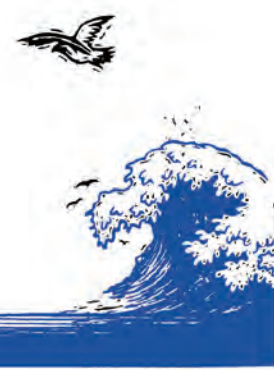


The Catholic Lighthouse

The Cradle of Texas Immigration



VOL. 26, NO. 2

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE DIOCESE OF VICTORIA IN TEXAS

June 2012

Father Lawrence Matula celebrates 50 years of priestly ministry

Article compiled by Terri Beltran

EL CAMPO—Father Larry Matula celebrated 50 years in the priesthood with Mass and a celebration at San Roberto Belarmino Parish in El Campo Saturday, May 19, 2012. The day began with Mass with about 400 attending, including family, congregation and visiting priests. The Most Rev. David Fellhauer, bishop of the Diocese of Victoria, presided over the anniversary Mass, which was concelebrated by Father Joe Hybner, Sacred Heart Church, Flatonia; Fathers Gary Janak and Albert Yankey, St. Philip, El Campo; Father Gerard Cernoch, Our Lady of Guadalupe, Bay City; Father Gabriel Espinosa, Our Lady of Mt. Carmel, Wharton; Father Dominic Antwi-Boasiako, Holy Family, Wharton; Father Clem Quainoo, St. Andrew, Hillje; and assisted by Deacon Larry Hoelscher, St. Philip, and Deacon Margarito Cervantez, San Roberto Belarmino. Father Matula's humble beginnings

begin when his parents, Louis F. and Lillie Hybner Matula were married in 1934 and two years later had their first-born son. On May 7, 1936, Lawrence John Matula greeted the world. Upon announcing Lawrence's birth to his brother, John Matula, Louis told him in Czech, "Mame Knez" meaning "we have a priest," to indicate that his firstborn was a male child. Lawrence was bap-

tized in the same church where his parents were married, Sts. Cyril and Methodius Church in Shiner. His sponsors were his maternal grandparents, Adolph and Frances Kurtz Hybner. Being the first born maternal grandchild, made him very special to all those around him. Everyone loved him and showered him with attention. Four years later,

cone Hut selling snowcones. He also worked at the local Piggly Wiggly, where he stocked groceries and worked his way up to the position of checker. He worked at the Farmers' Coop in the feed store, loading, stocking and fixing tires and selling gasoline. Father Matula's dad also had a little place in the country where

See Fr. Lawrence Matula, pg. 8



Above, Father Larry Matula is joined on his jubilee with priests and Bishop Fellhauer.

Left, Father Matula today.

Right, Father Matula at his ordination.



Growing up during the summer months off from school, Father Matula worked at the Snow-

Theresa Jane became his sister and changed his world.

At age 6, Father Matula went to St. Ludmila's Academy in Shiner. There he attended grades first through eighth; he attended high school at St. John's Seminary in San Antonio and graduated in 1954.

Growing up during the summer months off from school, Father Matula worked at the Snow-



FATHER TONY CELEBRATES 25 YEARS OF PRIESTHOOD—Father Tony Boateng-Mensah celebrates his 25th anniversary to the priesthood at St. Mary Parish in Victoria May 20, 2012. The week following his anniversary, he had to leave the Diocese of Victoria to minister in Ghana permanently. Please see story on pg. 3.



PATRICK S. KNIPPENBERG ORDAINED TO THE PRIESTHOOD—Patrick Scott Knippenberg, son of Robert and Betty Knippenberg and brother of Rev. Robert Knippenberg Jr. was ordained to the Priesthood of Jesus Christ, May 26, 2012, at Holy Family of Joseph, Mary and Jesus Church in Victoria. He has been assigned parochial vicar at St. Mary Church in Victoria. Story to follow in the next issue of *The Catholic Lighthouse*.

JUNE 21 to JULY 4, 2012

★ ★ ★ ★

FORTNIGHT FOR FREEDOM

★ ★ ★ ★

FORTNIGHT4FREEDOM.ORG

Fortnight For Freedom ~ June 21 – July 4 ~

On April 12, 2012, the Ad Hoc Committee on Religious Liberty of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) issued a document, "Our First, Most Cherished Liberty," outlining the bishops' concerns over threats to religious freedom, both at home and abroad. The bishops called for a "Fortnight for Freedom," a 14-day period of prayer, education and action in support of religious freedom, from June 21-July 4.

Catholic institutions are encouraged to arrange special events to highlight the importance of defending religious freedom, especially in cooperation with other Christians, Jews, people of other faiths and all who wish to defend our most cherished freedom.

The 14 days from June 21—the vigil of the Feasts of St. John Fisher and St. Thomas More—to July 4, Independence Day, are dedicated to this "fortnight for freedom"—a great hymn of prayer for our country. Our liturgical calendar celebrates a series of great martyrs who remained faithful in the face of persecution by political power—St. John Fisher and St. Thomas More, St. John the Baptist, SS. Peter and Paul, and the First Martyrs of the Church of Rome.

Culminating on Independence Day, this special period of prayer, study, catechesis, and public action would emphasize both our Christian and American heritage of liberty. Dioceses and parishes

around the country could choose a date in that period for special events that would constitute a great national campaign of teaching and witness for religious liberty.

Please check with your parish for upcoming events.

SPECIAL MASSES to open and close Fortnight For Freedom

— **June 21 Mass in Baltimore, MD**

A Mass will be offered on June 21 at 7 p.m. at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary in Baltimore, Maryland, celebrated by Archbishop William E. Lori of the Archdiocese of Baltimore, to open the Fortnight for Freedom (check EWTN).

— **July 4 Mass in Washington, DC (nationally televised)**

A Mass will be offered on July 4 at 12:10 p.m. at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception, celebrated by Cardinal Donald Wuerl of the Archdiocese of Washington and homilist Archbishop Charles Chaput, OFM Cap. of the Archdiocese of Philadelphia. The Mass will be televised nationwide on the EWTN cable network. Check your local listings.

For more information go to www.usccb.org

Also, please read Archbishop Chaput's review of the "Father Greater Glory" movie, pg. 2

Texas Bishops Endorse Religious Freedom Lawsuits

AUSTIN—The Texas Catholic Conference of Bishops announced its enthusiastic support for the 43 dioceses, hospitals, schools and church agencies from across the country who filed lawsuits challenging the federal government's violation of religious freedom as part of health care reform. The TCC was equally enthusiastic that two of the state's Catholic dioceses—the Diocese of Dallas and

the Diocese of Fort Worth—were party to the suits, and stood at the vanguard of uniting all the Texas dioceses in defending religious liberty. The Texas bishops further applauded the broad diversity of Church ministries who joined the court challenges in order to preserve their ability to serve the poor, the sick, and the vulnerable regardless of their religious beliefs.



Santiago Cabrera portrays Father Vega in a scene from the movie "For Greater Glory." Andy Garcia, a Catholic, plays a Mexican Revolution-era general lured out of retirement a decade later to fight his own government's severe curbing of religious freedoms, and Catholic actor Eduardo Verastegui portrays Anacleto Gonzalez Flores. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is R – restricted. (CNS photo/ARC Entertainment)

The Extraordinary Witness Of Ordinary People: Viva Cristo Rey!

By Archbishop Charles J. Chaput, OFM
Archbishop Of Philadelphia

Earlier this week we celebrated Memorial Day. For most of us, the holiday informally marks the start of summer. Over the next three months families will take their vacations, the pace of life will slow a bit, and people will have a little more precious time to relax and restore their spirits.

The purpose of recreation is to renew us in body and soul; to give us time to think; to reconnect us with family and the gift of being alive. For me, that usually means a week of fishing with friends, catching up on a pile of good books and enjoying a few good movies.

And since all good things are meant to be shared, I can already recommend - in fact, enthusiastically recommend — a film that no Catholic should miss this summer.

For Greater Glory opens in select theaters this Friday, June 1. Written, directed and acted with outstanding skill, it's the story of Mexico's Cristero War (also known as La Cristiada, 1926-29). Largely ignored until recently - even in Mexico - the war resulted from Mexico's atheist constitution of 1917, subsequent anti-religious legislation and fierce anti-clerical persecution by the government of President Plutarco Elias Calles, who came to power in 1924.

The Catholic response to the Calles regime first took the form of non-violent petitions, suspended religious services and economic boycotts. But bloody popular resistance broke out in 1926. By 1929, 50,000 Cristero rebels were fighting the federal government. A small number of priests took up arms with their people. More than 90,000 persons died in the fighting. In the process, the authorities murdered thousands of Catholic lay people and dozens of priests.

Blessed Miguel Pro, a Jesuit priest, was executed without trial in 1927. Blessed Jose Sanchez del Rio, age 14, was shot to death for refusing to deny his faith in 1928. In both cases, the martyrs' last words were Viva Cristo Rey! (Long live Christ the King!) The Church has since honored dozens of other Mexican martyrs for their heroism during the Calles persecution.

By 1929, pressured by Cristero success and U.S. diplomacy, federal authorities agreed to ease some restrictions on the Church and end violent persecution. Mexico's bishops accepted the brokered peace. The Cristero rebellion slowly died out. But the government soon betrayed its promises. Brutal anti-religious policies renewed and continued.

Endorsements: "For Greater Glory"

• Most Rev. José Horacio Gomez, Archbishop, Diocese of Los Angeles, formerly of the Archdiocese of San Antonio – "For Greater Glory" vividly depicts the difficult circumstances in which Catholics of that time lived – and died for – their faith. It is a top-flight production whose message of the importance of religious freedom has particular resonance for us today. It is my

Federal authorities murdered hundreds of former Cristero leaders and thousands of former Cristero fighters in reprisals. And the government continued its belligerence against the Church throughout the 1930s - a campaign of atheist violence and anti-religious hatred that provided the backdrop for two of Graham Greene's finest books: his travelogue, *The Lawless Roads* (1939), and arguably his greatest novel, *The Power and the Glory* (1940).

Of course, gripping history does not automatically translate into good drama. Too many films for the family and religious markets suffer from lots of good intentions, but a lack of resources, inadequate talent and weak professional skills.

For Greater Glory succeeds where so many similar films have failed. Led by Academy Award nominees Andy Garcia and Catalina Sandino Moreno, along with Oscar Isaac, Eva Longoria, Ruben Blades, Eduardo Verastegui and others, the cast is superb. And the writing gives them the kind of robust material they need to work with: strong dialogue, fully developed characters, vivid moral conflicts in a time of revolutionary violence, and a compelling story that never lags, thanks to the skilled directing of Dean Wright.

To describe this film as stirring or powerful would do it a disservice. *For Greater Glory* is much more than an exercise in piety; it's an extraordinary portrait of ordinary people struggling to defend their convictions. It's among the most absorbing films by any director or movie studio that I've seen in the past few years.

One of the hymns Cristeros sang as they went into battle had these words: The Virgin Mary is our protector and defender when there is something to fear, She will defeat the demons, crying "Long live Christ the King!" She will defeat the demons, crying "Long live Christ the King!" Soldiers of Christ let us follow the flag that the Cross shows the army of God! Let us follow the flag, crying "Long live Christ the King!"

We Americans in 2012 live in a different land in a different time. We're blessed with freedoms the Cristeros could only imagine. But those freedoms depend on our willingness to defend them. Religious liberty is never guaranteed by anything but our own vigilance. Even in this country, contempt for religious faith, and especially the Catholic faith, is alive and well. *For Greater Glory* captures with memorable power and grace where that bigotry can lead – and the cost of resisting it.

earnest hope that people of faith throughout our country will rally behind "For Greater Glory," and in doing so, will highlight the importance of religious freedom in our society."

• His Eminence Seán O'Malley, Cardinal, Archdiocese of Boston – "I wholeheartedly recommend it."

Current Threats to Religious Liberty ~ USCCB Fact Sheet

Pope Benedict XVI spoke earlier this year about his worry that religious liberty in the United States is being weakened. He called religious liberty the "most cherished of American freedoms." However, unfortunately, our most cherished freedom is under threat. Consider the following:

• *HHS mandate for contraception, sterilization, and abortion-inducing drugs.*

The mandate of the Department of Health and Human Services forces religious institutions to facilitate and fund a product contrary to their own moral teaching. Further, the federal government tries to define which religious institutions are "religious enough" to merit protection of their religious liberty.

• *Catholic foster care and adoption services.* Boston, San Francisco, the District of Columbia, and the State of Illinois have driven local Catholic Charities out of the business of providing adoption or foster care services — by revoking their licenses, by ending their government contracts, or both — because those Charities refused to place children with same-sex couples or unmarried opposite-sex couples who cohabit.

• *State immigration laws.* Several states have recently passed laws that forbid what they deem as "harboring" of undocumented immigrants — and what the Church deems Christian charity and pastoral care to these immigrants.

• *Discrimination against small church congregations.* New York City adopted a policy that barred the Bronx Household of Faith and other churches from renting public schools on weekends for worship services, even though non-religious groups could rent the same schools for many other uses.

• *Discrimination against Catholic humanitarian services.* After years of excellent performance by the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops' Migration and Refugee Services (MRS) in administering contract services for victims of human trafficking, the federal government changed its contract specifications to require MRS to provide or refer for contraceptive and abortion services in violation of Catholic teaching.

• *Christian students on campus.* In its over-100-year history, the University of California Hastings College of Law has denied student organization status to only one group, the Christian Legal Society, because it required its leaders to be Christian and to abstain from sexual activity outside of marriage.

• *Forcing religious groups to host same-sex "marriage" or civil union ceremonies.* A New Jersey judge recently found that a Methodist ministry violated state law when the ministry declined to allow two women to hold a "civil union" ceremony on its private property. Further, a civil rights complaint has been filed against the Catholic Church in Hawaii by a person requesting to use a chapel to hold a same-sex "marriage" ceremony.

Is our most cherished freedom truly under threat? Yes, Pope Benedict XVI has recognized that various attempts to limit the freedom of religion in the U.S. are a serious concern. This threat to religious freedom is larger than any single case or issue and has its roots in secularism in our culture. The Holy Father has asked for the laity to have courage to counter secularism that would "delegitimize the Church's participation in public debate about the issues which are determining the future of American society."

Religious Liberty is More Than Freedom of Worship

"Religious liberty is not only about our ability to go to Mass on Sunday or pray the Rosary at home. It is about whether we can make our contribution to the common good of all Americans. Can we do the good works our faith calls us to do, without having to compromise that very same faith? Without religious liberty properly understood, all Americans suffer, deprived of the essential contribution in education, health care, feeding the hungry, civil rights, and social services that religious Americans make every day, both here at home and overseas." From "Our Most Cherished Liberty" at www.usccb.org/issues-and-action/religious-liberty/

UPDATED ACTION ALERT: <http://actions.nchla.org/>

Write to Congress & HHS opposing the mandate, calling for conscience protections.

The HHS public comment period ends June 19. Please act today!

For more information please go to www.usccb.org/issues-and-action/religious-liberty/

Mass at 9:00 a.m.

St. John Parish Picnic

Wednesday, July 4, 2012

Visit the 124-year-old church

St. John's Parish Hall
FM 957 — 6 miles SW of Schulenburg

Flag Raising Ceremonies at 10:00 a.m.
American Legion and VFW members
Vietnam Veterans and all persons
interested in the patriotic cause are invited

**Stew & Fried-Chicken
Dinner at 10:30 a.m.**
Plates - Adults \$8.00 • Children \$4.50

LIVE MUSIC
Starting at 10:30 a.m.

- The Shiner Hobo Band
- The Dujka Brothers
- Red Ravens



**Auction
at 12:30 p.m.
Raffle - 9:00 p.m.**

- Games
- Train Rides
- Free Dance Under Pavilion



- Drinks
- Hamburgers
- Cakewalk & More

Web site: www.St.JohnFourthofJulyPicnic.com



Father Dan Morales, pastor of St. Mary Parish in Victoria, presents a cowboy hat and leather belt with a silver Texas buckle to Father Tony Boateng-Mensah as a 25-year anniversary and going away gift. The celebration, May 20, was one of the largest events ever held at St. Mary's activity center.

Father Tony Boateng-Mensah celebrates 25th anniversary to the priesthood before leaving diocese

Submitted by Georgia West, St. Mary Parishioner

It was a time of great celebration and a time of sadness too. Our Parochial Vicar Father Anthony (Tony) Boateng-Mensah celebrated his 25th anniversary of ordination with a Mass of celebration at St. Mary Church in Victoria at 3:00 p.m. on May 20, 2012.

In attendance were members of Father Tony's family, priests of the Victoria Diocese, St. Mary's parishioners and countless friends.

The homily was said by Father Tony's friend and junior class member, Msgr. Dominic Fosu, who now resides in Covington Diocese, Kentucky, while the Mass was concelebrated by over a dozen diocesan priests.

Family attending included Father Tony's brother, Kofi Boateng, and his wife, Patience, from Cincinnati, Ohio; his cousin, Peter Wumba and his wife, Adwoa, of Columbus, Ohio; and his cousin, Constance Owusu, and son from New York.

It was a very spiritually uplifting Mass with songs being sung from his home of origin by friends, including the Ghanaian Catholic Community of Houston, led by Dr. and Mrs. Ford Jour, and featuring Mercy Okrah and friend, Agatha, family, and St. Mary's choir. Even though the meaning of the words was not understood, the voices uplifted in praise conveyed to all attendees a sense of oneness.

The celebration continued after Mass with a reception at St. Mary's Hall. An excess of 350 guests were in attendance. All shared in DJ music with dance, dress, and food of his home country. Africoko Restaurant in Houston prepared many of the Ghanaian dishes. The main dinner was hosted by members of St. Mary's Altar Society. Also featured was a movie of Father Tony's time spent with us.

Father Tony was born in the village of Tapa and is a native of the Ashanti Kingdom of Ghana. He studied in Tapa in a government school, continued in St. Hubert Minor Seminary and graduated in June of 1981. He then proceeded to St. Peter's Major Seminary and was ordained to the priesthood on July 18, 1987, at St. Peter's Cathedral in Kumasi.

After two years in parish work he was assigned to work with the Ghana Armed Forces as a chaplain for six years. He studied in Britain and worked there from 1992 to 2007. He then came to Texas in September 2007 and was assigned to St. Mary's Church in Nada as a parochial vicar to Rev. Joe Vrana. In July 2008 he was reassigned to St. Mary's Church in Victoria, where he lovingly worked with the now deceased pastor, Msgr. James C. Brunner.

In his brief time in our diocese, from 2007 to 2012, he has endeared himself as a gentle and loving leader of the flocks to which he has rendered his service. While he was in Victoria, he attained his masters in counseling. In his work as a priest, it has been his passion and belief that "It's better to light one candle than to curse the darkness" and to appreciate every human life that he meets. He is a very personable individual with a smile always for all those with whom he comes into contact.

Father Tony's time with us has been brief, but the memories we all shared will last forever. It is with sadness that we wish Father Tony a fond farewell as he returns to his home country, Ghana. He will be going to work for Bishop Peter Atuahene in the Diocese of Goaso in Ghana. He departed from our parish and the diocese on May 29.

We ask God's blessings upon him as he continues his priestly vocation in his onward journey in life. We will miss him very much.

Bishop Fellhauer's Schedule

June

- 9 5:00 p.m., Confirmation Mass, Sacred Heart Church, Flatonia
- 10 8:00 a.m., Mass, 100th Anniversary, Homecoming, and Parish Picnic, St. John Nepomucene Church, New Taiton
- 11:00 a.m., Mass and blessing of statue of Our Lady of LaVang, Vietnamese Catholic Community, Assumption Chapel, Palacios
- 3:00 p.m., Mass, Celebrating 50th Anniversary of Priestly Ordination of Father Henry Rachunek, St. Wenceslaus Church, Beasley
- 12-15 United States Conference of Catholic Bishops General Meeting, Atlanta, Georgia
- 15 5:00 p.m., Mass, installation of Incarnate Word and Blessed Sacrament Leadership Team, Incarnate Word Chapel, Victoria
- 20 2:30 p.m., Diocesan Finance Board meeting, Chancery Office
- 4:00 p.m., Diocesan Building Board meeting, Chancery Office
- 23 2:00 p.m., Blessing of Band Hall at Sts. Cyril and Methodius Church, Shiner
- 4:00 p.m., Mass, celebrating 130th Anniversary of Sacred Heart School, Knights of Columbus Hall, Hallettsville

July

- 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

Official Appointments By Most Rev. David E. Fellhauer

Effective May 31, 2012, the resignation of the **Rev. Joseph M. Hybner** as Pastor of Sacred Heart Church, Flatonia, and Sts. Cyril and Methodius Church, Cistern, is accepted. Father Hybner will then be retired from full-time active priestly ministry.

Effective May 31, 2012, the **Rev. Edward J. Winkler** is relieved of his assignment at St. Rose of Lima Church, Schulenburg, and appointed Pastor of Sacred Heart Church, Flatonia, and Sts. Cyril and Methodius Church, Cistern.

Effective May 31, 2012, the **Rev. George Kunnath, MCBS**, is relieved of his assignment at Holy Family Church Wharton, and appointed Parochial Vicar at St. Rose of Lima Church, Schulenburg, and its mission churches at High Hill, Ammansville, and Holman.

Effective June 28, 2012, the newly-ordained **Rev. Patrick S. Knippenberg** is assigned as Parochial Vicar at St. Mary Church, Victoria.

What's Happening in Your Parish?

SHINER—A few months back, Father Kirby Hlavaty announced that he was starting a new scholarship to St. Paul High School. He named it the Freshman Year Free Scholarship and it would be funded with money from an unsolicited grant he was given. The grant was open to any incoming freshmen to their parish high school and would cover the cost of tuition. It was to be awarded to two students. However, a very generous parishioner heard about this and came forward to offer another scholarship so they were able to award three scholarships for the 2012-2013 school year. Father Kirby is pleased to announce that the awards have been granted to Nathan Pilat, Alexis Cantu and Kenzie Vargo. Congratulations to them and all the applicants for their desire to attend Catholic School.

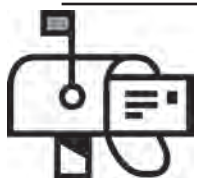
DSA & Reflection of Faith Capital Campaign Updates

2012 DSA

Diocesan Goal:	\$ 1,623,907.00
Parish Pledge Totals:	\$ 580,001.99
Parish Contribution Totals:	\$ 470,090.66
Number of Parish Families Participating:	3,062

Reflection of Faith Capital Campaign

Diocesan Goal:	\$ 9,000,000.00
Parish Pledge Totals:	\$ 12,918,091.50
Parish Contribution Totals:	\$ 10,493,142.59
Number of Parish Families Participating:	6,769



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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 May 29, 2012

	TOTALS
— General Seminary Burse	
Previously reported	\$101,064.00
In memory of Dr. R. A. Stevenson by Bob and Minnie Bochat	25.00
Total	\$101,089.00
— Rev. Msgr. Edward Bartsch	
Previously reported	\$6,770.00
In honor of Rev. Msgr. Edward Bartsch's 63rd ordination anniversary by Midge Elam	63.00
Total	\$6,833.00
— Rev. John C. Bily	
Previously reported	\$9,704.00
In memory of Lucy Lednicki by Stazy Hajek and Georgia Cerny	20.00
Donation by CDA Court St. Michael #559, Weimar	200.00
Total	\$9,924.00
— Catholic Daughters of America Our Lady Queen of Peace Court #1374	
Previously reported	\$3,428.82
In memory of Anna Bartosh by CDA Court #1374	55.00
Total	\$3,483.82
— Catholic Daughters Court of St. Ann #369 Burse #2	
Previously reported	\$9,348.99
In memory of Dr. R. A. Stevenson by Otto and JoAnn Bleier, Jr.	25.00
Total	\$9,373.99
— Rev. Msgr. Hubert J. Janak	
Previously reported	\$1,005.00
In memory of Joseph D. Janak by:	
Ron and Linda Denker	30.00
Hubert and Betty Novak	15.00
Larry and Linda Klekar	50.00
Hubert and Elizabeth Janak	25.00
Leo and Liz Janak	20.00
Joe Lara & Family	25.00
Anthony and Jo Matula	20.00
David and Glinda Tobola	5.00
Gussie Kelnar	25.00
Kathryn Lewellan	10.00
Harry and Vernell Macik	20.00
Marvin and Madeline Michalec	10.00
Mary Ann and Herbert Marek	25.00
Richard and Ruthie Rouse	20.00
TXDOT Employees, Yoakum	40.00
Gilbert and Mary Urbish	10.00
Arnold and Gene Marie Bohuslav	20.00
Dolores and Paul L. Janak	20.00
Jerome and Mary Janak	25.00
EJ and Leah Janik	250.00
Gus and Irene Mullins	20.00
Robert and Louise Pesek	20.00
Agnes and Leo Pustka	20.00
Arnold and Rosemary Riske	10.00
Melvin and Janet Roeder	20.00
Dorothy and Joseph Schneider	20.00
Helen Janak	15.00
M/M Harrison Raska	20.00
Glenn and Dolores Dobbs	25.00
DeWitt County District 11 TCAAA	100.00
In memory of Mildred Janak by:	
Gary and Susan McDowell	20.00
Stanley and Betty Bujnoch	20.00
In memory of Joseph D. and Mildred Janak by Harry and Vernell Macik	20.00
Total	\$1,935.00

Happy Birthday!

Stephen Vacek finished his college and philosophical studies and will begin his theological studies at St. Mary Seminary in Houston; his birthday is June 26. He is from the Holy Cross Parish, East Bernard. He will spend the summer doing Spanish language studies in Guatemala. Please show your support for this seminarian by writing to: Stephen Vacek, 735 Main Street, East Bernard, TX 77435.



— Sr. M. Barbara Konvicka
Previously reported \$150.00
In memory of Frank N. Konvicka by
Evelyn Konvicka 15.00
Total \$165.00

— Our Lady of Victory Altar Society
Previously reported \$375.00
In memory of Mary Scherlen by
OLV Altar Society 25.00
Total \$400.00

— Rev. John C. Peters Burse #5
Previously reported \$4,114.00
In memory of Raymond (Ben) Steffek by
Hubert and Betty Novak 15.00
In memory of Sylvester Janak by:
Dolores Janak and Family 200.00
Willie Barborak 10.00
Total \$4,339.00

— Rev. Msgr. Robert Schmidt Burse #2
Previously reported \$65.00
In memory of Jodie L. Gold by
Hubert and Betty Novak 15.00
Total \$80.00

**— St. John the Baptist Church, St. John
In Memory of Rev. Brian Crookes
Burse #2**
Previously reported \$5,201.00
In memory of Sylvester Janak by:
Andy Besetzney 20.00
Ralph Besetzney 10.00
Elsie Farek 10.00
Eugene and Betty Patalik 20.00
Total \$5,261.00

— Will Wearden (NEW)
In memory of Will Wearden by
Theresa and James Wearden 50.00
Total \$50.00

**— Knights of Columbus Ganado Council
#3204 Rev. Joseph Hybner**
Previously reported \$2,856.00
In honor of Rev. Joseph Hybner's 49th
ordination anniversary by:
M/M Arnold Riske, Jennifer and
Barbara 25.00
Stazy Hajek and Georgia Cerny 20.00
Total \$2,901.00

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

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

In Memory of ...

Crisostomo "Chris" Guerra, father of Rev. Robert Guerra, dies

Crisostomo "Chris" Guerra, 90, of Victoria passed away on Tuesday, May 15, 2012. He was born March 1, 1922, in Kenedy to the late Jose Angel and Catarina Carrizales Guerra. He proudly served his country as a member of the United States Air Force, and he retired from the City of Victoria after 30 years with the Water Department.



Chris is survived by his daughters, Delia Hinojosa and husband Rey of Victoria, and Diana Sandoval of Victoria; sons, Father Robert F. Guerra of Eagle Lake, Danny Guerra and wife, Mary, of Pasadena; Rudy Guerra and wife, Faye, of Leesburg, Virginia; sisters, Mary Martinez of Markham, Eva Villareal of Victoria, Katy Martinez of Victoria, and Vincenta Martinez of Brenham; brother, Johnny Guerra of Victoria; 10 grandchildren and three great-grandchildren; numer-



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A Year in Review

By Seminarian Jacob Mendoza

If 18 months ago someone would have told me where I would be today I would have scoffed and would not be able to gather how it would even be possible to get to where I am today.

I was a California boy in graduate school up in Lubbock, Texas. Thus, I am not a native of the Diocese of Victoria, but I felt a strong urge to pursue my calling down here, and over the last year I have had constant reminders of just how much of an honor it is to be able to actively pursue and work towards what God is calling me to do. It all began in prayer and my willingness to follow God's call wherever it may lead me. For ultimately, the kernel of my call resides in and runs parallel to my journey towards holiness.

Before being formally accepted as a seminarian and during my time of initial discernment, I was given the opportunity and experienced the pleasure of working at the diocesan youth office. This was a

wonderful experience, for it introduced me to the people whom I one day hope to be ministering and enabled me to develop personable relationships with the people who are praying for my vocation. It was an absolute blessing to have that as a steppingstone before entering the seminary this past August.

I have had the privilege of finishing my philosophical studies over the past year at St. Joseph Abbey Seminary College in St. Benedict, La. I would have never anticipated just how wonderful the seminary life

could be; for, the 80 men and monks that I have spent the last year studying and living with, have had a profound effect on the type of man and type of priest I desire to become.

I found it a joy to be able to get up every morning and to pray and know that there are people constantly praying every morning. Of the dozen or so gentlemen that prayed during that hour, I found it reassuring to be able to be in the same room, in front of the same God, with the same people during the most intimate time of our day.

Although it saddens me to leave St. Joseph's seminary, it was a blessing to be able to complete my studies in one year and I am eager to enter major seminary at St. Mary's in Houston this fall.



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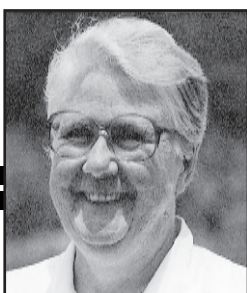


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SISTERLY THOUGHTS



By Sister Mildred Truchard, IWBS

More Years of Growth

(Historical series, cont. since March 2012)

We have seen how the fledgling Convent School, associated with the Monastery of the Incarnate Word and Blessed Sacrament of Victoria, Texas, prospered and, within five years of opening in 1867, it was determined that three new buildings needed to be added to the original structure in order to accommodate the constantly expanding student population. Not only were the numbers of the students and of the buildings increasing, the numbers of the Sisters were likewise growing. American girls, many of whom were former students, were entering the order, enabling the group to reach out to future new foundations.

In 1871, Bishop Dubuis, the Bishop of Texas, had asked that a new foundation begin in Corpus Christi, a rapidly growing area with nearly a thousand residents, many of whom had come from Mexico during the unrest that followed the French support of Maximilian as emperor of Mexico. So three Sisters from Victoria, along with two from Brownsville, were sent to Corpus Christi in response to the bishop's request. This foundation in Corpus Christi, along with the initial foundation in Brownsville, would minister throughout South Texas and would be instrumental in establishing foundations in Mexico.

Then in 1873, a call came to found a monastery in Houston, a bustling shipping center consisting of some 9,383 persons. So five members were sent there and the foundation continues to extend its influence to that part of the state to this day.

The year 1874 brought two significant events which affected the foundation. Prior to this date, all of Texas consisted of the

Diocese of Galveston under the guidance of Right Reverend Claude Marie Dubuis. Due to the growing Catholic population, a new diocese was created. Bishop Dubuis would remain the bishop of the Galveston Diocese and Bishop Anthony Pellicer would be the first bishop of the newly established Diocese of San Antonio. The Colorado River was the boundary between the two dioceses, so Victoria was part of the Diocese of San Antonio. In this division, the Sisters lost the guidance of their good friend, Bishop Dubuis; however, they soon learned that Bishop Pellicer was a strong advocate of Catholic education, so all was well.

The second event which helped the Sisters in Victoria was the fact that they



Early Sisters at the Monastery of the Incarnate Word in Victoria. Notice that some of the Sisters are wearing black habits instead of the white garments with a maroon scapular. These "lay" sisters were not bound to stay within the cloister and could leave the monastery for business needs.

were able to become certified as educators and thus become eligible to draw public school salaries for four months each year as part of the "Community System". In this way they could save their earnings for future buildings.

Then in 1882, three Sisters left Victoria to make the fifth foundation in Texas in Hallettsville; this foundation was transferred to San Antonio in 1926. The Sisters continue to serve in Sacred Heart School in Hallettsville and in the San Antonio foundation. By then, the order was well established in the New World.

For more information 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*.



REMEMBERING THE UNBORN—The Knights of Columbus Port Lavaca council sponsored a Rosary for the Unborn on May 1. Attending were Father Peter Dery, members from the Knights of Columbus, Catholic Daughters of the Americas, Catholic school students, and staff. Pictured is the Memorial to the Unborn, which the KCs donated to the parish some years ago.

STJ Winners in Math and Computer Science

Several students from St. Joseph High School participated in the UHV/VC Math and Computer Science Awareness Day celebration April 3, 2012, in conjunction with Math and Computer Science Contests, robotics demonstrations, and a Game Show Competition utilizing their math and computer science skills. The team of Johanna Hoang, Jaclyn Boozalis, Theo Boozalis, and Hannah Boozalis placed second in the Game Show Competition. The team of David Du, Christian Wenske, Luke Wenske, and Ian Mead placed second in the Math Contest. Christian Wenske was third high individual. David Du was second high individual. This team also placed third in the Computer Science Contest. David Du was third high individual overall in this contest. David won over \$1,400 in scholarships and Christian won over \$1,200 in scholarships. Johanna Hoang and David Du were chosen to be on the six-member robotics team. These students competed against over 100 other students from surrounding area high schools.

Youth Calendar of Events

- June 10 - 12—Camp David - Jr. High Camp (Session One) at the Renewal Center
- June 13—Camp David - Elementary Day Camp at the Renewal Center
- June 13 - 15—Camp David - Jr. High Camp (Session Two) at the Renewal Center
- June 25 - 28—D-Week - Renewal Center
- June 30 - July 8—Rocky Mountain High Retreat in Pagosa Springs, Colorado

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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



CDA CONTEST WINNERS—Catholic Daughters of the Americas, Mary Queen of Snows No. 1588 Court from Columbus, award St. Anthony School students first, second, and third place positions for their annual Education Contest. This year's themes were, "Planting Seeds of Faith" and/or "Inspiring Others to Grow". Students were able to submit entries in: essay, poetry, photography, computer art, poster art, and music. The first place winners advanced to the state level competition. Two of these winners, Elana Cantu, 4th grade computer art, and Brock Schobel, 4th grade essay, advanced to national competition. Pictured above are all contestant winners, front 1-r: Bryn Kunz, Brock Schobel, Lauren Beane, Tyler Pelts; 2nd row: Luke Warschak, Paige Pavlu, Rebecca Boulware, Kristen Walla, Elena Cantu; 3rd row: CDA Education Chairperson Susan Peletz, Isabel Theut, Nicolas Frischknecht, Daniel Cantu, Marcus Olivarez, Addy Jo Hastedt, and Principal John O'Leary. Not pictured is Skye Faldyn.



JCDA #206 VISITS JARESH GRAVE—The Yoakum Junior Catholic Daughters, family members and directors, Desiree Muenich and Jennifer Jahn, recently visited and prayed at the grave of Anna Jaresch at the St. Joseph Catholic Cemetery on March 23rd and placed pink roses on her grave. Anna died on January 6, 1892, at the young age of fifteen. Many flowers and other mementos adorn her grave as it is one of the most visited. The JCDA members were given information on Anna's life earlier at their monthly meeting. They learned that she was a very devoted and holy child of God who yearned to receive the Holy Eucharist often and was a person of extraordinary saintliness. Many today visit her grave asking her to intercede before God with their problems and many are receiving answers to their prayers. Anna's parents were Lorence and Marie (Migl) Jaresch and resided near the Sweet Home Community.

Adorers Needed

The Adoration Chapel at St. Mary Parish in Victoria has openings for adorers on Mondays 8 - 9 a.m. and Tuesdays 9 - 10 a.m. If you would like to volunteer as an adorer, please call Cleo Boldt at 573-6161 or the parish at 573-4328. Thank you.

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(left) Bishop David Fellhauer blesses Tory Kitchens and the ground on which her home is currently being built.

(below) CDA chairmen and deputies raise a wall on the 5th Habitat State Build home.



Raising Walls, Voices, and Hope!

By Terrie Vacek
TX CDA Public Relations Chair

Catholic Daughters from 23 courts around Texas gathered at 3601 Swan Drive, Victoria, Texas, raising voices in song and praise before raising the walls of the 5th Habitat State Build. The Catholic Daughters of the Americas Texas State Court have also sponsored builds in Corpus Christi, 2004; Wichita Falls, 2007; Mexico 2008, and Eagle Lake, 2011.

With donations from numerous organizations, businesses, and volunteers, Texas CDA members, in partnership with Golden Crescent Habitat for Humanity Victoria, will construct the Habitat home for Tory Kitchens and her three sons. Scheduled build days were each Friday and Saturday through mid-May when the licensed subcontractors took over with sheetrock, cabinets, flooring, electrical, and plumbing. Volunteers from across Texas will continue to work through to completion and plan to celebrate the dedication Thursday, June 14, at 2:00 p.m. *Soul Surfer* Bethany Hamilton will be on hand helping.

CDA State Chaplain Reverend Most Honorable Bishop David Fellhauer presided over the blessing of the ground, volunteers, materials, and new homeowner Tory Kitchens. Cynthia Staley, Golden Crescent executive director, commented, "Look at the Scripture your State Regent has selected for your t-shirt Ecclesiastes 12:11; with each nail hammered, understand that God is prodding us to live well; it's for Tory and for our Divine Carpenter." Staley added that the passion Tory has for Habitat is evident in the many hours she has already invested on two prior homes. She

and her eldest son will provide a minimum of 350 sweat hours on her new home and will even use her vacation time with a hammer in her hand!

State Regent Carolyn Malik of Shiner stated that, "This is a very special build for Texas. It is the anniversary build in honor of the Texas State Court's 95th Anniversary." Terrie Vacek, state public relations chairmen of Willis told the group that, "Like the foundation of this home, CDA members for the past ten decades have laid the foundation of our order, holding firmly the rise of service and the banner of respect and dignity for all mankind."

Those gathered cheered when a letter from State Clergy Consultant Reverend Donald Ruppert, East Bernard, was read, "Texas CDA members will soon out-do National CDA Habitat builds!"

Also in attendance were Immediate Past National Regent Libby Ramirez, Victoria; Immediate Past State Regent Sheila Martinka, Houston; First Vice State Regent Peggy Rosales, Austin; Second Vice State Regent Eve Trevino, Corpus Christi; State Secretary Rosie Stockwell, Edinburg; and State Treasurer Melodie Brunt, Texarkana. CDA State Habitat Chairman Janie Rubio and Vice Chair Beatriz Gonzalez, Victoria, did a great job organizing the ceremony. Several state chairmen and district deputies were among those raising the walls and leaving messages of blessings and congratulations on the studs of the Kitchens' new home!

For more information about the Catholic Daughters of the Americas please view the national site at www.catholicdaughters.org, the Texas site at www.texasda.org.

Youth from the Shiner Catholic Schools and the parish religious education program are pictured with a replica of a check for \$1,000, representing donations from their 2012 Lenten project, Juarez Mission School. Pictured, top row on left, is CDA Regent Camille Marek; top right, CDA State Regent Carolyn Malik, both are from CDA Court #1604, Shiner. Youth pictured are, from l. to r., top, Micah Morkovsky and Cole Hybner, and bottom, Reed Yackel and Emily Moeller.



Shiner Students Help Youth in Mexico

SHINER—When CDA State Regent Carolyn Malik issued an appeal for funds from Texas CDA members for Juarez Mission School across the border from El Paso, Texas, her home court, Court St. Paul #1604, Shiner, responded.

The court invited the students of the Shiner Catholic Schools and parish religious education program to join them in an effort to support this long-standing project of the Texas CDA, Escuela Isabel Camandari de Talamaz (better known as Juarez Mission School). They adopted the school as their 2012 Lenten project. The students generously donated their coins (over \$500 worth!) and dollars that resulted in a total of \$843.24. To round out this sum, the members of Court St. Paul

#1604 chipped in an additional \$156.76 bringing the donation to a grand total of \$1,000.00.

As State Regent Carolyn Malik accepted the check on behalf of her court and the Shiner youth she said, "It really makes me feel very Shiner proud!" She added that it will be a privilege to present this check to Brother Angel, administrator of Juarez Mission School.

The funds will be used specifically to purchase desks and classroom supplies for pre-school-age children at the mission school. And even though the young people of Shiner may never have the opportunity to meet their student counterparts in Mexico, they will have the satisfaction of knowing they "made a difference."

Youth office welcomes new director 2012 DSA Kick-off Continues

The chancery office has been searching for a new director for the Office of Youth and Young Adult Ministry since Debbie Vanelli moved in January to head the Family Life Office at Holy Family Parish in Victoria. The chancery office is happy to announce that it has chosen as its new director Wendy Eggert, formerly the assistant director. Wendy had been assistant director since June 2011 and was appointed interim director January 2012; she began working as the director in March of this year. Welcome again, Wendy.

Continuing with our explanation of the diocesan offices that are supported by the Diocesan Services Appeal (DSA) fund, we describe what the Youth and Young Adult Ministry offers to the Diocese of Victoria.

Youth and Young Adult Ministry Services: The role of the office is to serve parishes and adult parish leaders who foster ministry to, with, by, and for youth within their parishes by providing leadership, advocacy, support, information, sharing and resources; to continue to develop and implement a vision for ministry as outlined in the document from the National Conference of Catholic Bishops, *Renewing the Vision, A Framework for Catholic Youth Ministry*; to provide opportunities for

formation and training of adults who work with youth, and opportunities for formation and development of youth leaders; and to serve as a resource for parishes in the areas of youth and young adult ministry.

These goals are accomplished in a variety of ways, such as training youth and adults for work in their home parishes; offering the nationally recognized Youth Ministry Certification Program in collaboration with the Archdiocese of San Antonio offering training and formation opportunities for young people; and offering collaborative ministry opportunities with other pastoral offices of the diocese.

Some of the on-going programs of this office include: Theology of the Body Retreats, Confirmation Retreats (on both the diocesan and parish level), Youth Spectacular, Rocky Mountain High Retreat, Youth Leadership Training, Basic Youth Ministry/Methodology Classes, nationally recognized Youth Ministry Certification Program, Camp David—Junior High Camp, Camp David—Elementary Camp, Region X Youth Conference, National Catholic Youth Conference, N.E.T. (National Evangelization Team) Discipleship Week, and Parish Level National Evangelization Team Retreats.



Wendy Eggert



CDA STATE WINNERS—Catholic Daughters of the Americas members from Court Our Lady Queen of Peace #1374 in El Campo entered the adult education contest. From left to right: Florence Adamitis 2nd place Poetry; Joyce Berkovsky 3rd place Poetry; Carol Turner 1st place Poetry and 2nd place at State; LaDell Janda 1st place Photography and 3rd place at State. This year's themes are "Planting Seeds of Faith" and/or "Inspiring Others to Grow."



CDA STATE WINNER—Sarah Grace Singleton, a 5th-grade student at St. Philip Catholic School in El Campo was recently awarded a certificate and cash prize for her 1st place poetry entry in the state level Catholic Daughters' Education Contest. Her entry will now advance to the national level for competition. Presenting Sarah Grace her award is Regent Donna Merta of Our Lady Queen of Peace Court #1374.



A Job Well Done

Submitted by Christella Alvarez

On Friday, May 4, 2012, a private party was held at the chancery to honor Sister Digna Vela, IWBS. The reception began with a Mass celebrated by the Most Reverend David E. Fellhauer and the Reverend Gary Janak. Guests included family members and chancery staff. Another reception was held for Sister Digna on Tuesday, May 8, at the chancery. Over 100 people from throughout the diocese came to reminisce and celebrate the times they had with Sister through many of the programs, meetings, conferences, and trainings that she provided during 22 years as director of the office of catechetical ministry.

Before leaving on sabbatical, Sister Digna will teach a six-week course on the Gospel of John and the Book of Revelation for the Pastoral Institute beginning Tuesday, August 28, 2012. The course will be offered at the chancery in Victoria and also at Holy Cross, East Bernard, and St. Ann in Point Comfort through distance learning.

She will be attending two separate sabbatical programs. The first will be a ten-week program at the Redemptorist Renewal Center in Tucson, Arizona. The second will be at the St. Joseph Retreat Center near Boston, Massachusetts.

Sister Digna will also be available to offer spiritual direction and directed retreats at the Amor Meus Spirituality Center at Incarnate Word Convent in Victoria.

When asked what she will do next, Sister Digna replies, "I am open to whatever God wants for me." Although this might sound a little unnerving, she continues,

"I tell God that I can't wait to see what surprises he has in-store for me." Smiling and full of joy, Sister continues, "We have such a good God!"



Bishop David Fellhauer with Sister Digna at the private party held at the chancery.



Sister Emilie Eilers (l.) and Sister Carmelita Casso (r.) visit with Sister Digna.



Sister Digna shows the chancery chapel to her family members. From left are Dr. Gary Hagstrom, Colin Smith, Charlotte Martin, Margaret Smith, and Theresa Hagstrom, Sister Digna's cousins from Houston, San Antonio, and Dallas.



Sister Digna's DJ faith sharing group wish her well. From left to right is Belinda Villafranca, Patsy and Norm Huehlefeld, Sylvia Melnar, Alma and Jack Anzaldua.



Bethany Hamilton

Bethany Hamilton (Soul Surfer) coming to Victoria

Golden Crescent Habitat for Humanity will host SOUL SURFER: A Day with Bethany Hamilton, Thursday, June 14, in Victoria.

Surfer Bethany has become a source of inspiration to millions through her story of determination, faith and hope since she was attacked by a 14-foot tiger shark, which bit off her left arm and seemed to end her career as a rising surf star. Bethany's story has been made into a film, Soul Surfer, which debuted as a major theatrical release in 2011.

Victoria Country Club from 11:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.; \$50

Order Tickets: at www.itickets.com

A luncheon hosted at the Victoria Country Club will provide parents as well as children an opportunity to hear Bethany's story from her mother's point of view. Additionally, Bethany will be answering questions and signing autographs at the end of the luncheon.

Faith Family Church at 7:00 p.m.

Order Tickets: at www.itickets.com;

\$25, \$20, \$15, and group rates

Later that evening, Bethany will tell her inspirational story of overcoming a seemingly impossible obstacle at Faith Family Church. Her story serves as encouragement for people of all ages and in all walks of life. A Catholic priest is scheduled to be available to pray and/or offer the sacrament of reconciliation to attending Catholics during the prayer time following Bethany's talk.

An autographed surfboard will be raffled off at Faith Family Church; tickets are \$5 each and can be purchased at the event.

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Father Lawrence Matula celebrates 50 years of priestly ministry

Continued from p. 1

he had cattle and horses. “Daddy tried to make a cowboy out of me,” he said. But he didn’t and Father Matula continued his education and completed his studies for the priesthood at St. John’s Seminary in the San Antonio Diocese.

He was ordained on May 26, 1962, at the San Fernando Cathedral in San Antonio by The Most Rev. Robert E. Lucey, S.T.D., Archbishop of San Antonio. He celebrated his First Solemn Mass at 10 a.m., May 27, 1962, in his hometown church.

As a young man he knew he wanted to become a priest. Father Matula said he was inspired by the kindness of the priests in his parish. He says that “they were so kind and good, they were holy and saintly priests.” Being the only son, it was a struggle for his father to let him enter the seminary.

“Daddy asked many priests’ advice as to what he should do and they practically all told him that he should let go and let him get it out of his system,” he said. It hasn’t gotten out of his system yet. It became more clear to him that he was meant to be a servant of God when he attended a Cursillo in 1961 in Houston. Archbishop Patrick Flores was the chaplain at the retreat and the experience opened Father Matula’s heart to be more in love with Jesus Christ. He feels this was his first experience of being truly evangelized, an experience that has continued to be an influential part in spiritual growth of his person in recent years.

His interest in Hispanic ministry started in the seminary where all the seminarians for the Archdiocese of San Antonio were required to study Spanish. This is what Archbishop Lucey expected for all the seminarians.

Prior to ordination, Father Matula volunteered to work in the summer catechetical program sponsored by the Diocese of Crookston, Minn. This mission consisted of transporting children of the migrant families working the sugar beet fields some 40 miles from the Canadian border to the main center, which was a weekly boarding school provided by the Crookston Diocese. Adult catechesis then took place in the migrant camps. Father Matula did this ministry during the summers of 1958-1961.

Father Matula’s dad was a barber and owner of L.F. Matula’s Barber Shop. Father Matula said it was there that he learned the value of hard work. His first job was a shoe shiner, charging a whole nickel and later increasing it to 10 cents. He said it was ambitious of him taking his business on the streets of Shiner.

Father Matula’s hobbies include photography and printing. He once had an offset miniature printer during his ministry in San Antonio, where he printed parish information.

His desire was to be a missionary in Central America. He says he has come to appreciate the aging and maturity in appreciating the debt of the Eucharist and the unfulfilled expectations of the ministry. He is grateful to have left the city and minister in the rural setting.

Father Matula’s assignments have included the following: Sacred Heart Church, San Antonio 1962-1967; Inner City Apostolate, San Antonio-1967-1969; Cristo Rey Parish, San Antonio-1969-1982; Notre Dame Sabbatical and Holy Land Study Tour-1982-1983; St. Anthony Church, Palacios-1983-1985; and San Roberto Belarmino, El Campo-1985-2012.



Above, Mary and Rob Wilson renew their wedding vows at Cana, where Jesus performed his first miracle. Right, Rob wades in the Sea of Galilee, where many of Jesus’ miracles occurred.

Hopefully not a ‘Once in a Lifetime Experience’

The story of Victorians Holy Land Pilgrimage

Rob and Mary Wilson, members of Our Lady of Victory Cathedral in Victoria, recently made a journey to Israel traveling with Betty Urbanovsky’s Catholic Tour group, which contracted with Inspirational Tours of Houston, Texas. The tour package also subcontracted with Guiding Star Pilgrimages out of Jerusalem; both Inspirational Tours and Guiding Star are Christian Arab outfits with outstanding cultural expertise and roots in the region.

Our group of pilgrims was primarily from the Waco, Texas, area, especially the town of West, Texas.

All of us came with life burdens, questions about our faith, and the origins

of our Christianity. Unlike a typical vacation where we often seek self-centered pastimes, on pilgrimage we often acted selflessly to help and understand one another. It was a blessing getting to know our fellow pilgrims; I wished we had more time to become even better acquainted.

Dianne Friend and Paul Mazoch were our kind and able American tour guides. Our Pastor was Father Anthony Odiong, a dynamic Nigerian priest who serves the Baylor University Parish. Father Anthony said we were all called, here and now, to God’s Country. Amen!

Read and see more photos on *The Catholic Lighthouse* Webpage, page 14.

~ More CDA Winners Awarded ~

Below are listed the Catholic Daughters of the Americas Court #2267 Academic Competition winners for 2012 from Our Lady of the Gulf Catholic School.

Essay Div. II: 1st Place - Hannah Estrada; 2nd Place - Juan Pina; 3rd Place - Benjamin Chen

Essay Div. I: 1st Place - Bailey Mahoney; 2nd Place - Emily Obregon

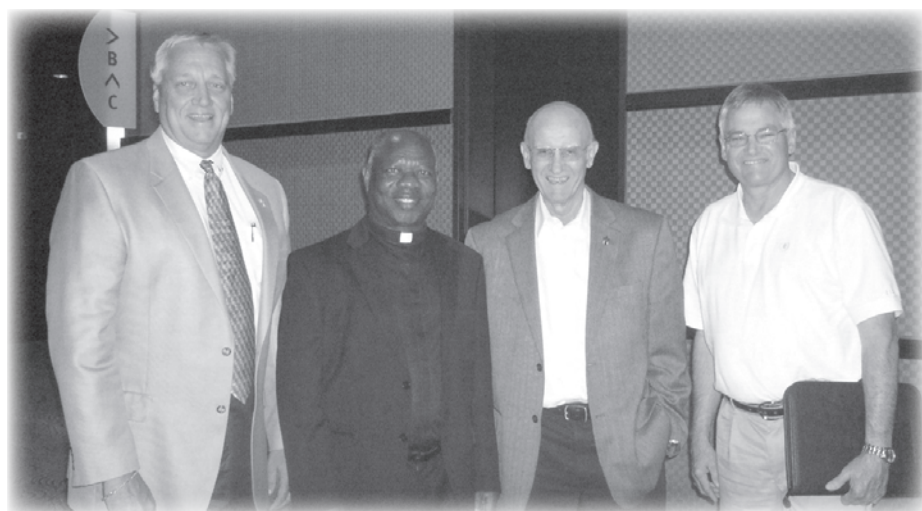
Poetry Div. II: 1st Place - Kaitlin Torres; 2nd Place - Hannah Collins; 3rd Place - Sarah Armstrong

Art Div. II: 1st Place - Gabrielle Anderson; 2nd Place - Reilly Low; 3rd Place - Benjamin Chen

Art Div. I: 1st Place - Erin Dent; 2nd Place - Jenny Pham; 3rd Place - Marissa Crowley



KJZT GIVES LARGE DONATION TO CHRIST’S KITCHEN—Recently, KJZT #101 of Victoria donated \$2,250 to Christ’s Kitchen, which serves hot meals to those in need. KJZT raised the funds through their Annual Bake Sale. Pictured is KJZT member Wendy Hrcncir, Vice President Rosie Olsovsky, Executive Director at Christ’s Kitchen Gene Martin, Treasurer Carolyn Nevlud, and Secretary Irene Brosch. President Evelyn Dierlam was not present.



KC STATE CONVENTION—Pictured above, from left, are Deacon Larry Hoelscher, Father Albert Yankey, and Deacon Jerome Grahmann from St. Philip Parish, El Campo, and Deacon Pat Kubala of St. John, New Taiton. They attended the Texas K of C State Convention Clergy meeting and luncheon on April 27 at the Hilton Americas in Houston.

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St. Joseph High School - bmcardle@STJvictoria.com



Umbert the Unborn by Gary Cangemi





Pictured above at Edward and Merlene Jurek's wedding at the Ellington Field Chapel in Houston 68 years ago are, from left, Merlene's parents, Ovey and Effie Guidry, Merlene and Edward, and Edward's mother, Claudie Jurek, (his father, Valentine, was not present). Picture on left is from 2005.

Flatonja couple to celebrate 68 years of marriage

FLATONIA—Edward and Merlene Jurek, members of Sacred Heart Church in Flatonja, will be celebrating their 68-year wedding anniversary June 17, 2012. They were married in 1944 at the Ellington Field Chapel in Houston and lived in Houston until the early 2000's when they built a house in Flatonja.

Mr. Jurek was born and raised in Moulton. Later, his parents lived on a farm in Praha. His great-great grandparents, Matej

and Terezie Novak, donated the property that the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary Church (St. Mary Church) is built on in Praha.

The Jureks currently attend Sacred Heart Church in Flatonja and are active in the Knights of Columbus and Catholic Daughters of the Americas, as well as several other organizations and a dance club in the Flatonja area.

At the Heart of the Gospel to be June Puzzle Prize

At the Heart of the Gospel (Image Books) is a revolutionary look at the meaning of love and sex in the Christian tradition, presenting a positive vision of human desire as a path toward God, by popular and controversial author Christopher West.

"Theology of the Body" was a series of talks given by Pope John Paul II on the meaning of human love and sexuality in the context of Christian faith, revealing the essential relationship between the desire expressed in human love and the love of God for His people. Over the last 20 years, West has made it his mission to share this message with the world, and *At the Heart of the Gospel* is a summation of that work.

With penetrating insight into the teachings of John Paul II and Benedict XVI, the book demonstrates how the "great mystery" of human sexuality illuminates the entirety of God's plan for human life and gives an effective program for reaching the modern world in the new evangelization.

Christopher West is a research fellow and faculty member of the Theology of the Body Institute. He is also one of the most sought after speakers in the Church today, having delivered more than 1000 public lectures on four continents.

At the Heart of the Gospel: Paperback, \$14.99, Published by IMAGE, A Division of Random House, Inc. and can be purchased online.



MAY CROWNING HONORS MARY AND STUDENTS—St. Philip Catholic School honored our Blessed Virgin Mary with an annual May Crowning ceremony on May 3rd at the 8:30 a.m. Children's Mass. Each student was asked to bring in a flower to be placed near her statue during the processional hymn. These flowers are then delivered to area nursing home patients by the NJHS. An eighth grade student who most exemplifies the qualities of Mary is chosen by the faculty to place a crown on our Blessed Virgin Mary. This year's recipient was Elise Raun. Emily Strnadel and Helena Triska were also selected to escort Elise with this honor.

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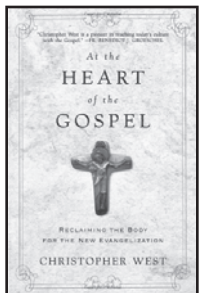
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May Puzzle Contest Winners Announced

The winner of the May puzzle contest and the book "The Catholic Girl's Survival Guide for the Single Years" by Emily Stimpson is Janna Janak of Sacred Heart Parish in Hallettsville. The winner of the children's contest is Angelica Belman (10) of Parish of the Nativity in Eagle Lake. She will receive a gift from Incarnate Word Gift Shop. The winner of the June Puzzle Contest will win *At the Heart of the Gospel - Reclaiming the Body for the New Evangelization* by Christopher West and published by Image Books. Please mail all completed June puzzle forms to arrive in *The Catholic Lighthouse* office, P. O. Box 4070, Victoria, TX 77903 by June 25.

As editor of *The Catholic Lighthouse*, I was disappointed in the low number of contestants vying to win *The Catholic Girl's Survival Guide for the Single Years!* Everyone with a teenage or young adult daughter should have tried to win it for their daughter. Perhaps everyone went directly to the website and purchased it instead. The book is published by Emmaus Road, Steubenville, Ohio, and may be purchased for \$12.95 online at <http://emmausroad.org>. ~ Cynthia Brewer



Victoria Natural Family Planning classes

David and Annie Coffey have scheduled four sets of Natural Family Planning classes to be held throughout the 2012 year. The classes will be held once a month on Sundays from 1 to 3 p.m. at St. Donald's Hall at Holy Family Parish in Victoria.

The schedule is as follows:

• Summer class series: July 15, Aug. 12 and Sept. 9

• Fall class series: Oct. 14, Nov. 11 and Dec. 9

Each set includes an "Intro and Class one", "Class two", and "Class three and completion certificate".

Natural Family Planning is the only Church-approved form of family planning.

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

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August 3-4, 2012 — Port O'Connor Community Center
Fishermen and non-fishermen alike are invited for great fellowship and fun!

Join by either entering a team in the tournament, becoming a sponsor, or donating items for the auction, raffle, or door prizes.



For more information contact:
Bryan Ellis (361) 894-4136; Scott Smejkal (361) 655-2658 or
Dennis Lockstedt (361) 649-0459



Sunday Readings from June 10 to July 8

THE POPE SPEAKS

*Pope
Benedict XVI*



CNS photo from Reuters

Pope deplores 'VatiLeaks' scandal, prays for quake victims

By Cindy Wooden
Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Pope Benedict XVI voiced regret for the turmoil surrounding the recent publication of leaked Vatican documents, but thanked the vast majority of people who work at the Vatican for their dedication and fidelity.

Speaking at the end of his weekly general audience May 30, the pope said much of the media coverage of the leak of private letters and of the arrest May 23 of his personal assistant has been exaggerated and “completely gratuitous, and has gone far beyond the facts, offering an image of the Holy See that does not correspond to reality.”

Pope Benedict said that while the scandal has saddened him, “it has never weakened my firm certainty that, despite human weakness, difficulties and trials, the church is guided by the Holy Spirit and will never be without the Lord’s help to support it in its journey.” He offered “encouragement to my closest collaborators and all those who, each day with fidelity and a spirit of sacrifice and in silence, help me fulfill my ministry.”

The pope also offered his prayers for the people of Italy’s Emilia Romagna region after a second earthquake in nine days caused at least 15 deaths and seri-

ously damaged many buildings, including several churches.

“With my prayers and affection, I am close to the injured and those who are suffering difficulties, and I express my deepest sympathy to the families of those who lost their lives,” the pope said.

The earthquake May 29 brought death when roofs, walls and even church bell towers came crashing down. Hundreds were sent to area hospitals and thousands were left homeless. A quake May 20 had left five people dead and has been blamed for undermining the stability of many of the buildings that fell nine days later.

After the first quake, Pope Benedict sent close to \$125,000 to the region’s dioceses to help them assist victims.

During his main talk during the audience in St. Peter’s Square, Pope Benedict continued his series of talks about prayer in the letters of St. Paul.

With the help of the Holy Spirit, prayer is a personal encounter with God, the pope said. It begins with God’s “yes” to the creatures he loves and should end with the believer’s “Amen,” or yes to God.

God’s love consoles believers in times of tribulation and gives them the strength to console others. Like St. Paul, who

was “afflicted with every type of tribulation,” each Christian should know that there is never a moment when God turns his back or moves away, the pope said.

“Dear brothers and sisters, our lives and our journeys often are marked by difficulty, misunderstandings and suffering -- we all know this -- but through a faithful relationship with God, through constant daily prayer, we can concretely experience the consolation of God. This is a strength of our faith,” he said.

Despite human failings and infidelity, God is always faithful and continually reaches out to each person with love and support, the pope said. “God’s way of acting -- far different from our own -- gives us consolation, strength and hope.”

“There is no one who is not reached by God’s faithful love, which is able to reach even those who continue to respond with a ‘no’ and try to turn their backs on God, he said. “God is waiting for us, is always seeking us out, wants to welcome us into communion, forgive us and give us all fullness of life, hope and peace.”

June 10 — Solemnity of the Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ

Exodus 24:3-8
Psalms 116:12-13, 15-16, 17-18
Hebrews 9:11-15
Mark 14:12-16, 22-26

June 17 — Eleventh Sunday in Ordinary Time

Ezekiel 17:22-24
Psalms 92: 2-3, 13-14, 15-16
2 Corinthians 5:6-10
Mark 4:26-34

June 24 — Solemnity of the Nativity of Saint John the Baptist

Isaiah 49:1-6
Psalms 139:1b-3, 13-14ab, 14c-15
Acts 13:22-26
Luke 1:57-66, 80

July 1 — Thirteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Wisdom 1:13-15; 2:23-24
Psalms 30:2, 4, 5-6, 11, 12, 13
2 Corinthians 8:7, 9, 13-15
Mark 5:21-43

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

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

www.usccb.org/bible/readings

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A father’s role in marriage reassures the young that love is lasting

By John Garvey, CNS

We are now in the parental interregnum — the period between Mother’s Day and Father’s Day.

The modern project to make women and men more or less interchangeable has failed. The difference between the sexes, and the importance of their respective roles in the family, remains alive and well. Yet it is inescapable that the roles of mothers and fathers have changed, even in the most traditional of households. And this is not all bad.

Susan Gregory Thomas wrote recently in The Wall Street Journal on dads as “the new moms.” She reported that according to the U.S. Census Bureau, “32 percent of fathers with working wives routinely care for their children under age 15, up from 26 percent in 2002.”

Children will benefit from fathers who are more involved in parenting. Yet this good trend is colliding with two others that are

both very bad for children. Charles Murray comments on these in his new book “Coming Apart: The State of White America, 1960-2010.”

The first negative trend he identifies is the decline of marriage. It is widely known that about 4 in 10 marriages end in divorce. It is less widely known, he notes, that more and more men have never been married — as of 2010, this was true of nearly one in three working-class white males aged 30-49. Marriages aren’t just failing — they also are failing to materialize.

The other trend, he identifies, is the rise in the number of children living with just one parent. Some of these (22 percent of children among working-class whites in 2010) are the children of divorced or separated parents. Others are children born to unmarried women — a group that grew dramatically over this half-century.

In other words, although dads

are doing better at parenting, they are doing much worse at marriage. The net result is worse for children.

I used to have on my bathroom mirror a saying attributed to Notre Dame’s Father Ted Hesburgh: “The best thing a father can do for his children is to love their mother.” I’m not sure he was the first person to say it, but the fact that it gets attributed to so many people (John Wooden, Abraham Lincoln) is probably a testament to its truth.

A happy marriage sends children important messages that will help them in life. It shows them that they are born out of love — that they are wanted and part of God’s plan. It makes their world a safe place, in which their parents protect them from the arrows and even the pinpricks of adulthood until they come of age. Children in stable families are not like the other young of the animal kingdom, who must live from birth in constant fear of predators.

Finally, stable marriages reassure children that love is lasting — that both parents, and especially the father, will keep the promise to care for them always. Good parents provide a living lesson to their children in how to love others, including most especially the person they eventually marry.

The Second Vatican Council document “Lumen Gentium” called the family the “domestic church,” a phrase that Pope John Paul II continued to use during his papacy. Children learn the faith by word and example, something primarily provided by their parents.

Any good parent can impart this catechesis with heroic effort, but there is no easier or better place to do it than within a loving and stable family. If your mom and dad loved each other, be grateful to them during these days that celebrate motherhood and fatherhood. And commit yourself to showing such love in your domestic church.

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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.

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Special Collections Peter's Pence (Collection for Holy Father)

June 24
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: June 29-July 1, Sept. 7-9 and Nov. 16-18. For more info., call (361) 573-0828 ext. 2230. All registrations are on a first come, first serve basis. Fee must accompany registration form.

Natural Family Planning— It is the only Church-approved form of family planning. For information about the Sympto-Thermal Method in the Victoria area and the NFP class schedules, please contact David and Annie Coffey at victorianfpteachers@yahoo.com. See page 9 for dates.

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 jbvov@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.wme.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** 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://couragec.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. June

East Bernard—Annual Czech Kolache-Klobase Festival June

9 at Riverside Hall from 10:30 a.m. to 11:30 p.m. sponsored by KJT Society No. 40. Admission is \$7 p/p and children 12 and under free. Entertainment indoors and under pavilion with water-fan cooled comfort. Sausage/barbecue-chicken plate lunches available beginning at 11:00 a.m., hamburgers and sausage sandwiches available in the afternoon. Arts/crafts, kiddie games, cakewalk and more family fun. For more information go to www.kkfest.com or call (979) 335-7907.

Yorktown—Renovation Feast at the community hall June 10 with homemade sausage dinner starting at 11:00 a.m. at \$8 p/p. There will also be a country store, silent auction, cakewalk and a live acution starting at noon.

New Taiton—100-year Anniversary Celebration for St. John Nepomucene Church June 10; St. John's is located at 1843 CR 469, New Taiton (outside El Campo). Mass will be celebrated at 8:00 a.m. with Bishop David E. Fellhauer presiding and Father Gabriel Oduro Tawiah concelebrating. A celebration will follow at the Taiton Community Center. A meal with beef and sausage will be served from 10:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Fun for the entire family, auction at 1:00 p.m., music, raffle, bingo, games, rides for kids and much more. All are welcome to celebrate with the parishioners!

St. Mary—St. Mary Parish Picnic June 10 at the parish hall (1648 FM 340). Mass will be celebrated at the church at 9:15 a.m. A stew and sausage dinner begins at 10:30 a.m. at \$7.50 p/p with dine-in or drive-thru available. There will be games, plants, cakewalk, train ride and country store. Hamburgers will be sold in the afternoon. Auction begins at 1:00 p.m. Dance to live music from 10:30 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. with Texas Sound Check, Tony Janak and Red Ravens.

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

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

Hallettsville—A Sacred Heart High School All Alumni Reunion will be held on June 23 at the KC Hall from 3:00-11:00 p.m. Please save this date and make your lodging reservations early. Call Irene Knebel at (361) 798-4942 for more information.

Plum—Sts. Peter and Paul Parish Annual Celebration June 24 (7 miles west of La Grange off Hwy. 71). Mass at 10:00 a.m. will be followed with a fried-chicken and homemade sausage and dressing dinner from 11:00 a.m.-1:30 p.m., at \$8 p/p. The auction begins at 1:30 p.m. There will be games, country store, cake and plant wheel and more. Hamburgers available from 4:30-7:30 p.m. Polka, waltz and country-mix music will be provided during the day and for the free dance from 7:30-10:30 p.m.

Upcoming Events

Dubina—Sts. Cyril and Methodius Parish Picnic July 1 begins with Mass at 8:45 a.m. followed with a fried-chicken and sausage dinner at 11:00 a.m. at \$8 p/p adult and \$4 child's plate. There will be music day and night with Shiner Hobos from 11:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m. followed by Mark Halata and Texavia and Ennis Czech Boys with free dance under the pavilion. There will be games, auction at 1:30 p.m., and much more.

St. John—St. John Annual Parish 4th of July Picnic on the parish grounds (7026 FM 957 - 6 miles SW of Schulenburg). Mass at 9:00 a.m. followed by flag-raising ceremonies at 10:00 a.m. A stew and fried-chicken dinner begins at 10:30 a.m. For more information see page 2.

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. See page 4 for all the details.

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.

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 9.

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

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

Holman—St. Wenceslaus Parish Picnic Sept. 16

Wharton—Holy Family Fall Festival Oct. 20

Charity Golf Tournaments

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, benefiting 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/cmccgolf12.php>

Masses • Retreats • Conferences

Dallas—The 15th annual multi-denominational Dallas Benedictine Experience will take place at The Catholic Conference and Formation Center June 20-23. This monastic experience is open to men and women, laity and clergy, of all denominations. Participants will live on the campus to experience the balanced way of life of the Rule of St. Benedict as it divides each day into private and group prayer, study, work, and leisure. The monastic experience will be led by two extraordinarily talented religious figures, Sister Mary Donald Corcoran, O.S.B. Cam., superior of Transfiguration Monastery (Roman Catholic) in Windsor, New York, and Father Daniel Forsythe, a Byzantine Catholic priest of the Archeparchy of Pittsburgh. Please call (214) 339-8483 (10:00 a.m. - 10:00 p.m. in Dallas) or e-mail heepsence@aol.com for more information.

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.

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



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Diocese of Victoria Catholic High Schools' 2012 Top Graduates

Sacred Heart High
Hallettsville



Emily Kossa
Valedictorian

Parents:
Mike & Linda Kossa

St. Paul High
Shiner



Kali Kocian
Valedictorian

Parents:
James & Laurie Kocian

St. Joseph High
Victoria



Christopher Kyle Mason
Valedictorian

Parents:
John & Gail Mason



Caitlin Orsak
Salutatorian

Parents:
Ronnie & Wanda Orsak



Jacob Coull
Salutatorian

Parents:
Katherine Coull &
David Coull



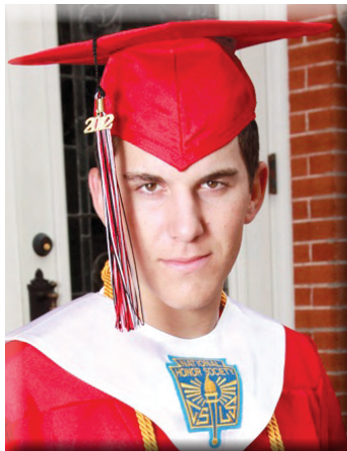
Jaclyn Ann Boozalis
Salutatorian

Parents:
Dr. George & Debbie
Boozalis



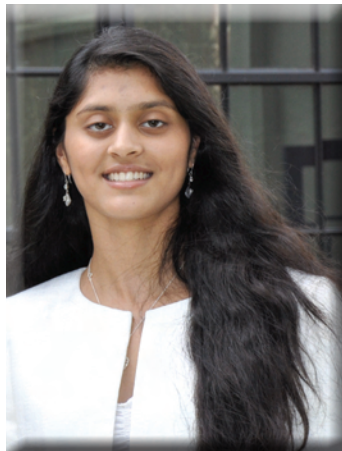
Jared Krischke
Historian

Parents:
Stuart & Joanie Krischke



Brett Hodges
Historian

Parents:
Monty & Nancy Hodges



Pooja Daksheshkumar
Parikh
Historian

Parents:
Dr. Dakshesh & Namrita
Parikh



Kailyn Malaer
Parents: Brian and Balinda

SHS student receives State Recognition from Duke TIP

HALLETTSVILLE—The Duke University Talent Identification Program's (Duke TIP) 7th Grade Talent Search identifies students in sixteen states in the Southeast, Midwest, and Southwest who have scored in the 95th percentile on the Iowa Test of Basic Skills. As part of the program, these academically talented students take above-level college entrance exams (SAT or ACT) to learn more about their abilities.

One Sacred Heart Catholic School 7th grade student, Kailyn Malaer attended the 2012 Texas Recognition Ceremony honoring students in the 7th Grade Talent

Search with high SAT or ACT scores. The ceremony was held at Trinity University in San Antonio. The State Recognition Ceremony honored seventh graders who have earned scores equal to or better than half the college-bound seniors who took the tests. This year, of the 77,106 participants nationally, 25,328 students (37%) have been invited to attend State Recognition Ceremonies.

The Duke TIP is a non-profit educational organization that is recognized as a leader in identifying and serving the educational needs of academically gifted youth.



OLV PSIA STATE MEDALISTS—Our Lady of Victory School, Victoria, competed at the 2012 Private Schools Interscholastic Association (PSIA) State Meet held April 28 at Texas Christian University in Fort Worth. State medalists were (front row, l. to r.): sixth grader Kelsey Ellett, 3rd place Maps, Graphs & Charts; sixth grader Alisa Novosad, 5th place Poetry Interpretation; sixth grader Alex Corpuz, 3rd place Spelling and 5th place On-Site Drawing; (Middle Row): fifth grader Pranav Jain, 6th place Music Memory; third grader Andres Ramos, 5th place Music Memory; fifth grader Seth Theriot, 6th place tie Listening Skills and Spelling; sixth grader Shubham Kathpalia, 3rd place Number Sense; (back row): sixth grader Logan Rivera, 6th place tie Science; eighth grader Joel Stevens, 6th place On-Site Drawing; and eighth grader Andrew Bernhard, 3rd place Science and 6th place Number Sense. This year over 130 private schools across Texas competed in the PSIA State Meet. Our Lady of Victory placed 7th in the Junior High Division.

STATE PSIA WINNERS

Three students from St. Rose of Lima Catholic School brought home medals from the state PSIA meet held on May 5 at Texas Christian University in Fort Worth. Pictured are the



St. Rose winners, Regan Lux – 2nd place third grade Ready Writing; Elizabeth Seyl – 2nd place fourth grade Spelling; and Kate James – 2nd place 6th grade Poetry Interpretation. Students advanced to the state meet by placing first or second in their subject area at the district level.



ST. JOSEPH HIGH SCHOOL BAND WINS TROPHY—St. Joseph High School Band continues to establish themselves as one of Texas' finest private high school bands by winning a Superior Concert and Sight-Reading Contest trophy on April 13, 2012. This award, along with the State Marching Band 1st Division trophy won in the fall, gives the STJ band a Sweepstakes for the 2011-2012 school year. The Concert and Sight-Reading competition was sponsored by the Texas Private School Music Educators Association (TPSMEA) and hosted by Strake Jesuit in Houston. The STJ Band is one of an elite few private high school bands in the state to have been awarded TPSMEA Superior, 1st Division ratings for Marching, Concert, and Sight-Reading in Texas during the 2011-2012 school year. The STJ Band performed *Guardians of Liberty* by Paul Murtha, *Knights of Dunvegan* by Richard Meyer, and *A Sailor's Odyssey* by David Bobrowitz. The Sight-Reading competition requires a band to perform a piece they have never seen before accurately after a ten-minute study/instruction period by the director. Judges comments included, "Well prepared, very musical." Director for the STJ Band is Daryl McCulloch. Pictured l. to r. are Clara Allen, Wyatt Fraga, Kyle Winkler, Mark Chavez, Seth Hawes, Christian Culak, Timmy Hubbell, and Katie Gray.



MOMS HONORED BY THEIR KINDERGARTENERS—St. Philip Catholic School Kindergarteners treated their MOMS to a very special Mother's Day Tea on Friday, May 11, which included dessert, making bracelets together, a manicure by the student, and a special video message from each child. Teachers are Mrs. Stephanie Rawlinson and Mrs. Natalie Irby.



ST. ROSE BENEFIT PRESENTATION—St. Augustine KJT Society #129 achievement of new members and completion of required 2011 fraternal policies, programs and activities of the Catholic Union of Texas, The KJT Home Office resulted in receiving a \$400 Matching Grant benefit award. St. Augustine Society utilized the matching grant benefit award by sponsoring a turkey shoot on April 1st benefitting St. Rose Catholic School HVAC Building Fund. The turkey shoot was a success and resulted in net proceeds of \$873.75. Pictured, Society #129 President Matthew Prihoda presents St. Rose School Principal Rosanne E. Gallia, with a check for \$1,300. Surrounded by Society #129 Chaplain Rev. Eddie Winkler (left), St. Rose Pastor Rev. Tim Kosler (right), Treasurer James Prihoda, and St. Rose Students, Irish Gloger, John Vacek, Alyssa Zbranek, Matthew Vecera, Renee Mazoch and Alex Lozano.



ST. JOSEPH KJT JOIN HANDS DAY—The St. Joseph KJT Society met at Twin Pines Nursing Home in Victoria on Friday, May 18 to celebrate Join Hands Day with residents and their families. Members called bingo and provided helping hands to those who needed assistance with finding numbers. Angel food cake and punch were served to all present. Picture above at Twin Pines, l. to r. are Joe Pustka, Lawrence and Barbara Yanta, Irene Brosch, Robert Stryk, Lorna and Donald Dusek; seated: residents Sister Anita Rodriguez, MCSH, and Lydia Pargac. Society members and their families are reminded of Flag Day on June 14th at the Girl Scout Hut, 104 W. River in Victoria. It will be a joint event with the Veterans Council of Victoria.



St. Joseph High School Cheerleaders from left to right are: Hannah Garza, Clara Allen, Jillian Strauss and Ashley Mutchler.

~ St. Joseph High School Cheerleaders Shine ~

The STJ cheerleading squad shines not only on the field, but most importantly, in Christian service to others. This past school year, the STJ cheer squad volunteered over 1,000 hours together in making a difference in the lives of others in the Victoria community. Year-round cheer

practice and Christian service has already begun for the 2012-2013 school year for the STJ cheerleaders. Leading the cheer squad for this season are captains: Jillian Strauss and Clara Allen. Co-captains for this school year are Hannah Garza and Ashley Mutchler.



GIRL SCOUTS RECEIVE RELIGION AWARDS

—Bishop David Fellhauer presented the following girls their Girl Scout Religious Medals at Our Lady of Victory Cathedral recently. Junior Girl Scouts received their "I Live My Faith" medal and Sue Hannah Dahlquest received "God and Family". Cadette Shanna Moore received "God and Church". Brownie Girl Scouts earned the "Family of God" medal. Picture in back row: Emily Rodriguez, Ronni

Reyna, Bishop David Fellhauer, and Dana Malik; middle row: Nicole Reyes, Reagan Mikulec, Lauren Delgado, Realynn Donaho, Sue Hannah Dahlquest and Shana Moore; and front Row: Landry Payne, Emily Martin, Lauren Therlot, Kate Letsinger, Madison Staten, and Hannah Woods. Not Pictured: Kloe Cowan – Family of God; Aubry and Kyra Williams – "Mary, the First Disciple"; and Brianna Trujillo – "God and Family".



Catholic Life Insurance hosted bingo on May 16, 2012, at Stevens Nursing Home. Happily assisting with bingo are JCDA #206 members- Chloe Victor, Ava Muenich, Sophie Jahn, Brittany Moreno, Ella Boswell, Shelby Bordovsky, Brooklin Berger, Hannah Boswell, Julia Fojt and Katelyn Rosales. Leah Muenich and Ben Jahn happily assisted too!

Summer Vacation Prayer

A Child's Prayer

No more homework, no more tests.
No more getting up for school.
No more book reports or studying.
My summer vacation begins today!
I'm so happy and I'm so free.
I want to read and get up late.
I want to ride my bike and swim.
I want to play more with my friends.
Please bless my summer days, dear God.
Keep me safe and happy.

Excerpt from *Loyola Kids Book of Everyday Prayers* by Catherine Odell and Margaret Savitskas (Loyola Press, 2002). Reprinted with permission of Loyola Press. To order copies call 1-800-621-1008 or go to www.loyolapress.com.





Our Pilgrimage to God's Country

Hopefully not just a 'Once in a Lifetime'

By Rob Wilson of Victoria

Rob and Mary Wilson, members of Our Lady of Victory Cathedral in Victoria recently made a journey to Israel. They share their experience here.

If you are finally ready in life for more than just another vacation, as we were, I whole heartedly recommend a trip to "God's Country," Israel. As in all foreign travel plans, be practical: pay attention to actual world events, not just sensationalist headlines; contact the U.S. or Israeli State Departments inquiring about current conditions in order to time your trip for risk reduction, and purchase travel insurance with force majeure clauses. However, don't let fear keep you apart from your rendezvous with faith, in the Holy Land! To see, hear, smell, and taste Israel is to be transported into the land and culture that bred our faith, leavened our Western world, and today continues to bless all of mankind. A relaxing or hedonistic vacation it was not. An invigorating spiritual pilgrimage it is!

My wife, Mary, and I recently made this journey to Israel traveling with Betty Urbanovsky's Catholic Tour group, which contracted with Inspirational Tours of Houston. The tour package also subcontracted with Guiding Star Pilgrimages out of Jerusalem. Both Inspirational Tours, and Guiding Star are Christian Arab outfits with outstanding cultural expertise and roots in the region. Our group of pilgrims was primarily from the Waco, Texas, area, especially the town of West, Texas. All of us came with life burdens, questions about our faith, and the origins of our Christianity. Unlike a typical vacation, where we often seek self-centered pastimes, on pilgrimage we often acted selflessly to help and understand one another. It was a blessing getting to know our fellow pilgrims; I wished we had more time to become even better acquainted.

Dianne Friend and Paul Mazoch were our kind and able American tour guides. Our pastor was Father Anthony Odiong, a dynamic Nigerian priest who serves the Baylor University Parish. Father Anthony said we were all called, here and now, to God's Country. Amen! We are Catholic Christians, but there are many other denominational tours, pilgrimages, and vacation packages available, secular as well as faith based. Remember, all roads lead to Jerusalem!

Of course, we were worried about current events and whether or not it was "safe" to travel to Israel. There are neighborhoods in Honolulu, Hawaii, that are decidedly unsafe to wander into. Nevertheless the Hawaiian people and their authorities work diligently to keep tourists safe in their land. It benefits all. In a similar fashion most Israeli Jews, Christians, and Muslims work together diligently to protect pilgrims in Israel... as it benefits all. Shortly after arriving in Jerusalem we received news that missiles were once again flying in to southwest Israel from Gaza. We were unsettled by the news, though Jerusalem seemed unfazed, and our group never witnessed any direct evidence of war. Oddly enough, I felt very safe in God's Country.

The following is an abbreviated journal of our pilgrimage:

We started our Journey at Houston Intercontinental Airport the evening of March 8, 2012. Departing Houston we flew directly to Frankfurt, Germany, ten hours plus. After we had a significant security screening we caught our connecting four-hour flight to Tel Aviv. Upon leaving the air terminal to board our bus, I was struck by the unusual spicy smell of the local flowers. I was soon to learn that the land was so full of orchards, vineyards, groves, and crops starting to flower, that it

would have been difficult to pin down the source of the aroma. We were introduced to Jeries, our Christian Arab tour guide, and Yasser, our Muslim Arab driver. Both men served our tour faithfully in their respective capacities, and with excellent skills. Jeries was an expert on Biblical history and culture.

March 9th arrival, Tel Aviv, Israel: We had a few detours to describe local history and culture on our way to the inn. Normally I might have absorbed these details but at this point we had been traveling all night and I was grateful to arrive at the Hotel Kfar Maccabiah. It was Friday evening, the start of Shabbat, the Jewish Sabbath. We ate the first of our daily Israeli Kosher banquets. Both breakfast and supper were provided by the tour in this fashion. We bought our own lunches if desired, and wine was extra at the evening meals; usually a better value by the bottle as your fellow pilgrims would often share a glass



(above) Climbing the staircase to Ein Karem, The Church of the Visitation: Rob Wilson (l.), Father Anthony Odiong (Spiritual Director), Paul Mazouch (r.) (tour guide).

(right) Rob and Mary Wilson at the Shepherd's Field, Beit Sahour; the statue is a shepherd holding a lamb.

with you. These banquet-buffets were often attended by local Israelis. Shabbat day supper was raucous as they brought extended families with young children. It very much reminded me of home at family gatherings. Fish, bread, and olives were offered at each meal, cheese with the morning meal only. Exotic salads, casseroles, and meat preparation conformed to Kosher Law, but everything was tasty and lavish, in the Mediterranean style of foods.

The next day, March 10th – 11th: we started our pilgrimage in earnest. We traveled to the ruins of Caesarea along the Mediterranean coast. Caesarea City was a manmade Roman port with Herod's palace, amphitheater, hippodrome, and much more. The Roman Procurator Pilate would have ruled here. The beach sand under the ancient aqueduct, is peppered with time weathered terra cotta potsherds. The coast road to Mt. Carmel travels through tremendously productive farm land with citrus, bananas, almonds, olives, grapes, apples, much of it watered with recycled treated waste water, in purple coded pipe, to drip irrigation. We visit Mt. Carmel where Elijah called on miracles from God. We drive through Haifa, a modern Israeli port city with the presence of many American fortune 500 companies. On to Sephora, Nazareth, and Cana. In the distance Mt. Hermon was still snow covered. Walking up to the restaurant in Nazareth, I notice two Arab carpenters in the middle of making a garage addition to the restaurant

shop. Covered in sawdust, these two sat on the open beams, with their squares, saws, and hammers. These two simple men fit together the roof joists, building something useful and needed. I stare at them, and could not help but think of Joseph's family "building" business that traded here two thousand years ago. In Cana, with Father Anthony's help, I managed to convince my beautiful wife to exchange wedding vows with me again. We buy a commemorative bottle of Cana wine. It was dark when we traveled to Tiberius along the Sea of Galilee to stay at the Hotel Cesar. We will stay the next two nights here. Even though all roads lead to Jerusalem, I regret that the pilgrimage didn't linger here longer. Galilee was green and beautiful this time of year, in full verdant springtime. This is the land where God chose to reveal himself to a very common people in a very uncommon and miraculous way.

The next two days we visit the north shore of the Sea of Galilee, which the locals call Lake Kinneret. We visit the Mount of the Beatitudes (sermon on the mount), with its gorgeous view. We have Mass at the rocky shore of Cephas' (Peter's) Primacy. I ponder with overwhelming gratitude, how God came back to his fishermen apostles to not only forgive, but empower them. Here, I have to wade in this water! We



take a Galilean boat ride and learn to dance to "Hava Nagila", something I hadn't done since grade school, taught by an Israeli exchange teacher. We eat St. Peter's fish, "tilapia", at a shoreside restaurant. We drive to Mt. Tabor (likely the site of the Transfiguration). From the top of Mt. Tabor, we have a beautiful evening view of the fertile Jezreel Valley. Napoleon looked upon this valley once, and called it a "natural invasion route"; Revelation refers to it as the place of "Armageddon".

March 12th : The next morning we go to Tabgha, the site where five loaves and two fish fed thousands. After Tabgha, we drive south to Jerusalem. Enroute, we stop at Yardenit, the outlet of the Jordan River for a Baptismal Mass. Along the route south again I am amazed by the productivity of the land. As the land becomes dryer, vegetable agriculture moves into green houses on both the Israeli and Jordanian shores. God's country is fertile and productive again! On the road through the "West Bank-Judea, & Samaria" we pass through our first Israeli check points. Our bus is boarded by young Israeli

soldiers who look like "Boy Scouts, and Girl Scouts" with locked and loaded M4 Carbines. Some of our group's pilgrims were uncomfortable with this process of showing our passports to young soldiers at check points. As for me, given the area's conflicts, it gave me great comfort, and sort of reminded me of myself long ago when I was a young Marine security guard. I was grateful they were there.

March 12th-17th: the next six nights we will spend in Jerusalem, at the Olive Tree Hotel. This classy Jerusalem hotel also fed us with delicious breakfast and supper banquets. From here we would strike out daily, on the bus or afoot, to visit significant religious and cultural sights closer to Jerusalem. The change in climate was dramatic between the windward-West side of the coastal mountains: forested, and grassy, and the leeward-East side of the coastal mountains: grassy this time of year, but becoming desert quickly with elevation loss. Also the change of elevations was equally dramatic: Jerusalem is approximately 2,800 feet above sea level; Lake Kinneret is 300 feet below sea level; and The Dead Sea is 1,350 feet below sea level. Lake Kinneret, was semi-tropical, the Dead Sea was a desert, and Jerusalem was mountain-temperate. All within a country with less land mass than the Hawaiian Islands. Here are some of the sights that we visited from Jerusalem: Mt. of Olives, Mt. Zion, the Garden of Gethsemane, Ein Kerem, Old Jerusalem, Via Dolorosa, the Western Wall, Israeli national Museum, Yad Vashem-Holocaust Monument, Bethlehem, Bethany, Jericho, the Dead Sea, and others.

Walking the streets of Old Jerusalem is like traveling and bargaining through a different age of Middle Eastern markets. Following the Stations of the Cross on the Via Dolorosa, culminating at Golgotha, the Church of the Holy Sepulcher, was a moving experience, especially for my wife, Mary. Ein Kerem, the Shepherds' Field, and Gethsemane churches were gardens with beautiful vistas. At the Western Wall of the Temple Mount, I prayed, and I felt communion with a Nation coming home. There were many Holy places that when seen in person will profoundly move your soul. For me it was seeing Mt. Moriah - the Temple Mount from the East across the Kidron Valley from atop the giant cemetery, which is the Mt. of Olives. The golden-roofed Dome of The Rock shines in the sun, hauntingly appearing as mankind's beacon of distress... or hope. This beautiful sight will forever be etched in my memory.

Two days prior to our departure from Israel we visited Jericho. For over 120 centuries men have gathered to the springs here in some form of cooperation or civilization. We were welcomed as brothers and sisters to the garden home of Gabriel Khano, the owner of Guiding Star tours. This hospitable, gentle Christian octogenarian fed us bananas and oranges from his garden. He thanked us for having the courage to visit his country, and he informed us that many families here depend on the pilgrim trade for their livelihoods. I paraphrase his comment: "Most of you have been warned by your friends and families not to come to the Holy Land, as it is too dangerous. You came anyway because of your faith." Amen!

Besides being warned about the dangers, another oft heard remark was: "this is a once in a life time trip." I hope this good-hearted advice is false also. With budgeting, thrift, and ingenuity, we intend to go back to God's Country as often as he allows!



Raising Walls, Voices, and Hope!

Additional photos from story on page 6



Jews Without Power, recently published

A book titled, *Jews Without Power*, has just come off the press and is now available both in a printed form and in electronic versions.

The book, *Jews Without Power*, deals with the policies of the American government, the American public and the American Jewish community during the period of the Holocaust. It concentrates on the role played by the American Jewish leadership and sheds a new and more favorable light on the role of the Jewish leadership, and on the many efforts of their organizations to rally support for rescue. The book analyzes the activities of the Jewish organizations against the backdrop of American policy, public opinion and burgeoning antisemitism. It examines the options open to the Jewish leadership and concludes that their area of maneuverability was very limited, but not totally exploited.

Jews Without Power is sure to raise some eyebrows among historians and within the Jewish community. It is commonly accepted today that the United States did little to aid or rescue European Jewry during the Holocaust. Many also blame the American Jewish community for not pressuring the Administration to act for rescue. Almost without exception, Jews interviewed today criticize the United States' passive role and express the sentiment that they would not have "stood idly by" while 6 million of their brethren died. In *Jews Without Power*, Ariel Hurwitz, an historian and expert on the Holocaust, examines the role played by the American Jewish leadership during this crucial period. The social and political environment in which Jews existed was so extraordinarily different from the milieu of today, says Hurwitz, that it is difficult to understand the constraints under which the leadership operated.

Historians who have read the book have written:

"Hurwitz reveals not only breadth and depth in research and use of archival material previously unknown, but an excellent understanding of the complexities of the subject... and describes this all in an exceptional manner... No one has described these circumstances in so masterly a fashion as the author has succeeded in doing."

"Superior scholarship... it reads well and is an interesting presentation."

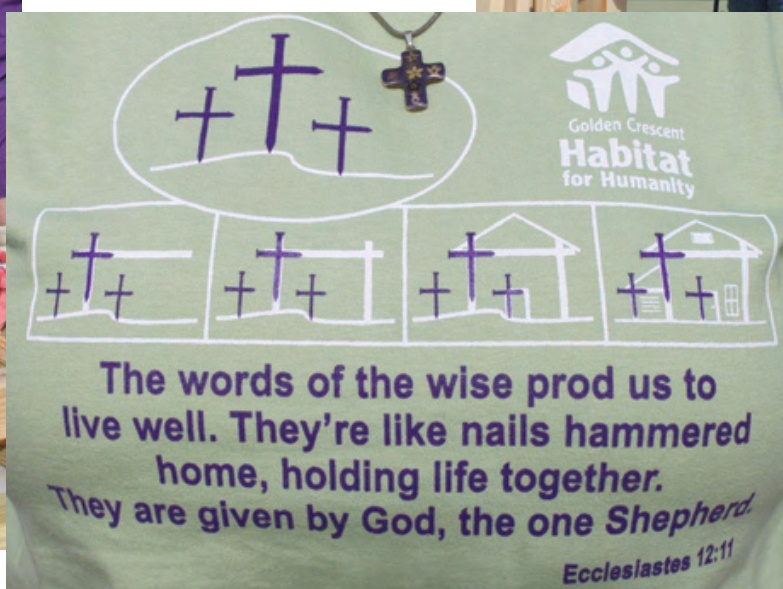
"It is the kind of balanced view that the field needed."

"No one has described these circumstances in so masterly a fashion as the author has succeeded in doing."

"This is a very important work, and it contributes many novel ideas to our understanding of both the Jewish and the American response to the Holocaust."

"Hurwitz's analysis is brilliant... Hurwitz reached important and innovative conclusions."

The book, *Jews Without Power* is available from: Amazon: Book or Kindle; iBooks; Nook (Barnes and Nobles); or Multi-Educator (the Publisher).



Home to be dedicated
June 14 at 10:00 a.m.

