECK**—KJT Society #3 of Hostyn officers, President Benedict Kallus and Vice-President Patrick Janda, presented a check to the members of the Young Neighbors in Action from the parishes of Queen of the Holy Rosary in Hostyn and Sts. Peter & Paul in Plum. The group sold tickets for the KJT Annual Fundraiser and had a bake sale at the event in which the bake sale proceeds and commission on ticket sales entitled them to a KJT matching grant. Pictured, front row, l. to r., are: Patrick Janda, Benedict Kallus, Mary Cernoch, Emily Rubio, Caitlin Surman, Marissa Rubio (receiving check), Jackie Rocha, Allegra Abbey, Jodi Kozelsky, Weston Wick, Audrey Cernoch, Blane Heinrich, Brittany Fietsam, Dustin Drab, Sheridan Templin, Brook Rauch, Gina Kozelsky (youth minister), and Coy Heinrich.

## Prayers answered East Bernard parishioners bring Christmas blessings to Eagle Lake family

By Cynthia Brewer

Last month Alicia Salinas from Eagle Lake called and asked if I could let readers know that her family, which is suffering financial hardship, was in need of a vehicle. She mentioned that she writes on the side, so I asked her to please write a “letter to the editor” stating her need.

Alicia, an Army veteran, and her husband, Javier, have three children who have autism, Ryan Casper 19, Kiernan Casper, 17, and Seth Salinas, 10, none of whom speak. One of the children requires breathing treatments and is wheelchair bound.

The “letter” went in the December issue. The day *The Catholic Lighthouse* arrived at



2003 Ford Windstar (stock photo)

the home of James and Janie Ryza, parishioners of Holy Cross Parish in East Bernard, Janie spotted the letter and told James about it. It turns out that they were going to donate their used vehicle to a non-profit organization, which would then sell it to help finance the organization.

When James, a Vietnam War veteran, heard about Alicia’s need and that she too was a veteran, it just spoke to his heart.

“This transaction was made possible,” said James, “because of a blessing I received; therefore, I don’t mind you printing it in the paper.”

“I had an uncle and aunt, Joe and Martha Dybala from Fayetteville, who were far more in touch with God than I. Because of what I have learned from them, this all took place. They had also left me a little better off financially, which also helped,” he continued.

“They had no children, and one day while I was sitting and talking with my uncle, we found out that we felt the same way, ‘Today people go to church and talk about giving and helping those in need of help, but when we go to the polls, we forget about generosity,’” said James.

James said he went through life not really knowing his uncle and aunt very well because life is such a bustle and he felt he just didn’t have time.

“I wish I had found more time because I know they could have taught me a lot more,” he said, regretfully.

“I am afraid people are losing their way,” James said. “God intended for us to help each other, not take advantage of each other.”

“I attended a retreat and the thing of giving is what I would say is the problem people are experiencing. Someone told me the best way to preach this is to practice it, so this is my practice; it’s my small religious act.”

The Salinas’ and Ryzas met on Dec. 19, 2011, and went to the courthouse in Wharton to transfer the vehicle’s title.

After the transaction took place, I called on the Salinas’ to see how everything worked out. Alicia replied, “We just thank you very much” for organizing this. “It’s going great; the van is beautiful. It’s a 2003, and they took such good care of it. It runs beautifully and so smoothly.”

God was surely working as the “agent” of this transaction, as the vehicle is a 2003 Ford Windstar Van – perfect for a family with three children, one bound to a wheelchair.

Javier Salinas said he had a friend who had received a vehicle as a donation, but it was a little rough and rusted. He was expecting the same

but said even if it had been the same, it would have still been a great blessing.

“When I saw the vehicle, I was looking for the flaws, but realized it’s like brand new. I just said to Alicia, ‘Baby, it’s brand new!’”

“They even put a brand new CD player in it for us – just the day before they gave it to us,” Javier said, “and they didn’t even know I’m a musician – a bass player who used to play in various local bands.”

“They were such a really nice couple (the Ryzas), so blessed,” Javier said. “You could tell they have Jesus in their hearts.”

“People just don’t understand autism and the destruction that comes with it,” Javier explained to me. “We love our children who have autism. It’s tough. We just don’t give up, but a lot of people don’t understand, even Christians.” He explained that the children’s behavior is very destructive and that he is constantly making repairs to their home.

“But blessings keep coming,” he said. “When we decided to put God first in our marriage, the blessings just began to flow.”

*Editor’s Note: The Salinas’ were also blessed by another reader. This reader had always wanted to give a donation to an active military member or a veteran, rather than to a large organization; when she saw the Salinas’ letter, she thought this was perfect. I spoke with Alicia and she said she received the gift – a \$150 check! Thank you to M.E. for this kind blessing. If any others would like to make a donation to the Salinas’, please send a note with the donation to The Catholic Lighthouse, P.O. Box 4070, Victoria, TX 77903, and we will be sure to forward the gift. Thank you to all who have blessed this family at Christmas time!*

## Youth Calendar of Events

- January 19—Retreat Formation/Policy and Procedure Session, Holy Family Auditorium in Victoria from 6:30-8:30 p.m.
- January 21—Confirmation Retreat at St. John Nepomucene Church in New Taiton
- January 28—Pro-life Rally in Austin
- February 2—Retreat Formation/Policy and Procedure Session, Our Lady Guadalupe, Bay City from 6:00-8:00 p.m.
- February 4—Youth Leadership Training (Spectacular Planning) at the Chancery in Victoria
- February 19—Youth Spectacular at Holy Family in Victoria – doors open at 11:00 a.m. – featuring RADIX



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](mailto:weggert@victoriadiocese.org)  
new youth office e-mail [ym@victoriadiocese.org](mailto:ym@victoriadiocese.org) or visit our website at [www.victoriadiocese.org/youthoffice](http://www.victoriadiocese.org/youthoffice)

## Scholarship deadline approaches for Catholic laity

SAN ANTONIO—Catholic laymen and women pursuing a graduate degree in theology or religious studies in order to serve their church in a professional capacity must submit applications for the Rev. Msgr. Larry J. Droll Scholarship by February 15, 2012.

The renewable \$2,000 scholarship will be awarded to two candidates in need of tuition assistance for additional education who serve or want to serve his or her parish as an administrator, youth minister, parish coordinator or other role.

This scholarship is geared towards those who have already obtained their bachelor’s degree and who are either enrolled or wanting to enroll into any Catholic graduate school in Texas, Arizona, Florida, Louisiana, New Mexico, Oklahoma or Mississippi. Applicants may also be enrolled in an extension program or in the Catholic University of America School of Canon Law.

Applications may be obtained by submitting an application, which may be found online at [www.cliu.com](http://www.cliu.com), contacting the Communications Department at (210) 828-9921 or 1-800-292-2548, or by writing to Catholic Life Insurance, Attn: Communications Department, P.O. Box 659527, San Antonio, TX 78265-9527.



## St. Joseph High School

St. Joseph High School in Victoria will have an Open House Thursday, February 2, 2012, at 6:30 p.m. in the STJ gymnasium. You’ll love the Journey®



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St. Joseph High School- Victoria, Texas



**KJZT GIVES DONATION TO ST. PHILIP PARISH IN EL CAMPO**—Catholic Fraternal of Texas #72 Holy Rosary Society in El Campo is shown presenting a \$1,000 check to Pastor Gary Janak, matching funds from State KJZT office from recent parish fundraiser – Country Store – at St. Philip’s picnic for the new Roman Missals and cards. Pictured, l. to r., Vice President Betty Parma, Treasurer Jerdline Socha, Father Gary, President Josephine Rucka, Secretary Rose Marie Janak and State Director Arlene Cloyd.

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**DUKE UNIVERSITY SEARCHES TALENT AT OLV**—Twenty-eight seventh grade students of Our Lady of Victory School have qualified to take the ACT or SAT test under the Duke Talent Search Identification Program (TIP). The Duke TIP annually identifies talented seventh graders based on their standardized test scores and invites these students to take the college entrance exams. More than 2 million students have participated in the program since its inception in 1980. Our Lady of Victory proudly announces that these students have joined this prestigious group. Pictured, first row (bottom), l. to r., are: Cameron Vu, Haley Alexander, Sophia Valenzuela, Josephine Adams, Allyson Rodriguez, Sarah Sabbagh; second row: Benjamin Boyle, Melanie Hermes, Madelyn Simmang, Justin Ortmann, Holden Pratkan, Amy Alcasabas, Ileana Valdivia, Connor Velasco, Emily Schoener; third row: Annamarie Lozano, Jillian Herrmann, Mark Stone, Jyotirmaya Jain, Joseph Yearly, Zane Koenig, Brandyn Seals, Stori Sloan; and top row: Colin Zafereo, Kevin Nguyen, Wes Dodson, Brock Blanton and William Porr.



**DIMES FOR DOWNS SYNDROME COLLECTED**—Third grade students at St. Rose of Lima Catholic School in Schulenburg celebrate collecting over \$160.00 for Dimes for Downs Syndrome. Mrs. Brandy Bosl brought ice cream and her youngest son, Caleb, to thank third graders for being the class to raise the most money. Pictured, 1st row: Julie Guentert, Morgan Marburger, Dustin Anders, Lupita Toro, Collin Bosl holding Caleb Bosl, Mary Mazoch; 2nd row: Ethan Jacobs, Luis Lopez, Jalen Wilson, Regan Lux, Kai Collins, Will Hooper, Gavin Kubala, Bryce Wison and Sean Jacobs; and back row: Becca Wagner, Colten Flood, Mrs. Bosl, and Alex Lozano; absent: Annie Stoner.



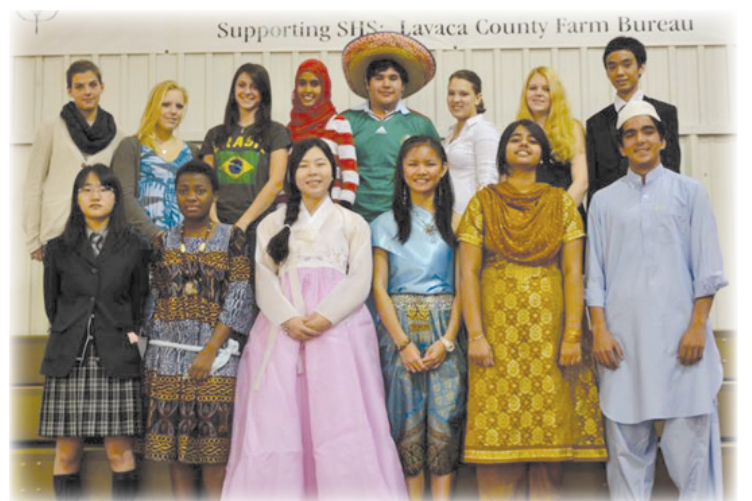
**KJT #139 PRESENTS GRANT TO HOLY CROSS SCHOOL**—A matching grant of \$400 from the KJT was presented to Holy Cross School in Bay City. Society #139 in Bay City held a bake sale fundraiser on September 26, 2011, at the regular society meeting. A total of \$481.00 was raised during the bake sale, which made for a grand total of \$881.00 for the school. At the presentation of the grant on November 16 were (left to right): Holy Cross School Principal Stephanie Kucera; Society Vice-President Larry Browning; Society President Joe Koliba; Society Secretary/Treasurer Vince Neme; and Society Sales Representative Dan Stavena. Not present at the time of the presentation was Society Chaplain Rev. Casimir Jarzombek. The donation will be used to purchase new audio-visual equipment for the school.

**KJT #20 GRANTS TO STS. CYRIL & METHODIUS IN SHINER**—KJT Society #20 President David Wagner presented a \$2109 check, along with a matching grant check in the amount of \$500 from the KJT Home Office, to Shiner Catholic Schools' Principal Neely Yackel and parish pastor Father Kirby Hlavaty. Society #20 held a matching grant raffle at the school's Fall Festival in October. The proceeds will be used by the school to purchase floor mats for all campuses. Also presenting the check were society officers Vice President Edwin Machacek, Secretary Glen Kloesel and Treasurer Elizabeth Wagner. KJT Society #20 also presented a check to State Director Margaret Hanslik in the amount of \$500 for the Priest and Religious Retirement Fund. The society held a bake sale during Father's Day weekend, which benefited the state and local charities adopted by KJT Society #20.



Jacob Koether, Holy Cross, Bay City; Veronica Munoz, IWBS; Sister Patricia Marie Lohre, IWBS; Scott Hill, St. Roch, Mentz; Max Landman, Uvalde; and John Dougharty, Holy Cross, Bay City.

**CHRISTMAS GATHERING**—Seminarians and religious sisters were honored at the 2011 Serra Club Christmas Party. Back, l-r, Philip Brune, Sts. Peter & Paul, Frelsburg; Kristopher Fuchs, St. Michael the Archangel, Needville; Bishop David Fellhauer; Rev. Mr. Patrick Knippenberg, Holy Family, Victoria; Stephen Vacek, Holy Cross, East Bernard; front, l-r, James Dvorak, Sts. Peter and Paul, Frelsburg;



Sacred Heart School in Hallettsville hosted 14 international high school students in their community during International Education Week in November 2011.

## Sacred Heart Catholic School Participates in International Education Week

HALLETTSVILLE—Sacred Heart Catholic School participated in International Education Week (IEW) by welcoming 14 international high school students November 13 -14. IEW is a joint initiative by The U.S. Departments of State and Education. First held in 2000, it is now celebrated in more than 100 countries worldwide.

The students arrived on Sunday afternoon and enjoyed a tour of the Lavaca County Courthouse. After taking photos of the courthouse, they proceeded to Sacred Heart Catholic School

for a tour conducted by Principal David Smolik.

The group then joined a group of Sacred Heart Catholic High School students for a social hour and dinner. That night the international students were hosted by several Sacred Heart families who enjoyed getting to know the students.

On Monday, the students spent the morning making presentations about their countries to Sacred Heart students and staff. Many were dressed in native costumes and brought cultural artifacts from their countries. They shared information about their countries' customs, food, language, and culture. They come from countries as diverse as Japan, Germany, the Netherlands, Brazil, Pakistan, and Yemen. After the presentations, the international students joined Sacred Heart high school students during lunch and continued to strengthen the bonds of friendship that had quickly developed.

Having the opportunity to meet the international students and learn about their diverse backgrounds was a wonderful experience for Sacred Heart students and faculty. The students are sponsored through AYUSA International, a non-profit exchange student organization. They will remain in the United States through May, living with host families in the San Antonio and surrounding area and attending area high schools.

## SJHS Basketball Team supports "Hoops for Hope"

The St. Joseph High School basketball team will participate in "Hoops for Hope." The event is an opportunity for teams and communities to raise money for charities in the Victoria area. St. Joseph High School has chosen to raise funds for ALS, also known as Lou Gehrig's Disease. The team will be wearing royal blue colors and selling t-shirts for \$10 each in support of ALS during their junior and varsity games against Gonzales at 5:00, 6:15 and 7:30 p.m. Jan. 24 at St. Joseph gymnasium. There will also be many activities available for junior high kids to participate in. For more information about ALS, please visit [www.alsa.org](http://www.alsa.org).





## Diocese celebrates the Rite of Ordination for two deacons

Continued from p. 1

Larry Koether, Philip Brune, Scott Hill, Max Landman, John Dougharty, Kristopher Fuchs and Jacob Mendoza.

Ministers of Music were Mary Kay Hefley, choir director, from St. Anthony Parish in Columbus; Cynthia Goerig, organist, from St. Philip Parish in El Campo; Marsha Petter, cantor, from Holy Cross Parish in Bay City; and the choir was made up of parishioners of the Ordinandi.

Thoughts from the wives of the newly ordained:

“My experience of Larry’s ordination is hard to describe, but if I were to sum it up in one word, it would be: “beautiful.” From the music, to the incense, to the

### A note from The Ordinandi

Our faith journey over the past six years has made us much more aware that our God is an awesome God. He has bestowed upon us many, many blessings in our call to serve His people as Permanent Deacons for the Diocese of Victoria.

First, the blessing of our dear Bishop David E. Fellhauer to whom we are most grateful for his inspiration and goodness, his encouragement and support, but especially for his prayers for us throughout our formation process.

Secondly, we are blessed to have one of the most dedicated Directors of Deacon Formation, The Rev. Gabriel Maison, and

many ways through their love and guidance.

Thirdly, our professors at the University of St. Thomas School of Theology at St. Mary’s Seminary, Houston, blessed us with their abundance of knowledge and

ultimate support of our wives and families over the last six years. Without the gift of themselves and their love on this journey with us, we would not be here today.

It is with great joy and love that we welcome our families and friends to this



Lynn and Larry Koether and their children, Jacob and Jessica, stand with Bishop David E. Fellhauer following Deacon Larry’s ordination at Our Lady of Victory Cathedral December 17, 2011.



The Fishbeck Family of Moulton is pictured with Bishop David E. Fellhauer following Kenneth Fishbeck’s ordination to the diaconate at Our Lady of Victory Cathedral on Saturday, December 17, 2011. Pictured from left are Jackie Fishbeck Horras, Bobby Fishbeck, Deacon Kenneth Fishbeck, Bishop Fellhauer, Kevin Fishbeck, Mrs. Kathy Fishbeck, and Mary Kay Fishbeck.

love of God.

In addition to these, we were blessed with unlimited guidance and support from our pastors; and the many prayers and words of encouragement from our friends and parishioners were most uplifting.

Finally, we are blessed to have the

celebration. As you have done in the past, please continue to pray for us as we embark on our mission of service to God’s people.

May God bless you,  
Deacon Kenneth Fishbeck and  
Deacon Larry Koether

Litany of Saints, I loved every bit of it. It was something that I feel everyone should see at least once in their lifetime. Also it was very moving for me to see so many of my family and friends – many of whom were unexpected – and to see the support and love of the community. I am so grateful for this amazing blessing we have received from the Lord.” ~ Lynn Koether

“The ordination ceremony was a breathtaking experience and one that will live in my mind and heart for years to come. During the beautiful rendition of the Litany of the Saints and the Paschal Mystery celebration with the bishop, all the priests, and deacons, I became ‘lost in the moment’ and felt as if I were experiencing a taste of heaven.” ~ Kathy Fishbeck

What did the ordination ceremony mean to me?

“Words cannot adequately describe my feelings about the ordination ceremony. I am so overwhelmed and deeply touched by this experience, that it will take me a while to sort it all out. Our diocese went all out to make this the grandest ceremony that I have ever been involved in, and it was shared by all my loved ones: my family, friends, and parishioners. I have a great deal of gratitude for all the people across our diocese who gave their time and energy to make this such a beautiful and special event. The ceremony, in addition to the sacredness of this sacrament and the outpouring of the Holy Spirit, has changed my life forever.” ~ Deacon Larry Koether

“The entire weekend, the ordination ceremony and my first Mass as a deacon in Moulton on Sunday, was an experience that I will never forget. I feel like a different person, and I am totally aware of how God has blessed me in this life while continually reflecting on Jer. 29:11, ‘For I know well the plans I have in mind for you, says the Lord, plans for your welfare, not for woe.’ I am still walking around with a joyous smile on my face wanting to hug every person I meet.” ~ Deacon Kenneth Fishbeck

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

BT 1/12





## Catholic By Grace

By Denise Bossert  
[www.catholicbygrace.blogspot.com](http://www.catholicbygrace.blogspot.com)



### March for Life

My father was the product of a marriage that lasted about five minutes. According to family lore, the ink wasn't dry on the marriage license before the d-word came up. The breach in his parents' marriage had a lasting effect on Dad. The healing came when he realized that God had called him into being despite the circumstances of his conception, despite the animosity that existed between his parents. Even though his parents' refusal to speak to one another lasted sixty years, Dad knew that God had a plan for him.

My sister and I are 10 1/2 months apart in age. I wasn't in the plan — at least not the plan my parents had set into place. My mother was into her fifth month of pregnancy before she would wear maternity clothes or admit to anyone that another child was on the way.

I know how she felt. It's how I felt when my third child was born before the middle child was two and the older child was four. But my discomfiture went far beyond the spacing issues. The circumstances surrounding the conception are still painful and something I keep private. Bottom line, I did not want to be pregnant.

Talk about a long line of less-than-ideal conceptions. Dad. Me. My daughter. The world would probably give its nod to terminating any pregnancy conceived in these circumstances.

The world is wrong.

I learned about unconditional love from my father. He was the first and best example I have experienced of the love our Heavenly Father has for His children. As a Protestant pastor, Dad lived and shared the Gospel message. He was an evangelical with a heart for ecumenism. What a great combination! His suffering and death sent me on a journey that ended with my entry into Mother Church. He taught me to love God and follow Him — no matter where the journey took me.

Dad's life was a gift to everyone he met.

I am the mother of four children. At the age of 40, I entered the Catholic Church. To date, I have written articles for 43 diocesan newspapers, shared my conversion story with numerous parishes, been a guest on two EWTN programs, and been interviewed on so many radio shows that I have lost count. I have taught hundreds of students over the years. I continue to write,

### NFP Schedule

David and Annie Coffey of Victoria have scheduled four different opportunities to attend a series of STM Natural Family Planning classes during the 2012 year. The classes will be held once a month on Sundays from 1 to 3 p.m. at Our Lady of Victory library in Victoria.

The schedule is as follows:

Winter class series: Jan. 8, Intro and Class One; Feb. 12, Class Two; and March 11, Class Three and completion certificate.

Spring class series: April 22, Intro and Class One; May 20, Class Two; and June 24, Class Three and completion certificate.

Summer class series: July 15, Intro and Class One; August 12, Class Two; and Sept. 9, Class Three and completion certificate.

Fall class series: Oct. 14, Intro and Class One; Nov. 11, Class Two; and Dec. 9, Class Three and completion certificate.

Please contact Annie at [victorianfp-teachers@yahoo.com](mailto:victorianfp-teachers@yahoo.com) or at (361) 579-8464 for questions or to register.

teach, and pour myself into my children, grandchildren, students and readers. I have a passion for the New Evangelization and Ecumenism. I learned from my father that these two are completely compatible. Two sides to the same coin. My greatest joy is sharing the faith.

I hope my life is a gift to everyone I meet.

My third child is a free spirit. We laugh at the things she's tried. Soccer. Flute. Swimming. Fencing. Guitar. Community College. Massage school. Dog grooming. My daughter, the free spirit, is a gift from God.

She moved back home about a year ago, along with her two sons. She isn't married. Hasn't ever been married. After a long day, she lays one baby down in a crib in one corner and another baby in a toddler bed in the other corner and then climbs into her own bed. It isn't ideal. The guest room was never designed to be used as a home for this little family. We are all tired and used to capacity. Bottles line the top shelf of the dishwasher. Laundry is going around the clock. Babies cry out in the middle of the night. Every day is a new adventure into the many ways a day can deviate from a plan.

We are living out the call to respect life. We believe that all human life is precious to God. Each life is a gift from God to the world.

I don't know what God has in mind for those two little boys. All I know is this. God made them, just as surely as He made my dad and me and my daughter — because the value of a life has nothing to do with how it is conceived. Human life has value because it is made in the image of God.

Life is a gift from God. Our pledge to be a people of life does not end with the birth of a baby. We show that we are a people of life every day because each life is a gift from God to the world.

### Holy Father's Intentions January 2012

**General Intention:** Victims of Natural Disasters. That the victims of natural disasters may receive the spiritual and material comfort they need to rebuild their lives.

**Missionary Intention:** Dedication to Peace. That the dedication of Christians to peace may bear witness to the name of Christ before all men and women of good will.

### "The Priests" announce Spring 2012 North American Tour

Hailing from Northern Ireland, Fathers Martin O'Hagan, Eugene O'Hagan and David Delargy, better known to their millions of fans as "The Priests", have announced the rescheduling of their first multi-city North American Tour due to a scheduling conflict that has forced the delay of the planned start of the U.S. tour to April and May 2012.

They will be in Spring, Texas, at the Centrum on April 24, and in Dallas, at the McFarlin Auditorium on April 25. Tickets for "The Priests" U.S. concert performances are available at Ticketmaster.com, BREpresents.com, or by phone at 1-800-745-3000. For further information, please go to [www.thepriests.com](http://www.thepriests.com) or [www.brepresents.com](http://www.brepresents.com).

## NEW TESTAMENT WOMEN

[www.wordgamesforcatholics.com](http://www.wordgamesforcatholics.com)

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### December Puzzle Contest Winners Announced

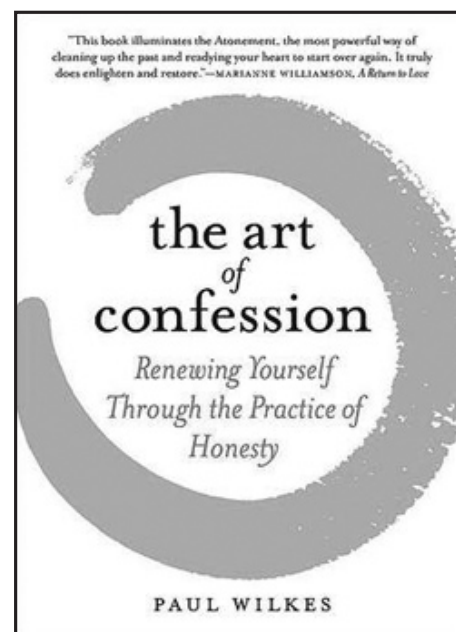
The winner of the December contest and the book *The Pope & The CEO ~ John Paul II's Leadership Lessons to a Young Swiss Guard* by Andreas Widmer and published by Emmaus Road Publishing (Steubenville, Ohio — [emmausroad.org](http://emmausroad.org)) is Jerry Pustka of Queen of Peace Parish in Sweet Home. The winners of the children's contest are Rachel Wittig (9) of St. Joseph Mission in Boling, and Christopher Stewart (9) of St. Philip School in El Campo; they each will receive a gift from the Incarnate Word Gift Shop. The winner of the January Puzzle Contest will win "The Art of Confession ~ Renewing Yourself Through the Practice of Honesty" by Paul Wilkes. Please mail all completed January puzzle forms to arrive in *The Catholic Lighthouse* office, P. O. Box 4070, Victoria, TX 77903 by Wednesday, January 25, 2012.

### THE ART OF CONFESSION will be January Puzzle Contest prize

Paul Wilkes has written an elegant, prescriptive, secular book—a spiritual gem—that reinvents the power of confession

universal — and vital to incorporate into daily life.

Its techniques include "praying backward through the day" — a five-step examination of consciousness: light, thanks, feeling, focus, and future. Wilkes illuminates confession's three R's: risk, relief, renewal; secret confessions; and when not to confess.



Confession is an attitude. Confession, with a small c, is self-examination, having an honest conversation with ourselves. Confession is stripping away the veil we too often cast over our actions and thoughts. It is clearing out our soul debris, whether small or great, so that we can see more clearly and act more justly.

Drawing on traditions as old as ancient Greece and as modern as psychotherapy, as diverse as Judaism, Buddhism, and Christianity, THE ART OF CONFESSION makes the practice contemporary, relevant,

THE ART OF CONFESSION offers a new way of living, a way to restore our humanity and reconnect us with the deepest — and best — part of ourselves.

Paul Wilkes, who has written many books on spirituality, is the author, most recently, of "In Due Season: A Catholic Life."

THE ART OF CONFESSION is published by Workman Publishing, [www.workman.com](http://www.workman.com); hardback; 144 pages; ISBN: 9780761155966 (0761155961); \$18.95(US)





## THE POPE SPEAKS

Pope Benedict XVI



CNS photo from Reuters

### Pope says Christians look to New Year with hope, commitment to peace

By Cindy Wooden  
Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Christians should look toward the New Year with hope and a commitment to working for justice and peace, Pope Benedict XVI said.

“God is love, he is just and peaceable, and anyone wishing to honor him must first of all act like a child following his father’s example,” the pope said Jan. 1 during a Mass marking the feast of Mary, Mother of God and World Peace Day.

The pope ended 2011 by celebrating an evening prayer service Dec. 31 in the basilica and offering God thanks for the past year. The next morning, he celebrated Mass in St. Peter’s and recited the Angelus with visitors gathered in St. Peter’s Square.

He told the crowd in the square that thanks to Mary’s openness to God’s will, “the true light that illuminates every human being appeared and the path to peace was reopened.”

“I invite all of you to join me in praying earnestly for peace throughout the world, for reconciliation and forgiveness in areas

of conflict, and for a more just and equitable distribution of the world’s resources,” he said.

Earlier, during his homily at Mass, the pope said Jesus’ birth changed human history, filling it with hope and promise.

“He is the mercy and the peace that the world, of itself, cannot give, and which it needs at least as much as bread,” the pope said.

For World Peace Day 2012 (Jan. 1), Pope Benedict focused on the theme of educating young people in justice and peace.

“In the face of the shadows that obscure the horizons of today’s world, to assume responsibility for educating young people in knowledge of the truth, in fundamental values and virtues, is to look to the future with hope,” the pope said.

With the ease of communications, travel and globalization, he said, the world seems smaller in many ways and people come into contact more often with others from a different race, religion or culture.

“Now, more than ever, it is indispensable to learn the importance and the art of peaceful coexistence, mutual respect,

dialogue and understanding,” he said.

While young people naturally are open, the pope said they often are targets of manipulation by those who are intolerant and violent, so “a solid education of their consciences” is important.

Education begins in the family, which must help children “develop a personality that combines a profound sense of justice with respect for their neighbor, with a capacity to address conflicts without arrogance, with the inner strength to bear witness to good, even when it involves sacrifice, with forgiveness and reconciliation,” Pope Benedict said.

Religious leaders must contribute to the process as well, he said, because “every pathway of authentic religious formation guides the person, from the most tender age, to know God, to love him and do his will.”

At the evening prayer service New Year’s Eve, the pope said most people look toward a new year “with some trepidation,” with desires and expectations. But the changing of the civic calendar so soon after Christmas helps Christians recognize the purpose of their lives and look with confidence to the future.

“From within the fabric of humanity, rent asunder by so much injustice, wickedness and violence, there bursts forth in an unforeseen way the joyful and liberating novelty of Christ our savior, who leads us to contemplate the goodness and tenderness of God,” the pope said.

“There is no more room for anxiety in the face of time that passes, never to return,” he said. “Now there is room for unlimited trust in God, by whom we know we are loved, for whom we live and to whom our life is directed.”

### Pope advances sainthood causes of Marianne Cope, Kateri Tekakwitha

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Pope Benedict XVI advanced the sainthood causes of Blessed Marianne Cope of Molokai and Blessed Kateri Tekakwitha. He also formally recognized the martyrdom of 64 victims of the Spanish Civil War and advanced the causes of 18 other men and women. During a meeting Dec. 19 with Cardinal Angelo Amato, prefect of the Congregation for Saints’ Causes, the pope signed the decrees recognizing the miracles needed for the canonizations of Blesseds Marianne and Kateri. Before a date is set

for the canonization ceremonies, there must be an “ordinary public consistory,” a formal ceremony opened and closed with prayer, during which cardinals present in Rome express their support for the pope’s decision to create new saints. Blessed Marianne, who worked as a teacher and hospital administrator in New York, spent the last 30 years of her life ministering on the Hawaiian island of Molokai to those with leprosy. She died on the island in 1918 at age 80 and was beatified in St. Peter’s Basilica in 2005. Blessed Kateri, known as the

Lily of the Mohawks, was born to a Christian Algonquin mother and a Mohawk father in 1656 in upstate New York along the Mohawk River. She was baptized by a Jesuit missionary in 1676 when she was 20, and she died in Canada four years later. In June 1980, she became the first Native American to be beatified.

#### Pro-life Conversion Story

Abby Johnson, former Planned Parenthood clinic director, will be in the Victoria Diocese to share her message of conversion, love, and the power of prayer. There will be two opportunities to hear her powerful message. She will be speaking at the following locations:

- Sunday, February 26, at 7:30 p.m. at Keye Ingram Auditorium, 1507 Sycamore Dr., Bay City and
  - Monday, February 27, at 7:00 p.m. at Sacred Heart Church, 400 E. Fifth Street, Hallettsville
- To learn more about Ms. Johnson, please see *The Catholic Lighthouse* November issue, p. 10.

### Sunday Readings from Jan. 15 to Feb. 5

January 15 — Second Sunday In Ordinary Time	1 Samuel 3:3b-10, 19 Psalms 40:2, 4, 7-8, 8-9, 10 1 Corinthians 6:13c-15a, 17-20 John 1:35-42
January 22 — Third Sunday In Ordinary Time	Jonah 3:1-5, 10 Psalms 25:4-5, 6-7, 8-9 1 Corinthians 7:29-31 Mark 1:14-20
January 29 — Fourth Sunday In Ordinary Time	Deuteronomy 18:15-20 Psalms 95:1-2, 6-7, 7-9 1 Corinthians 7:32-35 Mark 1:21-28
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

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

[www.usccb.org/nab/](http://www.usccb.org/nab/)

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

### Catholic Southwest earns two Catholic Press Association awards

AUSTIN—The Texas Catholic Historical Society’s journal, *Catholic Southwest: A Journal of History and Culture*, earned two Catholic Press Association awards this year in the Scholarly Magazines category.

The 2010 issue of *Catholic Southwest* won second place for the Cardinal John P. Foley Award for General Excellence and second place for Best Feature Article for an article titled: “Courage Under Fire: St. Katharine Drexel and the Sisters of the Blessed Sacrament Confront the Ku Klux Klan.”

Published annually by the Texas Catholic Historical Society, *Catholic Southwest* features essays on aspects of the Roman Catholic heritage in Texas and the Southwest as expressed through history, art, architecture, literature, music, and other related subjects. The journal is a core component of the Texas Catholic Historical Society’s

endeavors to discover, collect, preserve, and publish historical material relating to the Catholic community in Texas and the Southwest.

The 2011 edition of *Catholic Southwest* has just been released and features several articles including:

*From Hispanic Gateway to Border Byway: The Catholic Church in the Middle Rio Grande District of Coahuila/Texas up to 1884;*

*The Missionary Explorer-Scientist, Father Eusebio Kino, S.J.: Faith, Maps, Sea Shells and the Mission San Xavier del Bac;* and,

*One Bread, One Body: The Sisters of the Blessed Sacrament in Southeast Texas.*

To subscribe to *Catholic Southwest* or learn more about the Texas Catholic Historical Society, call 512-339-9882 or visit [www.txcatholichistoricalsociety.org](http://www.txcatholichistoricalsociety.org).

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#### Prayer for Life

Almighty God, giver of all that is good,  
We thank you for the precious gift of human life;  
For life in the womb, coming from your creative power;  
For the life of children, making us glad with freshness and promise;  
For the life of young people, hoping for a better world;  
For the life of the handicapped and disabled, teaching us humility;  
For the life of the elderly, witnessing the ageless values of patience and wisdom.  
Like Blessed Mary, may we always say yes to the gift of life,  
May we defend it and promote it from conception to its natural end, and bring us at last,  
O Father, to eternal life, in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

Holy Family of JMJ Catholic Church Bulletin (Nov. 6, 2011)





January is **poverty** in America Awareness Month

## Bishops join others in lauding new EPA toxins rule

WASHINGTON (CNS) — The head of the U.S. bishops' Committee on Domestic Justice and Human Development joined with others in praising a new federal rule to cut down on the amount of toxins emitted from coal- and oil-fired plants. "It just makes good sense to want to have clean air for our children and families to breathe and for future generations," said a statement by Bishop Stephen E. Blaire of Stockton, Calif., issued Dec. 21, the date the new EPA rules on toxins were unveiled. "Children, inside and outside the womb, are uniquely vulnerable to environmental hazards and exposure to toxic pollutants in the environment," he said. "Their bodies, behaviors and size leave them more exposed than adults to such health hazards." The EPA rule, which has been in the works since 1990, is intended to cut mercury, arsenic and other toxins by up to 90 percent by 2016, the year the rule would be fully implemented. The rule is expected to eliminate among other things, 11,000 premature deaths and 130,000 cases of asthma a year. EPA Administrator Lisa Jackson, at a Dec. 21 news conference at the Children's National Medical Center in Washington, said that \$9

## Former Episcopal bishop to head new US ordinariate for ex-Anglicans

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Pope Benedict XVI has established a U.S. ordinariate for former Anglicans who wish to become Catholics and named a married former Episcopal bishop to head it. The Personal Ordinariate of the Chair of St. Peter — functionally equivalent to a diocese, but national in scope — will be based at a parish in Houston and will be led by Father Jeffrey N. Steenson, the former Episcopal bishop of the Rio Grande who was ordained a Catholic priest of the Archdiocese of Santa Fe, N.M., in February 2009. The establishment of the ordinariate and the naming of its first leader were announced by the Vatican Jan. 1. More than 100 former Anglican priests have applied to become Catholic priests in the ordinariate and 1,400 individuals from 22 communities have expressed interest in joining. The website for the new ordinariate is [www.usordinariate.org](http://www.usordinariate.org).

will be saved in health and other costs for every dollar spent in compliance with the regulations. Jackson's two sons have suffered from asthma. "Children are uniquely vulnerable to environmental hazards and exposures to toxic chemicals in the environment," said a U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops issue brief written earlier this year. "Exposure to air pollutants and toxins is significantly more harmful to children, born and unborn. Children in poverty and children of color are at a disproportionate risk, with routinely higher rates of lead poisoning and asthma-related deaths and hospitalization," it added.

## Prague archbishop remembers Havel as friend, 'fellow prisoner'

PRAGUE (CNS) — Calling former Czech President Vaclav Havel a "friend and fellow prisoner," the president of the Czech bishops' conference said the entire nation owes Havel a debt of gratitude for its freedom and the new flourishing of Czech life and culture. Archbishop Dominik Duka of Prague, who was imprisoned with Havel by the communists, asked that the bells of all Catholic churches in the Czech Republic ring at 6 p.m. Dec. 18 in memory of the former president who died that morning at the age of 75. The archbishop, who met Havel in prison in 1981 and continued to meet with him after the end of communism in 1989, was scheduled to celebrate Havel's funeral Mass Dec. 23 in St. Vitus Cathedral. "He knew the loss of freedom, the denial of human dignity, oppression and imprisonment," Archbishop Duka said in a statement posted Dec. 18 on the Czech bishops' website. "I am convinced that everyone across the country, regardless of political or religious beliefs, owes him honor and thanks." Havel, a playwright and essayist, was one of the founders of the Charter 77 movement, which began criticizing the communist government of then-Czechoslovakia, particularly for its lack of respect for human rights, in 1977. He served four years of hard labor and nine months in prison for dissident activities before becoming head of state after the 1989 "Velvet Revolution" that toppled communism. He resigned in 1992 when Slovakia declared its independence, but was elected president of the Czech Republic six months later.

**BRAZIL, the most Catholic country in the world with almost 137 million faithful, reportedly loses half a million Catholics each year.**



# Keep Faith with the Church in Latin America.

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~ Collection for the Church in Latin America (CLA) ~  
January 21-22



**YOUNG PEOPLE WAIT TO SING NATIONAL ANTHEM OUTSIDE CATHOLIC-RUN SCHOOL IN HAITI**—Young people stand in the schoolyard of the Academy for Peace and Justice while waiting to sing the national anthem in Port-au-Prince, Haiti, Jan. 9. Jan. 12 will mark the second anniversary of the devastating earthquake that killed more than 300,000 people, destroyed numerous schools, crippled infrastructure and left 1.5 million homeless. The school is run by a Catholic priest and funded by a roster of Hollywood celebrities. (CNS photo/Swoan Parker, Reuters)

## Haitian quake survivors leaving camps for a place they can call home

WASHINGTON (CNS) — It took almost two years, but Haitian earthquake survivor Sonya Mallebranche has a place she can call home again. It's only three rooms, making it less than perfect, Mallebranche admits, especially for four adults and three toddler grandchildren. But Mallebranche, 51, finds it far better than living in a tattered tent in the fetid, dusty camp known as Petite Place Cazeau alongside hundreds of others displaced by the powerful Jan. 12, 2010, earthquake that leveled much of the region around Port-au-Prince. "I'm so much more comfortable. Now I can sleep peacefully. Now I have my family with me," Mallebranche told Catholic News Service Jan. 5 via cell phone from her new home. "I am really happy to have that house," she said through a translator. Mallebranche's family was among 460 families that have moved from the camp into long-term housing since November under a pilot program initiated by Catholic Relief Services, the U.S. bishops' overseas relief and development agency. Called Ann Ale Lakay, Creole for Let's Go Home, the program is designed to address a variety of needs in addition to long-term housing

by preparing camp dwellers frustrated by months of living in squalid conditions for a return to some sense of normalcy. The program incorporates two professional psychologists and 12 social workers to guide earthquake survivors in resolving conflict, managing money and overcoming the sense of loss that lingers two years after disaster disrupted their lives. "We realized there was a lot of fear about moving out of the camps, about restarting their lives after the earthquake," explained Luke King, CRS country director in Haiti. "People were concerned about how to go about returning to a normal life."

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## Special Collections

**Church in Latin America - January 22**  
**Aid to Church in Europe (Ash Wednesday)**  
**February 22**

## 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](http://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](http://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](http://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: Feb. 17-19, 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, contact David and Annie Coffey at [victorianfpteachers@yahoo.com](mailto:victorianfpteachers@yahoo.com). For class information and NFP schedule see pg. 8.

**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](http://www.retrouvaille.org) for more information or contact John and Jennifer Vincent at [jbjov@sbcglobal.net](mailto:jbjov@sbcglobal.net) or (361)580-2770. Other contacts are at (800) 470-2230 and [www.helpourmarriage.org](http://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](http://www.helpourmarriage.org), or go to [www.wvme.org](http://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](http://www.beginningexperience.org); e-mail: [sanantoniobe@yahoo.com](mailto:sanantoniobe@yahoo.com); phone: (210) 734-2146.

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

## Picnics, Activities, etc. January

**Victoria**—Benefit dinner for the Missionary Catechists of the Sacred Hearts of Jesus and Mary Jan. 15 at the CWV Hall (1007 S. Main). A brisket dinner will be served from 10:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m. at \$8 p/p. There will be mariachi music, auction (11:45 a.m.) and more.

**Edna**—Catholic Daughters of the Americas, Court Saint Theresa of the Little Flower #1350, St. Agnes Church, will host a special religious event, "Celebration of Life," at the Jackson County Services Building, 411 N. Wells, at 7:00 p.m. on Wednesday, Jan. 18. This event is for all of Jackson County and the surrounding areas, the youth, parents, ministers and laity from all

denominations (and the general public). The program will show the importance of life from conception to natural death, the need for respect, dignity, and justice for all of human life.

**East Bernard**—The Catholic Daughters of the Americas, Saint Bernadette #1108, will hold their annual Chicken Noodle Soup and Sandwich Supper and Raffle on Wednesday, Jan. 25, at the American Legion Hall, Hwy. 60. Serving begins at 5:00 pm. till sold out. Soup is \$2.50 a bowl and chicken-salad sandwiches are \$2.50 each. Eat in or bring your own containers and enjoy at home. A large variety of pastries will also be available. Raffle drawing for 74 prizes will begin at 7:00 p.m.

## Upcoming Events

**Hallettsville**— "A Black & White Affair" extravaganza to benefit Sacred Heart School, Saturday, Feb. 4, at the KC Hall. Social beginning at 6:00 p.m. followed by dinner and dancing with music provided by Cactus Country. There will only be 250 tickets sold. For more information contact Sacred Heart School at (361) 798-4251; Rectory at (361) 798-5888; or Credit Union at (361) 798-4361.

**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. 10 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 the night 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, 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.

**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

**Victoria**—The IWBS Sisters invite single Catholic women (18 through 50 years of age, who are discerning God's call) to attend a "Come and See" weekend at Incarnate Word Convent in Victoria on Jan. 21-22. Please check us out at [www.iwbsvictoria.org](http://www.iwbsvictoria.org), call (361) 575-7111, or e-mail [iwbsvoc@yahoo.com](mailto:iwbsvoc@yahoo.com) for more details or to make a reservation.

**Victoria**—Amor Meus Spirituality Center, an outreach Ministry of the Sisters of the Incarnate Word and Blessed Sacrament, will offer a retreat on "Forgiveness and Reconciliation", Saturday, Jan. 21, from 9:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m. Father Rocky Grimard, OMI, will be the presenter. The retreat is open to men and women interested in deepening their love relationship with God. You may purchase a sack lunch for \$5 or bring your own. A love offering is accepted for the day. Please call for reservations (361) 575-7111.

**El Campo**—Sanctity of Life Celebration – Human Life is Sacred is sponsored by El Campo Life Advocates and will be

held Jan. 25, at 7:00 p.m. and hosted by First Baptist Church on 206 Depot. Speaker will be Senator Glenn Hegar; all are invited. For more information, please contact El Campo Life Advocate Coordinating Activity Director Denise Couey (979) 543-3829 with St. Philip the Apostle Church.

**Victoria**—The Victoria Candlelight March for Life will be held Thursday, Jan. 26, at 7:00 p.m., see pg. 2 for details.

**Victoria**—Holy Family Church is sponsoring a Women's ACTS Retreat on Jan. 26-29 at the renewal center. For more information, call Carla Hanes at (361) 648-6964, Tina Kabela at (361) 571-2298, or Marlene Hennessey at (361) 652-0735.

**Victoria**—Incarnate Word Prayer Group invites you to a one-day Life in the Spirit Seminar at Incarnate Word Convent from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 28, followed by a healing Mass at 6:00 p.m. See information below.

**Frelsburg**—A Parish Mission will be led by Michael Fonseca, formation director for diocesan diaconate program and God's Embrace program, at Sts. Peter & Paul Parish in Frelsburg (FM Road 109 at Church Lane, New Ulm) Thursday, Feb. 9, from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m.; Feb. 10 is an open date for a parish mission. Please contact Sandy Reese at (979) 541-6881 if you would like to book Michael to facilitate your Parish Mission.

**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**—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](mailto: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](mailto: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.actsmiissions.org](http://www.actsmiissions.org). For more information about the ACTS community movement in the El Campo Deanery, to download an upcoming ACTS retreat application, or to submit/view the prayer requests across the El Campo Deanery, please visit their site at <http://ecdeaneryacts.org/>.

## Pilgrimages, Tours, etc.

## El Campo 2012 Sanctity of Life Celebration – Jan. 25

EL CAMPO—Senator Glenn Hegar, from Katy, Texas, and recognized with the "Perfectly Pro-Life Award" from Texas Right to Life in 2011, will be the guest speaker for the El Campo "2012 Sanctity of Life Celebration".

The Pro-Life Sanctity of Life program will be hosted at El Campo's First Baptist Church by its pastor, Rev. Richard DuBroc, on Wednesday, January 25, 2012, at 7:00 p.m. All students and adults, are invited to the event to be held on 206 Depot Street.


"The Sanctity of Life event began after the unfortunate Roe vs. Wade decision was made January 23, 1973, to allow abortion," said E.C. Life Advocate coordinator and activity director, Denise K. Couey. "This hour will be offered in reverence for the dignity, respect, and sanctity of

the human life given to each one of us. It will also serve as an advocate and voice for the unborn infant's silent cry, as well as for our nation, in hopes of putting an end to abortion, and for world peace," she continued.

Senator Hegar has been invited to speak to an ecumenical, as well as a secular audience of adults, parents, and high school students, in regards to educating the community on the vast importance of a greater respect for human life, from conception to natural death. The gift of life, which God has given to each of us, is a sacred gift.

"I thank you kindly, in advance, for your prayers, support, and hopeful attendance. God's many blessings to you," said Denise. For more information, she may be contacted at (979) 543-3829.

Denise is an active member of St Philip the Apostle Catholic Church in El Campo. She has been married to Blair Ross Couey Sr. for 35 years, is a mother of two married sons, Blair Ross Jr. and Tristan, mother-in-law to two wonderful daughters-in-law, Ashley and Kristin, and grandmother of a precious one-year-old granddaughter, Cameron Blair Couey.



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## Life in the Spirit Seminar – January 28

Incarnate Word Prayer Group invites you to a one-day Life in the Spirit Seminar at Incarnate Word Convent from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 28, followed by a healing Mass at 6:00 p.m.

Father Joseph Lam Nguyen of the Congregation of the Holy Spirit (C.S.Sp) will be the presenter at the seminar. Father Joseph is a noted international celebrant and speaker on God's compassion and healing. He has presided at Healing Masses and preached at many seminars and workshops about the gift of God's healing through the sacraments.

Please call to register by Saturday, Jan. 21. Register with Sister Louise Marie Jones at (361) 575-7111 or Paula Gauna at (361) 575-7120. The IWBS Convent is located at 1101 N. E. Water Street, Victoria, 77901. Please park in the front parking lot and follow the signs. A box lunch may be purchased for \$5 or bring your own. A love offering is accepted for the day.





### Christmas Pageant

St. Philip Catholic School students presented their annual Christmas pageant December 14, 2011, at El Campo High School auditorium. This year's title "The Plane Truth About Christmas," set in an airport, told about God's love and his wonderful plan of salvation through Jesus Christ. All 270 students participated in the production! Pictured: Megann Faas portrayed Mary, Jerald Krenek played Joseph, Cannon Anderson represented Baby Jesus, and Pre-K 4 students sang in the choir.



**CATHOLIC FAITH WITNESSED**—On the feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe, December 12, 2011, parishioners of St. Anthony of Padua Catholic Church in Palacios celebrated with a procession through the streets with mariachis, matachines, and praying of the rosary. Over 300 people took part in the procession, Holy Mass, and the party afterward. It was a great witness of our Catholic faith.

**ST. PAUL ALUMNI GIVE BACK TO THE IWBS SISTERS**—For the past eight years a group from the St. Paul class of '89 have been giving the IWBS Sisters a Christmas gift to show their appreciation from their days at St. Ludmila. They purchase and deliver Shiner Strudels just in time for the Christmas Holidays. This year they delivered 39 strudels to the Sisters assuring they would have a good supply of homemade goodies. All the Sisters in the IWBS Motherhouse in Victoria are very appreciative of this gesture, and the Sisters who have taught in Shiner often say, "We get a little taste of Shiner again." The former students enjoy this once-a-year visit with the Sisters and are happy to give something back to them. Pictured (front row, l. – r.) are Sister Elaine Braden, Philip Pilat('89), Halle Pilat, Bobby Kneifel('89), Gracie Pilat, Noah Leist, Kade Leist, and Sister Sylvia Grahmann; back row: Sister Frances Cabrini Janvier, Sister Marietta Hajdik, Monica Peters('89), Sister Anna Marie Popp, Denise (Siegel) Leist('89), Sister Esther Gerbermann, Jennifer Pilat and Charlie Pilat. Other alumni from the class of '89 not in the photo are Dwayne Maly and Clarice (Thibodeaux) Butler.



### US bishops to study 50-state approach to immigration at Utah conference

**SALT LAKE CITY (CNS)** — A three-day conference on issues faced by Catholic advocates of comprehensive immigration reform is scheduled for Jan. 11-13 in Salt Lake City. The conference is sponsored by the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops and the Catholic Legal Immigration Network. The conference's title, "Immigration – A 50-State Issue: A Focus on State and Local Immigration Initiatives," reflects the USCCB's position that immigration is a federal issue, said Bishop John C. Wester of Salt Lake City. He said the conference is a wonderful opportunity for the diocese. "Anytime anything of that size comes in here, it gives us a platform to once again speak of the important immigration issues to our people," he told the Intermountain Catholic, Salt Lake City's diocesan newspaper. Bishop Wester added that immigration legislation created by state governments tends to create a harsh environment for undocumented people, and the conference can help advocates learn how to help these immigrants. "On a broader



**ST. JOSEPH PARISH brings CHRISTMAS CHEER TO CASA CHILDREN**—You should have seen the faces of the CASA workers who came to St. Joseph Parish in Inez to pick up the Christmas presents that parishioners had for them. The Narthex was about half full and the CASA workers' two cars were completely full, except where the drivers were sitting, when they left. They were truly thankful. Thank you one and all!

scale, it allows us to be part of the solution that we hope will come about once the 2012 elections are over," he said. Immigration must be dealt with on a federal level, said Kevin Appleby, USCCB director of migration policy.

### Capitol Comments:

## Catholics called to National Migration Week, January 8-14

### Remembering the Holy Family

**By Jeffery R. Patterson**  
Executive Director  
Texas Catholic Conference

We are given to many meditations during the Advent and Christmas seasons; several involve how Gospel narratives can be applied to circumstances today. One of the most profound involves the Holy Family's struggles in the Nativity gospels and the plight facing contemporary migrant families.

This connection across time is not as arbitrary as some political leaders may wish. Diaspora and migration – and the hardships and uncertainties that accompany them – are ubiquitous themes throughout the Bible. Above all, the story of the Holy Family has become something of an archetype for refugee families throughout history. As related in the Gospel of Matthew, Mary and Joseph are pilgrims to Bethlehem – without shelter or support – who are forced to give birth to the infant Jesus in a humble stable. Soon after, the new family must escape to Egypt to avoid King Herod's edict for infanticide of newborns to thwart future challenges to his rule. The new parents were refugees, fleeing

their homeland to seek safety and sustenance in another land and praying that their fellows there would show them kindness and mercy.

The Nativity is a powerful story. Surely, it is not merely coincidence that the U.S. Catholic Conference of Bishops plans the observance of National Migration Week (January 8 through 14) so quickly after Christmas. As it has for the past 25 years, this year's National Migration Week celebration seeks to guide Catholics to grasp the Church's transnational diversity and better understand the plight of migrants searching for better lives or fleeing persecution, war, or violence. Such a humble and inspiring story still resonates so clearly as a religious meme that it serves to encourage all Catholics to open our hearts and homes to migrant families who may be isolated and vulnerable.

Immigration is a familiar issue in Texas, where immigrants are drawn by dreams of a better life or to escape the lawlessness that consumes many regions

across the border. Who among us would not share such dreams? The failure of federal officials to embrace fair and comprehensive immigration reform, coupled with a history of inconsistent

U.S. border enforcement, has led to exploitation of migrant families and simmering frustration across the country.

The Catholic Church has long argued that this situation is unacceptable. Jesus taught (and America's founders embraced) that every human being has God-given, universal, and inalienable rights to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. Implied within those rights is the natural right to emigrate, since securing life's necessities may require relocating elsewhere – provided you abide by the laws and sustain the community to which you move. Such freedom pervades the Gospels, with Jesus guiding his followers through a traveling ministry that was sustained by the generosity of the communities they visited.

Such is our role as people of

faith: to provide succor for those brethren seeking better lives, to ensure that our neighbors are willing to explore an open and honest dialogue about the complex issues of migration, and to advocate for a fair and compassionate answer to this problem. The USCCB has developed a series of educational materials to assist parishes in fostering that dialogue. These resources can be

located on the USCCB website by going to <http://www.usccb.org/about/migration-and-refugee-services/national-migration-week/>. Additionally, the U.S. bishops continue to encourage advocacy efforts by the Catholic community on comprehensive immigration reform. Visit the Justice for Immigrants Campaign website for more information: [www.justiceforimmigrants.org](http://www.justiceforimmigrants.org).



### International Migration

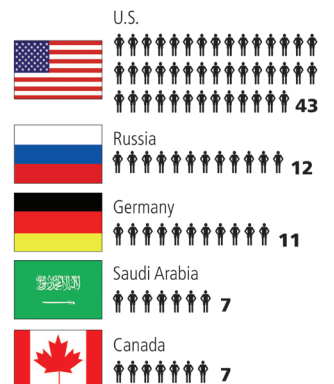
There were more than 214 million migrants, both legal and illegal, living in host countries worldwide in 2010.

↑ = 1 million people

#### TOP SENDING COUNTRIES



#### TOP HOST COUNTRIES



Numbers are rounded to the nearest million. Source: World Bank