



Father Bob Knippenberg, right, lays his hands on the head of his brother, Deacon Patrick Knippenberg, during the ordination ceremony of priesthood. The Knippenberg family now has two priests.

Second Knippenberg Son Ordained for the Diocese

By Cynthia Brewer

Patrick Scott Knippenberg, son of Robert and Betty Knippenberg and brother of Rev. Robert Knippenberg Jr., was ordained to the Priesthood of Jesus Christ by Bishop David E. Fellhauer in a glorious ceremony May 26, 2012, at Holy Family of Joseph, Mary and Jesus Roman Catholic Church in Victoria.

Deacon Patrick Knippenberg processed into the nave of the church, of which his brother, Father Bob Knippenberg is pastor, and where Deacon Patrick spent his pastoral year, 2011-12, first under the guidance of the pastor Father Greg Korenek, and then under his brother, Father Bob.

The Knights of St. Gregory, as well as the Fourth Degree Knights of Columbus, ushered in the retinue of clergy from throughout the diocese, as well as visiting clergy from Deacon

Patrick's seminaries, Pontifical College Josephinum in Ohio and St. Mary's in Houston. Ahead of Patrick and Bishop Fellhauer, processed 13 seminarians, 14 deacons, and 43 priests, with the principal concelebrants, Father Bob Knippenberg; dear seminarian friends, the Rev. Philip Gillespie, parochial vicar at St. Francis by the Sea Church, Hilton Head, South Carolina; and the Rev. Mark Lim, parochial vicar at Mary our Queen Church, Omaha, Nebraska; the Rev. Dan Morales, director of vocations and pastor of St. Mary Church, Victoria; master of ceremonies, the Rev. Tommy Chen; the Deacon of the Word, Larry Koether; and Deacon of the Eucharist, Steve Borowicz; arrayed in gold vestments.

See *Second Knippenberg*, p. 7

New Catechetical Office Director Appointed

The Most Reverend David E. Fellhauer has appointed Mr. Ron Friedel as director of the Office of Catechetical Ministry. Ron is currently the director of the Spiritual Renewal Center for the Diocese of Victoria.

In a statement Ron said, "I have worked with Sister Digna ever since she became the director of the Office of Catechetical Ministry. I look forward with joy and humility to following in Sr. Digna's footsteps. I also look forward to working with the pastors and catechists of the Victoria Diocese. I appreciate the confidence Bishop Fellhauer has placed in me."

Ron taught theology at St. Joseph High School in Victoria for 22 years. He has also taught various courses for the Pastoral Institute for over 20 years. He has a B.A. in Religious Studies from the College of Santa Fe in New Mexico and a Master's degree in Systematic Theology from St. Mary's University in San Antonio.



Rev. Joseph Hybner
49 Years

Two Diocesan Priests Celebrate Ordination Anniversary and Retirement

May God Continue to Bless Them Many Years

For their stories go to pgs. 8-10



Rev. Henry Rachunek
50 Years

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

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

the low-income and disabled as mandated by the law. "The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops has not joined in efforts to repeal the law in its entirety, and we do not do so today," said a USCCB news release issued shortly after the decision. "The decision of the Supreme Court neither diminishes the moral imperative to ensure decent health care for all, nor eliminates the need to correct (the law's) fundamental flaws." Sister Carol Keehan, president and CEO of the Catholic Health Association, said she was pleased that the health care law "has been found constitutional and will remain in effect." The Daughter of Charity noted that CHA had submitted friend-of-the-court briefs urging the court to find in favor of the individual mandate

See *Bishops urge Congress*, p. 13

Distress remains over 'show me your papers' part of immigration ruling

WASHINGTON (CNS) — In what one observer called "the judicial equivalent of white smoke," immigration advocates were largely happy with the June 25 Supreme Court ruling that struck down three key provisions of Arizona's own immigration law. However, they voiced distress over the one part of the law the high court kept intact: the "show me your papers" provision. Because of "certain limitations," the court said, such checks do not "interfere with the federal immigration scheme." But the decision also said the provision would face further scrutiny and could later be found unconstitutional. "We are encouraged that the court did not rule it (the provision)

See *Distress remains*, p. 13

National Review Board Reports on 10 Years After Charter Children safer now than decade ago

ATLANTA—The National Review Board (NRB), a lay group advising the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) on the handling of the sexual abuse of minors by clergy, issued a 10-year progress report, June 13, at the USCCB spring meeting in Atlanta.

Al Notzon III, NRB chair, addressed the bishops on the report (<http://www.usccb.org/issues-and-actions-child-and-youth-protection/upload/10-year-report-2012.pdf>). The report looked at the decade since the 2002 approval of the bishops' Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People.

The NRB noted that "Ten years later, there has been striking improvement in the Church's response to and treatment of victims. Children are safer now

because of the creation of safe environments and action has been taken to permanently remove offenders from ministry."

"Yet, much work still needs to be done," the NRB said.

The NRB cited data that "found the incidence of abuse began to rise in the sixties, peaked in the seventies and declined sharply in the eighties." Even cases from the past which are reported now, they said, "continue to fall into this same pattern" and that "the hundreds of cases reported yearly continue to fall within the timeline of the established curve."

"These results do not mean that the hurt of the abuse is in the past," the report said. "It is apparent that many people abused fifty years ago are still hurting."

The report said that "Strides have been made in the work of

healing and reconciliation." The NRB said, for example, that "prior to the Charter, at least 25 dioceses/eparchies had Victim Assistance Coordinators (VAC); since 2002 all 195 dioceses/eparchies have them. The VAC assists the bishops in responding to those making allegations in ways that promote healing and reconciliation. The Church learned that responding to victims in a strictly legal manner did not help either the victims or the Church. In the long run, the strictly legal response caused more pain, did more damage and cost more money. The lesson learned by the Church is clear: we must treat those making allegations of sexual abuse with compassionate care. It is not only the best solution but the right thing to do and an integral part of the Church's spiritual mission."



CHRISTIAN MOTHERS' SOCIETY ACCEPTS NEW MEMBERS—The Christian Mothers' Society of Nada accepted 10 new members following the May 19, 2012, evening Mass. Pictured in Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary Church (St. Mary's) from l. to r., front row, are Melissa Ray, Monica Gomez, Father Joe Vrana, Holly Labay, Rita Henneke; back row: Pat Wobbe, Peggy Burns, Christina Leopold, Christi Heimann, Holly Class and Peggy Trochta. Not pictured, but present, are President Betty Leopold, Vice President Rose Staff and member La Juan Branden.



EL CAMPO KNIGHTS HONOR VETERANS ON MEMORIAL DAY—Brother Knights from Council 2490 assisted American Legion Post 251 in putting flags on all the deceased veterans graves for Memorial Day at the Holy Cross Cemetery in El Campo – a total of 300 flags were displayed. Pictured from l. to r. are Charles Merta, Dennis Marek, James Kocurek, Lee Drapela, Nobert Eggemeyer, Ed Polasek, Joe Janda, and Greg Witcher. Photo contributed by Gerry Mikeska.



MEMORY OF ST. PHILIP TEACHER HONORED—The Dennis Krenk family is honored with a pavilion built on the grounds of St. Philip the Apostle Elementary School in El Campo in memory of their beloved Nancy, a teacher at St. Philip's, who was killed in an automobile accident December 30, 2011. She loved watching the students at St. Philip run around and play. The building was funded by anonymous donations.



LOYAL MEMBERSHIP TO KJZT—Catholic Family Fraternal of Texas KJZT Society No. 43 of Assumption BVM Church in Ganado honored 2 of their members by recognizing their 75 plus years of loyal membership. Awarded their 75 year KJZT pins at the June 2012 meeting, were honorees, seated l-r, Julia Vinklerek Peters and Delores Novosad Gabrysch with President Cecilia French (in back). Also present was Susan Peters Gabrysch, No. 43 member who is the daughter of Julia and the daughter-in-law of Delores. The Society presented a lovely red rose

to each recipient following the pin ceremony.



YOUTH ATTEND CAMP— On June 9 the youth group from St. Robert's Parish in El Campo hosted a kids day camp. The day consisted of games, crafts and bible stories. The camp was focused on prayer and the kids learned about two stories, Daniel in the Lions Den and St. Paul. They played games and made different crafts dealing with prayer. They learned songs with hand motions. The kids took everything home in reusable bags that were donated by Palais Royal in El Campo.



(above) Campers wait in-line to go down the slip-n-slide. Jim Wearden making sure it has enough water for them to slide on.



During the week of June 10 there were over 100 campers for two over-night sessions at Camp David and over 50 campers for the elementary day camp. All campers made rosaries and participated in different faith building experiences. See more photos on pg. 15



FLAG DAY—The KJT Society #115 participated in Flag Day June 14, 2012, at VFW Hall in Victoria with American Legion and VFW Color Guard. Members pictured above front l-r, Wendy Hrcir, Irene Brosh, Donald Dusek; middle l-r, Lawrence Yanta, president and Joe Putska, treasurer.

On June 14, 1777, in order to establish an official flag for the new nation, the Continental Congress passed the first Flag Act: "Resolved, That the flag of the United States be made of thirteen stripes, alternate red and white; that the union be thirteen stars, white in a blue field, representing a new Constellation."



FUN DAY—KJT Society #115 members Lawrence and Barbara Yanta, Wendy Hrcir, Kaden and Allyson Swope and Kristie and Katie Swoboda joined Hillje at Youth Day at Splashway in Sheridan on June 18. The Brosh clan pictured: front, l-r, Xeiss Sapp, Braylon Swonke; middle l-r, Irene Brosh, Paige Sapp, Carolyn Brosh holding Cayson Swonke; back l-r, Sherry Sapp and Karl Brosh. Not pictured: Leslie Swonke, Christopher and Zalyce Sapp



Father Michael Rother having fun.

Camp David 2012



Where do your DSA contributions go?

The Diocesan Office of Child and Youth Protection

Editor's note: In our series, "Where do your DSA dollars go?" we are reintroducing readers to how donations to the Diocesan Services Appeal are spent. This month, we visit the Office of Child and Youth Protection.

The Diocesan Office of Child and Youth Protection develops and implements programs which strive to create an environment free of abuse and harassment for all children and youth as they participate in religious activities and ministries within the church and Catholic school system of the Diocese of Victoria.

The Diocese of Victoria currently has over 130 Safe Environment Coordinators and since 2003, the diocese and its coordinators have trained over 10,000 adults to recognize, report and prevent child abuse. Annually, over 800 adults in our diocese become part of our Keeping Kids & Vulnerable Adults SAFE program. It is our goal to provide the safest environment possible for all children, youth and adults who are part of our programs.

In addition, the adults who work with children and youth must complete and clear a thorough background check, attend classes and be approved by the pastor of the parish or principal of the school before he or she can begin their ministry in our diocese.

Because we know that children are our first line of defense, our religious education programs and Catholic schools offer personal safety classes to each child. Each program is chosen by the pastor, religious education director, principal or teacher. Last year, over 9,000 children were trained in the area of personal safety. In addition to those 9,000 children and youth, approximately 2,500 parents attended the personal safety training sessions with their children.

Please note that anyone who suspects or knows of child and/or adult abuse, should contact the hotline at 1-800-252-5400 or make a report online to www.txabusehotline.org

Vacation Bible Schools receive child safety training from Office of Child and Youth Protection

The Diocese of Victoria and its parishes, in conjunction with the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children, have joined the "Take 25" child safety training campaign. "Take 25" is designed to raise awareness of the issues surrounding missing and exploited children, and encourages parents, guardians, educators, and others to *take 25 minutes* to talk to children about safety.

With a focus on prevention, "Take 25" provides communities with free safety resources including safety tips, conversation starters, and engaging activities, such as Child ID Fingerprinting. "Take 25" offers resources for 25 ways to make kids safer: at Home; on the Internet; and at School. Emphasis is placed on Child Victimization, Online Harassment, and Exposure to inappropriate content.

Annually, an estimated 9,000-10,000 children and youth in our Religious Education Programs and Catholic Schools are educated on personal safety. In addition to the annual training, the following parishes have chosen to expand their efforts by offering the "Take 25" education and training to their Vacation Bible Schools. Thus far, 17 parishes in our diocese are participating: St. Philip the Apostle, El

Campo; St. Robert Bellarmine, El Campo; St. Patrick, Bloomington; Holy Cross, East Bernard; St. John Nepomucene, New Taiton; Queen of the Holy Rosary, Hostyn; St. John the Baptist, Moravia; St. Mary, Victoria; Parish of the Nativity, Eagle Lake; Holy Cross, Bay City; St. Peter, Blessing; St. Joseph, Inez; St. Patrick, Seadrift; St. Joseph, Yoakum; Our Lady of the Gulf, Port Lavaca; Holy Cross, Yorktown; and Holy Family of Joseph, Mary and Jesus, Victoria. Together, these parishes will

present the "Take 25" safety training to an estimated 1700 children.

"Take 25" takes into consideration that childhood is full of rewards and potential risks. Fortunately, potential risks that children face throughout their lives can be lessened when parents and guardians teach safety concepts. While it may not be possible for parents and guardians to be with their children every minute of the day, they can *take 25 minutes* talking to them, setting appropriate limits, and helping them make good choices. Just minutes of prevention can make a huge impact in the life of a child.

You may reach the Safe Environment Office at (361) 573-0828 ext. 2243, to request these materials for your parish.



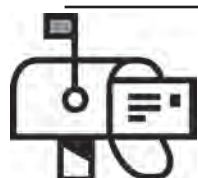
DSA & Reflection of Faith Capital Campaign Updates

2012 DSA

Diocesan Goal:	\$ 1,623,907.00
Parish Pledge Totals:	\$ 603,892.59
Parish Contribution Totals:	\$ 507,619.26
Number of Parish Families Participating:	3,188

Reflection of Faith Capital Campaign

Diocesan Goal:	\$ 9,000,000.00
Parish Pledge Totals:	\$ 12,912,160.83
Parish Contribution Totals:	\$ 10,561,082.33
Number of Parish Families Participating:	6,769



Have you moved? Address Changed?
Call 361-573-0828 with the change in your address.
Saves Money!

Bishop Fellhauer's Schedule

July

- 6 3:00 p.m., Sacrament of Penance, Spiritual Renewal Center
- 8 2:00 p.m., Mass, Incarnate Word and Blessed Sacrament Jubilee celebration, Incarnate Word Convent, Victoria
- 12 6:30 p.m., Bishop's Charity Banquet, Victoria Country Club, Victoria
- 15 10:00 a.m., Mass, 100th Anniversary of St. Peter Church, Blessing
- 18 4:00 p.m., Diocesan Building Board meeting, Chancery Office
- 22 7:00 p.m., Mass, blessing of renovations to the tower, St. Ann Church, Hochheim

August

- 4 4:00 p.m., Knights of Columbus 4th Degree Exemplification, Holy Family Church, Victoria
- 9 6:00 p.m., Mass, Serra Club of Victoria seminarians' cookout, Holy Family Church, Victoria

Appreciation, farewell and welcoming Nazareth Academy says good-bye to Mr. Kloesel, hello to Sister Korenek

We are bidding a fond farewell to one of our principals at the close of this school year. After having served five years in that capacity at Nazareth Academy, Scott Kloesel has submitted his resignation.

He has been at N.A., however, for 15 years, as both counselor and assistant principal. We wish Scott the best as he travels to Houston to take an administrative position at St. Vincent de Paul elementary school. Our thanks to Mr.

Kloesel for keeping the "Jets for Jesus" spirit throughout the halls of N.A.

We welcome Sister Evelyn Korenek, IWBS, as she returns to the principal position, following an absence of some twelve years. Sister Evelyn is presently the General Superior of the IWBS order; she will end her tenure shortly, so that she may begin her new position at Nazareth Academy.

Thank You Notes

April 25, 2012

Dear Bishop Fellhauer:

Thank you for your diocesan check for \$50,801.59 which has been deposited in the Retirement Fund for Religious account. This brings your total diocesan contributions for all of the years of the collection to \$578,766.42. The money has been recorded as part of Appeal XXIV for 2011.

Your generosity surely helps religious address the many challenges religious face as they age. Religious today, as always, continue to make an impact on our society. Even as they age, their commitment to the ministry of their community, their prayer and spiritual life are vibrant testimony to the faithfulness they promised so many years ago. Your commitment to them is a heartfelt testimony to their faithfulness. Each religious, young and old, are grateful for your support!

Your support and the support of your Retirement Fund for Religious coordinator, pastor, parish priests and deacons are essential to the fund's continued success. We are most grateful for all you do! You can surely rely on the prayers of the over 34,000 religious now over age 70 and the ever increasing numbers of religious who will be retiring very soon. May God bless you as only he can!

Gratefully,
Sister Janice Bader, CPPS, Executive Director
National Religious Retirement Office

Hand written note: Thank you so much for your continued support.



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DEADLINE IS THE THIRD TUESDAY OF THE PRECEDING MONTH.



Seminary Burses

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

As of June 26, 2012

	TOTALS
— Rev. John C. Bily	
Previously reported	\$9,924.00
In memory of Lucy Lednicki by C. A. and J. Moeckel	25.00
In memory of Delores Mensik Janak by: James and Barbara Janak	50.00
Douglas and Sandy Pesek	20.00
Total	\$10,019.00
— Rev. John C. Peters Burse #5	
Previously reported	\$4,339.00
In memory of Sylvester Janak by Frank Forestier & Barbara Appelt	25.00
In memory of Sylvia Kallus by CDA Court Sacred Heart #797, Hallettsville	25.00
In honor of Fr. John Peters for National Catholic Schools Pastor Appreciation by Sacred Heart Catholic School Faculty, Staff and Students	300.00
In memory of Edwin J. Stock by Nephew Father John Peters	25.00
For Vocations by Deacon Sonny and Elaine Rogers	100.00
In honor of Deacon Sonny and Elaine Rogers' 65th wedding anniversary by Gilbert and Mary Urbish	25.00
In honor of Rev. John Peters' 38th ordination anniversary by Don and Frances Spring	25.00
In honor of Rev. Tommy Chen's 4th ordination anniversary by Don and Frances Spring	25.00
Total	\$4,889.00
— Rev. Msgr. Julius Petru Burse #2	
Previously reported	\$930.00
In honor of Albert and Patricia Kresta's 50th wedding anniversary by Mary Ann Kucera	25.00
In honor of Donald and Rosemary Nohavitz's 50th anniversary by Mary Ann Kucera	25.00
Total	\$980.00

— Rev. Michael Rother	
Previously reported	\$4,310.00
In memory of Jon E. Abshier by: John Rother, Jr.	50.00
Bernard and Madeline Rother	50.00
Total	\$4,410.00
— Rev. Jerome J. Stryk	
Previously reported	\$14,719.50
In memory of Rev. Jerome Stryk by descendants of Josef and Theresa Stryk, Praha, TX.	300.00
Total	\$15,019.50
— Knights of Columbus 4th Degree Victoria Council #1329 Burse #3	
Previously reported	\$11,682.50
In memory of Ronald M. Hysquierdo by KC Council #1329	100.00
Total	\$11,782.50
— Rev. Theophil Okruhlik & Rev. Vincent Verdarame	
Previously reported	\$10,667.89
In memory of Ernest Chaloupka by Agnes Olsovsky	10.00
Total	\$10,677.89
— Catholic Daughters Court of St. Ann #369, Victoria Burse #2	
Previously reported	\$9,373.99
In memory of Mary Ramirez by CDA Court St Ann #369	25.00
Total	\$9,398.99
— Will Wearden (NEW BURSE)	
In memory of Will Wearden by: Theresa and James Wearden	50.00
anonymous donor	250.00
Franklin and Marilyn Niesner	20.00
Total	\$320.00

Additional Burses for donations:

- Rev. Vaclav Bily
- Rev. Joe Levya
- Rev. Marcus Valenta
- Rev. Godfrey F. Kuratko
- Rev. Msgr. John Hanacek
- Sophie Schmidt
- Rev. Msgr. Robert Schmidt
- St. Mary's Church – Praha
- St. Mary's Church – High Hill
- Rev. Charles Kram
- William L. Schmidt
- Sr. M. Perpetua Hawes, IWBS
- Sr. M. Barbara Konvicka
- Rev. Jerry Caponi and more

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

Local man comes home to be a country priest

**Stephen Vacek, Theology I
Holy Cross, East Bernard**

One of the key factors in my vocational discernment is that I enjoy rural settings. Life in the country is different from living in urban areas. You definitely do not see a combine driving through Main Street in downtown Houston! There seems to be a beautiful simplicity in taking life at a slower pace.

As I reflect on my vocational discernment, I recall the six years I spent with the Knights of the Holy Eucharist at the Shrine of the Most Blessed Sacrament. It is located outside of the small city of Hanceville,



Alabama. As a Brother, I realized how much I enjoyed living in the country while cutting grass and upkeeping the grounds at the Shrine.

In 2008, I entered seminary at Holy Apostles College Seminary in Cromwell, Connecticut. I spent a year and a half in Connecticut. I always looked forward to leaving the cities up North and returning to the rural South. While I was in Connecticut, I discerned that the Lord was calling

me to study for the Priesthood, but that I needed to more deeply discern my calling to the Knights. After three months of intense discernment, I departed the order. I transferred from the Knights of the Holy Eucharist to the Diocese of Victoria. A key factor in my discernment for the diocese was the fact that it predominantly consists of rural cities.

As a resident of East Bernard, I have had numerous people from the Diocese of Galveston-Houston ask, "Why don't you come to our diocese?" Even though I live closer, the answer to this question is that the Diocese of Galveston has many parishes located in large cities. When I departed the Knights, I discerned that God was calling me to live the life of a country priest. I did not believe I could fulfill this calling in the Diocese of Galveston-Houston. With this in mind, I applied for the Diocese of Victoria.

I am grateful for all of your support and prayers. Thank you for your fidelity to the teachings of the Church and for the support you give to our bishop. As you are reading this article, I ask that you keep me in prayer. I am in Antigua, Guatemala, working on improving my Spanish (through Spanish Immersion) so that I may better serve the people of our diocese. *s Pánem Bohem!* (With God!) ~ Stephen Vacek

Deacon Alvin Matthys celebrates 40th Anniversary of Ordination

By Cynthia Brewer

WHARTON—This past June, Deacon Alvin Matthys of Holy Family Parish in Wharton celebrated the 40th anniversary of his ordination to the permanent diaconate. He was ordained for the Diocese of Galveston-Houston at St. John Vianney Church in Houston on June 4, 1972.

Thirty-nine permanent deacons were ordained from June 3 to June 6 in four services throughout Houston and Galveston.

As the 40-year anniversary comes to pass, he says, "It has been a very rewarding and exciting time for me and my family. That is not to say that all was well all the time. There were many trying times as well as the good times. In all situations, God was always there, and I thank him for the time he afforded me to serve the Diocese of Victoria as a permanent deacon and my acceptance at Holy Family, Wharton; St. Joseph's, Boling; and Our Lady of Mt. Carmel, Wharton (in my early years). I particularly thank Father Joseph Koebel (deceased) for accepting me as a deacon in the parish in

November 1979.

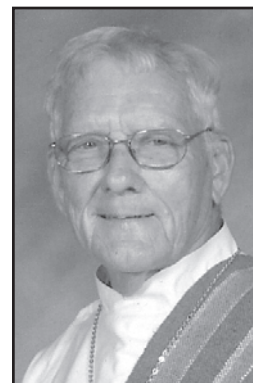
At the organization of the Diocese of Victoria of Texas from the Galveston-Houston Diocese, Deacon Alvin served on the presbyterial counsel for two years.

He thanks Caroline, his wife of 57 years, for her dedicated support over the 40 years and for their life together.

"I could not have been a deacon without her support and that of our two children, Debra and Loretta," he continued.

At the age of 82 years, Deacon Alvin has full deacon privileges in Wharton and Boling, but he is beginning to limit his activities; however, he continues to hold marriage preparation classes, teach other classes, and celebrate the sacrament of baptism. In addition, he continues to serve as chaplain for the Catholic Daughter's Court #1990 as he has for the past 17 years. This court encompasses Holy Family, St. Joseph, St. John and Our Lady of Mt. Carmel.

Of the 39 deacons originally ordained, Deacon Alvin believes seven are still active in their ministries and two had gone on to become priests.



FEEDING THE HUNGRY—KJZT Society No. 43 of Catholic Family Fraternal of Texas of Assumption Parish, Ganado, participated in the Project 100 activity and presented the Matthew 25 Ministry a donation of \$100 for the needy of the parish and community. KJZT Fraternal is proud to be able to contribute toward helping those in need. Pictured are: Frances Vesely, society treasurer, Steve Labay, Matthew 25 director and Cecilia French, society president. All are from Assumption Parish, Ganado.

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

Hawaii • Norwegian Cruise

November
10-18, 2012

~ Holy Land ~
VIA Jordan/Petra
October 23, 2013

~ Peru/Machu Picchu ~
April 23, 2013

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

ST. MICHAEL

HARVEST FEAST

Sunday, August 12

WEIMAR, TEXAS

Veteran's Memorial Park - Weimar, Texas
Fried Chicken & Stew Dinner
at 11:00 a.m. - ADULTS \$8.00 - CHILDREN \$4.00 (12 & Under)
DRIVE-THRU PLATES & ALL PLATES TO GO - \$8.00

DRIVE-THRU TAKE HOME PLATES WILL BE AVAILABLE AT ST. MICHAEL FAMILY CENTER ONLY

Raffle Drawing
9:00 p.m.

Free Dance: Czechaholics 11 a.m. - 3 p.m.
Red Ravens 3 - 7 p.m. and Hitmen 7 - 11 p.m.

Softball Tournament - Sat. & Sun
Washer Pitcher Tournament - Sun.
Contact Carl (979) 966-5003 or Mark (979) 484-6094

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- ★ Putt-Putt Golf
- ★ Cake Walk
- ★ Treasure Chest Booth
- ★ Country Store
- ★ Ring Toss
- ★ Fish Pond

AUCTION
1:00 p.m.

BINGO
2:00 - 6:00 p.m. in AC Hall
License 1-14-1110107-1



Catechetical Sunday 2012 materials available online

WASHINGTON—Materials for Catechetical Sunday 2012 are available online for free download by parishes in the United States. This year's theme for Catechetical Sunday, which will be celebrated the weekend of September 16, is "Catechists and Teachers as Agents of the New Evangelization."

Office of Catechetical Ministry

PASTORAL INSTITUTE

Summer Short-Term classes will be offered throughout the diocese over the next few months.

• **Getting Started** will be offered at the chancery in Victoria (1505 E. Mesquite Lane) on Monday, July 9 from 6:00 – 9:00 p.m.

• **Sacraments** will be offered at the St. Anthony in Columbus (Pastoral center) on Tuesday and Thursday, July 10 and 12 from 6:00 – 9:00 p.m.

• **Sacraments** will be offered at the chancery in Victoria (1505 E. Mesquite Lane) on Tuesday, July 10 and 17 from 6:00 – 9:00 p.m.

• **Methods for Grades 1 - 8** will be offered at Our Lady of Lourdes in Victoria (RE building, 212 E. Forrest) on Thursday, July 12 from 7:00 – 9:00 p.m.

For a listings of all the classes being offered, visit www.victoriadiocese.org or call Melissa Gutierrez at (361) 573-0828 ext 2223.

"Before Catholics can go out and evangelize, they must be evangelized," said Bishop David Ricken of Green Bay, Wisconsin, chairman of the Committee on Evangelization and Catechesis of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB). "We celebrate catechists because, since they instruct our people, they have a crucial role in the New Evangelization."

The New Evangelization, the effort to rekindle the faith in Catholics, whether practicing or not, is a major focus of the Year of Faith, an effort announced by Pope Benedict XVI beginning on October 11 and running through November 24, 2013.

Materials available for Catechetical Sunday 2012 include resources on welcoming Catholics back to church, building cultural competencies, explaining the New Evangelization and providing engaging activities for young people. The materials also include posters, certificates, prayer cards, bulletin inserts and resources for a family retreat. Spanish language materials will be available soon.

Catechetical Sunday, which is observed on the third Sunday in September, is a celebration of catechists and teachers of the Catholic faith. The U.S. bishops have provided resources for Catechetical Sunday since 1971. For more information, visit: www.usccb.org/catecheticalsunday.

Divine one, I rejoice in the gifts which You have given me. I pray that I may attain these gifts and use them to the best of my ability. Amen.

from *Guardians of His Faith Inspirational Prayers to Encourage Catechists* by Timothy J. McMullen



The IWBS Leadership team, seated l. to r., is Sister Kathleen Goike, assistant general; Sister Stephana Marbach, general superior; Sister Laura Toman, councilor; standing, l. – r.: Sister Odilia Korenek, councilor; Sister Clare Underbrink, councilor; and Sister Andrea Hubnik, treasurer general; and Sister Amata Hollas, secretary general.

Incarnate Word Sisters Leadership Elected

The Incarnate Word and Blessed Sacrament Sisters of Victoria met recently for an evaluation of the past six years, planning for the future, and election of the new congregational leadership for the next six years. All the Sisters were included in the planning, communal discernment, visioning, and decision-making.

The leadership team was elected in April and inducted into office during a Liturgical Celebration and Special Induction Ceremony on June 15, 2012. Bishop David Fellhauer and Chaplain Father Phi Nguyen were the concelebrants of the Mass.

Sister Stephana Marbach, who had been serving as pastoral associate of Our Lady of Perpetual Help Parish in Selma, Texas, for the past ten years, was elected as general superior. She had previously served as general superior from 1988-2000. Sister Kathleen Goike, who is currently serving as director

of novices, was elected as assistant general. Sister Odilia Korenek, who is currently serving as executive director of Blessed Sacrament Academy in San Antonio, was re-elected to a third term as councilor.

Also elected as councilors, are Sister Clare Underbrink, who is currently teaching at St. Joseph High School in Victoria, and Sister Laura Toman, who is presently principal of Our Lady of Victory School, also in Victoria. Sister Andrea Hubnik was elected to a third term as treasurer general, and Sister Amata Hollas was appointed secretary general after serving two terms as councilor.

CDA court raises money for water projects

MOULTON—Father Joseph Kopp Court #2018 of the Catholic Daughters of the Americas in Moulton sponsored a bake sale on April 27, 2012. The purpose of the sale was to fund a water project for a village through Cross International Outreach and a water pump for another village through the Food for the Poor organization.

Food for the Poor serves the poorest of the poor throughout the Caribbean and Latin America, while Cross International Outreach assists desperate families throughout the world, most prominently in Haiti and Africa.

Through the generosity of all involved, the bake sale was a huge success. A check for \$1,000 has been sent to Cross International Outreach to fund two water projects and \$410 has been sent to Food for the Poor to pay for two water pumps.

Father Joseph Kopp Court #2018 in Moulton gratefully extends a huge thank you to all who supported their effort to make a difference in the lives of those less fortunate.

XXV Annual Conference for Catechesis and Ministry

"Year of Faith and the New Evangelization"

On Saturday, September 29, 2012 the XXV Annual Conference for Catechesis and Ministry will be held at Holy Family Church in Victoria. The Reverend Mr. Gerald W. DuPont, D.Min. director of the Diaconate Program for the Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston will offer the keynote address "Year of Faith and the New Evangelization" in English.

A new feature at the conference: A keynote address in Spanish by Dr. Fanny Cepeda Pedraza, D.Min., RCL/Benziger consultant, will offer a keynote titled, "Año de Fe y de Nueva Evangelización." The one-day annual diocesan conference is open to all adults.

In celebration of the 50th anniversary of the opening of the Second Vatican Council and the 20th anniversary of the Catechism of the Catholic Church this year's conference will feature workshops on many of the Vatican II documents as well as workshops on Scripture, prayer and so much more. Catholic vendors will have religious articles, prayer books, and an assortment of resources available for purchase. The conference will conclude with the Most Reverend David E. Fellhauer celebrating the Sunday Liturgy.

For more information about the upcoming conference, e-mail Christella Alvarez at calvarez@victoriadiocese.org, or visit www.victoriadiocese.org, or call the catechetical office at (361) 573-0828.

What's Happening in Your Parish?

School Named TAPPS 2A School of the Year

SHINER—Shiner Catholic School has been named TAPPS 2A School of the Year for the second consecutive year! The TAPPS awards ceremony was held in San Antonio, June 8. Shiner Catholic School brought home the Henderson Cup, the highest honor possible for a combination of top academic performance, top fine arts performance and top athletic performance. All points are combined from accomplishments in these categories to determine the overall school of the year. Congratulations to the students, teachers, staff and parents of Shiner Catholic School!



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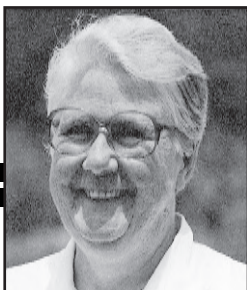
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Youth Calendar of Events

SISTERLY THOUGHTS



By Sister Mildred Truchard, IWBS

Years of Change

(Historical series, cont. since March 2012)

Although the Victoria community of IWBS Sisters had sent Sisters out to begin new foundations, the little community continued to prosper in the bustling little town on the Guadalupe River. Things were happening! The Italian Count Joseph Telfener, with a host of immigrants from his homeland, completed the railroad from Rosenberg to Victoria (the Macaroni Line) in 1882. Steamboats navigated the Guadalupe River to Victoria until the middle 1880's. During this time telegraph service had reached Victoria; soon afterward telephone service was

practiced at the time, he succumbed to the disease in 1880. At his death, the Rev. John Neraz was consecrated Bishop of the Diocese of San Antonio. Now Bishop Neraz was no stranger to the Sisters. He had come from France in 1866 on the warship on which Mother St. Claire Valentine returned from her recruiting trip to Europe to get volunteers so that the Brownsville community would be able to send Sisters to Victoria. You may remember that ill-fated voyage on which four of the twelve young Sisters died from yellow fever before they ever got to Texas. Bishop



This two-story brick building (1872) provided additional space for classrooms and boarders during the 1880's.

available. Victoria was being connected with the rest of the world! In the city itself, businesses were springing up in what is now the downtown area. People were able to get about the growing city on a mule-powered streetcar system with four cars.

Change was also happening in the Church and in the Convent School. Graduates of the school were requesting entrance into the Order increasing its numbers and staffing the school and helping some of the other newly-established foundations.

On the diocesan level, the bishop of San Antonio, Right Rev. Anthony Pellicer, who was a great advocate of Catholic education, suffered from diabetes. At this time insulin treatment was not yet available and although he sought treatments that were

Neraz, filled with missionary zeal, would continue to administer the diocese for the next fourteen years.

The school continued its spiritual and academic advancement to many boarders and day students. One of its monetary achievements was the acquisition of a sewing machine for \$100.00; however, at least one of the Sisters cited that is was not able to produce quality stitching equal to the hand-stitching which was part of the curriculum. Another undertaking by the Sisters in 1880 was the purchase of the old Fairgrounds about a mile away from the Convent on Water St. As time went on, a garden and animals were grown to provide food for the Sisters and the boarders. Since the site was in walking distance of the school, it also served as a picnic area for the students. When I entered Nazareth Convent in 1954, it was one of the responsibilities of the candidates (high-school students living at the convent and studying to become Sisters) to go out to the property, which was called the "Villa", to take care of the rabbits and ducks and to clean the duck pond. During the summer the candidates spent the nights at the Villa in order to provide space for the Sisters who lived and taught elsewhere during the school year and came home for the summer. When Nazareth Convent became overcrowded, it was decided to build Incarnate Word Convent on Water St. (to be continued)

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

— **Youth Leadership Training (YLT)** will begin in September — YLT is designed to instill and enhance leadership skills and provide ministry opportunities for high school and college age young people of the diocese. The mission is for each participant of the training to deepen their faith life, become confident in the gifts and talents that God has given them and be able to express that faith in such a way for them to be role models for all young people. Watch for flyers and dates coming soon.

— **Foundations Classes** will begin in the fall — The Foundations Certificate Program seeks to enhance the formation and training of people who minister to adolescents (ages 12-18). This training is for coordinators of youth ministry, as well as junior high and high school religious education teachers. It is a requirement for all youth ministry leaders as outlined in the promulgated document: policy and procedure resource manual for youth ministry and parish catechetical programs. Watch for flyers and dates coming soon.

— **Confirmation Retreats** — Flyers and dates coming soon



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

For more information contact:

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

Sacred Heart High student named a 2012 National Merit Scholar

HALLETTSVILLE—Emily Kossa, Valedictorian of the Sacred Heart Catholic High School Class of 2012, has been named a National Merit Scholar.

From approximately 1.5 million students who entered the 2012 National Merit Scholarship Program by taking the 2010 Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Test (PSAT), only about 16,000 were named Semifinalists. They were designated on a state representational basis, in proportion to each state's percentage of the national total of high school graduating seniors and represent less than one percent of U.S. high school seniors, including the highest-scoring entrants in each state.

In order to advance in the competition and be considered for a Merit Scholarship award, a semifinalist had to become a Finalist by fulfilling several requirements that included submitting a detailed scholarship application, an essay, and information about the semifinalist's participation and leadership in school and community activities.

All winners of about 8,300 National Merit Scholarships were chosen from the group of approximately 15,000 distinguished Finalists.

Emily was involved in numerous

activities throughout her high school career. As an athlete, she was on the volleyball, basketball, swimming, softball, tennis, and track teams. She was Drum Major her junior and senior years and also placed in the state band competition all four years.

Serving on staff at Camp Lone Star, a Christian summer camp, has been a highlight of Emily's summers during high school. She also was a retreat planner and leader at the camp. A gifted musician, Emily has played the flute, guitar, piano, and organ for various churches.



Emily Kossa

Emily will be attending Texas A&M University in College Station, majoring in molecular and cell biology.

She is being offered a college-sponsored Merit Scholarship award — the National Merit Texas A&M University Scholarship. This scholarship is sponsored by Texas A&M University. About 200 colleges and universities currently underwrite approximately 4,800 National Merit Scholarships in each annual competition.

Emily is the daughter of Michael and Linda Kossa of LaGrange. She attended St. Rose of Lima School in Schulenburg through 8th grade.

July Theology of the Body for Teens Trainings

Help your teens and pre-teens discover the life-changing message of Blessed John Paul II's Theology of the Body. Please join us for this timely and important training session sponsored by the Diocese of Corpus Christi, TX, where you will be introduced to Blessed John Paul II's Theology of the Body as it specifically relates to teens and pre-teens, and be given the tools to effectively and confidently pass it on to them. Review These Programs Risk Free!

"The presenters are gifted in equipping leaders to prayerfully prepare to share the message. Emphasis on personal reflection and prayer, careful consideration of cultural and developmental climates, as well as thorough and engaging immersion in the Theology of the Body made this training effective in preparing us to impart the

message to youth. ~ Becki Alford, Youth Minister at St. Joseph Catholic Church in Ponchatoula, La.

Friday, July 20 and Saturday, July 21 (Check-in: 8:15 a.m.)

Training: 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. - Theology of the Body for Teens, Middle School and High School Training with Colin MacIver,

WHERE: Corpus Christi Cathedral, St. Joseph's Hall, 505 N. Upper Broadway, Corpus Christi, TX 78401

REGISTRATION Cost: For training materials, morning hospitality, and lunch: \$45 for Middle School Training; \$50 for High School Training.

For more information, please contact Nellie Serna with any questions; phone: (361) 6882-6191 ext. 634; e-mail: nserna@diocesecc.org.

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Second Knippenberg Son Ordained for the Diocese

Continued from p. 1

~Rite of Ordination~

Following the Liturgy of the Word, Father Dan Morales presented Deacon Patrick to Bishop Fellhauer and testified to his readiness to serve as a priest, "Holy Mother Church testifies he's been found worthy. We choose Patrick to the brotherhood of the priesthood." The congregation



Deacon Patrick Knippenberg visits with Father Tim Kosler prior to the ceremony. Deacon Patrick helped as a deacon at St. Rose of Lima where Father Tim is pastor.

welcomed the announcement with applause and then prepared to listen to Bishop Fellhauer's homily and participate in the rite of ordination.

In his homily, Bishop Fellhauer welcomed Deacon Patrick's family, Betty and Bob Knippenberg, his brother, Todd, and sisters, Karen and Amy, and the KCs and Knights of St. Gregory, and then said to Patrick, "This is a day of rejoicing for the diocese and certainly for you."

Bishop Fellhauer commented on the Holy Scriptures, read by Mr. Eddie Huse and Ms. Jo Chanek, saying that the first reading,

bishop emphasized the word, obedience. "Son though he was, he learned obedience. ... The word obedience may be becoming obsolete in our society, but a priest's obedience is very much a reality."

Obedience is a reality with a priest, with the church; the bishop makes assignments for priests and they go where they're sent.

Following the homily, the ancient rite of ordination continued with Deacon Patrick declaring his resolve to serve the people of God as priest and promised respect and obedience to the bishop and his successors.

The congregation was then invited by Bishop Fellhauer to pray the Litany of Supplication to the Saints in heaven on behalf of Deacon Patrick. At this point, Deacon Patrick prostrated himself before the altar in total surrender while the litany was sung.

During the singing of Veni Creator Spiritus, the bishop laid his hands on Deacon Patrick's head and invoked the Holy Spirit. His brother,

(right) Deacon Patrick Knippenberg faces the congregation during the election of the candidate.



of Father Patrick to signify the sharing in Christ's sanctifying ministry.

Bishop Fellhauer extended the sign of peace to Father Patrick, who was then welcomed into the order of the priesthood by all the attending priests.

Father Patrick's sister, Karen Fox, and brother, Todd, presented the paten and chalice, which contained the gifts of bread and wine, to the bishop who then presented them to Father Patrick, exhorting him to imitate the sacrifice of Jesus, which he will celebrate at every Mass.

The Liturgy of the Eucharist continued, this time celebrated by Father Patrick, the principal concelebrants and scores of diocesan and visiting priests.

After the celebration of the Eucharist, Bishop Fellhauer announced Father Patrick's first priestly assignment as parochial vicar at St. Mary Church in Victoria, the first time that St. Mary's has received a newly ordained priest as its parochial vicar since Msgr. Eustace Hermes was appointed in 1942.

A reception followed at Holy Family's activity center, where many of the faithful lined up to receive Father Patrick's priestly blessing.

The day after his ordination, on Sunday, May 27, Father Patrick said his first Mass of Thanksgiving at Holy Family Church; his brother, Father Bob, said the homily. After a short period of a few days, Father Patrick began his appointment at St. Mary Parish in earnest, as its pastor, Father Dan Morales, had to be away for Church business.

Editor's note: Father Bob Knippenberg left the Episcopal Church and entered the Catholic Church when he was 19. In 1997, his parents entered St. Mary the Virgin Catholic Church in Arlington, Texas, a former Episcopal Church that came into full communion with the Catholic Church in 1994. Patrick entered the Catholic Church in

1999. Father Bob was ordained a Roman Catholic priest June 10, 2000, by Bishop Fellhauer, and a couple of years later, his



(above) Father Patrick with his family; parents, Robert and Betty; sisters, Amy and Karen; brothers, Father Bob and Todd.

(right) Bishop David Fellhauer lays hands on Deacon Patrick's head and invokes the Holy Spirit.



Deacon Patrick declares his resolve to serve the people of God as priest.

Isaiah 61:1-3, which states, "The spirit of the Lord God has anointed me," is a personal call directed to Patrick.

"This is a stupendous work of God; a messianic event," the bishop said. "We've waited so long since the last ordination; it's like a messianic event," he said with a smile.

Regarding the second reading, Hebrews 5:1-10, Bishop Fellhauer said the priestly "initiative comes from God; he takes the high priest from men." Although "... the priestly vocation must be ratified by the Church, it is initiated by God." And "God is faithful whenever one honestly seeks God's will."

As the reading stated, "He (the high priest) is able to deal patiently with the ignorant and erring, for he himself is beset by weakness ..." the bishop commented that we are all beset by weakness, but we recognize that at the beginning of Mass (penitential rite) and then we move on. "We're unprofitable servants, but also we're no longer slaves, but friends," he continued. "The point: the fact that one is beset with weaknesses, doesn't excuse him."

From the Gospel, John 17:6, 24-19, the

er, Father Bob, then Fathers Dan, Mark and Philip also laid hands on Patrick, before all the priests continued, showing that he will share in the same priestly order. After the laying on of hands, Deacon Patrick knelt before the bishop who extended his hands and prayed the prayer of ordination, consecrating Patrick to the Lord's service as a priest of Jesus Christ, while all the other priests also extend their hands with the bishop.

Father Patrick's parents then presented the sacred vestments of the priesthood, the priestly stole, and chasuble to Father Bob and Father Philip, who assisted in vesting Father Patrick. Once vested, Father Patrick knelt at the feet of Bishop Fellhauer; whereupon the bishop anointed the hands



Father Patrick con-celebrates Mass with Bishop Fellhauer and brother priests.

sister, Karen Fox and her daughter, were brought into the Church. Patrick also felt called to be a priest and entered the seminary in the winter of 2003. He was ordained to the transitional diaconate by Bishop David E. Fellhauer at Our Lady of Victory Cathedral in Victoria June 4, 2011, and ordained a Roman Catholic priest May 26, 2012.

To see more photos go to pg. 15

A Special Word of Thanks from Father Patrick

When I first came to the Diocese of Victoria from the Dallas/Ft. Worth area in 2000, I was assigned to Sacred Heart Church in Hallettsville under the tutelage of Father John Peters. I was assigned to the Hallettsville parish to see if a city boy was comfortable with country living

After five months, in January 2001, I found myself heading off to seminary at the Pontifical College Josephinum in Columbus, Ohio, and the rest, as the cliché goes, is history.

I took a two-year break between my pre-theology days and my theologate years in which I found myself attending St. Mary Seminary in Houston, Texas. Eleven years later, I find my dreams being fulfilled by becoming a priest for the Diocese of Victoria in Texas.

Along the way there are so many people to thank that there is no way to include all the people that have supported me along the way. I have to thank Father John Peters and his then associate Father Kirby Hlawaty and Deacons Sonny Rogers and Joey Targac. My adviser from the Josephinum, Dr. Michael Ross, was also instrumental in my continuing formation.

First and foremost I have to thank my parents, Bob and Betty, who have been supportive of anything I did, especially my pursuit of my priestly vocation. Without their support I would most likely not be a priest today. I thank my brothers and sisters who have always been supportive and encouraging in everything I have sought to do.

I thank my brother, Father Bob Knippenberg; without his conversion to Catholicism and dedication to becoming a priest, I may not have ever become a priest, let alone a Catholic. I also thank Father Dan Morales (Vocation Director) who was instrumental in both Knippenberg vocations!

I have to thank personally my good friend and fellow priest, Father Philip Gillespie. Without his constant mentoring and support, I KNOW I would not be a priest here today. The Holy Spirit sent Father Philip to encourage this most unworthy servant that I indeed had a vocation to the priesthood and for this I am forever indebted to Father Gillespie. I also thank many of my fellow seminarians who are now priests from the Josephinum for their continual encouragement towards my becoming a priest.

I thank all my friends and seminarians from St. Mary Seminary also. Without their support this would have been much harder than need be. I thank my fellow deacons from St. Mary who will soon be priests because they kept me in check at my most vulnerable times!

I most especially have to thank the parishioners of both Sts. Cyril and Methodius of Shiner and my pastoral year parish of Holy Family, Victoria. Their love for me strengthened my resolve and dedication to the priesthood. I have to say that I found my vocation through these two parishes, and the generosity they exhibited fueled my desire so that this ordination could take place today! Thank you!

And, perhaps above all, I thank Bishop Fellhauer for accepting me as a seminarian and for trusting in me enough to share with me his ministry of charity and service to the People of God in the Diocese of Victoria.

There is neither room nor space enough to thank everyone that I should. Everyone who has touched my life ... my friends, my classmates at both the Josephinum and St. Mary, my formators, my brother priests, the many religious men and women I have known and with whom I have worked .. are all an integral part of my life and priestly vocation. Please be assured of my eternal gratitude. You will always be in my heart and prayers!!

Father Patrick Knippenberg



Father Rachunek celebrates Golden Jubilee

BEASLEY — After serving 36 years in his hometown parish and 38 years in its mission, Father Henry C. Rachunek celebrated the Golden Jubilee of his priesthood with much pomp and circumstance. The Fourth Degree Knights of Columbus provided the color guard for the celebratory Mass as clergy from both the Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston and the Diocese of Victoria processed into St. Wenceslaus Church in Beasley on June 10, 2012.

For 28 years, Father Rachunek had been a priest for both dioceses, as St. John in Hungerford became part of the Diocese of Victoria in 1982, while St. Wenceslaus, its mission, remained in the Diocese of Galveston-Houston.

At the 50-year-celebration, the Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston was represented by His Eminence Daniel Cardinal DiNardo and the archdiocese's newly ordained auxiliary bishop, Bishop George A. Sheltz, the administrator of St. Wenceslaus, Rev. William Bartniski; Deacons Gerald Dupont and Billy Guerrero, many priests and seminarians, as well as altar servers.

The Most Rev. David E. Fellhauer, many diocesan priests, and altar servers from St. John's, represented the Diocese of Victoria. Father Tommy Chen, parochial vicar in Hallettsville, served as the master of ceremonies, Deacon Larry Hoelscher, with seminarians Max Landman and Stephen Vacek, also assisted.

36 years of serving two parishes with no help ... have had 70 surgeries, and pain, many times greater pain than the pain pills would help. So often I would say things quick and short, which I apologize for now and forever. It's not an excuse, but ... I am sorry. God bless you for your understanding. ... For every kindness, every cooperation, greeting, I thank you from the bottom of my heart. Please join me in thanking God for 50 years — a half century."

Father Rachunek continued to thank the many visiting clergy from both dioceses, including Msgr. William Manger, a classmate from his seminary days, and all those who helped to make his Jubilee celebration such a success, from the ushers at Mass to the parking lot attendants, to the organist and both the choirs from St. John's

active retirement in 2010. The administration of the church is now being done again by the Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston as the mission of Holy Rosary Parish in Rosenberg. Father William Bartniski is its administrator.

Father Rachunek was born in Hungerford May 14, 1932, to Frank W. and Mary Ann Mikel Rachunek and was the

operations, he was given a year's leave. There were those who doubted he would return to become a priest, but his faith carried him through his illness.

He resumed his studies in September 1961 and despite being weak from operations, taught school at St. Mary's Star of the Sea Parish in Freeport.

On June 2, 1962, he was ordained at the Co-cathedral of the Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston by Bishop Wendelin



Altar servers and seminarians celebrate Father Henry Rachunek's 50th anniversary of his ordination at St. Wenceslaus mission in Beasley. Pictured, l. to r., front row are Seminarian Max Landman, Gabriel Rodriguez, Father Tommy Chen, master of ceremonies; Father Henry Rachunek; Faith Vincek, Morgan Eben, Madison Eben, and Sheridan Reid; top row: Seminarian Stephen Vacek, Drew Vincek, Chris Vacek, Clayton Gardovsky, Justin Lamensky and Dylan Lamensky.



Father Rachunek's family members were present for the celebration. Those attending were, sisters: Della Morris (husband, Bennie), Clara Kostka, Ollie Faltysek (husband, Emil); brothers: Richard Rachunek (wife, JoAnn), Frank Rachunek, Adolph Rachunek (wife, Edith), and Ben Rachunek; and sister-in-law Dorothy Rachunek.

While Father Rachunek was the principal celebrant of the Mass, Cardinal DiNardo was the homilist, saying, "Father Henry has said 'Yes,' for the past 50 years so we could have the fruits of Christ: eternal life given through the Eucharist."

"I had my doubts you'd make it 50 years," he said with laughter "... one week you'd be in the hospital, the next out running around. ... He is like the Energizer Bunny, he just keeps going and going.

"Now he's retired, but still dauntless in his service. ... Always showering Father Henry is the blessed Mother. May God give him grace, peace and blessings," Cardinal DiNardo concluded.

Before the final conclusion of the Mass, Father Rachunek spoke to those attending the celebration. "Why did I become a priest?, he asked, "because I wanted to do the work of Christ, that he did on earth. The Catholic priest continues the work of Christ."

Reflecting over 50 years of ministry, Father Rachunek said, "What a glorious privilege it is for me ... I thank God that he has permitted me and helped me for five decades. It's been the most wonderful task in all the world.

"... I thank the thousands of people I've been able to serve, in particular the splendid and wonderful people of this parish. There have been some difficulties and misunderstandings at times. I was impatient and stern, ... it was never very easy; I hope you can understand. ... The

and St. Wenceslaus', to his cook, Janie Munoz, who mended his alb and stole, which came from Czechoslovakia, to those who worked on the program and the Drymala's who made his cake and did all the decorations for the reception dinner

summer of '48 while teaching CCD in Wharton and Hungerford, he realized he had a calling to the priesthood; however, he remained at home helping his dad on the farm for four years. After discussing with his parents, he decided to begin his

eighth of 12 children. He had five sisters and six brothers.

He went to school in Hungerford until the 10th grade when he dropped out of school to help his father, who was ill, in the fields for four years.

When he was 16 years old in the

J. Nold; he was the last priest Bishop Nold ordained before he became totally blind.

Father Rachunek's first assignment was at Holy Cross in East Bernard from 1962 to 1966. He was at St. Charles Borromeo in Houston for a year and at Holy Rosary in Rosenberg from 1967 until 1970. He returned to Houston in 1970 to lead Queen of Peace until 1973 and Houston's Corpus Christi Church from 1973 to 1974.

On March 8, 1974, Bishop Markovsky asked him to take the parish of St. John's in Hungerford and its mission church, St. Wenceslaus, in Beasley. Although he knew it would be difficult to return to his hometown, he did so in obedience to his bishop.

When the Diocese of Victoria was formed, it separated St. John's Parish from its mission. However, Father Rachunek was asked to keep both churches, St. John's under the authority of the Victoria Diocese and St. Wenceslaus under the authority of the Galveston-Houston Diocese. Although there were times when the work mounted up having portions of two dio-



Principal concelebrants at Father Rachunek's 50th anniversary were from left, Bishop David E. Fellhauer (Victoria), Msgr. William Manger (former classmate of Father Rachunek), Father Rachunek, Father Bill Bartniski (pastor in Rosenberg and Beasley), Cardinal DiNardo and Bishop Geroge Schultz (both of Galveston-Houston). Deacon Larry Hoelscher was the principal celebrating deacon.

that followed the Mass.

On July 31, 2010, Father Rachunek retired from active, priestly ministry after 48 years. He had been the pastor of St. John's Catholic Church in Hungerford and its mission, St. Wenceslaus Church in Beasley, since 1974. He has been residing at St. Wenceslaus saying the Masses and administering the sacraments since his

studies.

He continued his schooling at St. John's Minor Seminary in San Antonio in 1952, and he graduated from there in 1954. The fall of that year, he entered St. Mary's Seminary in Houston, where he spent the next seven years in college philosophy and theological studies.

Due to illness and the need of several

ceses, Father Rachunek says he enjoyed the work and just thanked God that he was able to continue his work.

Father Rachunek's hobbies are gardening — growing flowers and fruit trees, and hunting and fishing. Some of his favorite experiences as a priest are attending the sick and dying. "I enjoy this so very much," he's said.



Rev. Hybner retires after 49 years in priesthood

Special To *The Argus*, newspaper of Flatonia

By Andy Behlen

Slight editing to update time by Cynthia Brewer, *The Catholic Lighthouse*

Introduction: Father Joe Hybner celebrated the 49th anniversary of his priesthood at three parishes over a three-month period this spring. The parties, the celebrations, he says, "Is for the people!" He has always been such a joyful priest, and I recently learned the secret to that ... his three favorite words are Peace, Love and Joy!

At the Sts. Cyril & Methodius celebration in Cistern on Feb. 12, the clergy celebrating the Mass with him were Bishop David E. Fellhauer, Victoria; Bishop Thomas Flanagan, retired, San Antonio; and Fathers John Peters, Eddie Winkler, Michael Petering, and Tim Kosler, all of Diocese of Victoria.

Father Eddie Winkler, Diocese of Victoria, and Rev. Ricardo Hernandez, retired San Antonio, were present at the Divine Mercy Sunday Holy Hour celebration at Sacred Heart Church in Flatonia on April 15. Father Eddie gave the homily. Father Eddie will also replace Father Joe as the pastor in Flatonia and in Cistern.

Visiting clergy at the Sts. Cyril & Methodius celebration in Shiner May 6 were Bishop John Yanta, retired Amarillo, who said the homily prepared by Bishop Charles Grahmann who was ill; Fathers Tommy Chen, Edward Winkler, and Henry Rachunek (retired) of the Diocese of Victoria; and Msgr. Douglas Fater, Fathers Lambert Bily, Dennis Darilek, Samuel Heitkamp, Stephen Nesrsta, Jim Henke, and Octavio Nuguerza, all from San Antonio.

Rev. Joseph Hybner, pastor of Sacred Heart Catholic Parish in Flatonia, celebrated his 49th year in the priesthood on May 25. Two days later, on May 27, Father Hybner retired from the ministry.

Father Joe, as he is known by so many, recently visited with the *Argus* to discuss his career as a priest and some thoughts on retirement.

Joseph Martin Hybner was born to Leo and Josephine Kurtz Hybner on November 11, 1936, in Shiner, Texas. He attended school at St. Ludmila Academy in Shiner through junior high. Joseph Hybner entered St. John's Seminary in San Antonio at the age of 14.

"I knew I wanted to be a priest ever since I was in the 6th grade," he said. "My cousin, Lawrence Matula, and a friend, Victor Novak, and I all wanted to be priests. We wanted to go to the seminary together.

"They went to the seminary first," Father Joe explained. "My father didn't want me to go to the seminary yet. He thought I was too young. He

found a Knights of Columbus Council in Floresville. In addition, the archbishop appointed him to serve as moderator of the Council of Catholic Women of the Floresville Deanery. In his last year as priest in Floresville, his fellow priests elected him Dean of the Floresville Deanery, a post that oversees parishes within a region of the diocese.

While preparing for the priesthood as a young man, Father Joe spent the summers of 1957 and 1958 teaching religion classes in Edna. Nineteen years later, in 1977, he was called to be pastor at St. Agnes Parish in Edna. In Edna, Father Joe saw participation in the church increase and built an Adoration Chapel that is still in use today.

In 1985, Father Joe took the assignment of pastor at the historic St. Mary Parish in Victoria, which was established in 1824 by the Impressario Martin De Leon, founder of Victoria. Among his accomplishments at St.

Mary, Father Joe saw to the restoration of the original stained glass windows, altars, stations of the cross, and pews of the present church, which was built in 1898.

Father Joe left St. Mary in 1998 and became pastor at Assumption Parish in Ganado, which had been without a priest for some time. Father Joe recalled that his small parish was home to 500 households with 450 children and two nursing homes. Communion calls to the homebound routinely entailed 40-mile trips through the countryside.

After becoming pastor at Assumption Parish in Ganado, Father Joe faced a predicament. His church's feast day, the Assumption of Mary, takes place on the same day as the Praha Picnic—August 15. Father Joe, whose grandmother was Prah-native Rosalie Migl, had been attending the picnic regularly nearly all his life.

Since missing either was out of the question, he settled on visiting Praha in the morning and returning to Ganado in the evening. Father Joe said he would have

See Rev. Hybner retires, p. 10



Father Joe's cake from Sts. Cyril & Methodius, Shiner, says it all! "Happy Retirement Father Joe ~ 5-25-63 to 5-27-12 ~ Give Thanks and Remember!"

wanted me to wait until I got out of high school. He wanted me to go to the Czech seminary in Illinois run by the Benedictine Order. But that was too far away for me. I wanted to be with my friends. Finally, my mother told Papa, 'If he wants to go, let him go.' So I went."

Father Joseph Hybner was ordained to the priesthood at the Church of Saints Cyril and Methodius in his hometown of Shiner on May 25, 1963, by Bishop Steven A. Leven.

Father Joe's career brought him first to St. John the Evangelist Parish in San Antonio. He served there from 1963 to 1965 and was active in the youth ministry. While at St. John, Father Joe organized a community cleanup project in the spring of 1964 that made headlines in San Antonio.

Father Joe next took an assignment as associate pastor at Notre Dame Parish in Kerrville. In Kerrville, Father Joe was assigned special duties as chaplain to the VA hospital and two other state hospitals in the area. He was instrumental in starting the All Faiths Chapel at the Kerrville State Hospital.

In 1971, Father Joe left Notre Dame Parish for Our Lady of Victory Parish in Victoria. The following year, he served as associate pastor at St. Monica Parish in Converse.

In 1973, Father Joe was installed pastor at Sacred Heart Parish in Floresville. He helped

(left) Father Joe holds the monstrance during his second retirement celebration held April 15, 2012, Divine Mercy Sunday, at Sacred Heart Church in Flatonia. Father Eddie Winkler, a close friend of Father Joe's, said the homily during the Holy Hour.



Pictured are those who concelebrated Mass with Father Joe Hybner at his celebration Mass and retirement party at Sts. Cyril & Methodius Church in Cistern on February 12, 2012. From left to right are Rev. Timothy Kosler (Schulenburg), Rev. Eddie Winkler (Schulenburg, replacing Father Joe in Flatonia/Cistern), Most Rev. David E. Fellhauer (Diocese of Victoria), Rev. Joseph M. Hybner, Most Rev. Thomas J. Flanagan (retired, Archdiocese of San Antonio), Rev. John C. Peters (Hallettsville), Rev. Michael Petering (Edna). Photos submitted by Denise Klozik.

Father Joe's Czech Heritage

From "The Life and Some Happenings of Rev. Joseph M. Hybner"

Father Joe speaks both Czech and Spanish fluently. He has been active in helping to preserve the cultural and ethnic backgrounds of all people as a means of bringing to all people the realization of the many ways we are able to praise and thank God.

Father Joe is very active in the Victoria County Czech Heritage Society. For several years he has offered the Mass in the Czech language with Czech hymns. He is very grateful to Alice and Carl Wright from Ganado who organize the music and the Czech choir at the Our Lady of Victory Cathedral. With a smile, Father Joe says, "I always need to prepare for the Mass, because Church language is different than everyday talk. I always enjoy the eucharistic celebrations with the people."

Father Joe sees some good in every individual and a lot of good in most people. He really believes Jesus Christ calls us all to holiness. His attitude invites all to respond to the many opportunities and graces given by the Holy Spirit to guide the Church.

Father Joe remembers very fondly as a child going to the K.J.Z.T. and K.J.Z.T. meetings in Shiner. He remembers the lunch, "svacina," that was always served and helping his mother carry the many "kolace" she would bake.

On March 25, 1993, Father Joe was given the responsibility of State Chaplain of the K.J.Z.T. He enjoys the spiritual works of the fraternal and especially the board meetings. One of the highlights of his Chaplain career was when the State K.J.Z.T. celebrated the 100 Year Jubilee in Hallettsville, Texas. The preparation for this event was a lot of work, but the joyous celebration with gifts of all the people was "a sight to behold." Father Joe says, "Thanks be to God for this historical day as we remember the past, present and continue to be open to the future."

At this time Father Joe states, "Christ calls me to be of service to the Catholic Family Fraternal of Texas, the K.J.Z.T., and I know service demands sacrifice on the part of all. But service and sacrifice bring joy and contentment to all. Christ lives in us and leads us, through mutual encounters and commitment, into a new future, which we build together and for one another. That future is called the Kingdom of God, the Living Church. Christ calls us to walk together in building the Kingdom of God through our heritage and culture."



Rev. Hybner retires after 49 years in priesthood

Continued from p. 9

a Shiner beer in Praha and eat homemade ice cream in Ganado, all in the same day. The tradition lasted all the years he was pastor in Ganado.

Father Joe served six years as pastor in Ganado before Bishop David Fellhauer of the Victoria Diocese came for a visit and requested he become pastor to the communities of Cistern and Flatonia.

Father Joe was installed as pastor in Flatonia on October 23, 2004—Czhlispjel

weekend. The installation took place on Saturday at 5 p.m., and at noon on Sunday Father Joe rode in the Czhlispjel Parade on the Polka Lovers Club of America float dressed in his Czech vest.

“It was a wonderful way to be introduced to the flock,” he said.

Moving to Flatonia was an easy transition, he said, since he knew the town well from childhood. He and his father often

made trips up to Flatonia from Shiner to visit with friends and eat at Grumpy’s.

The Sacred Heart pastor retires this year after almost eight years in Flatonia. While he may be retiring, Father Joe said his schedule won’t be getting any easier.

“Since the priests in the area know I’m retiring, they’ve been calling and asking me to fill-in for them while they’re on trips,” he said. “I already have Masses

scheduled in Hillje and Fredericksburg.”

Father Joe traveled extensively over the years, and he said he plans to do more traveling in his retirement.

“I’ve been to a great many places already, thanks be to God,” he said. “While I was a young pastor, I often had an assistant. I was able to take some time off here and there to do some traveling.”

Through his travels, he was able to see the pope on six different occasions. The first was in 1985 on a trip to Africa.

“It was 110 degrees outside,” he recalled. “At a Mass with the pope, I was chosen to give Communion. I had to wear a hat during the Mass because the sun was so hot!”

He saw Pope John Paul II again in 1998 while on a sabbatical to the North American Seminary in Rome. After a Mass in the Vatican, the director of the seminary arranged a photo for a group from the seminary with the pope.

“The director said, ‘The pope is coming,’ and we were all so nervous,” Father Joe said. “(The pope) came and talked with us for a while and I shook his hand, I was speechless because here was the man that affected my life so much.”

Father Joe said he plans to do some more traveling during his retirement. He already has one trip he’s committed to making.

“I hope Blessed John Paul II is canonized in my lifetime,” he said. “I know in my mind that, if I’m able, I will be in Rome for that canonization. That man has influenced my life greatly.”

Father Joe officially retired on May 27. There have been three celebrations for Father Hybner to mark the occasion – at Sts. Cyril and Methodius Church in Cistern, Sacred Heart in Flatonia and finally where it all began – in Shiner.

“Everything that happened to me spiritually happened in Shiner,” he recalled. “My baptism, first Communion, confirmation, and ordination all took place at Sts. Cyril and Methodius Church in Shiner. And that’s why I’m having my celebration there. It always goes back to Shiner.

“I’ll be buried there too,” he joked. “Unless I fall from an airplane over the sea!”



(above) Father Joe holds the hat he wore at Mass because it was so hot – 110 degrees – during Pope John Paul II’s visit to Africa in 1985. This hat has “seen” Pope John Paul II five times.



Father Joe Hybner sings with the Hobo Band, with Edward Caka on the accordion, at his retirement reception in Shiner, his hometown. (Photo by Kathleen Leininger, Shiner)

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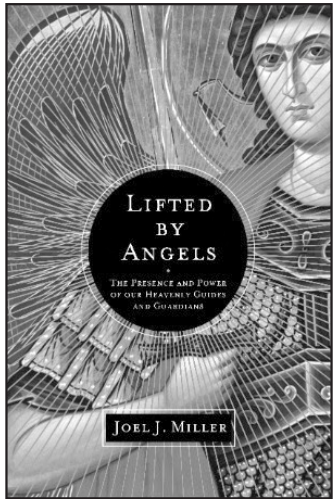


Father Joseph Hybner with Bishop John Yanta, retired from the Diocese of Amarillo. Bishop Yanta concelebrated at the Mass at Sts. Cyril & Methodius in Shiner on May 6.



“Lifted by Angels” to be July Puzzle Contest prize

The soon to be released book, “Lifted by Angels”, explores how the Early Church understood the life and role of angels. The author, Joel J. Miller, asks, “What are we to angels, and what are they to us? That’s the question I try answering. Finding the answer led me through the salvation narrative of Scripture; the icons and frescoes of the early Church; the books, sermons, and letters of Augustine, Ambrose, Gregory of Nyssa, Ignatius of Antioch, Ephraim the Syrian, and dozens besides. While varying at points, the voices converge into a simple and profound message: Angels labor to lead us to and through a saving experience of Christ.”



experiences – how they understood the angelic realms, the guidance and protection of angels, and the struggles with the devil and his demons. Whether in trial or temptation, praise or prayer, we find angels present and positioned to help and comfort, guide and correct, walking with us till the point of death and beyond, escorting us to the very arms of Christ. “The early Church’s view of angels ends up being richer, more nuanced, and more compelling than our contemporary and popular conceptions. And ultimately more inspiring as well,” the author states.

For a chance to win this book, yet to be released to the market, please send completed puzzle contest and completed form to *The Catholic Lighthouse*, P. O. Box 4070, Victoria, TX 77903 by July 25, 2012.

Catholic By Grace

By Denise Bossert
www.catholicbygrace.blogspot.com



Cannot Remain Silent at This Most Critical Time

I had a poorly formed conscience by the time I graduated from high school. My engaged cousins were whisked off to their family doctors to get a prescription for birth control pills, while the rest of us watched and waited for our own love stories to unfold. Our mothers had made it clear that sex was to be saved for marriage, but they also said that responsible husbands and wives made sure that they managed their fertility.

At 17, I bought the lie about artificial birth control. With pregnancy averted, I ran headlong down the path of pre-marital sex. I married young, and the two of us worked on our undergraduate degrees. Planned Parenthood offered free birth control. We took it without question. The ease with which we could get artificial contraception lulled me into thinking our choices were fine. I didn’t think twice about artificial contraception until my husband had his first post-college job and the health insurance did not cover birth control pills.

I distinctly remember my confusion. I was irritated, but I was mostly just perplexed. Why wouldn’t an insurance company cover this when my whole family (with its plethora of Protestant preachers and missionaries) believed it was right and necessary? I purchased the contraception out-of-pocket, but the “no” from the insurance company gave me pause. In fact, it was the first time I realized that not everyone believed artificial contraception had the divine stamp of approval.

When my non-sacramental marriage was crumbling, I discovered I was pregnant again. I believed that abortion was wrong, but I scheduled the sterilization surgery for the afternoon following my baby’s birth to avoid another unplanned pregnancy. Once again, I had my family’s blessings. Most of my cousins had already undergone vasectomies or tubal ligations.

The non-sacramental marriage ended anyway.

In time, I remarried. My husband had no children of his own. I desperately wanted to have a child with him. I had a choice. I could have the tubal ligation reversed or I

could pursue in vitro fertilization (IVF). At that time, Illinois and California were the only states requiring insurance companies to cover IVF. Tubal reversals weren’t covered by any insurance policies – not in any state.

It is a fact that insurance standards affect one’s perceptions. I saw it as a green light for IVF and a red light for tubal reversal. The insurance companies had spoken.

I tell you these things for one reason. What insurance covers matters! It sends a message to the policy holder. This is acceptable. That is unacceptable. This is good. And that is bad.

And the American public buys into the lies. We begin to accept birth control as a standard. We believe sterilization is the final stop on the path to family planning. Some consider abortion when their decisions fail to prevent pregnancy.

The fallacy that one could (or should) master her own fertility triumphs. And the soul entrenched in mortal sin barely remembers how grace looks, sounds and feels. The journey back from that place is long. It’s a practically impossible journey from mortal sin to the words:

My fault, my fault, my most grievous fault.

I suppose there are many Catholics who don’t feel they should voice their opposition to the mandate by the HHS that institutions that serve people outside of their religious organization must offer insurance coverage that includes artificial contraceptives, abortifacient drugs, and sterilization.

Sometimes, a simple “no” will shake someone out of apathy or break through the lies that lull the masses into places where angels fear to tread.

The reality is this: what insurance covers matters. There is a hidden message. And institutions that follow the HHS Mandate actually facilitate and participate in the lie.

We cannot remain silent at this most critical time in our nation’s history. Woe to me if I do not speak, St. Paul says. Woe to me, indeed.

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June Puzzle Contest Winners Chosen

The winner of the June puzzle contest and the book “The Heart of the Gospel – Reclaiming the Body for the New Evangelization” by Christopher West and published by Image Books is Barbara Meyer of Sts. Peter & Paul Parish in Frelsburg. The winner of the children’s contest is Clarissa Posada (11) of the Parish of the Nativity in Eagle Lake. Because there were only two contestants, Kaylie Olivarez (6) of Sacred Heart in Hallettsville was also selected to receive a prize. Both girls will receive a gift from Incarnate Word Gift Shop.

The winner of the July Puzzle Contest will win “Lifted by Angels – The Presence and Power of our Heavenly Guides and Guardians” by Joel J. Miller. This book will not be for sale until Oct. 2012; MSRP \$15.99. See review on this page. Please mail all completed July puzzle forms to arrive in *The Catholic Lighthouse* office, P.O. Box 4070, Victoria, TX 77903, by July 25.

Pope approves Archbishop Sheen’s heroic virtues, step toward sainthood

By Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Pope Benedict XVI has approved the heroic virtues of U.S. Archbishop Fulton J. Sheen, clearing the way for the advancement of his sainthood cause.

The announcement June 28 came just over 13 months after Bishop Daniel R. Jenky of Peoria, Ill., presented Pope Benedict XVI with two thick volumes about the life of Archbishop Sheen, whose home diocese was Peoria.

The decree from the Congregation for Saints’ Causes, signed by Pope Benedict, said

Archbishop Sheen heroically lived Christian virtues and was “venerable.” Before he can be beatified, the Vatican must recognize that a miracle has occurred through his intercession.

Archbishop Sheen, who was born in Illinois in 1895 and died in New York in 1979, was an Emmy-winning televangelist. His program, “Life is Worth Living,” aired in the United States from 1951 to 1957.

Last September, a tribunal of inquiry was sworn in to investigate the alleged miraculous healing of a newborn whose parents prayed to the intercession of Archbishop Sheen.



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THE POPE SPEAKS

Pope Benedict XVI



CNS photo from Reuters

Submission, not power, raises people up to God, says pope at audience

By Carol Glatz
Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Christians find fulfillment not by using power or force to realize their own wishes, but by being submissive to God's will and serving others, Pope Benedict XVI said.

Many in the world today are surrounded by people or things that threaten to become the guiding force in their lives, therefore, "it's necessary to have a hierarchy of values in which the top priority is God," the pope said during his weekly general audience in the Paul VI hall June 27.

It was his last general audience before the pope was to leave July 3 for vacation at the papal summer residence in Castel Gandolfo, south of Rome. The weekly general audience was scheduled to resume Aug. 1.

In his catechesis, the pope continued his series of talks on prayer in the letters of St. Paul, looking this time at the Letter to the Philippians.

People often look for "self-

actualization in power, domination and in powerful means," creating a tower of Babel in a quest to be god-like, said the pope. Such pursuits reflect the sin of Adam, who sought to put himself ahead of God.

Jesus, instead, showed that true exaltation and victory come with absolute abasement and humility — being a servant to others and obeying God's will, even to the point of being killed on the cross, the pope said.

By becoming fully human and obeying God, he said, Jesus gave humanity back the dignity it had lost with Adam's disobedience.

"As Jesus exaltation took place through his abasement, so in our lives and in our prayer we discover that, by lowering ourselves in humility and love, we are lifted up to God."

"The incarnation and the cross remind us that complete fulfillment comes in conforming the human will to the Father's, in emptying oneself of egoism and in filling oneself with God's love and charity, thereby becoming truly capable of loving others,"

"It's necessary to have a hierarchy of values in which the top priority is God,"

Pope Benedict XVI

he said.

Noting the upcoming feast of Sts. Peter and Paul, June 29, the pope asked pilgrims in Rome to visit the saints' tombs as a way of "deepening your love for Christ's church, founded on the apostles."

At the end of the audience, attended by an estimated 7,000 pilgrims and visitors, the pope reminded his listeners to use their summer holidays for helping others and themselves.

He told young people to do something that would lead to "useful social and religious experiences," and encouraged newlyweds to grow in their love and "deepen your mission in the church and society."

Editor's Note: The text of the pope's audience remarks in English will be posted online at www.vatican.va/holy_father/benedict_xvi/audiences/2012/documents/hf_ben-xvi_aud_20120627_en.html.

The text of the pope's audience remarks in Spanish will be posted online at www.vatican.va/holy_father/benedict_xvi/audiences/2012/documents/hf_ben-xvi_aud_20120627_sp.html.

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Sunday Readings from July 8 to Aug. 12

July 8 — Fourteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Ezekiel 2:2-5
Psalms 123:1-2, 2, 3-4
2 Corinthians 12:7-10
Mark 6:1-6

July 15 — Fifteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Amos 7:12-15
Psalms 85:9-10, 11-12, 13-14
Ephesians 1:3-14
Mark 6:7-13

July 22 — Sixteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Jeremiah 23:1-6
Psalms 23:1-3, 3-4, 5, 6
Ephesians 2:13-18
Mark 6:30-34

July 29 — Seventeenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

2 Kings 4:42-44
Psalms 145:10-11, 15-16, 17-18
Ephesians 4:1-6
John 6:1-15

Aug. 5 — Eighteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Exodus 16:2-4, 12-15
Psalms 78:3-4, 23-24, 25, 54
Ephesians 4:17, 20-24
John 6:24-35

Aug. 12 — Nineteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

1 Kings 19:4-8
Psalms 34:2-3, 4-5, 6-7, 8-9
Ephesians 4:30 - 5:2
John 6:41-51

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

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The Mourner's Bill of Rights

by Alan D. Wolfelt, Ph.D.

Editor's note: This is "The Mourner's Bill of Rights" that in March 2012 I said I would soon print. I hope it is helpful for readers.

Though you should reach out to others as you do the work of mourning, you should not feel obligated to accept the unhelpful responses you may receive from some people. You are the one who is grieving, and as such, you have certain "rights" no one should try to take away from you.

The following list is intended both to empower you to heal and to decide how others can and cannot help. This is not to discourage you from reaching out to others for help, but rather to assist you in distinguishing useful responses from hurtful ones.

1. You have the right to experience your own unique grief.

No one else will grieve in exactly the same way you do. So, when you turn to others for help, don't allow them to tell what you should or should not be feeling.

2. You have the right to talk about your grief.

Talking about your grief will help you heal. Seek out others who will allow you to talk as much as you want, as often as you want, about your grief. If at times you don't feel like talking, you also have the right to be silent.

3. You have the right to feel a multitude of emotions.

Pope Benedict XVI's Intentions July 2012

General Intention: Work Security. That everyone may have work in safe and secure conditions.

Missionary Intention: Christian Volunteers. That Christian volunteers in mission territories may witness to the love of Christ.

Confusion, disorientation, fear, guilt and relief are just a few of the emotions you might feel as part of your grief journey. Others may try to tell you that feeling angry, for example, is wrong. Don't take these judgmental responses to heart. Instead, find listeners who will accept your feelings without condition.

4. You have the right to be tolerant of your physical and emotional limits.

Your feelings of loss and sadness will probably leave you feeling fatigued. Respect what your body and mind are telling you. Get daily rest. Eat balanced meals. And don't allow others to push you into doing things you don't feel ready to do.

5. You have the right to experience "griefbursts."

Sometimes, out of nowhere, a powerful surge of grief may overcome you. This can be frightening, but is normal and natural. Find someone who understands and will let you talk it out.

6. You have the right to make use of ritual.

The funeral ritual does more than acknowledge the death of someone loved. It helps provide you with the support of caring people. More importantly, the funeral is a way for you to mourn. If others tell you the funeral or other healing rituals such as these are silly or unnecessary, don't listen.

7. You have the right to embrace your spirituality.

If faith is a part of your life, express it in ways that seem appropriate to you. Allow yourself to be around people who understand and support your religious beliefs. If you feel angry at God, find someone to talk with who won't be critical of your feelings of hurt and abandonment.

8. You have the right to search for meaning.

You may find yourself asking, "Why did he or she die? Why this way? Why now?" Some of your questions may have answers, but some may not. And watch out for the clichéd responses some people may give you. Comments like, "It was God's will" or "Think of what you have to be thankful for" are not helpful and you do not have to accept them.

9. You have the right to treasure your memories.

Memories are one of the best legacies that exist after the death of someone loved. You will always remember. Instead of ignoring your memories, find others with whom you can share them.

10. You have the right to move toward your grief and heal.

Reconciling your grief will not happen quickly. Remember, grief is a process, not an event. Be patient and tolerant with yourself and avoid people who are impatient and intolerant with you. Neither you nor those around you must forget that the death of someone loved changes your life forever.

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Reporting Abuse

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

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

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

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



Archbishop takes 'fortnight for freedom' to Rome

By Francis X. Rocca
Catholic News Service

ROME (CNS) — On the same day that the U.S. Supreme Court upheld the Obama administration's health care law, Archbishop William E. Lori of Baltimore warned an audience in Rome about what he characterized as the law's threat to religious freedom.

The archbishop, chairman of the U.S. bishops' Ad Hoc Committee on Religious Freedom, addressed a group called the Observatory on Religious Liberty, recently established by the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the city of Rome.

Archbishop Lori, who spoke several hours before the announcement of the court's decision, singled out the health care law's planned "HHS mandate," which would require the private health insurance plans of most Catholic institutions to cover surgical sterilization procedures and artificial birth control, in violation of the church's moral doctrines.

"Embedded in the HHS mandate is an extremely narrow definition of religion put there as a litmus test to determine which religious organizations are religious enough — by the government's definition — to deserve an exemption from providing services contrary to their teachings," he said.

The archbishop described the administration's effort in this case as part of a broader trend.

"Unless we stop it now, this narrow, governmental definition of what a church is will likely spread throughout our nation's laws and policies," he said.

"Something fundamental is being lost in American culture and law," he said. "And this loss of freedom does not and will not serve the common good of our nation or other nations where bloody religious persecutions are under way."

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

Continued from p. 1

and the Medicaid expansion. "In the coming weeks and months, we will continue working closely with our members, Congress and the administration to implement the ACA as fairly and effectively as possible," she added. However,

Archbishop Lori also told the group about the U.S. bishops' "fortnight for freedom" campaign, a two-week period of prayer, education and action, which will end in Washington July 4 with Mass at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception.

In response to a reporter's question after his speech, the archbishop dismissed suggestions that the U.S. bishops' campaign amounts to an inappropriate intrusion by religious leaders in election-year politics. He stressed that the bishops have long supported universal health care, as long as it provides for conscientious objection and does not spend federal money for abortions.

"We did everything we could well in advance of this election to head off this train wreck," he said. "We didn't choose the timing, we didn't choose the fight. It happens to occur in an election year, and just because it's happening in an election year imposes no responsibility on us to remain silent."

Archbishop Lori was in Rome to receive the pallium, a lamb's wool stole that symbolize his leadership of an archdiocese, from Pope Benedict XVI at a June 29 ceremony in St. Peter's Basilica.

Distress remains over 'show me your papers' part of immigration ruling

Continued from p. 1

constitutional," said Archbishop Jose H. Gomez of Los Angeles, chairman of the U.S. bishops' Committee on Migration, in a statement. "Implementation of this provision could lead to the separation of families and undermine the church's ability to minister to the immigrant population." Archbishop Gomez said, "The court's decision to strike down the other provisions of the Arizona law reaffirms the

strong role of the federal government in regulating immigration." With regard to the court allowing checks of people's papers, he added: "We stand in solidarity with our brother bishops in Arizona, as they prepare to respond to the implementation of this provision and its potential human consequences." The archbishop said the U.S. bishops would ask state legislators to "pursue humane reform on the federal level" rather than the state level. "Humane enforcement of our nation's laws are part of any solution, but enforcement by itself, unjustly administered, only leads to abuses and family breakdown."

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Diocese Of Victoria Has Two Openings

• Administrator of the Spiritual Renewal Center

Applicant will have the overall responsibility for the operation of the diocesan owned Spiritual Renewal Center. Applicant must be a practicing Catholic and have previous management experience. Some previous experience in church ministries preferred. Position reports directly to the diocesan fiscal officer. This is a full time position.

• Director of Communications (Editor of *The Catholic Lighthouse*)

Applicant will be responsible for producing the monthly diocesan newspaper. You must be a practicing Catholic and have a minimum of a liberal arts degree from a four year university. You should have excellent writing and communication skills. Previous newspaper experience is not required. This position reports directly to the bishop. The position may be full or part-time depending on the applicant.

To make application for either position, please send your resume or an application to: The Diocese of Victoria, 1505 E. Mesquite Ln., Victoria, Texas 77901. Applications are available under the Business Office tab at www.victoriadiocese.org. All applicants chosen for employment will be subject to a background check to certify that he/she is eligible for employment.

Question Corner

By Father Kenneth Doyle
Catholic News Service



Confessing past sins; the morality of body piercing

Q. Some weeks ago, when explaining the concept of a general confession, you said in your column, "Surely any serious sin not already forgiven should be mentioned."

Please tell me what I should do. I am 75 years old and have been a Catholic all my life. I first married a Catholic girl in a church wedding, but after 23 years we were divorced.

I then met another Catholic girl, and we were married in a civil ceremony. Sometime later, we both had our first marriages annulled by the church and were married in a Catholic service.

Now comes the troubling part.

After our annulments were granted, we met with our parish priest in his office. He asked whether we would like to go to confession. I was uncomfortable doing this with my wife present (and I know that she was, too). I told the priest the things I had done wrong that my wife already knew about, but I skipped some

of the really bad sins from years gone by. The priest said that all of our sins were forgiven.

My wife and I go to church every Sunday and during holy days and receive Communion. But I've always wondered whether I need to confess the sins that I skipped over that day in our pastor's office. A couple of years ago, at my Easter confession, I asked a retired priest about this, and he said not to worry because those sins had already been forgiven.

Please give me some advice. (My current parish priest knows me well, and I'd rather not ask him about this.) (Central Wisconsin)

A. First, let me say that what the parish priest did in his office -- invite you and your wife to confess your sins together -- is irregular and unwise. The whole point of the sacred seal of confession is to give penitents the confidence that only the priest and God have heard their sins and that the priest is strictly prohibited from disclosing them.

Having said this, it is still true that in nearly every circumstance, serious sins must be confessed to a priest. In speaking of the sacrament of penance, the church's Code of Canon Law says, "A member of the Christian faithful is obliged to confess in kind and number all grave sins committed after baptism" (No. 988).

In practice, an exception may be granted by a priest to someone with an overly scrupulous conscience who shows the required contrition but has great difficulty distinguishing the relative gravity of sins. (For that particular individual, a specific recitation of sins might be upsetting and virtually endless.)

It's possible that the retired priest to whom you made your

Easter confession made that judgment in your regard, dispensed you from the "integrity" of confession and absolved you of any past sins in that same Easter confession.

Since you have already done your duty by bringing your question to a priest in confession and have been assured of forgiveness, I would say that the prudent thing to do is to look forward, not back, and to continue as you are, worshipping God, praying each day and living the Christian life.

Morality of Body Piercing

Q. I am the mother of three girls, ages 17, 15 and 11. Our two older girls have been asking permission to have their navels pierced. For now, my husband has told them "no," but he has promised to reassess once the girls have taken the time to present to him a list of "pros and cons."

Is there anything in Catholic teaching that opposes body piercing? The girls are straight-A students and participate in Life Teen (which is a Eucharist-based program of youth ministry). They say they want the piercing because it "looks nice." I'm not opposed to it, but I'd like to know first what the church thinks. (Murrells Inlet, S.C.)

A. The Catholic Church has no fixed position on body piercing. The church does, of course, prohibit mutilation (Catechism of the Catholic Church, No. 2297), but that really means altering the functioning of a body part, for example, plucking out an eye or cutting off a finger.

The catechism also says that "life and physical health are precious gifts entrusted to us by God" and that "we must take reasonable care of them." Caution would preclude using dirty needles that might cause bodily infection. As to your daughters' view that a pierced navel "looks nice," I suppose beauty is in the eye of the beholder. Anyhow, you didn't ask my opinion on that!

Questions may be sent to Father Kenneth Doyle at ask-fatherdoyle@gmail.com and 40 Hopewell St., Albany, NY 12208.

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Special Collections

Retired and needy priests of the Diocese
September 8-9

Ongoing Events

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

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

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

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

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

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

Retrouvaille — A marriage-healing ministry in the Diocese of Victoria; the word Retrouvaille means 'rediscovery.' Retrouvaille is a program that offers the chance to rediscover yourself, your spouse, and the loving relationship in your marriage. Tens of thousands headed for divorce have successfully saved their marriages by attending. Next weekend is Aug. 17-19. Go to www.retrouvaille.org for more information or contact John and Jennifer Vincent at jbvjov@sbcglobal.net or (361) 580-2770. Other contacts are at (800) 470-2230 and www.helpourmarriage.org

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

Courage—Are you or a loved one experiencing homosexual attraction and looking for answers? Courage, an apostolate of the Catholic Church, ministers to persons with same-sex attraction and their loved ones. It has been endorsed by the Pontifical Council for the Family and our beloved John Paul II said of this ministry, "COURAGE is doing the work of God!" There is also an outreach called [EnCourage](http://www.enCourage.org) which ministers to relatives, spouses, and friends of persons with same-sex attraction. From their website you will learn about same sex attraction and chastity. By developing an interior life of chastity, which is the universal call to all Christians, one can move beyond the confines of the homosexual identity to a more complete one in Christ. Also, find Chapter Meetings, Conferences, Days of Recollection, and Retreats. Go to <http://www.couragerc.net/>

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

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

Picnics, Activities, etc.

July

Blessing—St. Peter Centennial Celebration July 15 begins with a 10:00 a.m. Polka Mass. There will be a day full of activities. RSVP by July 1 by calling (361) 588-6241; (361) 588-6872;

or by e-mailing stpeterblessing@tisd.net.

Moravia—Ascension of Our Lord Parish Picnic July 15 (located at FM 957 and FM 532) begins with Mass at 10:00 a.m. A stew and fried-chicken dinner will be served at 11:00 a.m. at \$8 p/p for adults and plates-to-go and \$4 for children. There will be a country store, toy walk, games and cakewalk along with much more. Auction starts at 1:00 p.m. Refreshments and food available throughout the day. Music during the day and night by Czechaholics and Red Ravens.

Upcoming Events

Port O'Connor—KC 9088 Fishing Tournament Aug. 3-4 with proceeds going to Nazareth Academy in Victoria. For more information see ad on page 11.

Boling—St. Joseph Mission Annual Fund-Raiser Saturday, Aug. 4 at the community center. Dinner, live and silent auctions, and raffle. Music will be by Steel Country.

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

Yoakum—St. Joseph Parish Picnic Aug. 5

Palacios—St. Anthony Shrimporee Aug. 5

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

Weimar—St. Michael Harvest Feast Aug. 12

Praha—St. Mary Parish Picnic Aug. 15

High Hill — St. Mary Picnic Sept. 2

Cuero—Our Lady of Guadalupe Jamaica Sept. 2

Shiner—Sts. Cyril and Methodius Picnic Sept. 2

Hallettsville—Sacred Heart Festival Sept. 2

Nada—St. Mary Picnic Sept. 2

Vanderbilt — St. John Bosco Parish Picnic Sept. 2

Yorktown — Holy Cross Church Parish Festival Sept. 9

Holman—St. Wenceslaus Parish Picnic Sept. 16

El Campo—St. Philip the Apostle Parish Picnic Sept. 30

Wharton—Holy Family Fall Festival Oct. 20

Charity Golf Tournaments

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

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

Masses • Retreats • Conferences

Corpus Christi—July training for adults to teach Theology of the Body to Teens. Help your teens and pre-teens discover the life-changing message of Blessed John Paul II's Theology of the Body July 20, 21 at Corpus Christi Cathedral. For more information, please contact Nellie Serna with any questions; phone: (361) 6882-6191 ext. 634; e-mail: nserna@diocesec.org and see page 6.

Victoria—The Sisters of the Incarnate Word invite Jr. & Sr. High School girls and their parents to join them for a day of prayer, information, games, stories, food, and fun on July 29. The day will begin with Mass at 8:30 a.m. and end with evening praise at 5:00 p.m. For information or to register, please contact Sr. Louise Marie Jones at (361) 575-7111.

Diocese—God's Embrace will be starting four new First Year Program Classes beginning in August in Blessing, Frelsburg, Schulenburg, and Victoria! There is still room for more participants. Please encourage all of your friends and family members to join us. First Year Program: Blessing, Monday, Aug. 6, 6:30-9:00 p.m.; Frelsburg, Tuesday, Aug. 7, 6:30 - 9:00 p.m.; Schulenburg, Thursday, Aug. 9, 6:30-9:00 p.m.; Victoria, Holy Family, Sunday, Aug. 12, 6 - 8:30 p.m. All First Year participants please mark your calendar for: "One Day Retreat" Saturday, August 11: Victoria, St. Mary Church - Activity Center, 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. Lunch will be provided. Please contact Sandy Reese, sandyreesefoaj@yahoo.com or (979) 541-6881, to register for the day. God's Embrace Renewal Centers, founded and facilitated by Michael Fonseca, PO Box 1211 El Campo, Texas 77437. Learn more at www.godsembrace.net. click on Texas.

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

Victoria—St. Mary's Altar Society will sponsor a half-day retreat on Monday, Sept. 17, in St. Mary's Activity Center. More information will follow.

San Antonio—SPA FOR A WOMAN'S SOUL — The 11th Annual Catholic Women's Conference will be held Sept. 21-22 at Norris Conference Center at Wonderland Mall, 4522 Fredericksburg Rd., San Antonio. Registration is now open. Visit <http://CWCSanAntonio.com> or call (210) 521-3377. Sign up for exclusive Catholic Women's Conference Insider e-mails on the website at <http://www.pilgrimcenterofhope.org/cwc/>! Includes special messages from speakers, notice of discounts, tips, inspiration, and more! "Come to me, all you who labor and are heavy-burdened, and I will give you rest" (Matthew 11:28).

Victoria—Healing Mass and Prayer at Our Lady of Lourdes Church, 105 N. William St., on the first Saturday of the month at 10:00 a.m. with Father Phi Nguyen, chaplain of IWBS

Convent. Mark your calendars now for next month. For more information, please contact Sister Louise Marie Jones at iwbsvoc2@yahoo.com.

Victoria — 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.

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

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

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

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

Pilgrimages, Tours, etc.

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

Pilgrimage To Italy— Rome, Assisi & San Giovanni Rotondo. Are you being called to a journey of faith? Experience the home of the Roman Catholic Church - the Vatican, St. Peter's Basilica, the ancient Christian Catacombs; Assisi, the home of St. Francis and St. Clare; San Giovanni Rotondo, visit Padre Pio's monastery, and more. Oct. 22 - Nov. 2, 2012. Learn more at <http://www.pilgrimcenterofhope.org/RomeAssisi2012.php>

Have an event??? Contact us by e-mail: janakr@victoriadiocese.org

DVD and Blu-ray release

By John Mulderig Catholic News Service

NEW YORK (CNS) — The following is a capsule review of a new and recent DVD and Blu-ray release from Catholic News Service. Theatrical movies have a Catholic News Service classification and Motion Picture Association of America rating. These classifications refer only to the theatrical version of the films below, and do not take into account the discs' extra content.

"Mirror Mirror" (2012)

Director Tarsem Singh brings high camp style to his fresh live-action take on the Brothers Grimm fairy tale "Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs." This go-round, the handsome prince (Armie Hammer) is the center of attention, pursued equally by the evil Queen (Julia Roberts) and her fairest-of-them-all stepdaughter (Lily Collins). When the Queen banishes her competition to the forest, Snow White decides to fight back. With the help of a ragtag band of diminutive warriors, she leads a crusade to gain her kingdom and claim her prince. The end result is a bit leaden and somewhat charmless for a children's fairy tale. But remarkable costumes and grand set pieces go a long way to compensate. Mild action violence, some rude humor, one semi-profane utterance. Spanish titles option. The Catholic News Service classification is A-II — adults and adolescents. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG — parental guidance suggested.

Nursing Home needs summer volunteers

Texan Nursing & Rehab of Victoria West at 3007 N. Navarro is always looking for volunteers to provide companionship to residents and to help with activities. During the summer, it is especially seeking youth who would like to volunteer during their summer break. If you are interested in volunteering with the elderly, please contact Maggie Torres, activity director of the home at (361) 575-2356.



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St. John Nepomucene Catholic Parish celebrates 100 years

By Cynthia Brewer
The Catholic Lighthouse

NEW TAITON—St. John Nepomucene Catholic Church in New Taiton, Texas, celebrated the 100th anniversary of its existence during its parish festival June 10, 2012. Bishop David E. Fellhauer was the main celebrant at the 8:00 a.m. Mass, with Fathers Gabriel Oduro Tawiah, pastor of St. John's; Kirby Hlavaty, former parishioner and now pastor at Shiner; and Gary Janak and Albert Yankey, El Campo, concelebrating. Deacons Patrick Kubala and Edward Wendel of New Taiton, and Jarrel Nohavitzka of El Campo, assisted.

The celebration actually came 101 years after its formation. There had been some confusion as to the date of its creation; some documents have 1911, others 1912. Proof of the correct date came from research by Jan Socha Ammann who discovered an article published in the October 12, 1911, edition, XX- No. 35, issue of the *Southern Messenger*, a Catholic newspaper published for the Dallas and San Antonio areas; more information was found on the original building cornerstone by Jeraldine Socha, who also compiled the early history of the parish from various sources. It has been confirmed by the *Southern Messenger* article and the original cornerstone that the St. John Nepomucene Church was blessed at Jones' Creek on Tuesday, October 3, 1911, by Rt. Rev. J. W. Shaw, coadjutor-administrator, bishop of San Antonio.

Those living in Taiton were of German and Czech descent and Catholic in their religious belief; they had to travel to Nada in Colorado County to attend

selected the patron of the church, and Taiton became a mission church of St. Philip the Apostle Church in El Campo. In its 100-year history, St. John's was a mission whose administrator switched between El Campo and Nada at various times.

Father William Heffernan, pastor at El Campo, said the first Holy Mass in the new building on the third Sunday of May 1911 and continued to say Mass every third Sunday of the month until October 1912, when his health declined.

The first child baptized in the church was John (Jan) Charlie Merta, the son of Vaclav and Ludmilla Kotyza Merta, on August 20, 1911. On October 17, 1911, Josef Vacek and Frantiska Drapela were the first couple to be married. One of the first organizations established by the church was St. Anne Society #39—KJZT, which organized in 1913 to offer life insurance to women of the parish. Charter members were Zofie Dluhos, Marie

almost 25 years, until April 1946. Then Rev. Marcus Valenta administered the mission from 1946 to 1955, when Father Julius A. Petru replaced him. Two years later, on Dec. 3, 1957, Father Petru was invested a monsignor.

In 1956 the congregation unanimously voted to replace the wood-frame church with a modern brick building. On July 25, 1956, Archbishop Robert E. Lucey approved a revised plan for the new church building; the bid was awarded to Vaclavick Construction of El Campo on May 23, 1957. On the feast of St. Michael, September 29, 1957, the cornerstone of the current St. John Nepomucene's Church was blessed and laid by Father Anthony Drozd, dean of the Weimar Deanery; it was dedicated by the Rt. Rev. Msgr. Frederick O. Beck on April 27, 1958. The first couple married in the new church was Clarence Zbranek and Joyce Socha on May 10, 1958.

was canonically erected as a parish.

The church's rectory was built in 1971 by contractor Lawrence Treybig and blessed by Archbishop Francis Furey on October 3, the 60th anniversary of the dedication of the first church. A parish center with seven classrooms and a large kitchen was built adjacent to the church and officially dedicated September 24, 1984.

March 2, 1997, marked Msgr. Petru's 85th birthday and the 60th anniversary of his ordination to the priesthood. He was driven from the parish to the Taiton Community Center on an El Campo Volunteer Fire Department truck as he had also served as the volunteer firemen's chaplain for 50 years.

Deacon Edward Wendel, from St. Andrew's Parish of Hillje, and the Basilian priests from Wharton and Sugar Land, assisted the parish during Msgr. Petru's failing health. Rev. Joseph Koebel, pastor of St. Mary's in Nada, became the parochial administrator of St. John's in September 2001, serving both parishes. On October 15, 2001, Msgr. Julius Petru passed away. He is buried in St. John's cemetery.

Upon the death of Father Koebel, December 12, 2005, the parish was temporarily placed under the guidance of Rev. Gary Janak, pastor at El Campo, assisted by Rev. Peter Yeboah-Amanfo. In July 2006, Rev. Joseph Vrana, pastor of St. Mary's, Nada, was appointed parochial administrator of St. John's, and Father Anthony Boateng-Mensah, under the guidance of Father Joseph, administered St. John's from Oct. 2007 to June 2008.



Mass on June 10 was celebrated by Bishop David E. Fellhauer and concelebrated by Fathers Gabriel Oduro Tawiah, Gary Janak, Kirby Hlavaty, Albert Yankey; and Deacons Patrick Kubala, Edward Wendel and Jarrel Nohavitzka.

church services. Their Catholic neighbors of the Jones Creek school district had to travel to El Campo for Catholic services. Thanks to the financial benefits of a good cotton crop at good prices in 1910, the two Catholic communities were able to unite to establish a Catholic church in their community.

Well-known contractor Mr. Benicker of the El Campo area was engaged for the building project. Lumber and construction materials were hauled on farm wagons from El Campo to the five-acre site near the boundary line of Taiton and the Jones Creek school district. The recorded deed shows a price of \$125.00 was paid to Mr. John (Jan) Holub for the land he had offered for the church building.

Construction of the church began in February 1911 and was completed in May 1911. The Martyr of the Confessional, St. John Nepomucene, born c. 1340 at Nepomuk, Bohemia, as John Wolflin, was

Naiser, Frankiska Fucik, Alzbeta Vacek, Zofie Naiser, Anna Beal, Marie Kacal, and Anezka Kahanek.

With the increase of parishioners, the church was expanded in 1918 or 1919 (conflicting dates), to include wings on each side to the back.

The community of Taiton, located on what is now County Road 371, was abandoned with the construction of Highway 71 in 1927, and moved to the present location and renamed New Taiton.

One of the longer appointed administrators of El Campo and Taiton was newly ordained Father Victor A. Raska, who served St. John's from El Campo for

St. John's Altar Society was started in the early years of the mission to help furnish supplies for the church. On March 17, 1968, the society held its first fundraiser dinner, which has continued to be held every 2nd Sunday in March.

The church remained a mission of St. Philip's in El Campo under the guidance of Msgr. Julius Petru, until he was appointed priest in charge of St. John's by Archbishop Francis J. Furey April 13, 1969. At that time, Msgr. Petru bid farewell to St. Philip's Parish and moved from El Campo to Taiton, making him the first priest ever in residence for St. John's. On February 23, 1970, St. John Nepomucene Church

After arriving to help in July 2008, Father Gabriel Oduro Tawiah was appointed pastor of St. John's in June 2009. He remains the parish pastor.

St. John Nepomucene Parish has produced two vocations. With the encouragement of Msgr. Petru, on May 29, 1999, Kirby Hlavaty, son of Robert and Connie Hlavaty, became St. John's first and only parishioner to be ordained a priest. He celebrated his first Mass the following day at St. John's. On December 19, 2009, parishioner Patrick Kubala, son of Robert and Dorothy Nohavitzka Kubala, became the first permanent deacon ordained from the parish.



Two vocations have flourished from the parish - Father Kirby Hlavaty and Deacon Patrick Kubala.

Top photo (black and white) is a photo showing both churches between 1958 and 1959. On April 27, 1958, the new church was dedicated by the Rt. Rev. Msgr. Frederick O. Beck.

The photo above shows St. John Nepomucene Church today. (Aerial photo, courtesy Silver Star Helicopter, LLC, photographer Heather Morton.)