

# The Catholic Lighthouse

The Cradle of Texas Immigration



VOL. 25, NO. 11

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE DIOCESE OF VICTORIA IN TEXAS

March 2012

*Chancery hopes to hear from 8,000 more readers!*

## NOTICE

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### Remember the bishop and the diocese in your prayers

Bishop David E. Fellhauer will be going on his 'ad limina' visit to Rome March 13 - 21, along with the bishops of Texas, Arkansas and Oklahoma; therefore, we ask you to keep him in your prayers. As he will be presenting the diocesan Quinquennial Report to various congregations and offices of the Vatican, please also keep the Diocese of Victoria in your prayers.

### States, women, senators join fight against HHS contraceptive mandate

By Nancy Frazier O'Brien  
Catholic News Service

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Seven states have filed suit against the Department of Health and Human Services' mandate that nearly all health insurance plans cover contraceptives free of charge, saying that it violates religious freedom and leaves "countless additional religious freedoms vulnerable to government intrusion."

Joining the attorneys gen-

eral of Nebraska, South Carolina, Michigan, Texas, Florida, Ohio and Oklahoma in the lawsuit was the Omaha-based Catholic Mutual Group, a self-insurance fund that covers more than 125 dioceses or archdioceses and 200 Catholic religious congregations in the U.S. and Canada.

The latest lawsuit was filed as protests against the HHS mandate mounted. More than 4,500

See *States, women, senators*, p. 10

### Msgr. McLaughlin retires at nearly 81 years

By Cynthia Brewer

Msgr. Thomas C. McLaughlin, Vicar General of the Diocese of Victoria, has tendered his resignation to Bishop David E. Fellhauer effective February 18, 2012, for reasons of age and health.

Msgr. McLaughlin has been the chancellor of the diocese since its inception in 1982; he was judicial vicar from 1982 to 2011; and he has been Vicar General since 1990.

In June of 2011, the chancery office staff honored Msgr.

McLaughlin on his 80th birthday (June 10) and in anticipation of his 55th anniversary of presbyteral ordination to the priesthood, (June 17).

Bishop Fellhauer and 25 priests from the diocese celebrated a Mass of Thanksgiving with Msgr. McLaughlin at Our Lady of Victory Cathedral June 10 at which his nephew, Eunan McLaughlin, attended, representing Monsignor's family of 31 nephews and nieces, who live abroad.



Msgr. McLaughlin

He has spent his entire priestly service in Texas, having been ordained to the priesthood for the Archdiocese of San Antonio on June 17, 1956. He served the Archdiocese of San Antonio 26 years and the Diocese of Victoria 29 1/2 years.

Msgr. McLaughlin thanked the laity and the priests for joining him on the dual celebration in 2011 saying, "I've never seen anything so special; it tells me it's for someone special. Thank you." He concluded his comments saying, "Wherever I go, I'll need your prayers and God's blessings."

Msgr. McLaughlin has retired to Padua Place, 80 Peter Baque Rd., San Antonio, TX 78209-1805.

### Gone at 3:17

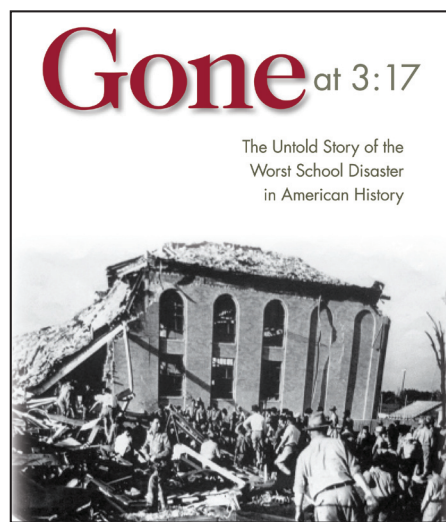
The Untold Story of the Worst School Disaster in American History

By Cynthia Brewer

March 18, 2012, marks the 75th anniversary of the Worst

Sisters of the Holy Family of Nazareth, was scheduled to have its grand opening and blessing

by Bishop Joseph P. Lynch of the Diocese of Dallas on Friday, March 19. However, it opened a day before schedule to receive badly injured children from New London, about 25 miles



School Disaster in American History. However, few people I've asked know anything about it, even though it occurred in New London, Rusk County, Texas, at the height of the oil

boom in East Texas in the 30s and was responsible for the enactment of state and national laws.

In one instant, at 3:17 p.m. on March 18, 1937, minutes before school was to let out, the two-story Junior-Senior High School exploded, the roof rising into the air, and then the school crashing down on its teachers and students, killing nearly 300 children and 14 teachers, about half the school population.

The story is recreated in the factual and riveting book "Gone at 3:17," written by David M. Brown and Michael Wereschagin, just in time for the observance of the 75th anniversary of the tragedy.

New London Junior-Senior High School was a state-of-the-art, million-dollar school, built within a year of the Black Giant Oil Boom that had begun in East Texas in 1931. New London school district was considered the richest rural school district in the nation. But, as United Press reporter Henry McLemore had written March 19, 1937, "... the richest little school district in the world became the poorest."

A natural gas leak had silently and odorlessly filled the 62,500 cubic foot basement of the E-shaped school building, which ignited when shop teacher Lemmie Butler switched on a power switch of an electric sander for a student.

The book takes one's breath away as it recounts stories from survivors and written reports of volunteer rescuers of the chaos and pandemonium that followed the explosion.

The Mother Frances Hospital in Tyler, Texas, operated by the

south of Tyler.

Children were sent to hospitals and clinics in five towns, and the bodies of the dead were housed in morgues and funeral homes in over a dozen surrounding towns. The over 300 children and teachers were buried in 86 different cemeteries, including 19 cemeteries in Oklahoma and Louisiana, as many oilfield workers were originally from out of state.

Within weeks of the tragedy, the Texas Legislature established some of the toughest laws for the building of schools and public structures. It was the New London School disaster that was responsible for the implementation of the law that required a malodorous scent, the rotten-egg smell, to be added to normally odorless natural gas, to allow for the detection of leaks. Since then, this law has been adopted throughout the nation and in many parts of the world.

Walter Cronkite, the longtime newsmen, covered the story at 20 years of age for the United Press. Even decades after having reported from the battles of WWII and the Nuremberg Trials, he said that nothing equaled the awful story of the New London School explosion. Nothing in his education or career had prepared him for what he had experienced in New London, Texas.

Condolences and donations were sent from throughout the United States and even Japan and Britain. The donations contributed to a fund that built a 34-foot tall, Texas granite monument to the children and teachers.

How could so few know anything about such an event?

See *Gone at 3:17*, p. 8





## Bishop Fellhauer's Schedule

### March

- 4** 9:30 a.m., Mass and blessing of renovations of the rectory, St. John the Baptist Church, Ammannsville
- 7** 10:00 a.m., Presbyteral Council meeting, Chancery Office
- 9** St. Michael Church and School, golf tournament, Cuero
- 10** 5:30 p.m., Mass, Girl Scouts Religion Recognition Awards, Our Lady of Victory Cathedral
- 11** 10:30 a.m., Mass, blessing of monument honoring the Sisters of Incarnate Word and Blessed Sacrament, Sacred Heart Church, Hallettsville
- 1:30 p.m., Catholic Knowledge Bowl, Holy Family Church, Victoria
- 13-21** "Ad Limina" Visit, Rome, Italy
- 22** 6:30 p.m., Mother Elizabeth A. Seton Awards, Knights of Columbus Hall, Shiner
- 24** 4:00 p.m., Confirmation Mass, St. John Nepomucene Church, New Taiton
- 25** 11:00 a.m., Living History Memorial Service, Fannin
- 26** 6:30 p.m., Mass, Diocese of Corpus Christi Centennial Jubilee, American Bank Center, Corpus Christi
- ### April
- 1** 9:00 a.m., Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord, Our Lady of Victory Cathedral
- 3** 10:00 a.m., Chrism Mass, Our Lady of Victory Cathedral
- 5** 6:30 p.m., Mass of the Lord's Supper, Our Lady of Victory Cathedral
- 6** 12:15 p.m., Way of the Cross, Holy Trinity Chapel, Silver City
- 7** 8:00 p.m., Easter Vigil, Our Lady of Victory Cathedral

**Chrism Mass - April 3  
OLV Cathedral at 10 a.m.**

**Chancery Office will be closed April 5-9 for the Holy Days and Easter Monday.**

## Local Knights of Columbus Council #2490 Receives International Recognition

EL CAMPO—Knights of Columbus Council #2490 of El Campo, is a Columbian Award winner for the 2010-2011 fraternal year. The award is presented for excellence in the sponsorship of programs that serve the Church, community, families, pro-life and youth – as well as council members.

The announcement was made by Knights of Columbus international headquarters located in New Haven, Connecticut. Alvin Kulcak, Victoria Diocesan Deputy, presented the engraved plaque to the council at the Annual Ladies Night and Awards ceremony on Saturday, January, 21.

Supreme Knight Carl A. Anderson, president of the international organization, in recognizing the local winner, said, "Please accept my sincere congratulations on attaining this prestigious award. The

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

Effective February 13, 2012:

The **Rev. Roger Hawes** is appointed Dean of the Cuero Deanery

The **Rev. Raphael Baidoo, OSST**, is appointed the Cuero Deanery Representative to the Presbyteral Council

The **Rev. Gabriel Espinosa** is appointed Pastor of Our Lady of Mount Carmel Church, Wharton

The **Rev. Dominic Antwi-Boasiako** is relieved of his office as Pastor of Our Lady of Mount Carmel Church, Wharton, while remaining as Pastor of Holy Family Church, Wharton, and St. Joseph Church, Boling

The **Rev. Daniel A. Danso** of the Diocese of Konongo-Mampong, Ghana, West Africa, is appointed Parochial Vicar at Our Lady of Guadalupe Church, Cuero; St. Michael Church, Cuero; Sts. Peter & Paul Church, Meyersville; and St. Aloysius Mission Church, Westhoff.

Effective February 18, 2012, the resignation of **Monsignor Thomas C. McLaughlin** as Vicar General and Chancellor of the Diocese of Victoria, offered for reasons of age and health, is accepted.

Effective February 22, 2012, the **Rev. Gary W. Janak** is appointed Chancellor of the Diocese of Victoria. He remains Pastor of St. Philip the Apostle Church, El Campo.

dedication of the order shown by your council is seen in the high standard of excellence you have achieved. At the same time, I encourage you to carry forward this enthusiasm to meet the challenges that will face the Knights of Columbus in the years ahead. May this award be a reminder and an inspiration to the members of your council to continue to promote the ideals of Columbianism for the good of the Church, your community, and the order."

In accepting the award, Greg Witcher, head of the local council, said "Receiving this award is quite an honor. We're very pleased with this accomplishment."

The Knights of Columbus is the world's largest Catholic lay organization. With more than 1.8 million members in more than 14,000 councils around the world, the Knights of Columbus annually donate over \$154 million and 70 million hours of service to charitable causes. Please visit [www.kofc.org](http://www.kofc.org) for more information.



Alvin Kulcak (r.), Diocesan Deputy of the Victoria Diocese, presents the Columbian Award to Greg Witcher, Grand Knight, on behalf of KC Council 2490, El Campo, for its excellence in the sponsorship of service programs.

## Letter to the Editor

To Whom It May Concern:

Are you a true Christian? Do you try to help those in need?

Subject: Grief

Grief is something that will touch each of us at some time, yet it is probably one of the least discussed subjects talked about or written about.

It affects each of us in a different way, no matter how it affects us, its effect should be treated with respect.

A very wise doctor that has written on the subject says to listen to people, don't tell them not to cry, they need to cry and they need to talk.

Isn't it funny that we don't want to talk to or listen to a grieving person, we are just too busy. Let someone say so and so are living together, getting a divorce, having an affair, pregnant, etc. – we have plenty of time to listen to that and even stop the next person we see to spread the gossip – just can't wait to spread the latest.

Grief is not easy to deal with, but remember you could be next. There is no guidelines, no instructions to follow; it just hits each of us in its own way. Some may need to talk, may repeat the same thing over and over, not even realizing they are doing it. Some may not talk at all, some become a recluse but each person is different as each relationship is. Grief is no one's favorite subject but if you are a true Christian (no matter what church) act like one, show respect and help if you can. Help can be just listening, a hug, being there in whatever way is needed. None

See Letter to the Editor, p. 3

## Thank You Notes

Dear Bishop Fellhauer,  
God give you peace!

I am in receipt of your check in the amount of \$40,628.12 representing the gifts of the people of the Diocese of Victoria to the Jerusalem Mother Church for the 2011 Good Friday collection. This gift will not only assist in the presentation of the Holy Places but will also help the people to whom the Franciscans of the Holy Land Custody minister.

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

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

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

Sincerely and gratefully,  
Bro. Joe Rogenski, O.F.M.  
Commissary of the Holy Land  
St. Louis Region

P.S. Your check arrived at my office the beginning of February 2012.

## DSA & Reflection of Faith Capital Campaign Updates

### 2011 DSA

Diocesan Goal:	\$ 1,471,384.00
Parish Pledge Totals:	\$ 777,954.73
Parish Contribution Totals:	\$ 769,447.73
Number of Parish Families Participating:	3,794

### Reflection of Faith Capital Campaign

Diocesan Goal:	\$ 9,000,000.00
Parish Pledge Totals:	\$ 12,927,404.86
Parish Contribution Totals:	\$ 10,253,726.79
Number of Parish Families Participating:	6,768



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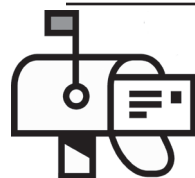
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**DEADLINE IS THE THIRD TUESDAY OF THE PRECEDING MONTH.**



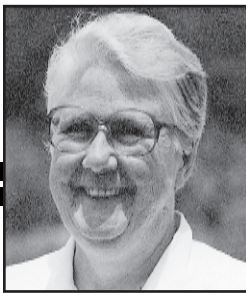
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## SISTERLY THOUGHTS

By Sister Mildred Truchard, IWBS



### More Triumphs and Trials

In spite of earlier hardships experienced before the Sisters arrived in Victoria December 21, 1866, and opened the eagerly-awaited school on January 7, 1867, the Sisters enjoyed success during that first semester. A young woman from New Braunfels had joined them the day they arrived in Victoria and soon another followed. The people of Victoria were most generous in supporting the Sisters and the newly established school, and enrollment steadily climbed. Besides the usual academic curriculum, studies included fine arts such as music, painting, ornamental penmanship and needlework. French was taught and, after a young immigrant woman from Germany entered, German was added to the curriculum.

As the summer vacation ended and the school reopened in September, hopes were high that the success of the previous semester would continue. Alas, sorrow would strike them again. The scourge of yellow fever made its appearance in Victoria that fall (1867). The two young women from Texas who had entered the Convent both succumbed to the illness. Needless to say, their deaths were a severe blow to the school.

However, fortunately for the young foundation, three Sisters from France and two young postulants from Ireland arrived in Texas several months later. At that time land travel was quite challenging, even though some railroads had been built by this time. Let's peek at one of the Sister's diary for an account of their trip from Port Lavaca to Victoria.

"In the afternoon when all was ready, we, in the company of good Bishop Dubuis, boarded a train, on which there were about two dozen other passengers.

The weather was fine; but, since the month was January, we were provided with several woolen blankets as protection against a possible "norther," for we were lightly clad.

"Hardly an hour passed when the "norther" was upon us. In five minutes the temperature had fallen below the freezing point. The train had no stove. Muffling ourselves in our blankets we blessed our kind benefactor (a thoughtful woman who had given bright red blankets to the Sisters who had no knowledge of Texas weather). Soon the train derailed and in doing so scattered the contents of the tinder box on the ground. The gentlemen came to our assistance and escorted us to the baggage car, which had retained its position. Our seats were boxes, barrels, plowshares, and planks. After a night's wait while the men worked on the engine to no purpose, one of the party suggested that we walk to the next station. Bishop Dubuis thought it too much for us. But one of the gentlemen favored the plan; so off we started, plowing through mud and water until we reached our destination, where we rested for hours.

"Late in the afternoon we made another start on the same train, only to experience a repetition of the first accident. However, some of the passengers had gone on ahead to arrange for vehicles (ox-carts) to meet us, and thus we were able to continue our journey to Victoria, where we were met by Father Gardet (the pastor) and a delegation of citizens, who conducted us to the convent, into which we were received with great joy and every kindness by Mother Saint Clare (the first foundress) and the other dear Sisters."

To be continued.

### Letter to the Editor continued

*Continued from p. 2*

of us know what to say, just be there for them. Again, remember grief will knock on your door one day.

Grief hits people so different, when, how long it will last (it lasts forever), some cry easily and often (they can't help it), some don't cry for years, we all cope different and some can't cope at all. Please don't judge them, they are lonely, alone; their heart, life and world are empty, changed forever. Their happy, safe, beautiful world is gone.

You can't imagine what it is like. There is no hand to hold, no shoulder to cry on, no tender touch on your back that says I'm here, I love and support you. Do you realize how sweet and precious it is to have a hand to hold?

I bet you never thought sitting watching TV you were making each other happy and content. Many things you did together, you can't remember because it wasn't what you were doing, it was the fact that you were together – that simple.

You now have memories and a headstone to replace your soul mate, the love of your life – never forget, life is short and we never know how short.

Please show compassion, love, and caring for others who have lost a loved one. If you can touch your loved ones, count your blessings because the day will come when you can no longer do that, then you will know grief.

Anonymous  
Grief grows – it doesn't go away

To the person who sent this, thank you. The writer also included "The Mourner's Bill of Rights" by Alan D. Wolfelt, Ph.D. Due to space restrictions, I will try to print this in another issue. Until then, it and other grief resources by Dr. Wolfelt may be found at: <http://griegtogreatness.com/professionalcommentaries.html>

Also see Grief Group, p. 11.



**KJT PRESENTS 75-YEAR PINS**—Joseph Vyvjala, publisher emeritis of the Schulenburg Sticker newspaper, was recognized for attaining 75 years as a member of the Catholic Union of Texas, the KJT. Joseph is presently a member of St. Wenceslaus, Cyril and Methodius Society #1 in Praha. Brother A. J. Havel of St. Augustine Society #129 in Schulenburg was also recognized for attaining 75 years as a member of the Catholic Union of Texas. District #1 Director Margaret Hanslik presented both Brother Joe Vyvjala and Brother A.J. Havel with diamond-studded KJT logo pins with the 75 years embossed. The KJT Catholic Union of Texas, a Czech fraternal insurance organization was founded and organized at Bluff, Fayette County, Texas, in 1889. The purpose of the union is to contribute to the bodily and spiritual welfare of its members, associates, and families. Pictured, from l. to r., are Father Eddie Winkler, parochial vicar at St. Rose of Lima Parish in Schulenburg; Bernice and A. J. Havel, Joseph and Maxine Vyvjala, and District #1 Director Margaret Hanslik.

### Papal Solutions To Economic Crises: Part II

By Sr. Elizabeth Riebschlaeger, CCVI  
e-mail: [elzrcevi@gmail.com](mailto:elzrcevi@gmail.com)

The sinful tendency of human egocentricity (the "It's all about me" philosophy so popular today) stands in direct opposition to the Spirit of Jesus or Love. Self-centeredness can lead some to cling to their private property to the point of greed. Excessive resources are accumulated and hoarded by the few instead of shared for the Common Good. This is especially true today of natural resources like land for agriculture, water, and clean air for breathing, which God intended to be shared by all. For example, human activity that causes safe water to be available only from water purifying companies in plastic bottles is an abuse of water, a natural resource given to the human family by the Creator for survival. Even water can become a source for greed—an abuse of one of God's gift to all.

The full statement on "socialism" found in the on-line Roman Catholic Encyclopedia states, "Moreover modern Socialism is not a mere arbitrary exercise at state-building, but a deliberate attempt to relieve, on explicit principles, the existing social conditions, which are regarded as intolerable. The great inequalities of human life and opportunity, produced by the excessive concentration of wealth in the hands of a comparatively small section of the community, have been the cause and still are the stimulus of what is called the Socialistic movement. . ." The main point for Catholic Christians is that when we neglect to live out the mandate of Love for those in need without discrimination, and to assure a fair chance at achieving a life in which at least basic human needs are met, we prepare the way for socialism's teachings to take root. Today, as we observe high levels of unemployment with factories closing and families made homeless, executives of these corporations banking millions in salaries, receiving more millions as bonuses, declaring bankruptcy and walking away, the wisdom of Christian social teaching becomes clear.

Pius XII observed with evident justification: "Likewise the national economy, as it is the product of the men who work together in the community of the State, has no other end than to secure without interruption the material conditions in which the individual life of the citizens may fully develop. Where this is secured in a permanent way, a people will be, in a true sense, economically rich, because the general well-being, and consequently the

personal right of all to the use of worldly goods, is thus actuated in conformity with the purpose willed by the Creator." (Cf. AAS 33 (1941) 200)

The Holy Father is referring to the opportunity to work and earn a living wage for all. When systems shut out workers and assure those in executive positions of the profits made by the work of their employees, that system is unjust. But a ray of hope is brought to the marketplace as some newer corporations in our capitalist system operate with an equal share of the profits divided among all in the company: workers, managers, and corporate CEO share equally the ownership and profits of the labor of what they accomplish together.

The popes' observations in their encyclicals over the last century could serve as clear warning signs along the road to the economic crisis we face today, as they repeatedly pointed out practices that violated Christian moral principles and the Love that should motivate relationships among human beings in the marketplace. The fire that transformed the Early Church community in the first century had cooled over the centuries, especially during the rise of monarchies who fought over control of land and wealth, and later, unbridled capitalism, or "capitalism without a conscience", fueled by unrestrained consumerism.

*To Be Continued.*

**Time to Spring Forward  
March 11 @ 2 a.m.**

**Join Us For  
Great Adventures**

~ Mystery Tour ~  
**April 9-16**

~ Imperial Cities ~  
**Prague • Vienna • Budapest  
Sept. 10-20**

~ Rushmore & Badlands ~  
**June 11-20**

**Hawaii • Norwegian Cruise  
Nov. 10-18**

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361.552.2695 or 361.920.3216

### What's Happening in Your Parish?

#### New Band Hall Foundation Started

SHINER—Work has been underway on the Shiner Catholic School campus as contractors poured concrete, recently, for the foundation of the Leo G. and Rita M. Janak Band Hall. The new building will be used by 5th through 12th grade students. The building project is expected to be completed by late spring or early summer.



## 15th Annual Bishop Fellhauer Invitational Golf Tournament is on the horizon

*"Happiness is a long walk with a putter,"* Greg Norman


The Vocations Office, Seminarian Education Fund, and Youth Office, are about to get a much appreciated boost with the help of the Knights of Columbus 9088 at Holy Family in Victoria. These three programs are the benefactors of the 15th annual Bishop Fellhauer Golf Tournament, scheduled for April 13 at Colony Creek Country Club. Monroe Rieger, chairman of the tournament, along with the committee, have been busy preparing for this jam-packed day!

Funds received from this tournament will be used for the vocations office, seminarian education, youth programs and scholarships. Our diocese is blessed to have a very active youth and vocation ministry that works hand in hand to minister more effectively to the young people of the diocese. Unfortunately, due to limited resources, some young people are unable to participate in the various activities without subsidization. The funds from this tournament will help alleviate that situation, as well as provide opportunities for new and innovated programming to be introduced. Past tournaments have allowed these offices to bring in adult formation sessions in human sexuality and sessions in techniques to strengthen the family. They have also made it possible for all high school students' who wished to attend the annual pro-life rally in Austin, to do so. The proceeds of this tournament have helped subsidize funding of an annual boys vocation camp as well as an annual mission trip to an orphanage in Guatemala, and allowed for expansion of our retreat program for confirmation, junior high, and high school students just to name a few of the many projects these funds have supported. In measurable outcomes, the diocese has realized a 300 percent increase in vocations since implementing the various camps and direct contact initiatives.

This year all monies received from our

\$1,000 sponsors (Bishop Level), will be earmarked exclusively for the seminarian education fund. The tremendous increase in seminarians in our diocese necessitates more funds to educate these prospective priests. Please consider becoming a \$1,000 Bishop Level sponsor in the name of one of our eleven seminarians. You may personally choose a seminarian to sponsor or one can be assigned to you (see photos below and sample sponsor poster). Please contact Monroe Rieger at (361) 571-6535

*The (Your Family Name Here) Family from (your city) presents Scott Hill a seminarian studying for the Priesthood for the Diocese of Victoria.*



**Scott Hill**

*In addition to the generous donation, the (Your Family Name Here) Family has pledged their continued prayers and support for one particular seminarian.*

Scott, is from Cat Spring, Texas, located in the northernmost part of our diocese. His home parish is St. Roch, in Mentz, Texas. Scott is in his third year of Theology at St. Mary Seminary in Houston. Next school year will mark his pastoral year, so he will be living and working at St. Anthony of Padua in Palacios.

Sample Sponsorship poster for a Seminarian

with your choice.

There are also other sponsorship levels available. All Deacon Level sponsors and higher will be given first priority to play in the tournament. Sponsor signs will be displayed on the tee boxes and on a large display sign at the main scoreboard. Sponsorships for the tournament are categorized as follows: BISHOP-\$1,000; MONSIGNOR - \$500; PRIEST - \$200; DEACON- \$100; and SEMINARIAN - \$50. If you have any questions, or would like to be a sponsor please contact Monroe Rieger at (361) 571-6535.

## 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 February 27, 2012

	TOTALS
— Rev. Jerome Caponi	
Previously Reported	\$10,000.00
In memory of Rev. Caponi on 3rd anniversary of his death by John J. Marek	<u>1,000.00</u>
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$11,000.00</b>

— CDA #369 St. Ann Burse #2	
Previously Reported	\$8,723.99
In memory of Mildred Vesely by Otto and JoAnn Bleier	<u>25.00</u>
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$8,748.99</b>

— CDA Texas State Court	
Previously Reported	\$320.00
Donation	<u>1,000.00</u>
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$1,320.00</b>

— Rev. Joseph Hybner	
Previously Reported	\$2,506.00
In memory of Bernard Bures by Evelyn Bures	100.00
In memory of Georgia Lyons by Evelyn Bures	50.00
In honor of Rev. Joseph Hybner by Joana Bochat	25.00
In honor of Rev. Joseph Hybner by Henry and Edna Migl	<u>20.00</u>
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$2,701.00</b>

— Knights Of Columbus #1329, Victoria	
Previously Reported	\$11,382.50
In memory of Jose R Trevino by K of C Council #1329	<u>100.00</u>
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$11,482.50</b>

— KJZT, Catholic Family Fraternal of Texas	
Previously Reported	\$13,300.98
In memory of Annie Henke, Anita Kallus, Caroline Polasek, Josephine Janak and Henrie Patek by KJZT Society #2 of Hallettsville	<u>25.00</u>
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$13,325.98</b>

— Rev. Jerome J. Stryk	
Previously Reported	\$14,684.50
In memory of Mildred Vesely by M/M Edwin Stryk	<u>10.00</u>
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$14,694.50</b>

— Elorine Tumlinson	
Previously Reported	\$1,590.00
In memory of Elorine Tumlinson by M/M Donald McDonald	<u>200.00</u>
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$1,790.00</b>

— Frs. Okrulik & Verdarme	
Previously Reported	\$10,522.89
In honor of Alfred Buxkemper by M/M Elroy Brogger	25.00
In honor of John Novak Sr. by Ms. Georgia Jedlicka	<u>10.00</u>
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$10,557.89</b>

— Reverend John C. Peters Burse #5	
Previously Reported	\$3,209.00
In memory of Dr. Michael Moore by Deacon Joey & Mary Targac	25.00
In memory of Emmerlin Dworsky by Leo and Dorothy Henke	10.00
In memory of Henry Jalufka by Jimmy and Barbara Haenel	25.00
In memory of Josephine Janak by Willie Barborak	<u>10.00</u>
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$3,279.00</b>

— Rev. John C. Bily	
Previously Reported	\$9,659.00
In memory of Steve Henneke by Lawrence and Sylvia Addicks	<u>25.00</u>
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$9,684.00</b>

— Rev. Celestino Say	
Previously Reported	\$4,920.00
In memory of Lawrence Vanelli by Margaret and Brenda LeJune	<u>40.00</u>
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$4,960.00</b>

— St. John Church For Rev. Brian Crookes #2	
Previously Reported	\$5,131.00
In memory of Julius Pauler by Gerogia Kalich and Dennis	15.00
In memory of Julius Pauler by Forrest & Ann Dittich	25.00
In memory of George Vasek by Andy and Tammy Besetzny	20.00
In memory of George Vasek by Albert & Dorothy Olsovsky	<u>10.00</u>
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$5,201.00</b>

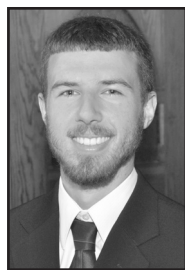
Those wishing to begin a burse or to contribute to an existing seminary burse may do so by sending their contributions with the appropriate burse designation to:

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

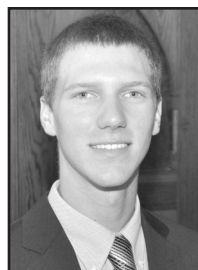
### 2011-2012 Seminarians



Philip Brune



John Dougharty



James Dvorak



Kristopher Fuchs



Scott Hill



Rev. Mr. Patrick Knippenberg



Jacob Koether



Max Landman



Jasper Liggio



Jacob Mendoza



Stephen Vacek

## Growing Up Takes Time

By Jacob Koether  
Parish: Holy Cross, Bay City  
Seminary: St. Mary Seminary  
Theology II

I find it interesting that it takes nine months for a child to develop in its mother's womb and it will take me nine years to become a priest. This parallel speaks of a particular aspect of seminary formation that I've found to be very important. I think it also answers a question that I've encountered more than a few times, "Why does it take seminarians so long to become priests?" If anyone has ever asked themselves this question, the simple answer is: growing up takes time.

When I first began preparing for the priesthood I didn't really have an idea of what I was getting myself into. I thought, "Maybe I'll be praying all the time or maybe I'll be stuck in my room trying to learn what it means to be a good priest." I was pretty clueless. But I think now I'm beginning to realize that seminary is about becoming the man God created me to be. Just as a child grows in the womb,

so my vocation right now is to grow in the 'womb' of the Church.

The academics, the formation meetings, spiritual direction, prayer requirements, and ministry are all helping me develop and mature. I believe that this is one of the greatest gifts the seminary has given me. I've been able to learn about myself, who I am, how I learn, how I teach, and how I communicate. I've also been given the opportunity to spend time with

See *Growing Up Takes Time*, p. 7

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Proudly displaying the state banner at the Texas State CDA 95th Anniversary are, front row, State Youth/JCDA Chairman Terri Beltran, CDA 2nd V-Regent Eve Trevino, CDA State Regent Carolyn Malik, CDA State Treasurer Melody Blunt; back row: State CDA Secretary Rosie Stockwell, 1st V-Regent Peggy Rosales, and National Director Olga Samaniego,

## CDA Texas State Court Celebrates 95th Anniversary

By **Terrie Vacek, State Public Relations Chair**

PORT ISABEL — The Catholic Daughters of the Americas Texas State Court enjoyed the kick-off anniversary celebration of their 95th anniversary hosted by Port Isabel Court #2569 for the dioceses of Corpus Christi and Brownsville. Court Regent Judy Gutierrez welcomed representatives from National, State, and eighteen area courts that gathered in Port Isabel, Texas, to celebrate the bountiful successes over the past 95 years.

Also celebrating the anniversary were Past State Regents - Amy Rueda, 1996-1998, El Paso; Immediate Past National Regent Libby Ramirez, 1998-2000, Victoria; Past National Director Duchess Collins, 2000-2002, Sugar Land; National Director Olga Samaniego, 2005-2007, El Paso; Carolyn Bachmann, 2007-2009, Scotland; Four State Chairmen - Terri Beltran, El Campo; Cathy Bittner, Rosenberg; Rosalinda Gutierrez, Kingsville; Terrie Vacek, Willis; Eight District Deputies - Pat Medina #16, Corpus Christi; Sara Valdez, #21, Mission; Janie Corona, #22, San Benito; Socorro Vicinaiz, #31, Los Fresnos; Iris Hinojosa #43, Benavides; Delma Cantu #47, Odem; Terri Contreras, #50, McAllen; Benita Sanchez, #57, Kingsville; Monsignor Patrick Wells, Port Isabel; and members' husbands.

Rev. James Erving was celebrant for the opening Mass at Our Lady Star of the Sea in Port Isabel. Before leaving the rectory Father Erving was questioned, "Lots and lots and lots of women all dressed in white are going into the church, are they nuns?" He replied, "No, but just as holy!"

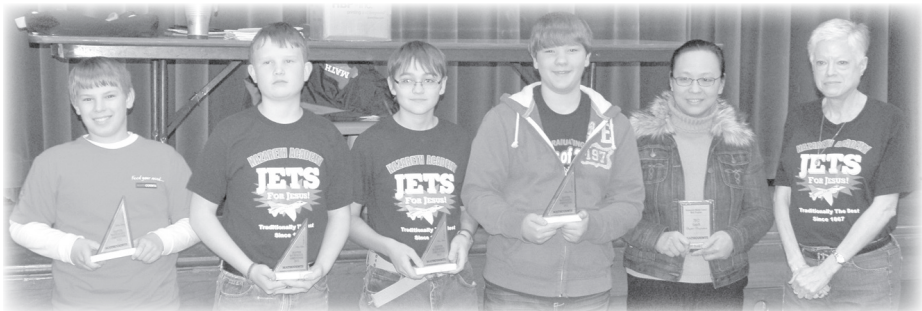
In his homily he stated that, "Even after 95 years, our Father's love for you is a deep profound longing. Through your service

you have known his love for you individually as his precious daughter; 'In love he destined you in adoption to himself'. It's not only about your Martha service; it's about who you are as daughters of the Father. The real gift of CDA is the witness of who you are to men, women and children because of your love. You bring the gift of hope to his people.

"Why is Mary called Blessed? It's because she believed in the promise. Mary's example calls you to know and believe in the promise that he makes to you individually, to your courts, and your ministries. This charism, your vocation, your witness of love, proclaims the divine gift of wisdom, for you are called by name to obey and serve. For 95 years, you have been very generous women and your Father will never be outdone in his generosity to you as you live individually and corporately. I join the Carmelite Nuns with a closing more profound than thank you, 'God Reward You'."

Texas State Senator Eddie Lucio presented State Regent Carolyn Malik, Shiner, with Senate Proclamation No. 24 recognizing the Catholic Daughters of the Americas as an exceptional organization having a profound influence on their communities while practicing the values of faith, hope, and charity, and commends the Texas State Court on their many achievements and dedication for the past 95 years.

Guest Speaker Rev. Gregory Labus in his message on "Spirituality & Service through Unity & Charity" stated that, "Each of us is here as illegal aliens on a temporary visa because heaven is our real home. We're on a road to unity consecrated in truth by love. It's a sacramental love that we are all called to because of the transforming true love of Christ himself."



**NA PLACES 1ST, OLV 2ND, IN REGIONAL MATHCOUNTS COMPETITION**— Nazareth Academy placed 1st in the Regional MathCounts Competition held in the Our Lady of Victory gymnasium February 11, 2012. Other schools competing in the contest were: Cade Middle School, Howell, Patti Welder, Our Lady of Victory, Travis, and Meyersville. Nazareth has placed in the top three in the competition for the past three years, with two of those three years being a 1st place finish (2010 - 1st Place; 2011 - 3rd Place; and 2012 - 1st Place). The final results of this year's competition are: 1st: Nazareth Academy Catholic School; 2nd: Our Lady of Victory Catholic School; and 3rd: Howell Middle School. The top two teams from the Regional Competition, Nazareth and OLV, advance to the State MathCounts Competition to be held in Austin at the Airport Hilton Hotel on Saturday, March 24. Members and coaches of Nazareth Academy MathCounts team are, from left, eighth graders Lucas Kabela, Caleb Gloor, J.T. McLeon, Luke Holub, volunteer parent Mrs. Lily Mo Du, and Jr. High math teacher Mrs. Rose Burkett.

## Youth Calendar of Events

- March 10—Foundations Youth Ministry Class - 9:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m. at the chancery
- March 22—Retreat Formation/Policy and Procedure Session, Goliad, 6-8 p.m.
- March 25—Confirmation Retreat at St. Mary's in Victoria
- April 1—Retreat Formation/Policy and Procedure Session, Columbus, 1-3 p.m.
- April 13—Bishop's Golf Tournament - Colony Creek Country Club, Victoria
- April 19—Retreat Formation/Policy and Procedure Session, OLV Library, 6:30-8:30 p.m.
- April 21—Foundations Youth Ministry Class - 9:00 - 12:00 noon at the chancery
- April 22—Youth Leadership Training (Camp David Planning) at the chancery
- May 5—Foundations Youth Ministry Class - 9:00 - 12:00 noon at the chancery
- May 20—Retreat Formation/Policy and Procedure Session, Holy Family, Victoria
- June 10 - 12—Camp David - (Jr. High Camp) Session One at the Renewal Center
- June 13—Camp David - Elementary Day Camp at the Renewal Center
- June 13 - 15—Camp David - (Jr. High Camp) Session Two at the Renewal Center
- June 25 - 28—D-Week - Renewal Center
- June 30 - July 8—Rocky Mountain High Retreat in Pagosa Springs Colorado

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

For more information contact:

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



Bryana Frazer, of Holy Family Parish in Victoria, accepts the challenge made by Doug Barry to recite the Ten Commandments in less than 30 seconds, but there's a catch – it needs to be in the following order: commandments 10, 8, 6, 4, 2, 9, 7, 5, 3, and 1. Congratulations to Bryana – she won the challenge, answering in under 30 seconds. Eric Genius is in the background.

## 2012 Youth Spectacular hosts RADIX

From 17 parishes within the Diocese of Victoria, over 350 Jr. High and High School youth attended the 2012 Youth Spectacular at the Holy Family Activity Center Sunday, February 19, hosted by the diocesan Youth and Young Adult Ministry office.

The youth were treated to a fantastic day of ministry and challenges from RADIX, the two-man Catholic ministry of Doug Barry and Eric Genius, that has been presenting unforgettable experiences to youth and adults using a variety of means such as drama, music, comedy and history.

The duo teamed up perfectly with the youth office's theme for the Spectacular,

"God Wants You! – Soldiers for Christ," training and challenging the "Soldiers for Christ" to know their Catholic faith by using the teachings of the Seven Sacraments and Ten Commandments. The Youth Leadership team wore camouflage t-shirts to keep the Spectacular in a recruiting and boot camp mood.

Eric Genius, an award-winning virtuoso pianist, performed two songs for the youth and the house band entertained with high-energy music to get the youth involved in the day's "spectacular" theme.

RADIX also shared their ministry with Nazareth Academy and Our Lady of Victory junior high students on Feb. 20.

### Our Lady of Victory School

*National Blue Ribbon School of Excellence*



**2012-2013 New Student Registration  
Pre-K3 through 8th Grade**

**Wednesday, March 7 — OLV Parishioners  
Thursday, March 8 — All Students**

**8:30 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.  
School Office — 1311 E. Mesquite Lane**

**For more information,  
call the school office at 575-5391**

[www.ourladyvictory.org](http://www.ourladyvictory.org)





## HOLY CROSS SCHOOL RAISES \$13,000 WITH CATHOLIC LIFE

**—Holy Cross School in Bay City recently participated, along with 53 other Catholic schools in Texas, in the Fifth Annual Catholic Life Insurance Sweepstakes. The sweepstakes drawing, with all prizes donated by Catholic Life Insurance, is an annual fundraising event with all monies raised going directly and immediately to the school. The school may choose to utilize the money they have raised however they wish, including tuition assistance, or the purchase of new playground or computer equipment. Holy Cross School raised more than \$13,000. The grand-prize winner of the drawing had the choice of a 2012 Ford F-150, a 2012 Ford Fusion, or a \$20,000 prepaid Visa card. Other prizes awarded included four \$2,500 Visa cards, and ten \$1,000 Visa cards. From left to right are student Nathan, Mrs. Stephanie Kucera, principal of Holy Cross School, students Kaley and Taylor, Father Greg Korenek, and Mike Allison, Catholic Life Insurance Agent-representative, who was responsible for bringing the fundraiser to Holy Cross.**



**DONATIONS MADE TO L.A.M.B. IN HALLETTSVILLE—A donation was made to L.A.M.B. (Lavaca Assistance Ministry Body)/Manna Food Pantry on behalf of the Knights of Columbus #2433, Hallettsville. A check for \$1,000 was also presented to L.A.M.B./Manna Food Pantry by Catholic Financial Life St. John's Branch #564. Pictured from left to right are Father John Peters, Jackie Robinson of L.A.M.B., Bill Curley and Frank Janecek, KC members.**



**OVER \$700 DONATED TO THE HUNGRY BY KJZT #53—Recently, Molly Peters and Mary Ann Stock of KJZT Society #53 of Wied, presented Father Kirby Hlavaty, pastor of Sts. Cyril & Methodius Parish in Shiner, with a check for \$710 for the Sts. Cyril & Methodius Assistance Ministry. The funds were proceeds from a bake sale sponsored by Society #53 and matching funds from the state KJZT office.**



**CATHOLIC FINANCIAL LIFE DONATES TO RIGHT TO LIFE—Catholic Financial Life St John's Branch #564 in Hallettsville assisted in collecting and donating to the Right to Life organization in Lavaca County. Presenting the \$500 check to Right to Life treasurer John Butschek is Branch Vice President Kathleen Steinocher; both are from Hallettsville.**



**HOGS GIVING HOPE—Harley Davidson of Victoria donated \$400 to the Gabriel Project from their December 2011 fundraiser. The owners, Tim and Dawn Euton, made this possible by donating \$50 each from the sale of eight Harley Davidsons. Those purchasing Harleys and giving their permission to donate \$50 to the Gabriel Project, which provides assistance to those in need during pregnancy, were Solomon Kahookele, Billy Ham, James Wessels, James Cummins, Darrell Quinney, Nick McGaharan and Leroy Garza. Pictured is Barbara McCain (r.) accepting the \$400 check on behalf of the Gabriel Project. With her, from left, are Harley Davidson employees Emily Gower, Sarah Bixenman and Barbara Gentry.**

## SACRED HEART SENIOR SIGNS WITH INCARNATE WORD

**—Cole Wick (c.), son of Bo and Pam Wick, is a senior at Sacred Heart Catholic High School in Hallettsville. He was voted All Area Tight End, First Team All State Defensive End and Second Team All State Tight End. He also received TAPPS Academic All State. He has always loved football and wanted to continue playing in college. He was told that most of your bigger universities only look at 5-A and 4-A public schools and do not usually give small private school athletes a second look. He continued to attend as many camps as possible to get better. Then two days before national signing day, he was invited to Incarnate Word to an "official visit" and they offered him a scholarship for both football and academics. He signed on high school's National Signing Day and will play football at the University of The Incarnate Word next year. He plans to work on the BBA and MBA five-year program majoring in business administration and then attend law school. He is also on Sacred Heart's basketball team, swim team, track team, golf team, and baseball team. He has gone to state in track in high jump and won first place and to state in swimming, his freshman year and his senior year.**



## JCDA DAY PROCLAIMED IN SHINER

**—Shiner Mayor Henry Hilscher met with Shiner JCDA members Feb. 3, 2012, to sign the Proclamation for National JCDA Day, which was held Sunday, February 19, 2012. This date was observed as the 86th Annual National Junior Catholic Daughters of the Americas Day. Those in attendance for the proclamation signing were, from left to right, Sydney Hermann; Bailey Machacek; State CDA Regent Carolyn Malik; Bethany Nevlud; and Emma Herman. Seated is Mayor Hilscher. The Junior Catholic Daughters organization is for Catholic girls, age 6 through 18; their involvement is Message, Service and Community.**



## SOUPER BOWL OF CARING RAISES FOOD AND MONEY IN POINT COMFORT

**—Confirmation youth from St. Ann's Catholic Church in Point Comfort, a mission of Our Lady of the Gulf Parish in Port Lavaca, helped to recognize the Souper Bowl of Caring at Sunday Mass, February 5, 2012. With the help of the parishioners, they collected \$103.75 and 43 canned goods. The confirmation youth will give the donations to the Calhoun County Food Pantry. The youth, sponsor and pastor shown in the picture are, from left to right, Blake Torres, Father Ty Bazar, Kevin Holdgraf, Mrs. Leah Suarez, and Abby Koenning.**



## Students Donate To Gabriel Project

**SCHULENBURG—In honor of Catholic Schools Week the St. Rose of Lima Early Childhood students in Schulenburg completed the "Bundles of Blessings" service project. For two weeks students collected basic baby care items, blankets, clothes and furniture to benefit the Diocese of Victoria Gabriel Project. The Respect Life Program of the Diocese of Victoria works to instill respect and reverence for all human life, and to bring about a conversion of heart and mind for all to be open to God's special gift of life.**

***Pray for the unborn!***





## Holy Family KC Council #9088 honors members at awards banquet

At the recent Holy Family Knights of Columbus Council #9088 Awards Banquet in Victoria, Otto Bleier was honored as the Knight of the Year and Ed and Carol Lehnert were honored as the Family of the Year. Also honored, was Jerry A. Hajek for his 21 years of service to the Council as Financial Secretary. Knights of the Month and Families of the Quarter were also recognized. Service pins and certificates

District Deputy in the Corpus Christi and Victoria dioceses, and is a member of the Fourth Degree. He is also a member of Victoria Serra Club and the Knights of St. Gregory. He can cook, too, making delicious pancakes and sausage for the breakfast sponsored by the KC council for Holy Family parishioners.



were given to those Knights with many years of membership and service, anywhere from 20 to 65 years.

Otto Bleier, the Knight of the Year, is known throughout the diocese for his culinary skills, serving as chef for many church and community functions, including barbecuing hams, making sausage, and planning, cooking and serving meals. You see him cooking and serving for the diocese, the Sisters of Incarnate Word and Blessed Sacrament, the Serra Club or for a birthday or wedding anniversary. He has served his church and community as eucharistic minister, lector, Grand Knight for Council #9088, District Deputy, Faithful Navigator and Bursar for the 4th Degree. Retirement is not a word in Otto's dictionary.

Ed and Carol Lehnert, the Family of the Year, are also very involved with Holy Family Church. Ed serves as the newsletter editor for K. C. Council #9088; cooks the best chicken-fried steak and fried fish; and is handy at making sponsor posters and advertising flyers for fundraisers such as the Holy Family Festival, the Bishop's Golf Tournament, the Nazareth Fishing Tournament and the Fat Tuesday Fundraiser. His good-natured personality makes you feel welcome. His wife, Carol is the C.C.D. director and a eucharistic minister at Holy Family and a member of the Legion of Mary. Both Ed and Carol participate in the prolife activities.

Jerry Hajek, in addition to his service for 21 years as financial secretary for K. C. Council #9088, has served as Grand Knight for K. C. Councils in several communities,

### Growing Up Takes Time

*Continued from p. 4*

the Lord in prayer and on retreats and grow in knowledge of him through my classes. Through grace, reflection, and a lot of work, I have begun to develop into who I'm meant to be.

And this analogy applies to all of us at the seminary. Whether we're in our early 20s or early 60s, we all need to grow. It includes not only growth in character and maturity but also in our spiritual lives and identity as sons of God.

However, all of this takes time and patience. I can't rush through the process and expect to be sufficiently formed, but rather must be open to growing up. And though I may want to speed up the process, kicking and squirming like a baby does, I have to wait until I'm ready. I have at least three years left until my priestly ordination, which means that I still have room left to grow. (But at least I'm in my last trimester!)

(clockwise) Above: Otto Bleier was honored as the Knight of the Year; Ed and Carol Lehnert (l.) were honored as the Family of the Year; and Jerry Hajek (top) was honored for 21 years of service to the council as financial secretary. All awards were presented by Charles Bluntzer, grand knight.



**KNIGHT OF COLUMBUS CROWN DISTRICT #148 FREE-THROW CHAMPIONS**—Nine boys and girls from El Campo, Louise, and Nada-Garwood, ages 10-14, were named District #148 Champions of the 2012 Knights of Columbus Free Throw Championship. The winners were Kristian Cedillo and Duran Vasquez in the 10-year-old division; Macee Krpec and Jonathon Manzano in the 11-year-old division; Amanda Lutringer and Phil Salazar in the 12-year-old division; Paige Halamiczek and Jase Bill in the 13-year-old division along with Keiona Robinson in the girls' 14-year-old group. Each contestant was allowed 25 free-throw attempts in each contest. Ties were settled by successive rounds of five free throws per contestant until a winner emerged. They earned the right to compete at the diocesan level, which was held at the Sacred Heart School Gym in Hallettsville on Sunday, Feb. 19.

### DIOCESAN FREE THROW WINNERS GO TO STATE

The Knights of Columbus Victoria Diocese Free Throw Contest between district champions was held at Sacred Heart School in Hallettsville, on Sunday, February 19. First place winners in the 10-year-old category are, bottom



row from left: Nicole Hoelscher of Columbus and Henry Holley of Yoakum; 11-year-old category winners are Amanda Mitchon of Moulton and Greyson Munsch of Alleyton, 12-year-old category winners are Kyra Mays of Schulenberg and Jacob Galvan of Blessing; second row, left: 13-year-old category winners are Jesse Berger of Yoakum and Blake Weise of Goliad, 14-year-old category winners are Malori Mitchon of Moulton and Jody Rothbauer of Moulton. Also pictured on the top row, from left, are KC members Philip Webernick, Tom Akin, Don Brown, and Edward Gurecky. First-place winners will go to state competition, which will be held in San Antonio at the Antonian College Preparatory School, March 3.

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361-798-4311



Diane Shimek Cerny Nada/ElCampo  
979-541-6346



Calvin Pfeil, FIC El Campo  
979-543-3868



Bert Kenna, FIC Yoakum  
361-293-9657



Clifton Lau, FIC Victoria  
361-573-3669



Eugene Rehak, FIC Victoria  
361-575-4982



Patrick Klozik, FIC Shiner  
361-594-8160



Charles Leopold, FIC Hallettsville  
361-798-4311



Royce Shimek, FIC Schulenburg  
979-743-4313



Robert Melnar, FIC Victoria  
361-578-2957



Barbara McCain, FIC Victoria  
361-649-1612



Albert Smaistrila, FIC East Bernard  
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Mike Scardino Weimar  
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979-541-7179

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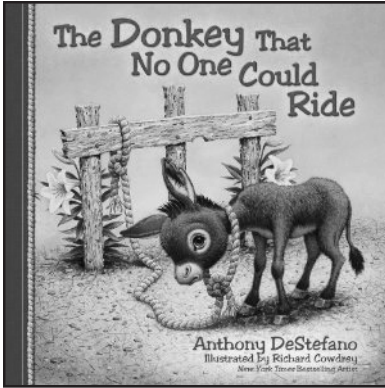
## The Donkey That No One Could Ride

### A Brand New Easter Classic!

### Tell the Easter Bunny to hop aside!

Biblical scholars and theologians agree it was no accident that Jesus chose a lowly donkey to carry him into Jerusalem. But how did the donkey feel about that?

Bestselling author Anthony DeStefano begins his creative telling of the beloved Bible story of Christ's triumphant entry by introducing the young donkey that has yet to realize his important mission. In *The Donkey That No One Could Ride*, the author weaves a tale of the transforming power of faith as seen through the eyes of that familiar yet little-examined donkey. And what a tale it is!!



ing Jesus and learning that all things are possible *if only he believes*. Together, they bring this timeless story of the donkey that carries Jesus into Jerusalem to a joyful finish.

While especially appropriate as an Easter gift, this year-round story is for all time and for young and old alike. Children and adults will be able to relate to this charming story about the ultimate "underdog", and Christians looking for an Easter book that goes beyond chocolate bunnies and dyed eggs will be absolutely thrilled.

The lowly creature believes he can do nothing noble, but that's before he meets the Master...

Then Jesus said to the donkey, "It's time that you knew about the great thing that you're destined to do..." He hears the sad donkey cry, "Just leave me alone and cast me aside. I'm just a poor donkey that no one can ride."

With breath-taking illustrations by New York Times bestselling artist Richard Cowdrey (illustrator of the *Marley and Me* series), DeStefano writes in charming rhymes of a weak and useless donkey whose life is changed forever after meet-

To see a sample of the book, go to *The Catholic Lighthouse* website and click on this link: <http://anthonydestefano.com/1/DTNOCR/DTNOCR-sample-pages-01.htm>

*The Donkey That No One Could Ride* is published by Harvest House Publishers; hardback; 32 pages; 9.1" x 9.1" x 0.4"; list price: is \$15.99, but can be found at [amazon.com](http://amazon.com) for \$10.76.

For a chance at winning a copy of *The Donkey That No One Could Ride*, please send completed puzzle and form to *The Catholic Lighthouse* at P.O. Box 4070, Victoria, TX 77903 by March 28.

## SAINT PATRICK'S DAY

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

N	G	W	P	O	N	I	A	T	I	R	B	F	I	S
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R	K	U	P	K	A	U	H	I	T	T	R	L	G	R
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CELTS  
CROSS  
DRUIDS

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HARP  
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MISSIONARY

MONASTERIES  
PATRON SAINT  
SHAMROCK  
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Age, if 18 or under: \_\_\_\_\_



### "A Baby Book" wins The Manhattan Declaration poetry contest

#### A BABY BOOK

by Heather Spears Kallus

A parishioner of St. Joseph Parish, Inez, Texas

As I slowly turn the pages of my baby book,  
I feel a tear slide down my cheek – I take a closer look.  
I see a mommy full of love, a daddy...so, so proud,  
An echo of my baby heartbeat – strong and very loud.

I close my eyes just to feel their tender warm embrace,  
As they gently trace the tiny features of my baby face.  
I read about my "firsts" – first food, first step, first smile,  
I see a clipping of my hair and pause for just awhile.

Recalling many memories, birthday parties and the fun,  
I almost feel the warmth of my own childhood sun.  
And neatly tucked there in the book...a Mother's Day note,  
One that I remember just exactly what I wrote:

*I love you Mom, I love you Mom, so very, very much,  
I love you more than rainbows, purple unicorns and such.  
I thank you for listening to all I have to say,  
For caring for and loving me every single day.  
Thank you for the life that you gave to me,  
For shaping me, for making me, allowing me to be.  
So, on this Mother's Day, and all the other days, too,  
I'm oh so very thankful God has chosen me for you!*

I put the note back in the book and close my misty eyes,  
The tears are there because I think of every child that dies.  
The tiny little innocents who never have the chance,  
To breathe, to live, to dream, to walk, or even just to dance.

I say a little prayer for all the moms in need,  
When in that moment in the dark, they let the good Lord lead.

I pray that moms will all choose life - their angel deep inside,  
That when in doubt, they will look up, to find their Holy Guide.

I sit in silence breathing in the air - the life around me,  
From "rock-a-bye" to rocking chairs – the gift of life is key.  
My heart is aching for a life today some mommy took,  
I won't cease prayer 'til every unborn has a baby book.

*"Published with the permission of The Manhattan Declaration, a clarion call to Christians to adhere firmly to their convictions in the areas of sanctity of life, traditional marriage, and religious liberty."*

*Heather won first place in the Free Style category of the "Choose Life" poetry contest of The Manhattan Declaration. You can read more of Heather's stories and poems of inspiration at her blog, 'Sips of Sunshine': <http://www.sipsofsunshine.blogspot.com/>*

### February Puzzle contest Winners Announced

The winner of the February contest and the book "Living the Call ~ an Introduction to the Lay Vocation" by Michael Novak and William E. Simon is Mrs. Madeline Migura of Sacred Heart Parish in Hallettsville. The book is published by Encounter Books and may be purchased online at <http://www.encounterbooks.com/>. The winners of the children's contest are Lily Egan (10) from Sts. Cyril & Methodius in Shiner and Anne Matula (8) of St. Philip the Apostle School in El Campo (sent in with class). They each will receive a gift from Incarnate Word Gift Shop. The winner of the March Puzzle Contest will win "The Donkey That No One Could Ride". Please mail all completed March puzzle forms to arrive in *The Catholic Lighthouse* office, P. O. Box 4070, Victoria, TX 77903 by March 28.

### Gone at 3:17 ~ The Untold Story of the Worst School Disaster in American History

*Continued from p. 1*

The authors point to two reasons. Just two months later, the world turned its attention to another big story, the spectacular and well-publicized explosion of the Hindenburg in Lakehurst, New Jersey; and in East Texas, the tragedy of the New London School explosion was so devastating that it became a taboo subject. Some parents lost all of their children. People just didn't want to talk about it. As years went by and the oil boom sputtered, the story went by the wayside.

Fortunately, forty years later, a group of survivors of the school explosion held their first reunion. On the 50th year reunion, Pennsylvania newspaperman David Brown came across the story and decided to preserve it. He spent 25 years researching and

interviewing survivors to get the full story.

The New London Texas School Explosion Museum will commemorate the 75th anniversary by being open Saturday, March 17, and Sunday, March 18, from at least 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Book signings of "Gone at 3:17" by David M. Brown and Michael Wereschagin, published by Potomac Books, and "My Boys and Girls Are in There" by Ron Roselle, will be held on Sunday. The museum is also open M – F from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.; admission \$3 adults, \$1 children.

A Memorial Service will be held at 2 p.m. on Sunday at the High School Auditorium (now named West Rusk County Consolidated ISD). Survivors and representatives from Mother

Frances Hospital will be in attendance. Speakers will include Eric Holleyman, Ph.D. of Baylor Dept. of Religion, and Major Dan Shannon of Ft. Worth will play bagpipes.

The Mother Frances Hospital, 800 E. Dawson, Tyler, will also hold a daylong series of activities Monday, March 19. In addition, to commemorate the anniversary, the hospital just released a video on the New London School Museum; it may be seen at <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RbGY7WGA0B1>.



### What Do Catholics Believe About Lent?

Go to the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops' website [www.foryourmarriage.org](http://www.foryourmarriage.org)

to find out.

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

### Reporting Child Abuse

Hotline  
1-800-252-5400





## THE POPE SPEAKS

Pope Benedict XVI



CNS photo from Reuters

### Lenten ashes are call to repentance, humility, pope says at Mass

By Cindy Wooden  
Catholic News Service

ROME (CNS) — Receiving ashes at the beginning of Lent is a call to repentance and humility and a sign that believers know that death will not have the final word in their lives, Pope Benedict XVI said.

The pope's Ash Wednesday Mass Feb. 22 was preceded by a procession from Rome's Church of St. Anselm to the Church of Santa Sabina. Unlike last year, when Pope Benedict walked the block between the two churches, this year he rode in a golf cart modified to be a mini-popemobile.

Pope Benedict, 84, has been using a mobile platform to process into St. Peter's Basilica since last October. Jesuit Father Federico Lombardi, Vatican spokesman, said then that use of the platform was to help the pope conserve his energy and that Pope Benedict

had no serious health problems.

During Wednesday's Mass, the pope received ashes on his head from retired Slovakian Cardinal Jozef Tomko, the cardinal-priest of Santa Sabina.

Before receiving and distributing ashes, Pope Benedict gave a homily focused on the meaning of ashes and of the admonition from the Book of Genesis, "You are dust and to dust you shall return."

In the Catholic liturgy, ashes are "one of those material signs that bring the cosmos into the liturgy," he said. They recall both the fact that God created human beings out of the dust of the earth and breathed divine life into them, but also that after Adam and Eve sinned, God cursed the ground and made it bring forth thistles and thorns, the pope said.

With their sin, "the dust of the earth no longer recalls the creative gesture of God, completely open

to life, but becomes a sign of the inescapable destiny of death," he said.

While God punishes people for their sins, the pope said, his punishment is "medicinal" because God is good and loving.

"Along with the just punishment, he also intends to announce a path of salvation that passes precisely through the earth, through that dust, that flesh" taken on by Jesus and given up on the cross for the sins of all, he said.

Distributing ashes is "an invitation to repentance, to humility, to remembering one's own moral condition, not in order to end up in desperation, but in order to welcome — precisely in our mortality — the unimaginable nearness of God," the pope said.

While all men and women will die, God "opens the passage to the resurrection (and) to paradise finally rediscovered," he said.

God sent his son "to our earth devastated by sin" so that "we, prodigal sons and daughters, could return repentant and redeemed by his mercy to our true homeland" in heaven, Pope Benedict said.

Santa Sabina is the "station church" for the first day of Lent. The assigning of a Rome church to a set day during Lent goes back to the fourth century when the pope would move around the city, celebrating Mass in different churches during Lent and on holy days as a sign of the unity of all the city's Catholics.

### Sunday Readings from March 4 to Apr. 8

March 4 — Second Sunday of Lent  
Genesis 22:1-2, 9a, 10-13, 15-18  
Psalms 116:10, 15, 16-17, 18-19  
Romans 8:31b-34  
Mark 9:2-10

March 11 — Third Sunday of Lent  
Exodus 20:1-17  
Psalms 19:8, 9, 10, 11  
1 Corinthians 1:22-25  
John 2:2-13-25

March 18 — Fourth Sunday of Lent  
2 Chronicles 36:14-16, 19-23  
Psalms 137:1-2, 3, 4-5, 6  
Ephesians 2:4-10  
John 3:14-21

March 25 — Fifth Sunday of Lent  
Jeremiah 31:31-34  
Psalms 51:3-4, 12-13, 14-15  
Hebrews 5:7-9  
John 12:20-33

April 1 — Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord  
At The Procession With Palms - Gospel  
Mark 11:1-10

At the Mass  
Isaiah 50:4-7  
Psalms 22:8-9, 17-18, 19-20, 23-24  
Philippians 2:6-11  
Mark 15:1-39

#### ~ Sacred Paschal Triduum ~

April 5 — Evening Mass of the Lord's Supper  
Exodus 12:1-8, 11-14  
Psalms 116:12-13, 15-16bc, 17-18  
1 Corinthians 11:23-26  
John 13:1-15

April 6 — Good Friday of the Passion of the Lord  
Isaiah 52:13 — 53:12  
Psalms 31:2, 6, 12-13, 15-16, 17, 25  
Hebrews 4:14-16; 5:7-9  
John 18:1-19; 42

April 7 — Holy Saturday - Vigil in the Holy Night of Easter  
Reading 1  
Genesis 1:1; 2:2  
Psalms 104:1-2, 5-6, 10, 12, 13-14, 24, 35  
Reading 2  
Genesis 22:1-18  
Psalms 16:15, 8, 9-10, 11  
Exodus 14:15 — 15:1  
Reading 3  
Exodus 15:1-2, 3-4, 5-6, 17-18  
Reading 4  
Isaiah 54:5-14  
Psalms 30:2, 4, 5-6, 11-12, 13  
Reading 5  
Isaiah 55:1-11  
Isaiah 12:2-3, 4, 5-6  
Reading 6  
Baruch 3:9-15, 32 — 4:4  
Psalms 19:8, 9, 10, 11  
Ezekiel 36:16-17a, 18-28  
Psalms 42:3, 5; 43:3, 4  
Reading 7  
Romans 6:3-11  
Psalms 118:1-2, 16-17, 22-23  
Epistle  
Mark 16:1-7  
Gospel

April 8 — The Resurrection of the Lord ~ The Mass of Easter Sunday  
Acts 10:34a, 37-43  
Psalms 118:1-2, 16-17, 22-23  
Colossians 3:1-4  
1 Corinthians 5:6b-8

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

[www.usccb.org/bible/readings](http://www.usccb.org/bible/readings)

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

### Journey to the Foot of the Cross: Bishop Ricken Offers 10 Things to Remember for Lent

WASHINGTON — Bishop David L. Ricken of Green Bay, Wisconsin, chairman of the Committee on Evangelization and Catechesis of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB), offers "10 Things to Remember for Lent" as the Church prepares to begin the season with Ash Wednesday on February 22:

**1.) Remember the formula.** The Church does a good job capturing certain truths with easy-to-remember lists and formulas: 10 Commandments, 7 sacraments, 3 persons in the Trinity. For Lent, the Church gives us almost a slogan—Prayer, Fasting and Almsgiving—as the three things we need to work on during the season.

**2.) It's a time of prayer.** Lent is essentially an act of prayer spread out over 40 days. As we pray, we go on a journey, one that hopefully brings us closer to Christ and leaves us changed by the encounter with him.

**3.) It's a time to fast.** With the fasts of Ash Wednesday and Good Friday, meatless Fridays, and our personal disciplines interspersed, Lent is the only time many Catholics these days actually fast. And maybe that's why it gets all the attention. "What are you giving up for Lent? Hotdogs? Beer? Jelly beans?" It's almost a game for some of us, but fasting is actually a form of penance, which helps us turn away from sin and toward Christ.

**4.) It's a time to work on discipline.** The 40 days of Lent are also a good, set time to work on personal discipline in general. Instead of giving something up, it

can be doing something positive. "I'm going to exercise more. I'm going to pray more. I'm going to be nicer to my family, friends and coworkers."

**5.) It's about dying to yourself.** The more serious side of Lenten discipline is that it's about more than self-control — it's about finding aspects of yourself that are less than Christ-like and letting them die. The suffering and death of Christ are foremost on our minds during Lent, and we join in these mysteries by suffering, dying with Christ and being resurrected in a purified form.

**6.) Don't do too much.** It's tempting to make Lent some ambitious period of personal reinvention, but it's best to keep it simple and focused. There's a reason the Church works on these mysteries year after year. We spend our entire lives growing closer to God. Don't try to cram it all in one Lent. That's a recipe for failure.

**7.) Lent reminds us of our weakness.** Of course, even when we set simple goals for ourselves during Lent, we still have trouble keeping them. When we fast, we realize we're all just one meal away from hunger. In both cases, Lent shows us our weakness. This can be painful, but recognizing how helpless we are makes us

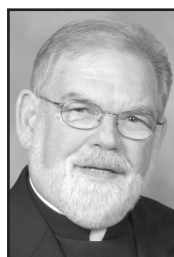
seek God's help with renewed urgency and sincerity.

**8.) Be patient with yourself.** When we're confronted with our own weakness during Lent, the temptation is to get angry and frustrated. "What a bad person I am!" But that's the wrong lesson. God is calling us to be patient and to see ourselves as he does, with unconditional love.

**9.) Reach out in charity.** As we experience weakness and suffering during Lent, we should be renewed in our compassion for those who are hungry, suffering or otherwise in need. The third part of the Lenten formula is almsgiving. It's about more than throwing a few extra dollars in the collection plate; it's about reaching out to others and helping them without question as a way of sharing the experience of God's unconditional love.

**10.) Learn to love like Christ.** Giving of ourselves in the midst of our suffering and self-denial brings us closer to loving like Christ, who suffered and poured himself out unconditionally on the cross for all of us. Lent is a journey through the desert to the foot of the cross on Good Friday, as we seek him out, ask his help, join in his suffering, and learn to love like him.

**NEW TEXAS AUXILIARY BISHOP**—Pope Benedict XVI has named Msgr. George A. Sheltz, who is vicar general, chancellor and moderator of the curia of the Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston, as an auxiliary bishop of the Texas archdiocese. The appointment was announced in Washington Feb. 21 by Archbishop Carlo Maria Vigano, apostolic nuncio to the United States. (CNS photo/courtesy Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston)



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## Bishop Blaire Refutes White House Press Secretary's Claim That Bishops Never Supported Health Care Reform

WASHINGTON—The White House press secretary, Jay Carney, said in a press briefing at the White House on February 13, "...I would simply note with regard to the bishops that they never supported health care reform to begin with..."

"This is not the case," said Bishop Stephen Blaire, chairman of the Committee on Domestic Justice and Human Development for the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB).

"Since 1919, the United States Catholic bishops have supported decent health care for all and government and private action to advance this essential goal," Bishop Blaire said. "Long before the current battles, the Catholic Church was persistently and consistently advocating for this overdue national priority."

## States, women, senators join fight against HHS contraceptive mandate

*Continued from p. 1*

women signed a letter calling on President Obama, HHS Secretary Kathleen Sebelius and Congress "to allow religious institutions and individuals to continue to witness to their faiths in all their fullness."

In addition, 18 U.S. senators asked President Obama to rescind the mandate, saying that its implementation "will unjustly impact religiously affiliated organizations and individuals."

The mandate requires no-cost coverage of all contraceptives approved by Food and Drug Administration, including some that can cause an abortion, as well as sterilizations, as part of preventive health services for women. A narrow religious exemption applies only to those employed by houses of worship.

In a revision announced Feb. 10, Obama said religious employers could decline to cover contraceptives if they were morally opposed to them, but the health insurers that provide their health plans would be required to offer contraceptives free of charge to women who requested such coverage.

The lawsuit by the seven attorneys general, all Republicans, followed earlier suits filed by Belmont Abbey College in North Carolina and Colorado Christian University in Denver; the Eternal Word Television Network in Birmingham, Ala.; and Ave Maria University in Naples, Fla.

In the recent health care debate the USCCB called universal and affordable health care "an urgent national priority and moral imperative." The USCCB's criteria insisted reform should be truly universal, protect human life and conscience and not discriminate against immigrants. "The USCCB opposed the final legislation because it failed this test, a judgment sadly but clearly borne out by the failure of the law and the recent regulation to protect conscience and religious liberty," explained Bishop Blaire.

"I hope those who made or repeated this false statement will correct the record and report the bishops' long and consistent record of support for health care which protects the life, dignity and consciences of all, especially the poor and vulnerable."

"The First Amendment has, for centuries, served as a rampart against government interference with religious liberty," says the brief filed with the U.S. District Court for Nebraska. "The federal government's regulation is an unprecedented invasion of the plaintiffs' First Amendment rights ..."

The open letter from women was organized by Helen Alvare, who teaches law at George Mason University School of Law, and Kim Daniels, former counsel to the Thomas More Law Center, under the banner, Women Speak for Themselves (<http://womenspeakforthemselves.com>).

The letter from 18 Republican senators said the president's revised rule "leaves few viable options for religiously affiliated organizations and individuals to avoid using their funds to pay, directly or indirectly, for services they consider morally objectionable."

Among the options would be to drop health insurance coverage for their employees or to limit hiring only to Catholics in order to fit the administration's "narrow definition of a religious employer," they said.

"Because religiously affiliated hospitals and other organizations are major employers in many communities, ... it is hard to comprehend why this administration would deliberately implement a policy that would have such a detrimental impact," the senators said.

### Forming Consciences for Faithful Citizenship

"Responsible citizenship is a virtue, and participation in political life is a moral obligation" ~ taken from Forming Consciences for Faithful Citizenship. For more information in English and Spanish go to <http://www.usccb.org/issues-and-action/faithful-citizenship/>.



Vary amin'anana from Madagascar: Hot rice served with fresh greens and juicy tomatoes. A dash of ginger makes this a fragrant and delicious dish.

## Simple meals bring families together at Lent

### Lenten Tradition Features International Recipes to Fight Global Hunger

BALTIMORE, MD—For many Catholics in the United States, it is a Lenten tradition to serve simple, meatless meals using recipes featured in Catholic Relief Services' Operation Rice Bowl (ORB). The new experience of tasting authentic flavors from around the world can help families connect with their brothers and sisters in Africa, Asia and Latin America.

"Following the recipes, eating the meals and praying for the communities is a powerful way for families to connect with the idea of fighting hunger," said Joan Rosenhauer, CRS' executive vice president for U.S. Operations.

Using ingredients easily found in grocery stores in the United States, this year's featured recipes are from Madagascar, Vietnam, El Salvador, Zambia and India:

Vary amin'anana from Madagascar—A hot rice dish served with fresh greens and juicy tomatoes. A dash of ginger makes this a fragrant and delicious dish.

Vegetable Spring Rolls from Vietnam—Fresh herbs and vegetables rolled in thin rice paper wrappers. The garlic and wine vinegar dipping sauce is the perfect topping

for this tangy and tasty meal.

Casamiento from El Salvador—Black beans and hot rice seasoned with garlic, onion and bell peppers. Served in one bowl, this is a traditional and hearty Latin American dish.

Ifisashi from Zambia—Hot rice casserole served in a thick, buttery peanut sauce. Collard greens and tomatoes add a garden-fresh flavor to this creamy dish.

Tehri from India—Sautéed vegetables, onion and chili peppers served over hot rice. A splash of cumin and turmeric gives this dish a rich, warm aroma.

Sharing a simple meal is easily expanded beyond the traditional family dinner table to parish groups and schools. With a variety of videos, stories, prayers and lessons offered in the annual ORB materials, the simple meal provides a tangible way to bring people together and confront global poverty and hunger during the season of Lent.

Recipes may be found at <http://orb.crs.org/resources/recipe-landing/>. Please remember to share your monetary savings with ORB in the weekly church collections.

### Holy Father's Intentions

March 2012

**General Intention:** Contribution of Women. That the whole world may recognize the contribution of women to the development of society.

**Missionary Intention:** Persecuted Christians. That the Holy Spirit may grant perseverance to those who suffer discrimination, persecution, or death for the name of Christ, particularly in Asia.

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## El Campo K of C Spring Picnic

Knights of Columbus Council 2490

### Sunday, April 1

at the K of C Hall located at Hwy. 71 and  
Armory Road • 1458 CR 406

A Chicken-Barbecue Dinner \$7.50 p/p  
Dine-in or Drive-thru

Serving from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Entertainment for the family begins at 1:00 p.m.

Games for  
Children

Cakewalk

Auction

Free Dance!  
Music provided by  
The Red Ravens Polka Band



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April 6, 2012



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Holy Land need your help now!



For more information about the Good Friday collection or the work of the Holy Land Franciscans, visit: [www.myfranciscan.org](http://www.myfranciscan.org)





# EVENTS

## Special Collections

### Operation Rice Bowl

All Sundays of Lent and Easter

Catholic Relief Services - March 18

Education of Seminarians (Holy Thursday) - Apr. 5

Holy Land (Good Friday) - Apr. 6

Collection for Home Missions - Apr. 29

### Ongoing Events

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

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

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

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

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

**Engaged Encounter**—Register as soon as you have contacted your pastor due to limited space. *It is strongly recommended that you attend an encounter weekend four to six months prior to your wedding date.* For a registration form, contact your pastor, visit the website at [www.victoriadiocese.org/family/ee.htm](http://www.victoriadiocese.org/family/ee.htm), or write to: Engaged Encounter, P.O. Box 4070, Victoria, Texas 77903. The weekend is held at the Spiritual Renewal Center. The 2012 dates are: 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](mailto:victorianfpteachers@yahoo.com).

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

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

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

**Goliad**—Presidio La Bahia Museum and Visitor Center — a National Historic Landmark — is the only Spanish fort in the possession of the Catholic Church in North America. A tour program is available to groups. The Presidio is open daily from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. and is closed on major holidays. On March 24 and 25, the 27th Annual Goliad Massacre - Fort Defiance Living History Program will be held – Saturday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Candlelight Tours 7 to 9 p.m.; Sunday, following the Massacre Reenactment at 10:00 a.m. there will be a memorial service and a pilgrimage to the Fannin Memorial. Admission is \$4 (ages 12-59); \$3.50 for 60 and older and military personnel and \$1 (ages 6- 11), with children five and younger admitted free. Group rates are available with advance reservations. A re-enactment will be available for school groups with advanced reservations. The fort is handicapped accessible. For more information call (361) 645-3752 or see the website at [www.presidiolabaha.org](http://www.presidiolabaha.org).

### Picnics, Activities, etc. March

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

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

**Schulenburg**—St. Rose Spring Festival March 11 at the KC Hall. A turkey dinner will be served from 10:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at \$8 p/p for adults and \$4 p/p for children. Drive-thru adult plates available only. There will be an auction at 11:30 a.m., cakewalk, music and much more. Proceeds to benefit St. Rose of Lima Church and School.

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

### Golf

**Bay City**—2nd Annual Bay City ACTS Community Golf Tournament will be held on Saturday, April 14, at the well-manicured Rio Colorado Golf Club in Bay City. The tournament will be a four-man scramble event. Registration begins at 7:00 a.m., with a shotgun start at 8:00 a.m. The cost for this event is only \$280 per four-man team. This price includes 18 holes of golf, riding cart, range balls, lunch and refreshments. Some of the side events planned are a 50/50 event, a putting event, tiger drive, closest to the pin, circle shot, long drive and closest to the line. To help us properly plan for this event, please pre-register by contacting Rene Villasana at (979) 476-0054 or Mike Allison at (979) 479-1370.

### Lent

**East Bernard**—Knights of Columbus Annual Fish Fry every Friday night until April 6. Serving catfish filets, fries, hush puppies, cole slaw and beans from 5:30-7:30 p.m. at Riverside Hall with drive-thru and plates-to-go at \$9 p/p; all you can eat (dine-in) at \$10 p/p with children 6-11 at \$4 and under 6 free. Proceeds to benefit scholarships and local charities.

**Victoria**—Our Lady Victory Youth Ministry will be sponsoring fish and shrimp fry dinners on Fridays, March 2 and March 23. The dinners will be served in the cafeteria from 5:00 - 7:00 p.m. for either dine-in or take-out. Dinners include catfish, shrimp, hushpuppies, green beans, coleslaw and Texas toast for \$7 p/p.

### Upcoming Events

**Inez**—Catholic Daughters Court St. Joseph, Protector of Mary Court #2475, will have a games party April 22 from 2:00-5:00 p.m. at the St. Joseph's Parish Hall. A donation of \$7 p/p. There will be door prizes, refreshments and more.

**Yoakum**—St. Ann's Mission "Roof Replacement" kettle-fried steak dinner April 22 at St. Joseph's Family Center. Serving 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at \$7.50 p/p with plates-to-go only. There will be a country store outside. The event is sponsored by KJZT Society #37.

**Victoria**—St. Mary's Altar Society will hold its games party Tues., April 24, at the activity center (401 S. Liberty St.) from 11:30 a.m.-4:00 p.m. Admission is \$7 p/p (includes lunch, and refreshments). There will be a country store, door prizes and more. For reservations, call: Ann Carver at (361) 575-2050 or Martha Hamel at (361) 575-1932.

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

### Masses • Retreats • Conferences

**Victoria**—Amor Meus Lenten Vespers will be held at the Incarnate Word Convent Chapel (1101 N.E. Water St.) on the Sundays of Lent: March 4, 11, 18, 25 and April 1; from 5:00 – 6:00 p.m. Evening Prayer (or Vespers) is an ancient prayer form that predates the Church. It is a gift from our Jewish brothers and sisters. Evening Prayer finds its base in the prayers of the Psalms. This prayer calls us to give praise and thanksgiving to our loving God. This prayer can prepare us for the great feast of Easter. For information, please call (361) 575-7111.

**San Antonio**—Catholic Women's Luncheon – BY POPULAR DEMAND – upcoming luncheon open to men! When Catholic Answers' Sharon Lee Giganti spoke at our Catholic Women's Conference in October, men tried to sneak in to hear her speak!

## Parish Missions with Michael Fonseca

**Yoakum**—God's Embrace Parish Mission at St. Joseph Parish, Wednesday, March 7, from 7-9 p.m.

**Mentz**—God's Embrace Parish Mission at St. Roch Parish, Thursday March 8, from 7-9 p.m.

**Victoria**—March 9, 10, & 11, Friday, Saturday, & Sunday, God's Embrace Weekend Retreat, Spiritual Renewal Center, Registration 5:30; to sign up, please contact [sandyreesefoaj@yahoo.com](mailto:sandyreesefoaj@yahoo.com).

**Diocese of Victoria**—Dates available for parish missions by Michael Fonseca – God's Embrace Renewal Centers Tuesday, May 8; Wednesday, May 9; Thursday, May 10; and Friday, May 11. For more information, please go to [www.GodsEmbrace.net](http://www.GodsEmbrace.net) or contact Sandy Reese at [sandyreesefoaj@yahoo.com](mailto:sandyreesefoaj@yahoo.com)

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

**Indianapolis**—Come & See Weekend with the Sisters of St. Benedict, Ferdinand, Indiana - March 16-18, for single, Catholic women between the ages of 18 to 40. Get to know our Benedictine sisters, share in our community life and prayer, and meet other women who are considering religious life - no pressure, no commitment! For more information or to register online, visit <http://www.thedome.org>, or call Sister Michelle Sinkhorn at 800-734-9999, or e-mail [vocation@thedome.org](mailto:vocation@thedome.org).

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

**Victoria**—Amor Meus Spirituality Center, an outreach Ministry of the Sisters of the Incarnate Word and Blessed Sacrament, will offer a quiet retreat with a Lenten Theme on Saturday, March 31, from 9:30 a.m. -3:30 p.m. Father Daniel Penaud, OMI, will be the presenter. The retreat is open to men and women interested in deepening their love relationship with God. You may purchase a sack lunch for \$5 or bring your own. A love offering is accepted for the day. Please call for reservations (361) 575-7111.

**Victoria**—Single Catholic women (18 through 50 years of age, who are discerning God's call) are invited to attend a "Come and See" weekend at Incarnate Word Convent on March 31-April 1. Please check us out at [www.iwbsvictoria.org](http://www.iwbsvictoria.org) or call (361) 575-7111 or e-mail [iwbsvoc@yahoo.com](mailto:iwbsvoc@yahoo.com) for more details or to make a reservation. We'll be waiting for your response.

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

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

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


**Victoria**—No Healing Mass on April 7. Healing Mass and Prayer at Our Lady of Lourdes Church, 105 N. William St., on the first Saturday of the month at 10:00 a.m. with Father Phi Nguyen, chaplain of IWBS Convent. Mark your calendars now for next month. For more information, please contact Sister Louise Marie Jones at [iwbsvoc2@yahoo.com](mailto:iwbsvoc2@yahoo.com).

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

### Spanish Spiritual Conference

**Port Lavaca**—3er Annual Conferencia Espiritual Con Misa de Sanacion; Sabado, 24 de Marzo; Bauer Community Center, Hwy 35 – By-Pass (Port Lavaca); Las puertas se abren a las 8:00 a.m.; Costo: \$7 por adulto incluye comida; Ninos menores de 10 anos entrada gratis, platillo de su comida a \$3.50; habra snacks y bebidas; patrocinado por el grupo de oración Pan de Vida de la Parroquia Our Lady of the Gulf Catholic Church; Para mas informacion: Joe Carreon; Puesto de articulos religiosos disponibles

**Fifth Annual Catholic Knowledge Bowl**  
The Diocese of Victoria's Fifth Annual Catholic Knowledge Bowl will be held Sunday, March 11 at Holy Family Parish, Victoria Time: 1:30-4:30 p.m. Come and watch. See you there!



## HEAVENLY HELPERS

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The St. Joseph High School Seniors are partnering to sponsor U.S. flags for the Warrior's Weekend Field of Honor. Some of the involved seniors include, from l. to r., Lynann Grumbles, Erin Johnson, Patrick Sohr, Jarret Ortmann, Kelsea Hempel, Stephen Boedeker, Dalton Tucker, and Clayton Reinecke.

## St. Joseph students raise over \$11,000 for Wounded Warriors

St. Joseph High School held a prayer service at the STJ Gymnasium in Victoria on January 24, 2012, honoring those who have served in the U.S. military. This year will mark the 6th celebration of Warrior's

Weekend and the 4th celebration of the Field of Honor. Warrior's Weekend started with 60 soldiers and has grown to host over 500 soldiers, family members, and caregivers at the annual event each May.

This is the second year Warrior's Weekend has partnered with the Senior Class at STJ. Initially 550 flags were placed in the Field of Honor, but since partnering with area high school students and faith-based organizations the result has quadrupled to 2,126 flags. Seventeen STJ Seniors have led the way in garnering sponsorships selling 10 or more flags. STJ Senior Cameron Becker was the top producer with a total of 55 flag sponsorships. Warrior's Weekend believes in future generations and has issued a rebate check of a percentage of the school's sales to STJ in the amount of \$11,320!

The Warrior's Weekend Field of Honor is located at the corner of Mockingbird and Sam Houston and will be held from May 12 to June 3, 2012. The flag posting ceremony will begin at 9 a.m. on May 12. The STJ Senior Class of 2012 invites you to support the Wounded Warriors Weekend and STJ Project Graduation 2012. For more information, please visit <http://www.warriorweekend.org> or contact Colonel (Ret) Michael Petrash at (210) 364-4512 or [michael.petrash@gmail.com](mailto:michael.petrash@gmail.com).



**WINNER OF ST. MARY CHURCH FESTIVAL GRAND PRIZE ANNOUNCED**—Brooke Licerio is the winner of St. Mary 2012 Annual Festival Raffle Grand Prize. She is shown receiving the keys to her new 2011 Toyota Corolla Sport from Gene Adamek, an employee of St. Mary's. We wish her much enjoyment and many happy miles of driving. She accepted the car on Tuesday, February 21, her birthday - a great Happy Birthday present! Congratulations to Brooke!



**KC 2490 FAMILY OF THE YEAR AWARDED**—The Dennis Edwards family received the Family of the Year for the Fraternal Year 2010-2011 for Knights of Columbus Council 2490, El Campo. Left to right are Family Directors Leonard and Marilyn Goerig, family members Zachary Edwards, Matthew Edwards, Gwen Edwards, Dennis Edwards, and Grand Knight Greg Witcher. The family, who attends St. Philip the Apostle Catholic Church, is very active in the church and community. Both sons are active in scouting, youth choir, St. Philip Youth and ACTS. Zachary and his father, Dennis, are members of both the KC Council and Assembly 1131, as well as both being Eagle Scouts, with younger son, Matthew, working on his Eagle Scout designation. Dennis and Zachary are instrumental in maintaining and improving the electrical operations of the local council hall. Gwen is the principal at St. Philip the Apostle Catholic School. She also trains altar servers for the parish.



**ST. JOSEPH IN PORT O'CONNOR MAKES LIFE STATEMENT**—Parishioners from St. Joseph Catholic Church in Port O'Connor made a "Pray for Life" statement using 138 crosses to symbolize the precious lives lost in one hour (the time of an average Sunday Mass). We arrived at 138 abortions an hour by taking the approximate 1.21 million abortions a year as reported by the Guttmacher Institute and dividing by 365 (days) and then dividing by 24 (hours). This demonstration brought a tangible awareness to the community of the magnitude of lives lost to abortion. We continue to pray for life!

## 75th Habitat for Humanity Home built in Victoria

**By Victor Keefe  
K of C Council 9088**

"Shelter the Homeless", is the fourth of the seven Corporal Works of Mercy. "Charity" is the first of the four Principles of the Knights of Columbus. Combine shelter and charity and you may hear "Awesome". That was the one-word comment by Carlos Cantu to describe the scene at the site of his daughter's Habitat for Humanity house under construction at Swan Crossing in Victoria.

On a chilly Saturday morning, while the frost was still heavy on the roof top of Angela Cantu's soon-to-be completed new home, a dedicated team of Angela's co-workers, family members and a couple of dozen volunteers from Holy Family of Joseph, Mary and Jesus Roman Catholic Church of Victoria Knights of Columbus Council 9088, gathered to put the Corporal Work of Mercy and the KC First Principle into action.

Cindy Staley, executive director of Habitat for Humanity in Victoria, welcomed the gang of shivering, but eager-to-get-to-work-and-warm-up, volunteers. Le Anne Welder, Victoria Habitat Construction Volunteers and Family Services Coordinator briefed the crew on "volunteer ground rules". She also mentioned that this house was the

75th constructed by Habitat in Victoria. Larry Lahodny, one of the Knights, offered a prayer for success, safety and thanksgiving as the sun peeked over the treetops and began to warm everyone. Bill Spellacy, one of the Knights, and a volunteer job superintendent for Habitat, gave the mission statement and charge. His words were short and sweet, "When we finish today all the siding in these two piles will be nailed onto the side of Angela's house." He continued, "It will be done with precision and safety; if you are not experienced with the use of a nail gun, scissor saw, rail saw, ladder or skill saw, ask for help."

Those two piles of siding were attacked as if by a trail of ants. The saws hummed or screeched and the nail guns blasted their staccato thump. By 9:30 a.m., the jackets were coming off and the frost was melted from the sunny side of the roof and as if on cue, the volunteers rotated job tasks.

Angela Cantu, the soon to be new homeowner, put down the nail gun and offered a couple of comments. "This is so exciting," she said; "I have moved around a lot and lived in some not so nice places."

"This house is near my parents, Carlos and Sylvia Cantu, and they help me with my four

children, Ronald 15, Jade 13, Jordan 6 and Matthew 5". She also commented that it was great

that her kids could continue in the same schools and not have to transfer.



**TAKING A STAND**—Sen. Glenn Hegar, guest speaker at the Sanctity of Life Celebration in El Campo on January 25, 2012, receives the "Wings of Life" lapel pin from KC Council #2490 Grand Knight Greg Witcher, right, for his support in protecting human life. Denise Couey, inset, introduced Sen. Hegar while also giving the audience the history of the Roe vs. Wade Bill that legalized abortion 39 years ago. The event was held at First Baptist Church, El Campo, and was sponsored by El Campo Life Advocates.



(above) KC Council #9088 members, George Wenzel and Lee Pribyl, prepare siding to be nailed to the outside wall of the 75th Habitat for Humanity Home built in Victoria.

(right) Bill Spellacy, a KC Council #9088 member and a volunteer job superintendent for Habitat, doesn't just supervise. He's out there working hard for the cause.

