

# The Catholic Lighthouse

The Cradle of Texas Immigration



VOL. 26, NO. 1

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE DIOCESE OF VICTORIA IN TEXAS

May 2012

## Where do your DSA contributions go?

### Office of Catechetical Ministry

The office of catechetical ministry is comprised of several departments, which offer a plethora of opportunities for adults to learn more about the Catholic faith. Foremost is the ongoing training of parish catechetical leaders and catechists through various programs including the

Basic Formation for Catechetical Leadership and Management, *The Organization of Catechetical Leadership*, and the *Echoes of Faith Plus* catechist-training program. The Pastoral Institute programs (which includes distance learning) also offer ways for adult Catholics to continue learning and growing in their faith. The annual Catechetical Conference, the Library & Media Center, and the Catholic Knowl-

edge Bowl are also components of the catechetical office. *Disciples on the Journey*, the Lenten faith-sharing publication has been produced in the catechetical office since its inception nine years ago.

Thank you for your DSA contributions. If you have questions about making DSA donations, please call the Business Office at (361) 573-0828.

## CFCA reaches \$1 billion mark in support for thousands of needy people

By Dennis Sadowski  
Catholic News Service

WASHINGTON (CNS) — What started as a simple plan to connect average people in the United States with needy children and elderly people in some of the world's poorest communities has reached the \$1 billion mark.

The Christian Foundation for Children and Aging reports that after more than 30 years, it has surpassed the financial milestone thanks to the sustained contributions of hundreds of thousands of sponsors responding to the Gospel call of compassion for others.

Through monthly contributions ranging from \$15 to \$30 from about 250,000 sponsors, the organization is able to support 300,000 children and senior citizens with basic needs such as food, medical care, clothing and school tuition, said Martin Kraus, director of finance.

The organization does not rely on government or corporate grants to carry out its mission.

"A small amount of money from a whole lot of people equals a whole lot of help," said Kraus, quoting president and co-founder Robert Hentzen, a former Christian Brother.

"Our sponsors tell us frequently that we provide them a practical and trustworthy way for them to act out the Gospel call to serve the poor," Kraus said.

Based in Kansas City, Kan., CFCA was started by a group of laypeople meeting in a basement who wanted to help young and old alike with basic needs. It has grown to become one of the world's largest charitable organizations sponsoring indi-

viduals. It operates programs in 22 countries.

"I don't think they ever dreamed 30 years later, CFCA would have accomplished all it did," Kraus said.

CFCA is built on the basic principles of human dignity, strong families, the power of mothers as primary caregivers and friendship, he said.

"We want to make sure first and foremost in the countries we're in, to do right by those communities and have good solid programs there," he said.

The organization places strong emphasis on education for the children it sponsors, explaining to parents that the best opportunity for their children to escape poverty and to secure a better life is to remain in school.

Kraus said the average sponsor stays with the program for more than seven years. During

that time, individual donors correspond with the person they are sponsoring, regularly exchanging letters and photos.

Sponsors also can meet the child or elderly person they are supporting through periodic mission trips the agency organizes. Kraus said such encounters help form an emotional bond that serves to bridge cultural and geographic divides.

Three decades after helping CFCA get off the ground, Hentzen remains an integral part of the operation. He lives in San Lucas Toliman, Guatemala. In June 2011, he completed a 17-month, 8,000-mile walk across 12 countries to show solidarity with the poor.

**Editor's Note:** More information about the Christian Foundation for Children and Aging can be found online at [www.cfcausa.org](http://www.cfcausa.org).

**Posted By Don Clemmer  
From the USCCB Media  
Relations Blog  
<http://usccbmedia.blogspot.com/>**

"Why is the Catholic Church getting involved in politics?"

When uttered aloud, the gut-level revulsion is clearly audible in that question.

It's a fair question, one that comes up frequently. It's grounded in history. People ask, "Didn't the Church get burned time and again through the centuries when it got too cozy with various medieval kings and secular powers?"

Isn't that how, at one time, it became so corrupt that it sparked the Protestant Reformation?"

The question comes up today, almost regardless of the issue being addressed by the pope, the bishops or even a parish priest. Sandra Day O'Connor once quipped that the definition of an "activist judge" is "a judge who disagrees with me." Similarly, the complaint about the Church meddling in politics can fall conveniently along political fault lines. But there's still something to be said for people being wary of a Church that seems too wrapped up in secular matters

## Priestly Ordination

With Praise and Thanksgiving  
to Almighty God  
the Diocese of Victoria in  
Texas and  
Robert and Betty Knippenberg  
and Family  
invite you to the Ordination of  
their son and brother



Patrick Scott Knippenberg

to the Priesthood of Jesus Christ  
through the Imposition of Hands and  
the Invocation of the Holy Spirit by

The Most Reverend David E. Fellhauer, J.C.D., Ph.D.  
Bishop of Victoria in Texas

Saturday, the Twenty-sixth of May  
Two Thousand Twelve  
At Ten o'clock in the morning

Holy Family of Joseph, Mary and Jesus  
Roman Catholic Church  
704 Mallette Drive  
Victoria, Texas 77904

Reception to follow at the  
Holy Family Activity Center

First Mass of Thanksgiving  
May 27, 2012  
11:00 a.m.

Holy Family of Joseph, Mary and Jesus  
Roman Catholic Church  
Victoria, Texas 77904

## Catholics Care. Catholics Vote: Political Engagement is Every Catholic's Duty

and power.

The bishops recognize this and draw several key distinctions. To name a couple, the Church's focus is on moral principles and how they should influence policy positions. The Church stakes out strong positions on issues, but does not endorse parties or candidates. It recognizes that lay people play a complementary role of more direct involvement in politics that the hierarchy cannot and should not play.

Pope Benedict XVI made this clear in his first encyclical, *Deus Caritas Est*, stating, "The direct duty to work for a just ordering of society...is proper to the lay faithful. As citizens of the State, they are called to take part in public life in a personal capacity."

The pope uses the word "called," meaning not just a role,

but a duty. Still one could ask, "Doesn't political involvement seem kind of peripheral compared to my other obligations to the faith like participating in the Sacraments and helping the poor?"

In *Forming Consciences for Faithful Citizenship*, the bishops respond with a vision of the Church providing society a great service.

"Because we are people of both faith and reason, it is appropriate and necessary for us to bring this essential truth about human life and dignity to the public square," the bishops write. "We are called to practice Christ's commandment to 'love one another' (Jn 13:34)."

The Catechism of the Catholic Church says it another way, that it's necessary for everyone to participate in promoting the

See *Catholics Care*, p. 10

## Check out the redesigned Catholic Lighthouse Webpage

Since the "hard-copy edition" of *The Catholic Lighthouse* is leaner, we're adding "pages" to the online edition of the paper at: <http://www.victoriadiocese.org/lighthouse/lighthouse.htm>; click on: **LATEST EDITION May 2012**. Read more Easter stories ... from Sr. Janacek and diocesan Easter Vigil.

Also, go to our newly designed webpage to be updated daily by *Catholic News Service*. Read new stories, headlines and news briefs on a daily basis.





## Bishop Fellhauer's Schedule

May	
4	5:00 p.m., Mass, social, and meal for Sister Digna's farewell, Chancery Staff
5	5:00 p.m., Confirmation Mass, Sts. Cyril and Methodius Church, Shiner
6	10:30 a.m., Confirmation Mass, St. Agnes Church, Edna 6:00 p.m., Confirmation Mass, Assumption Church, Ganado
8	1:00-5:00 p.m., Going away reception for Sister Digna, Chancery Office
9	10:00 a.m., Priests and Lay Pension Board meeting, Chancery Office
12	8:30 a.m., Confirmation Mass, Stephenson Detention Unit, Cuero 5:00 p.m., Confirmation Mass, Sts. Peter and Paul Church, Plum, including Holy Rosary Church, Hostyn
13	10:30 a.m., Confirmation Mass, Our Lady of Sorrows Church, Victoria 6:00 p.m., Confirmation Mass, St. Philip the Apostle Church, El Campo
14	5:00 p.m., Diocesan Liturgical Commission meeting, Chancery Office
15	6:30 p.m., Knights of Columbus Council 9088 Catholic schools personnel appreciation dinner, Holy Family Church, Victoria
16	6:00 p.m., Confirmation Mass, Immaculate Conception Church, Goliad
19	5:00 p.m., Confirmation Mass, Holy Cross Church, Yorktown
20	10:30 a.m., Confirmation Mass, Sacred Heart Church, Hallettsville 3:00 p.m., Mass, 25th Anniversary of Ordination of Father Anthony Boatang-Mensah, St. Mary Church, Victoria
23	4:00 p.m., Diocesan Building Board meeting, Chancery Office
26	10:00 a.m., Mass, Priesthood Ordination of Patrick Knippenberg, Holy Family Church, Victoria 5:00 p.m., Confirmation Mass, St. Michael Church, including Our Lady of Guadalupe Church, Cuero
27	8:00 a.m., Confirmation Mass, St. Mary Church, Praha 10:00 a.m., Confirmation Mass, St. Joseph Church, followed by dedication of Resurrection Chapel, Moulton
June	
2	11:00 a.m., Serra Club Sisters' "cookout," Incarnate Word Convent, Victoria 6:00 p.m., Confirmation Mass, St. Patrick's Church, Bloomington
3	9:15 a.m., Confirmation Mass, St. Mary Church, St. Mary (Hallettsville) 12:30 p.m., Confirmation Mass, St. Peter Church, Blessing
6	6:30 p.m., Confirmation Mass, St. John the Baptist Church, St. John, including the Ascension of Our Lord Church, Moravia
7	6:30 p.m., Serra Club Priests' "cookout," St. Mary Church Hall, St. Mary (Hallettsville)
9	5:00 p.m., Confirmation Mass, Sacred Heart Church, Flatonia
10	8:00 a.m., Mass, 100th Anniversary, Homecoming, and Parish Picnic, St. John Nepomucene Church, New Taiton 11:00 a.m., Mass and blessing of statue of Our Lady of LaVang, Vietnamese Catholic Community, Assumption Chapel, Palacios 3:00 p.m., Mass, Celebrating 50th Anniversary of Priestly Ordination of Father Henry Rachunek, St. Wenceslaus Church, Beasley

## The most cherished of American freedoms

### From the USCCB

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

### RELIGIOUS LIBERTY

#### Past and Present

In 1634, a mix of Catholic and Protestant settlers arrived in Southern Maryland from England aboard the Ark and the Dove. They had come at the invitation of the Catholic Lord Baltimore, who had been granted the land by the Protestant King

Charles I of England. While Catholics and Protestants were killing each other in Europe, Lord Baltimore imagined Maryland as a society where people of different faiths could live together peacefully. This vision was soon codified in Maryland's 1649 Act Concerning Religion (also called the "Toleration Act"), which was the first law in our nation's history to protect an individual's right to freedom of conscience.

Maryland's early history teaches us  
*See The most cherished, p. 10*

## Thank You Notes

From the Vatican, 30 March 2012

Your Excellency,

At the Holy Father's direction, I am writing to acknowledge the sum of \$28,377.47, which you kindly forwarded to the Apostolic Nunciature as the Peter's Pence offering of the diocese of Victoria for the year 2011. This donation will be recorded in the 2012 *Obolo di San Pietro and Canon 1271 Report* of the Secretariat of State.

His Holiness thanks you and your people for this charitable contribution, which assists him in the exercise of his ministry. He deeply appreciates your willingness to share in his concern for the needs of the universal Church.

Praying that Almighty God will grant joy and peace to you and to all those entrusted to your pastoral care, the Holy Father cordially imparts his Apostolic Blessing.

With personal good wishes, I remain

Yours sincerely in Christ, Tarcisio Card. Bertone, Vatican Secretary of State

From the Vatican, 2 April 2012

Your Excellency:

The Holy Father has asked me to thank you for the kind offering which you presented to him on the occasion of your "ad Limina" visit.

His Holiness is grateful for this donation and for the devoted sentiments which inspired it. He very much appreciates the support which you have given to him in his ministry to the universal Church.

I am pleased to assure you of the Holy Father's prayers for you, and for the clergy, religious and laity of the Diocese of Victoria. Upon all of you he invokes the joy and peace which flow from fidelity to Christ and his Church, and he cordially imparts his Apostolic Blessing.

With every good wish, I remain

Yours sincerely in Christ, Tarcisio Card. Bertone, Vatican Secretary of State

### CORRECTION

In the April issue of *The Catholic Lighthouse*, the contribution amount listed under the Holy Father's Peter's Pence collection from the Diocese of Victoria for 2011 should have been \$28,377.47. The amount was inadvertently typed into the Catholic Communication Campaign thank you note. The CCC thank you note amount should have been \$9,211.84.

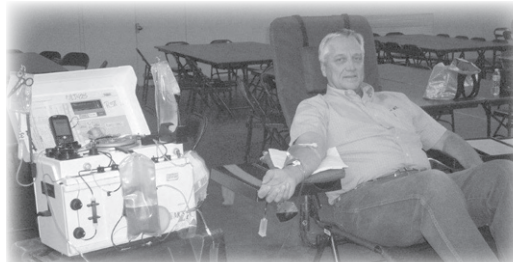
I apologize for this confusion,  
Cynthia Brewer, editor

### KC FISH FRY RAISES MONEY FOR ST. PHILIP SCHOOL—

Grand Knight Greg Witcher of Knights of Columbus Council 2490 in El Campo presents Rev. Gary Janak, pastor of St. Philip the Apostle Parish, a check for \$3,500 for St. Philip School. The money is from the profits of the Ash Wednesday Fish Fry, a joint effort between St. Philip School



and the Knights of Columbus. This donation was presented at the March 27 K of C meeting. The council also donated \$350 to Bethany Baker, Kindergarten student in Mrs. Irby's class for selling the most tickets, \$100 to Mrs. Irby's class as the top-selling class, and \$50 to Mrs. Hollingworth's 3rd grade class, the second-place selling class.



### EL CAMPO KC BLOOD DRIVE HAS RAISED OVER 1,000 PINTS OF BLOOD—

Deacon Larry Hoelscher donates double-red-blood cells at the Community Blood Drive held at the El Campo Knights of Columbus Hall. The community has donated over 1,100 pints of blood products since the KC Council

started having the Community Blood Drives every eight weeks three years ago. This past drive, 88 pints of product were collected and 93 individuals tried to donate. Everyone was treated to a hamburger plate after donating to the drive. The next drive will be on Wednesday, May 30. One can register at [giveblood.org](http://giveblood.org) and drive number 5911. Every pint collected will save three lives. The KC hall is located on Armory Road in El Campo.

## DSA & Reflection of Faith Capital Campaign Updates

### 2012 DSA

Diocesan Goal:	\$ 1,623,907.00
Parish Pledge Totals:	\$ 508,548.70
Parish Contribution Totals:	\$ 386,523.70
Number of Parish Families Participating:	2,691

### Reflection of Faith Capital Campaign

Diocesan Goal:	\$ 9,000,000.00
Parish Pledge Totals:	\$ 12,919,112.17
Parish Contribution Totals:	\$ 10,419,710.37
Number of Parish Families Participating:	6,769

Official Appointments By  
Most Rev. David E. Fellhauer

Effective April 18, 2012, the Rev. Dan Morales is appointed chaplain for the Serra Club of Victoria.



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DEADLINE IS THE THIRD TUESDAY OF THE PRECEDING MONTH.





## Seminary Burses

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

As of April 27, 2012

	TOTALS
<b>— Knights of Columbus Council #3204 – Ganado Rev. Joseph Hybner</b>	
Previously reported	\$2,701.00
In honor of Rev. Joseph Hybner by KJZT Society #83, Flatonia	100.00
In honor of Rev. Joseph Hybner by Mildred Elam	55.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$2,856.00</b>
<b>— Rev. Msgr. Hubert J. Janak</b>	
Previously reported	\$930.00
In memory of Joseph D. Janak by Joseph and Elizabeth Zarsky	25.00
Joseph D. Janak & Mildred Janak by Charles and Charlene Christ	40.00
In memory of Joseph D. Janak by Peoples State Bank, Hallettsville	10.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$1,005.00</b>
<b>— Rev. John C. Peters Burse #5</b>	
Previously reported	\$3,719.00
In memory of Philip Hill by Leo and Joyce Janda	20.00
In memory of Louis Strecker & Mae Rita Doredant by Leo and Joyce Janda	20.00
In memory of Laddie Siegel by Willie E. Barborak	15.00
In memory of Bea Heinzl by Deacon Sonny and Elaine Rogers	25.00
CDA Court Sacred Heart #797	25.00
In memory of Elizabeth Hermes by CDA Court Sacred Heart #797	25.00
In memory of Elizabeth Stock Fuller by Father John Peters	25.00
In memory of Raymond Ben Steffek by:	
Leo and Dorothy Henke	50.00
Marvin and Susan Bujnoch	15.00
M/M Norbert Sobotik	20.00
Charles and Josephine Machacek	15.00
Scott and Sharon Henricks	20.00
David and Jennifer Thorpe Family	20.00
Richard and Jeannie Sommerlatte	20.00
Michael Wellf	20.00
David J. Steffek and Allison Renken	20.00
Jerome Pesek	20.00
Elaine Schindler	20.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$4,114.00</b>

<b>— Josephat R. Janak Burse #2</b>	
Previously reported	\$2,083.77
In honor of Rev. Gary Janak's 24th Ordination Anniversary by Rose Marie Janak	20.00
In honor of Josephat R. Janak by Marvin & Mary Wagner	250.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$2,353.77</b>
<b>— Rev. Michael Rother</b>	
Previously reported	\$4,285.00
In memory of Nelo Seaman by Bernard and Madeline Rother	25.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$4,310.00</b>
<b>— Rev. Jerome J. Stryk</b>	
Previously reported	\$14,694.50
In memory of Lad Muras by The Bernadette Bacak Family	25.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$14,719.50</b>

<b>— CDA #369 St. Ann Burse #2</b>	
Previously Reported	\$8,823.99
Annual Donation by CDA Court #369	500.00
In memory of Betty Stevenson by Otto and JoAnn Bleier	25.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$9,348.99</b>

### Additional Burses for donations:

- Catholic Daughters of Americas Court Our Lady Queen of Peace #1374
- Rev. Msgr. Julius Petru Burse #2
- Rev. Joe Levya
- Rev. Marcus Valenta
- Rev. Godfrey F. Kuratko
- Rev. Msgr. John Hanacek
- Catholic Family Fraternal of Texas KJZT Burse #5
- Sophie Schmidt
- Rev. Sean Donohue Burse #2

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

### Pope says quest for peace must also be quest for truth

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — The quest for justice and peace will bear fruit only if it's also a quest for the truth about the human person, created by God and "endowed with intelligence and freedom, capable of knowing and loving," Pope Benedict XVI said. Intelligence enables people to discover what is good and beneficial — "the right order that is inscribed within creation itself" — the pope said in a message April 30 to the Pontifical Academy of Social Sciences. Academy members were meeting at the Vatican April 27-May 1 to discuss progress in the global search for peace and justice in view of the 50th anniversary of Blessed John XXIII's 1963 encyclical, "Pacem in Terris." Pope Benedict said that while the world has changed significantly in the past 50 years, "Pope John's encyclical was and is a powerful summons to engage in that creative dialogue between the church and the world, between believers and nonbelievers, which the Second Vatican Council set out to promote." The late pope's plea for peace, for respect for human dignity and freedom and, more basically, for respect for what is right and good, holds out "a message of hope to a world that is hungry for it, a message that can resonate with people of all beliefs and none, because its truth is accessible to all," the pope said. Pope Benedict said Blessed John Paul II built on Blessed John's teaching about peace when he insisted that forgiveness was a key ingredient in peacemaking. Pope John Paul made his comments just a few months after the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks in New York and Washington.

### Archbishop Chaput releases e-book on religious freedom

DENVER (CNS) — At the heart of defeating attacks on the country's religious liberty is the need for faithful to rebuild a Christian culture that serves as the essence of a democracy, Philadelphia Archbishop Charles J. Chaput wrote recently. In his new e-book titled "A Heart on Fire: Catholic Witness and the Next America," the former Denver archbishop discusses the ties between religious freedom and a good society. The American experience of personal freedom, he said, is in fact inconceivable without a Christian grounding.

### Seminarian portrays Jesus in Living Stations at Seminary

IRVING—John Dougharty, a Diocese of Victoria seminarian from Holy Cross Parish in Bay City, dressed as Jesus in the Living Stations presented the evening of Palm Sunday at Holy Trinity Seminary in Irving, Texas. Each year on Palm Sunday, the seminarians pray a living station in tableau style, which is open to the public. Some of the men at Holy Trinity sing a cappella after each station, which is wonderfully directed. The women in the stations' prayer are student volunteers from the University of Dallas. John is finishing his second year at University of Dallas/Holy Trinity Seminary and this year instructed a confirmation class at St. Matthew Parish in Arlington. The seminarians at Holy Trinity have different ministries throughout the years while attending there. Some teach confirmation classes, as John did this year, while others may work with the RCIA program or the hospital ministry, etc.

## St. John Nepomucene Catholic Parish in New Taiton Celebrates 100-year Anniversary

Sunday, June 10, 8:00 a.m. Mass

With Bishop David E. Fellhauer Presiding

Celebration to follow at Taiton Community Center  
with fun for entire family and  
meal served from 10:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.

St. John's is located at CR 370 and 1843 FM 460,  
New Taiton (outside El Campo)  
All are welcome to celebrate with the parishioners!

The honor of your presence is requested at the  
25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration of



Rev. Anthony Boateng-Mensah

Ordination to the Priesthood

Mass 3:00 PM.

Sunday, May 20, 2012

St. Mary Catholic Church

102 W. Church Street

Victoria, Texas

Reception and Dinner to follow at

St. Mary Activity Center

Please bring a side dish and also RSVP to (361) 935-6701

Father Tony will be returning permanently to Ghana on May 29.



Students from Our Lady of Victory School, Victoria, advanced band program recently participated in a Solo & Ensemble Competition at Patti Welder Middle School. The students who competed all placed with a Superior Rating of I (one), the highest of all ratings. The band this year is under the direction of Mr. Tony Wilhem. Congratulation on the school's first competition!

### Happy Birthday!

Jacob Mendoza is finishing Pre-Theology II at St. Joseph Seminary in Saint Benedict, Louisiana; his birthday is June 6. Please show your support for this seminarian by writing to: Jacob Mendoza, St. Mary Church, P.O. Box 2448, Victoria, TX 77902.



Pray for vocations  
to the priesthood & religious life!



## Band instruments needed for OLV

Expanding program next year

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

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

### Join Us For Great Adventures

~ Rushmore  
& Badlands ~  
June 11-20

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

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

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





Flatonia KC Council #3295 donates \$1,000 to Raphael's Refuge. Pictured (from l-r) is Raphael's Refuge latest Board Member, Susan Steinhauser; Raphael's Refuge Director Midge Elam, Flatonia Knights of Columbus Grand Knight Richard Schacherl, and Flatonia Knights of Columbus Financial Secretary Doug Baker.

## Raphael's Refuge receives KC donation and announces new board member

FLATONIA—Raphael's Refuge is pleased to announce that Susan Fike Steinhauser has been elected to its board of directors. Sue, her husband R.J., and son Karl, are Flatonia residents. Sue graduated from Moulton High School and the Zelda L. School of Nursing in Hallettsville. For many years she worked throughout Fayette County as a nurse for Community Home Health in La Grange.

Sue is an active member of the Sacred Heart Parish in Flatonia. She serves as a lector, is a member of ACTS, and is a charter member of the Flatonia Catholic Daughters of the Americas. Being a very grateful heart recipient, having had a transplant in 2008, she is a strong supporter of Donate Life. She brings to the board great enthusiasm, a willingness to work, and a joyful spirit.

Also, the Flatonia Knights of Columbus Council #3295 recently donated \$1,000 to Raphael's Refuge. Flatonia's KC Council challenges all faiths to match

this donation. If you have any questions, please call Richard Schacherl at (361) 772-4614.

The mission of Raphael's Refuge is to build and maintain a memorial in honor of babies, born and unborn, and to provide counseling and spiritual direction for those suffering the loss of a baby due to miscarriage, abortion, stillbirth, or infant death.

For more information about Raphael's Refuge, a non-profit organization and the home of the Monument to the Innocents, call Midge Elam at 361-865-3021 or visit the website at [raphaelsrefuge.org](http://raphaelsrefuge.org). On the website, under Resources, are links for sources of help with unplanned pregnancies and post-abortion counseling. Under Gallery, are photographs of the construction progress, donors, visitors, events, and volunteers. The monument is open to the public every day. Current hours, through September, are 8:30 a.m. to 7:30 p.m. or by appointment.



## Bishop's Golf Tournament benefits seminarians and youth

By Cynthia Brewer

The 15th annual Bishop David Fellhauer Invitational Charity Golf Tournament, held for the diocesan Seminarian Education Fund, Vocations, and Youth offices, was an even greater success this year than the most successful tournament held last year, as Bishop Level sponsorships brought in \$24,000 on behalf of our local seminarians.

The tournament, which was held at the Colony Creek Country Club, Friday, April 13, is sponsored by the Knights of Columbus Holy Family Council #9088 of Victoria.

This year's tournament raised over \$52,000 – the most ever raised in this

tournament – thanks to many generous sponsors and the participation of 28 teams. These proceeds will benefit numerous new and existing vocations and youth programs throughout the diocese.

The tremendous increase in seminarians in our diocese necessitates more funds to educate these perspective priests. Twenty-two sponsors stepped up to the "tee" becoming \$1,000 Bishop Level sponsors and golfed in the name of one of our 13 seminarians. The \$24,000 raised will go directly to the Seminarian Education Fund.

A special thanks goes to the 2012 Bishop Level sponsors: the Blackwood  
*See Bishop's Golf, p. 5*

## Youth Hold 10-hour Fast to Raise Hunger Awareness

EL CAMPO—Students from El Campo abstained from food for 10 hours March 31, 2012, from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m., as part of Food Fast, a program designed by Catholic Relief Services (CRS) that links the Catholic tradition of fasting with global hunger. Through materials provided by CRS, youth learned about global hunger issues and poverty in the developing world while also raising awareness about hunger in their own community.

Throughout their fast, members of the Youth Ministry Program at St. Robert's Catholic Church in El Campo participated in a range of activities including prayer, music, games, crafts, and the celebration of Mass.

This was St. Robert's youth group's 5th Food Fast through Catholic Relief Services. After the first fast was completed, the kids received recognition from CRS for being the only youth (that year) in their area that completed a food fast. The group from that year were invited to come back and face the fast again this year.

As one of the retreat facilitators, Elisa Garcia, said, she has to state that each year is different. Each group has had different reactions, but each group has walked away with a new view about hunger and poverty issues.

Other facilitators included Elena Pullin,

Raphela Garcia, and Young Adult helpers Robert Torres, Jacob Gonzalez, Senae and Deanna Davidson, and Jackie Flores.

"At the beginning of the fast we try to explain that the youth will go through hunger pains, irritability, headaches, nausea, tiredness, and fatigue," Elisa said. "We also explain that although we want them to complete the fast, if they are beyond their limits they need to let us know so we may contact their parents to pick them up. This is why permission forms have to be filled out, with contact numbers, and parents have to be accessible at all times."

Throughout the day we try to keep the kids busy. We usually play games at the beginning, mainly because by the middle of the day their energy level gets really low. We also have lessons, from learning about hunger issues globally to planning a meal with different budgets. Prayer is also very essential. Through prayer these kids learn about putting their faith in God and leaning on him to carry them through hard times.

"The kids are handed a prayer on a string that they wear like a necklace. We explain that whenever they feel they need a little push to help them continue, to say that prayer. Throughout the day you will see them on their own take that card and read it," said Elisa Garcia.

The group attends Mass to end of the



Members of St. Robert Youth Group

church? Since the fast, I see that person and wonder, 'Have they had breakfast yet?'"

Although the event is a service project for the St. Robert Youth Group, teens from outside the group have participated. The challenge is open; only a few will accept. Those who accept are commended for their sacrifice.

Catholic Relief Services is the official international humanitarian agency of the Catholic community in the United States. The agency alleviates suffering and provides assistance to people in need in nearly 100 countries, without regard to race, religion or nationality. For more information, please visit [www.crs.org](http://www.crs.org) or [www.crsespanol.org](http://www.crsespanol.org).

### Young Adult Website available from the USCCB

Check out Busted Halo: a website for young adults from the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops at [www.bustedhalo.org](http://www.bustedhalo.org). It is an online magazine for spiritual seekers that is sponsored by the Paulists and written by young adults for young adults. Includes discussion boards on various topics, a Flash trivia quiz, guides for seekers and so much more.

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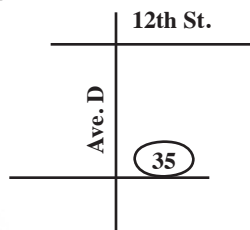
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## Our Lady of Guadalupe Festival Meal

Bay City — Parish Hall (12th Street and Ave. D)

Brisket Dinner — Sunday, June 10  
11:00 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. at \$7 p/p  
Dine-in / Pick-up / Drive-Thru

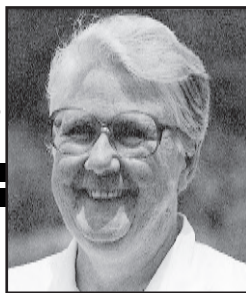
Auction Begins at 11:30 a.m.







## SISTERLY THOUGHTS



By Sister Mildred Truchard, IWBS

### Years of Early Growth

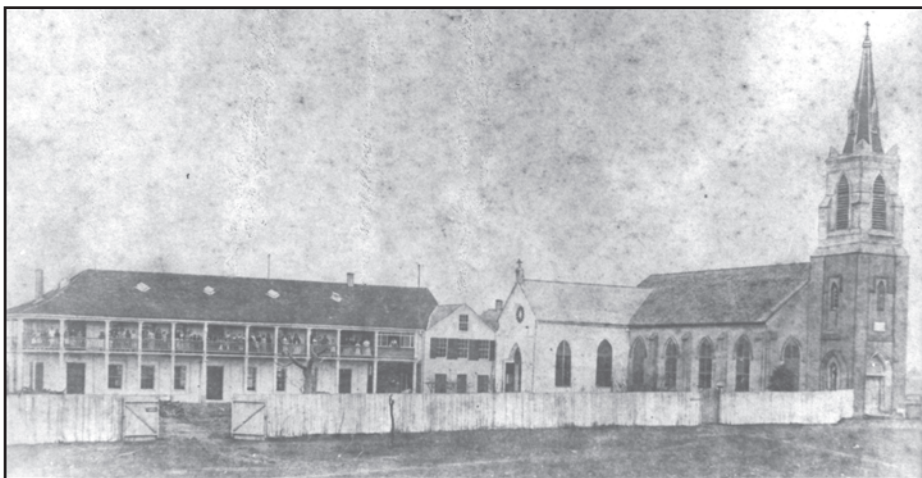
**T**ravel may have been difficult; the aftermath of the Civil War and the Reconstruction which followed it proved to be difficult for the residents; and the periodic occurrences of diseases sickened and often killed its victims; however the fledgling “Convent School” associated with the “Monastery of the Incarnate Word and Blessed Sacrament of Victoria, Texas” prospered. The number of day students and boarding students rapidly increased, so that more buildings were necessary. By 1872 (remember that the school opened in 1867) three new buildings were added. Much of the construction was done free of charge; among the volunteers was Bishop Dubuis, who was Bishop of Texas at that time.

Meanwhile, in 1868, Father Augustine Gardet, who had so graciously welcomed the Sisters to Victoria and given them his house, opened a school for boys across the street on the site of the current South Main Street Post Office. Since there were no public schools at the time, the two schools provided educational opportunities for the students of the some 5,000 residents of Victoria County. At the Convent School, girls, from local areas and from faraway places, attended the school as boarders.

At this time the Sisters were cloistered; that is, they did not generally go outside the Monastery (Convent). Within the Monastery, there were lay Sisters who were devoted to domestic or manual labor. These Sisters wore simple black habits instead of the white habits and maroon scapulars worn by the teaching Sisters. These lay Sisters took care of shopping and business outside the cloister. You will notice the wall surrounding the buildings in the accompanying picture. Even the chapel, which was attached to the church, had a grill separating the Sisters from the public. Within the Convent itself there were probably some means (like a grill) of separating the Sisters from their visitors.

Because of the cloister, the students had to come into the Monastery; the Sisters did not go out to teach in the parishes until many years later. I plan to explain this in a future article. Until then, let us appreciate the legacy of Nazareth Academy.

If you really want to read about the early days of the Sisters in Victoria—and much, much more, I would invite you to come by the Gift Shop at Incarnate Word Convent and purchase Sister Alberta Novosad’s new book: *TEXAS FOOTPRINTS in the Sands of Time*.



Nazareth Convent Facing Church Street around 1872: This is a close-up of a two-story frame building (boarders on second floor; classrooms below) joined to the reception room and the Sisters’ Chapel and old St. Mary’s Church, which stood on the corner of Church and Bridge streets. There are more buildings behind the church. Later, land would be swapped and the current St. Mary’s Church would be built on its current location on Main Street. Note the fence around the buildings enclosing the cloistered area for the Sisters.

### Local Catholic school students to attend GVEC youth tour in D.C.

HALLETTSVILLE—Kristen Henke, a junior at Sacred Heart Catholic School, and Cole Hybner a junior at St. Paul Catholic School in Shiner, will soon be packing bags for a weeklong, all-expense paid trip to Washington, D.C. this June as winners of the 2012 Youth Tour sponsored by the Guadalupe Valley Electric Cooperative (GVEC). To enter the competition, the students submitted a one-to-three minute video showing how they would conserve energy at home or at school.

Two other GVEC area students who will attend the Youth Tour are Morgan Simper from Gonzales High School and Jake Robinson from Nixon-Smiley High School.

“These students submitted some very creative videos,” says Darren Schauer, GVEC general manager and CEO. “They not only demonstrated their knowledge of energy efficiency, but showed the practical

application of what they learned. We applaud their leadership and effort in taking on this video challenge to earn their spot on this year’s Youth Tour.”

The trip to D.C. is part of the national Electric Cooperative Youth Tour hosted each year by the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA). Sponsored by GVEC, it’s proven to be a life-changing experience by giving local students the opportunity to meet other students from cooperatives around the nation and allowing them to learn first-hand about our country’s heritage, the important role electric cooperatives play in the community, and how our federal government works. While on the Youth Tour this coming June, Henke, Hybner, Simper and Robinson will meet their Texas House Representatives and Senators during a visit to Capitol Hill as well as visit our nation’s

See *Local Catholic school*, p. 7

## Youth Calendar of Events

- 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, 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)



**DASH FOR DOWNS**—On your mark, Get set, Ready, GO! Dash For Downs was a Junior Catholic Daughter’s of the America’s #206 donation recipient at the April 19 JCDA meeting. Miss Macy Svec and her parents Kristy and Rodney, with younger sister, Maddie, graciously accepted the donation. Dash for Downs, which was created in honor of Macy, is a 5k fun run to support children with Down Syndrome and their families. The 2nd annual Dash for Downs race will be held on May 12, 2012, beginning at 8:00 a.m. at the Yoakum Shape Shop. Applications to participate in this fun event may be picked up at the Yoakum Shape Shop or call (361) 293-9593. See more JCDA news on *The Catholic Lighthouse* website edition.

### Bishop’s Golf Tournament benefits seminarians and youth

Continued from p. 4

Family, Mike and Cindy Bludau and Heather and Landon Zamykal; Margaret Dornak, Friends of Father David Berger, the Clara Hawes Family, Holy Family of JMJ Church, Victoria; Holy Family Knights of Columbus Council # 9088, Albert and Margaret Janak, Robert and Pam Kovar, Bernice and Don Krueger, Hardy and JoAnn McCullough, John McQuillen, Betty and Emory Migura, Bob and Susan Oakley, Pokluda Surveyors, Monroe and Mary Margaret Rieger, Roberts, Roberts, Odefey and Witte, LLP; the Henry and Mary Frances Schaar Family, the Serra Club of Victoria, Ron and Peggy Sitka, the Vitek Family, and Michele.

We also thank this year’s golf committee members: Monroe Rieger, tournament chairperson; Wendy Eggert, Debbie Vanelli, Gerald Bludau, Mike Brown, Ed Lehnert, Charles Bluntzer, Hardy McCullough, Rev. Dan Morales, John Pribyl, Tommy Treybig, Bennie Vitek, George

Wenzel, Ron Sitka, Glenn Machicek, and Gerald Bryant.

Winners of the tournament include the following: 1st Flight Winners were, 1st Place: Paul Guerra, Henry Martinez, Leonard Minjarez, and Sal Perez; 2nd Place: Diego Chapa, Andre Chapa, Mitchel Michalka, and Jesse Sanchez; 3rd Place: Joseph Halepaska, Albert Fong, Father Phi Nguyen, and Thomas Nguyen; 2nd Flight Winners were, 1st Place: Stan Koenig, Regina Koenig, Bruce Poncik, and Steven Volkmer; 2nd Place: Allen Gabrysch, Kent Gabrysch, Logan Gabrysch, and Wayne Gabrysch; 3rd Place: Robby Burdge, Mike Cavazos, Gerald Dickey, and Ron Ripple; and 3rd Flight Winners were, 1st Place: Jimmy Driscoll, Larry Hall, Robert Hall, and Stephen Vitek; 2nd Place: Daniel Melnar, Darryl Melnar, Gilbert Melnar, and Bob Melnar; and 3rd Place: Larry Hoelscher, Dick Ottis, Glen Rod, and Bart Worthing.

**SHINER CATHOLIC CHURCH**  
**SPRING PICNIC, SUN., MAY 27, 2012**  
**KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS PARK**  
**(Formerly American Legion) SHINER, TX**

**26<sup>th</sup> Annual**

**Masses:**  
Saturday – 5:00 pm (Polka Mass)  
Sunday – 7:30 & 9:30

**COUNTRY STORE**  
Canned and Baked Goods  
Kolaches • Pigs-in-Blanket  
8 am until ...

**BIG COUNTRY AUCTION**  
Cattle Auction: 3:00 pm

**Pre-Picnic Activities**  
Saturday, May 26

- ☛ Sunset 5K Run - Contact (361) 235-9443
- ☛ Outside Music by Los Kolaches - 6-10 pm
- ☛ Historic Beer Stand will be open
- ☛ Food and Children’s Activities

**Sunday, May 27**  
Motorcycle Run - Registration 10:30 am  
Contact (361) 772-7614

**FREE MUSIC & DANCING**  
Inside AIR CONDITIONED Hall  
\*\*\*11 am – 2 pm\*\*\*  
**Accordion Music**  
By Local Accordion Players  
\*\*\*2 - 4 pm\*\*\*  
**Shiner Hobo Band**  
\*\*\*4 - 8 pm Battle Dance\*\*\*  
**Leroy’s Swinging Orchestra**  
and **Chris Rybak Band**  
\*\*\*\*\*  
MUSIC OUTSIDE HISTORIC BEER STAND  
4 - 7 pm  
Lorelei and Schatzi  
\*\*\*\*\*  
MUSIC OUTSIDE BINGO STAND  
PAVILION  
7 - 11 pm  
Classic Top Hits by Vic and Bev

**Fun for the Whole Family!!!**

**--- DINNER ---**  
**10:30 am – 2:00 pm**  
Dine in Air Conditioned Dining Room  
Plate Includes **THREE MEATS** –  
• Shiner Picnic Stew • Fried Chicken •  
• Country Sausage • Trimmings •  
**\$8.00/Plate**  
Drive thru “Plates to Go” from  
10:30 am to 12:30 pm at  
Legion Hall on Hwy 90A East  
(formerly Shiner KC Hall)

**ARTS & CRAFTS**  
Booth Spaces: \$50  
Call 830 - 660-3969

\*\*\*\*\*  
**Bingo - 12 - 4 pm**  
\*\*\*\*\*  
Drawing for Prizes at 10 pm

**DANCE**  
9 PM to 1 AM  
**EMOTIONS and GRANGER SMITH**  
Admission charged inside hall  
beginning at 8 p.m.  
Website: [www.sscmshiner.org](http://www.sscmshiner.org)





Participants walk in the First Annual Buddy Walk to benefit people with Down Syndrome which was held at the Hallettsville City Park this past February.

## Hallettsville holds 1st Annual Buddy Walk for region

HALLETTSVILLE—Over 400 people gathered at the Hallettsville City Park February 26, 2012, for the first Annual Buddy Walk, which was hosted by the Down Syndrome Foundation of South Texas. In attendance were families, friends, and community support groups from Hallettsville, Shiner, Yoakum, Moulton, Cuero, Houston, Victoria, El Campo, Falls City, Schulenburg and Sheridan.

The Buddy Walk is a one-mile walk in which anyone can participate without special training. It is an inspirational and educational event that celebrates the many abilities and accomplishments of people with Down syndrome.

The Buddy Walk was established in 1995 by the National Down Syndrome Society (NDSS) to celebrate Down Syndrome Awareness Month October and to promote acceptance and inclusion of people with Down syndrome.

Today the Buddy Walk program is supported nationally by NDSS and organized at the local level by parent support groups, schools and other organizations and individuals. Over the past 16 years, the Buddy Walk program has grown from 17 walks to nearly 300 across the country and around the world. In 2010, 285,000 people participated in a Buddy Walk! They raised more than \$11.2 million to benefit local programs and services as well as the national advocacy initiatives that benefit all individuals with Down syndrome.

The Down Syndrome Foundation of South Texas (DSFSTX) began in July 2011 with several families wanting to unite to bring services to individuals with Down syndrome in the rural communities. The goals of DSFSTX follow a TLC motto: TEACH others about Down syndrome by building public awareness and acceptance of the abilities of individuals with

Down syndrome. LEARN more about Down syndrome by providing seminars and workshops from professionals that work with Down syndrome individuals. CELEBRATE the individuals with Down syndrome who have touched our lives.

Buddy Walk board members, President Jeanette Shimek, Treasurer Brandy Bosl, Legal Advisor Donna Tucker-Grafe, Vice-president Mary Beth Najvar, and Secretary Amy Shimek, wish to thank these special sponsors: Hallettsville Livestock Commission Co., Jonell Janecek, Kathleen Steinocher, Kemlon Products, Leopold Insurance Agency, Lavaca County Farm Bureau Insurance-Terry Bludau, Audio-Video Plus, Boehm Tractor Sales, Inc., Hallettsville Lumber Co., Allen & Allen Attorney at Law, Wells Fargo, 3D Belt Company, Alpha Upsilon Lambda, Chandler Drilling Co., Colorado Valley Bank, First National Bank of Shiner, Frank's Restaurant, Hoffer's Drive-In Grocery, Lavaca Farm Equipment Inc., People State Bank, Prime Products, Sacred Heart Federal Credit Union, Sweet Home Sand & Gravel Inc., The Hitching Post, Anchor Lumber Yard, Bludau Fabrication Inc., Ex-terran, Grafe Chevrolet GMC, Hallettsville Abstract & Title Company, Horizons Concepts Inc., Family of Karter Raab, Knight of Columbus #2433, Paul's Supply Inc., Paddy's Texas Kitchen and Tyson Romine Memorial. DSFSTX would also like to thank County Judge Tramer Woytek for coming out and starting the Buddy Walk with the opening prayer.

If you would like more information or be a part of the DSFSTX, please e-mail [DSFSTX@yahoo.com](mailto:DSFSTX@yahoo.com), call 361-772-6053, or follow us on Face book at Down Syndrome Foundation of South Texas or [dsfstx.blogspot.com](http://dsfstx.blogspot.com).

## STJ CHEER-LEADERS SHINE

—St. Joseph High School cheerleaders share their talent not only on the field, but in their mission of service to others. For the

2011-2012 school year, eight members of the STJ cheerleading squad volunteered their Saturday mornings, to assist with the Manning's Special Needs Cheerleading Program. Beginning last August, these eight cheerleaders decided to make a difference, and share their love of the sport with an extra special group of children. On March 3, this group of STJ cheerleaders accompanied their special needs cheerleading squad to their first National Cheerleading Competition in Conroe, Texas, where the special needs cheerleading squad was named first place champions. Pictured are all of the special needs cheerleaders together with their STJ cheerleading volunteers after winning at the Fiesta Texas Cheerleading Competition in San Antonio on March 24. St. Joseph High School special needs cheerleading volunteers include: Katie Degand, Ashley Kolar, Jillian Strauss, Clara Allen, Kristene Yahagi, Ashley Mutchler, Morgan Delagarza and Liz Gonzales. Over the past school year, the St. Joseph High School cheerleading squad has volunteered nearly 1000 hours of community service in Victoria and our surrounding counties.



### BEAUTIFUL YOU

by Heather Spears Kallus, St. Joseph Parish, Inez

Nine long months they waited - to see your precious face,  
Little did they know - that day would be a race.  
The doctor said, "There's something not quite perfect with his heart,  
We'll need to have some tests - and that is just the start."

That is the day they felt their life would just not be the same,  
How could this be? Why should this be? Is anyone to blame?  
Ten perfect little fingers, ten perfect little toes,  
A perfect tiny mouth and a picture-perfect nose.

"Who is this special child God has chosen just for us?"  
They searched to find the answer - amongst all the fuss.  
With something extra special, in your knowing eyes,  
Their love for you kept growing - amidst all the "Whys?"

Several nights spent praying there - they knelt by your side,  
Tears of mercy falling as they pleaded and they cried.  
"Are you there, Lord? Are you listening? Please hear us, heal our son,  
If anyone can make him well - we know you're the One."

And, yes, the Lord was listening to them that very day,  
As He touched your tiny heart in His most Holy Way.  
"Heart surgery won't be needed for this special little guy,  
But," the doctor said that day, "not sure exactly why."

But, we all knew the answer. We all knew the reason.  
God had given you a chance - another day, another season.  
You are a miracle to each of us - a gift of love sent down,  
You teach us about love more than anyone, we've found.

Your arms are always open - always ready to embrace,  
You love to touch our mouths - our lips, our nose, our face.  
Your smile is so contagious, as you grin from ear to ear,  
And, your giggle is the sweetest sound we'll ever need to hear.

God must have really loved us to have sent you, my dear child,  
A slight slant to your little eyes, with hair so cute and wild.  
You teach us more than we could ever dream of teaching you,  
Beautiful - perfectly perfect - perfectly, beautiful you.

~ 'Sips of Sunshine' [www.sipsofsunshine.blogspot.com](http://www.sipsofsunshine.blogspot.com) ~

## Capitol Comments: A Sign of Hope and Opportunity for Prayer

By Jennifer Carr Allmon, Associate Director Texas Catholic Conference

For several years we advocated for the passage of the bill to authorize a "Choose Life" license plate as a part of our legislative efforts. At times some in our community questioned why we were working on creating a new license plate when Texas was facing "real issues" like how to provide food, education, and healthcare for our people. It's a good question based on a false premise. All of these issues are "real." All are important to our basic foundational principle to protect human life and dignity. All of them require our action.

We can and should work to restrict abortion through legislative action, but our efforts can't stop there. We must also encourage individual women to choose life, and provide support to women when they do—like access to food, education, and healthcare for their children. The "real" money raised by each plate is donated to organizations educating mothers about the loving option of entrusting their children's lives to another family through adoption. Thousands of childless couples pray desperately to become parents and wait on long waiting lists to adopt babies.

In addition to the funding raised by the plates, they are a sign of hope and an opportunity for prayer. When a woman or teenager is facing an overwhelming pregnancy there are many who pressure these mothers to consider abortion. We pray regularly for women and their families. I believe that in their hearts, many of these women are also praying, asking God for a

sign. I pray that my Choose Life plate is just such a sign of hope for them to save the life of their unborn child.

I picked up plates last week and as I did, I said a very "real" prayer for those who need our support to Choose Life and for those would-be parents waiting on

See Capitol Comments, p. 9



Allmon prays that her license plate will promote a Culture of Life that cherishes babies like baby Joshua and provides support for mothers facing an overwhelming pregnancy.





**VOLUNTEERS HONORED**—The Fifteenth Annual Mother Elizabeth Ann Seton Awards were presented recently in Shiner by the Office of Catholic Schools. A dinner was served, followed by the presentation of the awards. Making the presentations were Rev. John Peters, Vicar General; John Quarry, school superintendent; and Janie Carrales, administrative assistant for Diocesan Catholic Schools. The recipients of the award for the year 2012 were front row (l-r): Traci Darilek, St. Ludmila Elementary, Shiner; Brenda Schoenfeld, St. Michael, Weimar; Cookie Reyna, Our Lady of Victory, Victoria; Shirley Buchanan, Sacred Heart High School, Hallettsville; Karen Wysocki, Sacred Heart Elementary School, Hallettsville; Beth Johnson, St. Paul High School, Shiner; Fredialyn Sutton, St. Philip, El Campo; top row (l-r): Rev. John Peters, Morris Sadleir, Our Lady of the Gulf, Port Lavaca; Lisa Kristynik, Nazareth Academy, Victoria; Beth High, St. Joseph High School, Victoria; Kathleen Leske, St. Michael, Cuero; Donna Tesch, St. Anthony, Columbus; Kenneth Miksch, St. Rose, Schulenburg; Ron Johnson, St. Paul High School, Shiner; Brenda Natho, St. Joseph, Yoakum; John Quarry. Not pictured Farrah Petersen, Holy Cross, Bay City.

*Those who can, do.  
Those who can do more,  
volunteer.*

The world is hugged by the  
faithful arms of volunteers.

*The gift of time  
is priceless.*

*Volunteers don't necessarily have  
the time, but they have the heart.*



Winners of the 2012 Guadalupe Valley Electric Cooperative Youth Tour are pictured l. to r.: Cole Hybner, Shiner; and Kristen Henke, Hallettsville. They will be going to Washington, D.C. this June along with Morgan Simper, Gonzales; Jake Robinson, Nixon-Smilely.

### Local Catholic school students to attend GVEC youth tour

*Continued from p. 5*

exciting museums, memorable landmarks and breathtaking memorials.

Before traveling to Washington, the students will first go to Dallas, where they will meet over 100 other Texas students who will be representing their electric cooperatives on the Youth Tour. They will spend the night and depart early the next morning for their week-long adventure in the nation's capital.

Kristen is the daughter of Joe and Ana Henke of Hallettsville, and Cole is the son of Mark and Alisa Hybner of Shiner.

To find out more about the winners and the requirements to qualify for the Youth Tour, go to the GVEC website [www.gvec.org](http://www.gvec.org).

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 Bert Kenna, FIC Yoakum 361-293-9657	 Clifton Lau, FIC Victoria 361-573-3669	 Eugene Rehak, FIC Victoria 361-575-4982
 Patrick Klozik, FIC Shiner 361-594-8160	 Charles Leopold, FIC Hallettsville 361-798-4311	 Royce Shimek, FIC Schulenburg 979-743-4313
 Robert Melnar, FIC Victoria 361-578-2957	 Barbara McCain, FIC Victoria 361-649-1612	 Albert Smaistrila, FIC East Bernard 979-335-4473
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Meet their educational goals.  
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#### 20-Year Term Insurance

Age	\$250,000		\$500,000		\$1,000,000	
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
25	\$15.42	\$12.71	\$23.75	\$18.33	\$40.00	\$29.17
35	\$17.92	\$15.62	\$28.75	\$24.17	<b>\$50.00</b>	\$40.83
45	\$31/87	\$26.87	\$55.42	\$46.25	\$103.33	\$85.00





## May Puzzle Contest Prize – The Catholic Girl's Survival Guide for the Single Years: The Nuts and Bolts of Staying Sane and Happy While Waiting for Mr. Right

Being single and 35 wasn't part of the plan. That is, it wasn't part of Emily Stimpson's plan. Her plan was marriage, babies, and homeschool co-ops.

But God didn't get the memo. Instead, He gave her a great job as a Catholic writer, a beautiful old home to call her own, and a small army of god-children. He also gave her two editors at Emmaus Road Publishing who believed Emily knew a thing or two about the single years from which other young women could benefit—women who, like Emily, believe God is calling them to marriage but find themselves waiting for Mr. Right a bit longer than they expected to wait.

Somehow, those editors convinced Emily to go along with their plan, and the result is a book unlike any other singles book on the market today.

Steeped in the Church's teachings on the feminine genius, marriage, and the theology of the body, *The Catholic Girl's Survival Guide* is chock full of practical insights on the nitty-gritty "how to" of the single years. With both wit and wisdom, it helps women address some of their most pressing ques-

tions about singleness, including:

- Why am I still single?
- Is there any such thing as a "Single Vocation"?
- What is authentic femininity and what's so great about it in the first place?

• How do I date as an adult without losing my sanity or my soul?

• Why shouldn't I throw in the towel on chastity?

• How do I make decisions about school, work, and finances when there's no husband or babies on the immediate horizon?

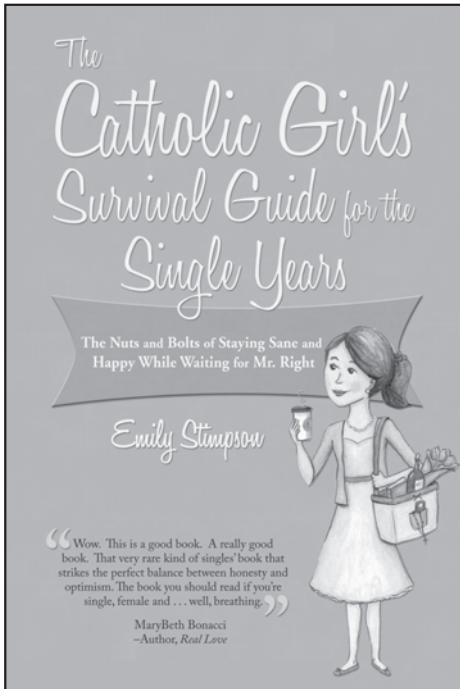
• How do I deal with all my married friends and their children?

• And what does it take to battle the Single Girl Blues?

As hopeful as it is honest, *The Catholic Girl's Survival*

*Guide for the Single Years* is the perfect companion for women whose journey to "I do" is turning out to be a longer one than they (or their mothers) would have liked.

*The Catholic Girl's Survival Guide for the Single Years*: 6"x9" paperback; retail price: \$12.95; purchase at: [www.emmausroad.org](http://www.emmausroad.org).



## Marriage Help Program

A program for couples with marriages in distress is being held in Victoria August 17-19.

Some couples feel frustrated or angry in their marriage. Many find that talking about it only makes it worse. Some couples experience coldness and simply shut down. Other couples have severe conflict and angry arguments. Most don't know how to change the situation or even talk with their spouse about it.

Retrouvaille (pronounced retro-vi with a long i) has helped tens of thousands of couples worldwide who were experiencing marital difficulty at all levels of distress including disillusionment and deep misery. The program is designed to provide the tools to help get marriages back on track.

### Cost and Schedule

The cost to put one couple through a

complete Retrouvaille program is \$500. However, no couple is ever denied the chance to heal their marriage because of lack of funds. At the end of the weekend each couple is given a blank envelope and asked to make an anonymous donation to help cover the cost of the program. This request for donation is made only once.

There is a Retrouvaille program beginning the weekend of August 17-19, 2012, at the Spiritual Renewal Center in south Victoria County. The program includes 12 Post Weekend Sessions over six weeks immediately following the weekend.

### About Retrouvaille Victoria

Retrouvaille of Victoria is a non-profit organization. The presenting teams are made up of people who have gone through the program themselves and overcame significant obstacles in their own marriages. Everyone involved in organizing and presenting the program are volunteers. No one is paid for their services.

For confidential information about or to register for the August 2012 weekend and Post Sessions, please call John/Jennifer Vincent at (361) 580-2770 or e-mail: [jbvjov@sbcglobal.net](mailto:jbvjov@sbcglobal.net) or visit the Retrouvaille International website at [www.Retrouvaille.org](http://www.Retrouvaille.org)



## CATHOLIC CELEBRITIES I

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



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## April Puzzle Contest Winners Announced

The winner of the April puzzle contest and the book "Were You There?" by Diana L. Hayes is Dahlia S. Navarro of Our Lady of the Gulf Parish in Port Lavaca. The book is published by Maryknoll's Orbis Books and may be purchased online at <http://www.orbisbooks.com/>. The winners of the children's contest are John David Andruss (8) of Holy Family Parish in Victoria and Julia Foegelle (9) 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 May Puzzle Contest will win "The Catholic Girl's Survival Guide for the Single Years" published by Emmaus Road Publishing. Please mail all completed May puzzle forms to arrive in *The Catholic Lighthouse* office, P. O. Box 4070, Victoria, TX 77903 by May 25.

## Umbert the Unborn

by Gary Cangemi



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## THE POPE SPEAKS

Pope Benedict XVI



CNS photo from Reuters

### Prayer, not strategic campaign, is needed during crisis, pope says

By Carol Glatz  
Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY (CNS)—When a community is faced with crisis, persecution and trouble, it should come together in prayer for strength from God, not formulate strategic plans to defend itself from difficulties, Pope Benedict XVI said.

Unity is fundamental, he said, and the community needs to come together and ask “only to proclaim the word of God fearlessly in the face of persecution,” not to avoid tests, trials and tribulation.

There was a festive atmosphere during the pope’s general audience in St. Peter’s Square April 18 – two days after the pope turned 85 years old.

Thousands of pilgrims sang “Happy Birthday” when a Bavarian band struck up the tune, and smaller groups of the 22,000 people present sang or shouted “Happy Birthday” in their native languages.

The pope also thanked people for their well-wishes marking the seventh anniversary of his pontificate April 19.

“I ask that you always support me with your prayers so that, with the help of the Holy Spirit, I may persevere in my service to Christ and the Church,” he said.

During his main audience talk, the pope continued his cycle of talks on prayer.

He looked at how the early Christian community prayed when the apostles Peter and

John were released after being arrested for teaching in the name of Jesus.

The fledgling community “raised their voices to God with one accord,” St. Luke says in the Acts of the Apostles, asking the Lord to note the threats being made against them and give them the power and courage “to speak your word with all boldness.”

“Facing danger, difficulties and threats, the first Christian community does not seek to analyze how to react or devise a strategy in how to defend itself, what measures to adopt,” the pope said.

The vulnerable community did not pray to God for revenge or “to be defended, be spared trials and suffering, it is not a prayer to

be successful,” but just to be able to proclaim the word of God with candor, freedom and courage and make “God’s bounty visible.”

An important aspect of their prayer was that it took place in unison and harmony, he said, underlining how important such unity is for the Church.

“The community didn’t get scared and didn’t split up, but it was deeply united in prayer,” he said. “Unity is consolidated rather than be compromised because it is sustained by unfaltering prayer.”

At the end of their prayer, the Gospel says, “the place where they were gathered shook, and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and continued to speak the word of God with boldness.”

The pope said the trembling building is meant to show that “faith has the power to transform the earth, the world” and that being filled with the Holy Spirit pushed the disciples to proclaim the Gospel everywhere.

“Guided by the spirit of Jesus Christ we will be able to live through every situation with serenity, courage and joy,” the pope said, “knowing that troubles bring about patience” and the Holy Spirit brings hope which doesn’t disappoint.

### Pope Benedict’s Intentions June 2012

**General Intention:** Christ, Present in the Eucharist. That believers may recognize in the Eucharist the living presence of the Risen One who accompanies them in daily life.

**Missionary Intention:** European Christians. That Christians in Europe may rediscover their true identity and participate with greater enthusiasm in the proclamation of the Gospel.

### Our Lady of Guadalupe Icon Comes To MACC

SAN ANTONIO—On April 11, 2012, the Mexican American Catholic College received a very special gift from Mexico City – an exact, digital replica of the image of Our Lady of Guadalupe!

The image is one of only 220 that were blessed and consecrated as relics in 2004 at Our Lady’s Basilica where each one touched the original, miraculous tilma of San Juan Diego! The Lay Apostolate - Vida y Misericordia Internacional – was charged with taking these relic images to all parts of the world for public veneration and to foster conversions, reverence for life, and sanctity of the family and solidarity of the Church in America.

On the occasion of MACC’s 40th Anniversary, April 11, 2012, one of these images of Our Lady – along with a full-sized replica of the Divine Mercy Image as described by St. Faustina – was permanently enthroned in our Chapel. The Enthronement of The Divine Mercy and Our Lady

of Guadalupe images was held at the Mexican American Catholic College (MACC) April 11, 2012, the occasion of MACC’s 40th Anniversary, at 3115 West Ashby Place, San Antonio. A Mass was celebrated by Most Rev. Michael Pfeifer, OMI, bishop of San Angelo, Texas, followed by a procession to MACC’s Guadalupe Chapel and a presentation by Fernando Anchustegui of Vida y Misericordia Internacional.

Following the Enthronement, from April 12 – 15, these sacred icons also traveled to the San Antonio Coalition for Life 40 Days for Life vigil at the Planned Parenthood Clinic on 104 Babcock Road and St. James Catholic Church, 907 W. Theo, before returning to MACC.

The Sacred Icons will also travel as missionary images to parishes in the archdiocese and the surrounding communities. Therefore, this gift to MACC is a gift to us all! For more information, contact 210-732-2156, or visit [www.maccsa.org](http://www.maccsa.org).

### Pope wants US Catholics to lead worldwide church revival, nuncio says

By Tim Puet  
Catholic News Service

COLUMBUS, Ohio (CNS)—Pope Benedict XVI wants the Catholic Church in America to be in the forefront of reviving Catholicism worldwide, the apostolic nuncio to the United States said in Columbus.

“The church in the United States should lead the entire church in the world” in a revitalization effort, Archbishop Carlo Maria Vigano said. “This is a great task, but you have the determination and the grace to do it. This I know is the vision of the Holy Father regarding the church in the United States.”

The archbishop was speaking to an audience of seminarians and benefactors of the Pontifical College Josephinum at its annual rector’s dinner April 23. He called on the American church to go beyond its mission of evangelizing the United States and “to be missionaries not only to the Third World, but especially to the countries of Europe.

“Christianity (in Europe) in

### Capitol Comments: A Sign of Hope and Opportunity for Prayer

Continued from p. 6

God to introduce them to their adopted child. When I see my plates, and others on the road, I send up a quick prayer for those who need our support to choose life and those waiting on the Lord and the list, and I hope that you’ll do the same.

To order your Choose Life license plates online, visit <https://rts.texasonline.state.tx.us/NA-SApp/txdotrts/SpecialPlateOrderServlet?gpid=60&pltd=356>

Sunday Readings from May 6 to June 10	
May 6 — Fifth Sunday of Easter	Acts 9:266-31 Psalms 22:26-27, 28, 30, 31-32 1 John 3:18-24 John 15:1-8
May 13 — Sixth Sunday of Easter	Acts 10:25-26, 34-35, 44-48 Psalms 98: 1, 2-3, 3-4 1 John 4:7-10 John 15:9-17
May 20 — Solemnity of the Ascension of the Lord	Acts 1:1-11 Psalms 47:2-3, 6-7, 8-9 Ephesians 1:17-23 Mark 16:15-20
May 27 — Pentecost Sunday	Acts 2:1-11 Psalms 10:1, 24, 29-30, 31, 34 1 Corinthians 12:3b-7, 12-13 John 20:19-23
June 3 — Solemnity of the Most Holy Trinity	Deuteronomy 4:32-34, 39-40 Psalms 33:4-5, 6, 9, 18-19, 20, 22 Romans 8:14-17 Matthew 28:16-20
June 10 — Solemnity of the Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ	Exodus 24:3-8 Psalms 116:12-13, 15-16, 17-18 Hebrews 9:11-15 Mark 14:12-16, 22-26

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)

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some way has lost its strength and needs an example,” he said, noting “very positive signs of growth” in vocations to the priesthood and the religious life in the United States.

Archbishop Vigano said he especially wanted to direct his message to young people, particularly those studying for the priesthood at the Josephinum.

The institution has experienced substantial growth in recent years and currently has an enrollment of more than 180 men, its highest in 25 years. They represent 29 dioceses from all over the United States including the Victoria Diocese.

The nuncio, who serves as the Vatican’s ambassador to the United States and is based in Washington, also serves as chancellor of the Josephinum.

**Editor’s note:** Seminarian Kristopher Fuchs attends the Pontifical College Josephinum for the Diocese of Victoria.

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Reporting Abuse

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

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

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

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





## Walking on ice with confidence

By Alfredo Cardenas,  
South Texas Catholic

CORPUS CHRISTI—Daniel Cardinal DiNardo of the Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston was the principal celebrant at the Centennial Jubilee Mass for the Diocese of Corpus Christi at the American Bank Center on March 26. He said he would title his report to the Holy Father on the event as “Walking on ice with confidence.”

He was referencing to the fact that the Mass he had celebrated was on the floor of an ice rink used by the local semi-pro hockey team; and the ice was underneath the flooring.

It is from the Diocese of Galveston that the Diocese of Corpus Christi sprung forth and it is today the province to which it belongs. Cardinal DiNardo is no stranger to Corpus Christi having presided over the installation Mass for Bishop Wm. Michael Mulvey two years ago.

Bishop Mulvey, Bishop Emeritus Edmond Carmody and bishops from Texas and other invited bishops and priests concelebrated the Mass with Cardinal DiNardo.

More than 5,000 faithful attended the Mass, making it the largest attendance at any Mass in the history of the diocese. In 1962, four cardinals filled the now demolished Memorial Coliseum, which was a smaller venue.

In his opening remarks before the Penitential Rite, Bishop Mulvey expressed his appreciation to Cardinal DiNardo and the many other clergy and religious present. San Antonio Archbishop Gustavo Garcia-Siller and bishops from throughout Texas,

Oklahoma, Arkansas, Minnesota and Connecticut were in attendance. Benedictine Abbots from Oklahoma and Arkansas were also present.

Among the bishops present were four that were born and served as priests in the diocese of Corpus Christi, including Bishop Emeritus Raymundo Peña of Brownsville, Bishop James Tamayo of Laredo, Bishop Daniel Flores of Brownsville and Bishop Michael Pfeiffer of San Angelo, who was born in Alamo and ordained a priest while the Rio Grande Valley was still part of the Diocese of Corpus Christi.

Bishop Mulvey acknowledged “with gratitude and fraternity” the presence of Bishop Emeritus Edmond Carmody, his predecessor in the See of Corpus Christi. He thanked him for his leadership and service.

In addition to the numerous bishops, priests from the Dioceses of Corpus Christi, Brownsville, Laredo, Victoria, San Antonio and Austin were also present. Many retired priests and active deacons were also on hand.

Bishop Mulvey extended a special thanks to the many women religious in attendance. He told them they “played a vital and indispensable role in the life of the Church.” Even before the diocese was erected, women religious educated youth, comforted the sick, gave shelter to the homeless and consoled those in need, Bishop Mulvey said.

Bishop Mulvey acknowledged the presence of ecumenical, inter-faith and civic leaders. He pledged his willingness to work with them for the betterment of



The principal celebrant at the Centennial Jubilee Mass for the 100-year anniversary of the Diocese of Corpus Christi March 26, 2012, was Daniel Cardinal DiNardo. Bishops from throughout Texas, Oklahoma, Arkansas, Minnesota and Connecticut concelebrated. More than 5,000 faithful attended the Mass held in the American Bank Center, making it the largest attendance at any Mass in the history of the diocese.

the community.

He thanked the faithful for their “willingness to march together into the future with hope to bring to life the Word of God...”

Bishop Mulvey also shared with attendees his meeting with the Holy Father Pope Benedict XVI earlier in the month. The pope, Bishop Mulvey said, sent “not only his greetings but his blessings.”

Cardinal DiNardo read a letter from the Vatican Secretary of State Cardinal Angelo Sodano on behalf of the pope. The letter said that Holy Father was confident that the people of the Diocese of Corpus Christi, inspired by their pioneering predecessors, would continue their “missionary commitment to the spread of the Gospel.”

In his homily, Cardinal DiNardo offered congratulatory remarks to Bishop Mulvey and the faithful of the Diocese of Corpus Christi. The Centennial Mass fell on the Solemnity of the Annunciation of the Lord and the Cardinal’s homily focused on the Blessed Mother’s “yes” to the Lord, which resulted in the Word made flesh and in

Corpus Christi—the body of Christ, which is the Church.

Recalling the tumultuous first decade of the diocese, which faced two hurricanes, the unexpected death of clergy to the Spanish flu and the caring for clergy and religious fleeing the uprising in Mexico, Cardinal DiNardo said the people possessed a “resilience of faith in the Word made flesh.”

“What a tremendous history you have of that reality in the Diocese of Corpus Christi,” Cardinal DiNardo said.

“We need to take this 100th anniversary, stand back, thank God, praise God, ponder and then move ahead in mission, the mission is to make Jesus known,” the cardinal said.

“I ask that in the *Year of Faith* about to begin in October, that all the members of Corpus Christi here in Corpus Christi—your town happens to be called Corpus Christi but you are the members of the body of Christ—I beg you that you make your own yes that of the Virgin Mary,” Cardinal DiNardo said.

## The most cherished of American freedoms

Continued from p. 2

that, like any freedom, religious liberty requires constant vigilance and protection, or it will disappear. Maryland’s experiment in religious toleration ended within a few decades. The colony was placed under royal control and the Church of England became the established religion. Discriminatory laws, including the loss of political rights, were enacted against those who refused to conform. Catholic chapels were closed and Catholics were restricted to practicing their faith in their homes. The Catholic community lived under this coercion until the American Revolution.

By the end of the 18th century our nation’s founders embraced freedom of religion as an essential condition of a free and democratic society. So when the Bill of Rights was ratified, religious freedom had the distinction of being the First Amendment. Religious liberty is indeed the first liberty.

This is our American heritage, our most cherished freedom. If we are not free in our conscience and our practice of religion, all other freedoms are fragile. If our obligations and duties to God are impeded, or even worse, contradicted by the government, then we can no longer claim to be a land of the free.

Is our most cherished freedom truly under threat? Among many current challenges, consider the recent Department

of Health and Human Services (HHS) mandate requiring almost all private health plans to cover contraception, sterilization and abortion-inducing drugs. For the first time in our history, the federal government will force religious institutions to facilitate drugs and procedures contrary to our moral teaching, and purport to define which religious institutions are “religious enough” to merit an exemption. This is not a matter of whether contraception may be prohibited by the government. It is not even a matter of whether contraception may be supported by the government. It is a matter of whether religious people and institutions may be forced by the government to provide coverage for contraception and sterilization, even when it violates our religious beliefs.

What can you do to ensure the protection of religious freedom?

To learn more about our first freedom, and to send your message to HHS and Congress telling them to stand up for religious liberty and conscience rights, go to [www.usccb.org/conscience](http://www.usccb.org/conscience). The HHS public comment period ends June 19. Please act today! Thank you for joining the effort to end this unprecedented government coercion of conscience and intrusion in religious affairs.

**Editor’s Note:** Best Catholic Pilgrimages is looking for a contact person in the Diocese of Victoria to get a group together for their 4-night/5-day *Pilgrimage for Religious Rights* to march in the “We are Catholics, We are Americans, Marching for Rights and Religious Liberties” marches to be held in Washington, DC, between the dates of June 21 and July 4, 2012.

If one is interested in becoming the contact person/organizer to travel with Best Catholic Pilgrimages travel provider, please contact [info@religious-travel.com](mailto:info@religious-travel.com); also once dates are chosen, please contact [lighthouse@victoriadiocese.org](mailto:lighthouse@victoriadiocese.org) so that we may announce this Pilgrimage for Religious Rights. Thank you, Cynthia Brewer

## Catholics Care. Catholics Vote: Political Engagement is Every Catholic’s Duty

Continued from p. 1

common good (#1913-15). Either way, political participation, at its best, is an expression of faith lived out in the world.

The bishops, as pastors and teachers, apply the Church’s moral voice to issues affecting human life and dignity in the public square, and Catholics as a whole engage in the political process through such means as voting and, according to the bishops, “running for office; working within political parties; communicating their concerns and positions to elected officials; and joining diocesan social mission or advocacy networks, state Catholic conference initiatives, community organiza-

tions, and other efforts to apply authentic moral teaching in the public square.”

This is a year-round deal, but not in the sense of the perpetual campaign that poisons so much political discourse. Catholics aren’t called to be hyper-partisans waging a scorched Earth campaign for permanent political dominance. In fact the bishops offer the admonition that Catholics shouldn’t let their parties lead them to “neglect or deny fundamental moral truths.”

Instead, Catholics are called to be leaven. The duty of the politically-engaged Catholic isn’t just to take sides in the political debate, but to transform it.

### WANTED!

Youth Ministry Job Opening: Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary Parish in Ganado is seeking a full-time Youth Minister. For more information, contact Father Michael Lyons via e-mail at [FaMiJoLy04@yahoo.com](mailto:FaMiJoLy04@yahoo.com) or (361) 771-3425.

## St. Mary’s Parish Picnic

St. Mary’s Parish Hall  
Hallettsville, Texas

Sunday, June 10

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**Beer • Popcorn • Soda**  
**Water • Snow cones**  
**• Hamburgers •**  
**Ice Cream and**  
**More**

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**Bingo • Ball Throw • Ring Toss • Cake & Plant Walk**  
**• Train Ride • Fish Pond**  
**• Country Store w/Arts & Crafts, Canned Goods Kolaches, etc.**

**Music 10:30 a.m.-9:00 p.m.**  
**Texas Sound Czech (10:30-2)**  
**Tony Janak (2-5:30)**  
**Red Ravens (5:30-9)**



**Mass 9:15 a.m.**  
**Meal Begins at 10:30 a.m.**  
**Featuring Special St. Mary’s Stew & Sausage & all the Trimmings**  
**PLATES: Adult: \$7.50**  
*Dine-in or Drive-thru*

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Auction @ 1:00 p.m.





## Special Collections

**Black and Native American • Catholic Communications Campaign • Catholic University of America (all 3 combined) — May 20**

### 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) or call the parish.

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

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

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

**St. Francis and St. Clare Fraternity/Secular Franciscans** — For more information, please go to their website at [www.lostrescompaneros-sfo.org](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. Next weekend is Aug. 17-19, see p. 8. Go to [www.retrouvaille.org](http://www.retrouvaille.org) for more information or contact John and Jennifer Vincent at [jbvjov@sbcglobal.net](mailto:jbvjov@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.

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

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

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

the website at [www.presidiolabahia.org](http://www.presidiolabahia.org).

## Picnics, Activities, etc.

### May

**Hostyn** — Holy Rosary Mayfest May 6 on the parish grounds (936 FM 2436, LaGrange). The day begins with Czech hymns at 9:30 a.m. followed by a Polka Mass. A barbecue-pork and sausage dinner will be served starting at 11:00 a.m. at \$8 p/p for adults and plates-to-go. Hamburgers available after 2:00 p.m. The auction starts at 1:00 p.m. There will be a country store, games, cake and plant wheel and much more. Music throughout the day with Texas Sound Check and Czechaholics.

**Victoria** — Holy Family Festival will be held May 6 at the community center at 11:00 a.m. Entertainment for Young and Old: Chris Hessler with Scoot's DJ. from 11:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.; Rusty Steins from 11:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.! Pit Barbecue beef and sausage served from 11:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. - \$8 p/p; children under 10: \$5. Plates to go with fast curb service. Clergy are invited to attend for a free meal! Music, auction at 1:00 p.m., country store, cake wheel, games and more.

**Weimar** — Weimar Gedenke! Mother's Day Weekend, May 11-12, free admission, free parking! Friday: Barbecue cook-off check-in; biergarten opens at 5:00 p.m.; all booths open; Johnny Loco, DJ, from 5:00-8:00 p.m.; Southbound 955 from 8:00-11:30 p.m. / Saturday: 5-K family run/walk 7:30 a.m.; pie contest 8:00 a.m.; booths open 10:00 a.m.; parade at noon; biergarten opens at noon; washer pitching contest; Darren Kunz, DJ from 1:00-5:00 p.m.; The Telstars from 6:00-8:00 p.m. and 10:00 p.m.; battle dance; The Hit Men from 7:00-9:00 p.m. and 11:00 p.m. For more information, call (979) 725-9511 or visit [www.weimartx.org](http://www.weimartx.org).

**Tivoli** — Our Lady of Guadalupe Festival May 20 (located on Hwy 35). A brisket dinner will be served starting at 11:00 a.m. at \$7.50 p/p. There will be a country store, baked items, auction (12:30 p.m.), games and a lot of fun and fellowship!

**Wharton** — Our Lady of Mount Carmel Bazaar May 20 from 11:00 a.m.-6:00 p.m. (506 S. East Avenue). A barbecue 1/2 chicken and sausage dinner at \$8 p/p will be served dine-in or drive through available. An auction starts at 1:00 p.m., and live music includes Grupo Excito and Mariachis. Also, enjoy baked goods, plant and cakewalk, moon walk and much more.

**Hallettsville** — Sacred Heart Parish Spring Festival May 27 at the KC Hall. A fried-chicken and stew dinner will be served from 10:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. in the hall with plates-to-go available. There will be music, auction, games, entertainment and more all afternoon.

**Shiner** — Sts. Cyril and Methodius Spring Picnic May 27 at the American Legion Park. See page 5 for more information.

### Upcoming Events

**Flatonia** — Sacred Heart Spring Picnic June 3 with a fried-chicken, stew dinner. There will be a country store, auction and more all day. For more information call the parish office at (361) 865-3568.

**Port Lavaca** — The Catholic Daughters of the Americas, Court Our Lady of the Gulf #2267, will be hosting their annual Games Party, June 3 from 1:00- 5:00 p.m. at St. Jude Hall, 415 W. Austin St. Please join us for an afternoon of fun. Refreshments, door prizes and a silent auction are provided while you play your favorite games. Everyone is welcome! Admission is \$7 p/p. For table reservations or inquiries, please call (361) 987-2387, (361) 552-3233, or (361) 552-6844.

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

**New Taiton** — 100-year Anniversary Celebration for St. John Nepomucene Church at CR 370 and 1843 FM 460, (outside El Campo 77437), Sunday, June 10. Mass will be celebrated at 8:00 a.m. with Bishop David E. Fellhauer presiding and Father Gabriel Oduro Tawiah concelebrating. A celebration will follow at the Taiton Community Center. A meal with beef and sausage will be served from 10:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Fun for the entire family, auction at 1:00 p.m., music, raffle, bingo, games, rides for kids and much more. See page 3.

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

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

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

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

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

### Masses • Retreats • Conferences

**Victoria** — Healing Mass with stigmatist, visionary. Come join

us at Our Lady of Lourdes Church, 105 N. William Street, Victoria, as Father Phi Nguyen, chaplain of IWBS convent, celebrates Mass and Healing Prayer on Saturday, May 19, at 10:00 a.m. Joining Father Phi in the healing service will be Emma De Guzman, a Filipino Catholic Evangelist, Stigmatist, Mystic, and Visionary who also has the gift of healing. Please note the May 5 Mass and Healing Service at Our Lady of Lourdes is being POSTPONED by Father Phi Nguyen to MAY 19 to accommodate the presence and healing gifts of Emma De Guzman.

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

**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).

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

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

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

## Movie Review:

### “The Pirates! Band of Misfits” (Columbia)

Despite many failed attempts to do so, the warmhearted and enthusiastic — but not overly successful — captain (voice of Hugh Grant) of a motley shipload of 19th-century buccaneers still dreams of winning the accolade “Pirate of the Year” in director Peter Lord's rollicking 3-D animated comedy. While fleeting elements of Gideon Defoe's script — adapted from his book “The Pirates! In an Adventure with Scientists” — preclude recommendation for all, this historical fantasy, which features humorously revisionist versions of both Charles Darwin (voice of David Tennant) and Queen Victoria (voiced by Imelda Staunton), does teach viewers to place loyalty to friends above worldly ambition. Freightened with that respectable moral, it should make smooth sailing for teens and their seniors. Very mild action violence, a brief scene involving obscured nudity, a couple of crass terms and a few vaguely sexual references. **The Catholic News Service classification is A-II — adults and adolescents.** The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG — parental guidance suggested.

## CONTACT US BY MAY 15 TO CONTINUE RECEIVING “THE CATHOLIC LIGHTHOUSE”

To continue receiving *The Catholic Lighthouse* newspaper at your home, please contact the Diocese of Victoria Chancery Office by May 15 by going to the diocesan website: [www.victoriadiocese.org](http://www.victoriadiocese.org), calling Regina at (361) 573-0828, or sending a note with your address to *The Catholic Lighthouse*, P. O. Box 4070, Victoria, TX 77903. Thank you to all those who have contacted us.



## HEAVENLY HELPERS

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## Returning to and joining the faith ... it's a family affair!

### ACTS Retreats draw many back to their faith

By Cynthia Brewer and  
Rose Chovanec

During this year's Rite of Election, always held the first Sunday of Lent, I noticed that when Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary Parish in Ganado announced their candidates and catechumens, several of them had the same last name.

I was excited that families were coming into the Catholic Church together, so I called the parish to learn more. The pastor, Father Michael Lyons, referred me to the parish RCIA director, Mrs. Rose Chovanec.

She informed me that I had heard correctly, that a family of five, the Luera's, was entering the church, and in fact three other families and a total of 19 new members would be welcomed into the parish at the Easter Vigil, April 7, 2012. Nine catechumens received the three sacraments of initiation: baptism, Holy Communion, and confirmation; and 10 candidates received full com-

munion into the Catholic faith.

The families that were united in the faith at Assumption Parish this past Easter were the Lueras, the Peters, the Tarvers, the Bracknells, the Gloor, the Floyds and the Bures'. All but two families had been touched by ACTS retreats.

"While ACTS seems to play a significant role in helping Catholics come home, and sometimes in helping those of other faiths see the beauty and truth of the Catholic faith," said Rose Chovanec, "it is not always the tool that the Holy Spirit uses... but here in Ganado, I think that ACTS has helped our entire Church Community live out authentic love through Adoration, Community, Theology, and Service."

**Editor's note:** To read the family's conversion stories, please go to <http://www.victoriadiocese.org/lighthouse/lighthouse.htm> and click on May issue. The story will follow page 12.



**THE PASSION OF JESUS CHRIST**—St. Philip Catholic Parish Youth Ministry of El Campo presented The Passion of Jesus Christ Friday, April 6, 2012, at El Campo High School Auditorium. Thirty-five youth were involved in the production, which they perform each year for the community. The play was produced and directed by Molly Kresta. The scenes are based on Scripture and the songs played from the "Passion" tape were written by Adrian Snell. The audience was invited to meditate as they watched and heard the passion: suffering, death, burial, and resurrection of our Lord, Jesus Christ. In the above scene, Mary and her friends look for Jesus (l. to r. are Audrey Anderson, Jessica Gaines, Sarah Supak as Mary, the mother of Jesus, and Taylor Fuechec: "Son of my heart, where are you roaming? I have wandered many paths in search of you rising with the sun as the early flowers open. You wander lonely through our country with words I cannot understand, son of my heart. Son of my life I love you dearly. Love so deep I don't know how to say. I want you close to my heart and walking by me. Yet ways are strange, your people change. Son of my life, son of my life. Son of the world I was your mother. Mine was the pain that once unlocked you to the world. And now I see a stranger held in chains and taken from me. What words remain when daylight fades? Son of the world."



Last Supper scene includes students from St. Philip Youth Ministry in El Campo, from left: Janae Saucedo as James, Eli Kresta as Jesus, Matthew Edwards as Simon Peter, Jeremy Supak as Philip and Becca Dornak as Thadeus.



Gilbert Luera returned to his childhood faith after being influenced by his daughter's reaction to an ACTS teen retreat and then going on an ACTS retreat himself. His wife, Jane, and three daughters joined the Catholic faith this past Easter Vigil. Pictured are (back row): Richard Chovanec, Father Michael Lyons, and Rose Chovanec (the Chovanecs are RCIA team leaders); (middle row): Gilbert Luera, Jane Luera, and RCIC team leaders Jerri Lara and Melissa Fowler; and front row: Madison and Makenzie Luera (11-year-old twins), and Shelby Luera (17).



*Christ Jesus, even if your resurrection kindles within us a flame that may be quite weak, it enables us to live in communion with you. And by your Gospel we realize that you came to earth not just for part of humankind, but for every human being, even if they are unaware of your presence within them.*

Reprinted from "Peace of Heart in All Things"  
Br. Roger of Taizé



**STS. CYRIL & METHODIUS YOUTH PUT ON PASSION PLAY**—The Senior students of St. Paul High School and Sts. Cyril & Methodius Religious Education Program did an outstanding job in portraying our Lord's Passion and Crucifixion on Wednesday, April 4. These young people of the local Catholic parish came together and worked hard to put on a performance for the people of our community. Their goal was for those viewing the enactment to see a glimpse of the great love our Lord has for all of us as he made his way to Calvary. And that is what they did for the audience of all ages. They are to be commended, each and every one of them: the actors, actresses, readers, singers, and those in charge of sound effects, and lighting. It was a team effort and they worked great together as a team. The following were involved in portraying the Live Stations of the Cross (seated): Emma Holley, Kali Kocian, Mary Marcak, Erin Easterling, Christine Bittick, Marris Ynclan, and Kaylynn Benes; 2nd row (kneeling): Jake Jalufka and Coy Condel; Guards – Brett Hodges and Jacob Coull; and Justin Natal played the role of Jesus. Not pictured: Davi Spaeth and Mrs. Glo Hagens.



### WEIMAR STUDENTS RE-ENACT LAST SUPPER

The 2nd grade students at St. Michael School in Weimar reenacted the Last Supper on Holy Thursday, April 2, while the 8th graders portrayed the Living Stations. Tanner Janak, an 8th grader, portrayed Jesus at the Last Supper reenactment, while Austin Purdy (l.) and Chase Gindler (r.), on either side of Tanner, portrayed the two criminals in the Living Stations.

*Have a Blessed and Happy Easter Season!*





## Returning to and joining the faith ... it's a family affair! *ACTS Retreats draw many back to their faith*

By Cynthia Brewer and  
Rose Chovanec

*This is the continued version.*

During this year's Rite of Election, always held the first Sunday of Lent, I noticed that when Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary Parish in Ganado announced their candidates and catechumens, several of them had the same last name.

I was excited that a large family was coming into the Catholic Church together, so I called the parish to learn more. The pastor, Father Michael Lyons, referred me to the parish RCIA director, Mrs. Rose Chovanec.

She informed me that I had heard correctly, that a family of five, the Luera's, was entering the church, and in fact three other families and a total of 19 new members would be welcomed into the parish at the Easter Vigil, April 7, 2012. Nine catechumens received the three sacraments of initiation: baptism, Holy Communion, and confirmation, and 10 candidates received full communion into the Catholic faith.

The families that were united in the faith at Assumption Parish this past Easter were the Lueras, the Peters, the Tarvers, the Bracknells, and the Gloors.

The Luera Family – Gilbert was a baptized Catholic, but did not marry in the church.

### Gilbert Luera's story:

"I had pulled away from my Catholic religion back in 1992. My wife and I were not married through the Catholic Church and when we had tried to get my son baptized we were not able to. At the time I thought there were too many rules to have to get remarried through the church to have him baptized, and it was easier to go to my wife's religion. I attended church with my family but always knew it wasn't "my church." And I knew there was something spiritually missing in me.

"For 17 years I attended my wife, Jane's church until my daughter's (ACTS) candle-light service. When I attended her service I felt something I had never felt before. I knew God had been knocking at my front door for the last two years before this but refused to open it until that night. I didn't know how to react on the way home, and my wife was asking me what was wrong. It was a feeling that I knew God was coming back into my life. I was scheduled to work that weekend but decided to take off to attend my daughters return ACTS Mass. It had been many years since I had attended the Catholic Church. And when I did, I felt like I was home.

Gilbert continued to struggle over the next two years, even when he knew God was calling him. Then a friend approached him about attending a Men's ACTS retreat in October of 2011.

"Attending the retreat opened up my heart to letting Christ in. I have always struggled as a man with my faith because of the trials put in my life. (But after the retreat) I realized if you put God first he will take care of the rest. After the retreat I felt a closeness with my wife and kids I had never felt before. Now I know this is the path that he wants me to take. I continue to go to church; I attend "That Man is You" class on Wednesdays; and now I'm a team leader for the next ACTS men's retreat. I will continue to try and touch people's lives the way they helped me and remember to always put God first."

### Jane Luera's story:

"In answer to the question of what led me and my girls to the Catholic religion, it began back when my oldest daughter, Shelby, attended her first ACTS teen retreat. She began to feel the pull toward the Catholic religion during this time. We were

members of a different church (my parents' church) but did not feel at home there after both my parents had passed away. ... Shelby started to attend church with some of her Catholic friends and then was asked to be on the team for the next teen retreat. During that time she really started to change and started to take a path in changing her life. Several adults during that time had started to touch her life and she began to want to join the Catholic faith.

"I had been struggling spiritually for several years (children's health situations, both parents passing away, and marriage struggles). (Then) my husband decided to go on the Men's ACTS retreat, and it was life changing for both of us and our family. When he had returned we both knew the path in which we were suppose to take.

"When I started my RCIA classes I thought I knew something about God. I attended church as a kid and adult, but I actually did not know much. Things started to come together for me and make sense. My youngest girls have been in the youth classes and have had a thirst to learn more and more. The whole class has been awesome! Rose Chovanec has been an angel on my shoulder the last several months and has helped guide me down a path that has been life changing. There is a love and acceptance in this church that I have never felt anywhere before. It is now my family."

**The Peters Family** – Brandon Peters attended an ACTS retreat in Oct 2010 and his wife, Sabrina, attended the following spring. Sabrina teamed (helped run) another ACTS retreats in August of the same year. Rose Chovanec was on the team with her on the August 2011 retreat and on their way back Sabrina said something to the effect that "I am so confused and I have so many questions." Rose said, "I can help you with that!" The Peters made the

decision to attend RCIA, and on October 23 they had their marriage blessed in the Catholic Church. Brandon immediately went back to receiving the Eucharist. Sabrina and their 11-year-old daughter, Sydney, were received into the Church on Holy Saturday. Sydney says she is enthralled by the saints and their stories.

The Bracknell's – Troy was raised Jehovah Witness and had never been baptized. His wife, Cynthia, was raised Catholic but never received Confirmation. They have two very small children. Troy made his ACTS retreat in Oct 2010 and Cynthia in April 2011. Close friends, Missie and Robert Landry, who live here in Ganado, have walked this RCIA journey with them. Troy says that having so many different churches over the course of his life, really confused him on so many topics, but the Catholic Faith has answered so many questions, with sound logic, and finally things are making sense.

**The Tarver's** – While Freddy and Christina need their marriage blessed and are waiting on an annulment, their two children were fully received into the Catholic faith at the Easter Vigil. Freddy has made much progress, Rose said, and she is sure he will be baptized and fully initiated next Easter. Freddie feels comfortable here in Ganado; he says that he feels welcomed.

**The Gloor Family** – Austin is a 7th grader (12 years old) who was baptized as an infant in the Catholic Church and is now helping to bring his family back to the faith. His mother, Destini, and father, Jason, fell away and began attending the Baptist Church. This past fall, Austin decided that he was ready to be Catholic! His aunts and his grandmothers were Catholic, and his parents had both attended ACTS retreats. His Dad wanted to return to the Catholic faith after his own retreat, but Des-

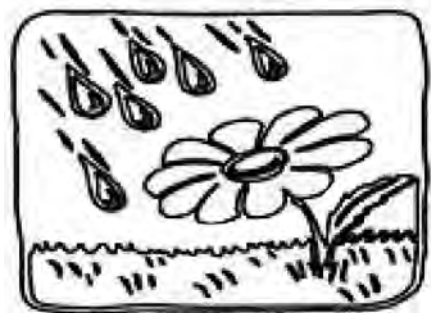
tini was not ready. Later, after much prayer from Destini's extended family, Rose gave Destini some taped conversion stories and she and Destini teamed an ACTS retreat together.

At the beginning of the retreat, Destini told Rose she was so torn. "She wanted to be here with the Catholics, and she wanted to be there with the Baptists... she loved both....," she had told Rose. Rose asked her, "Do you love the faith, or the people?" At the end of the retreat Destini told Rose she pondered that question through the whole retreat and had come to her decision... she was ready to have her marriage blessed by Father Michael.

"The Tuesday after our return, at our evaluation meeting, we were planning to say a rosary of thanksgiving, but instead we started with the witnessing of her marriage!!!! The retreat was Palm Sunday, so Holy Tuesday was the wedding, and on Easter Vigil, Austin, and his mother and father, received Holy Communion together! Mom and Dad, for the first time in years!"

There were also others who joined the Church during the Easter Vigil who had nothing to do with the ACTS retreats. Eric Floyd joined his wife and daughter in the Catholic faith, and Kelly Bures decided on her own accord that she was ready to attend RCIA and join her husband in the Catholic faith.

"While ACTS seems to play a significant role in helping Catholic's come home, and sometimes in helping those of other faiths see the beauty and truth of the Catholic faith," said Rose, "it is not always the tool that the Holy Spirit uses... but here in Ganado, I think that ACTS has helped our entire Church Community live out authentic love through Adoration, Community, Theology, and Service."



### Thank you for the Rain

Thank you for the rain, O Lord  
The water and the life  
We are grateful for an end  
To this specific strife

For our land was parched with thirst  
The trees, the grass, the crops  
Please grant us rain, sufficient rain  
Until this drought, it stops

Fill our rivers, fill our tanks  
Please let abundance flow  
Bless us with fertility  
Let all Creation grow

Thank you for the rain, O Lord  
The water and the life  
We are grateful for an end  
To this specific strife

-Martha Egan  
Shiner Texas



Pictured (l. to r.) are Mr. Bill McArdle, current STJ President / Principal, and Sister M. Alberta Novosad.

### FORMER ST. JOSEPH HIGH SCHOOL PRINCIPAL AUTHORS BOOK—

Sister M. Alberta Novosad, IWBS, recently authored a book titled, "Texas Footprints - In the Sands of Time" and presented a copy to STJ. She also held a book signing at the school on May 2. The book traces the historical account of three Incarnate Word Foundations in Texas and their union in 1939 (San Antonio, Victoria, and Shiner) and its aftermath. Sister Alberta worked at STJ for 12 years serving as principal during that time. Please contact the Sisters of Incarnate Word Convent / Bookstore for more information or to purchase a book.



Port Lavaca—The Catholic Daughters of the Americas, Court Our Lady of the Gulf #2267, will be hosting their annual Games Party, June 3, 2012, from 1:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m. at St. Jude Hall, 415 W. Austin St. Please join us for an afternoon of fun. Refreshments, door prizes and a silent auction are provided while you play your favorite games. Everyone is welcome! Admission is \$7.00 per person. For table reservations or inquiries, please call 361-987-2387, 361-552-3233, or 361-552-6844. Pictured are Georgia Mikosh, Glenda Stavinoha and Doris Winter of Court #2267.





## JCDA #206 has a busy spring



(above) Yoakum Police Department members accept JCDA #206 donation to Blue Santa at their April 19, 2012 meeting. The members made the donation to Blue Santa in memory of Ms. Susie Gomez, who dedicated her life giving to others, especially through the Blue Santa program.



(above) Summer is just around the corner and JCDA #206 made a donation of 10 box fans to members of the Yoakum Police Department at their April meeting. The fans will be distributed to needy individuals to help beat the summer heat.

*"I pray that you may be active in sharing your faith, so that you will have a full understanding of every good thing we have in Christ."*

Philemon 1:6



(above) It was a night for giving at Junior Catholic Daughters of the America's #206 April's monthly meeting. The night began with a donation to the Perpetual Help Home located in Victoria. The donation was accepted by Ms. Janet Jones, advancement director for the Perpetual Help Home. The Perpetual Help Home is a Christian restorative-justice organization helping women break the cycle of homelessness, drug addiction, and incarceration through making life changes. They help women become productive members of society with transitional support, new life-skills training and permanent supportive housing.

## St. Joseph High School Varsity Treble & Mixed Choirs Win Concert & Sightreading Trophies

The St. Joseph High School Varsity Choir won Two Texas Private School Music Educators Association (TPSMEA) Concert & Sightreading Trophies on Friday, March 23, 2012. The choir contest was hosted by St. Agnus Academy of Houston and held at The First Christian Church of Houston. The STJ Varsity Treble and STJ Varsity Mixed Choirs were judged by a panel of three judges in two separate areas of musical competition. A Concert & Sightreading Trophy is awarded to a choral organization that receives 1st division (Superior) ratings in both Concert Singing and Sightreading.

The STJ Varsity Mixed Choir performed "Come Celebrate With Joyful Pleasure" by Arcadelt, "In Stiller Nacht" by Brahms, and "Agnus Dei" by Poorman. Comments from the judging panel included, "Excellent diction, intonation & blend. Lovely tone quality, ability to convey different moods, mature interpretation."

The STJ Varsity Treble Choir performed "Agnus Dei" by Durante, "Der Herr Segne Euch" by Bach, and "Pie Jesu" by Lightfoot. Comments from the judging panel for the STJ Treble group included, "Great job girls. Ambitious repertoire, I applaud you for singing in German, in addition to English and Latin. Excellent blend, intonation, and sensitive interpretation. Very musical."

Director for the St. Joseph High School Choirs is Michael Petrisky, accompanied by Mrs. Sandra Glenn. Mr. Petrisky commented, "All of the students did a great job. To my knowledge, as far as TPSMEA Contest results, this is a first for St. Joseph to win two Concert & Sightreading Trophies at the same contest." Petrisky concluded, "With each judge awarding a rating, the choirs were a perfect 12 out of 12 first divisions awarded. We were also

fortunate to have Sandra Glenn help as our accompanist. She is a big contributor to the students' success with her talents."

The STJ Choirs sang their Spring Concert on, Thursday, May 3, 2012. The concert took place at Our Saviour's Lutheran Church.



The three STJ choir soloists are (l. to r.) Meghan Mead, Jaclyn Boozalis, and Katie Streeter.

Pictured are St. Joseph Varsity Chorale Officers 2011-12 (l. to r.): Vice President Jillian Strauss, President Jaclyn Boozalis, Quartermaster Theodore Boozalis, Chaplain Kristin Janecek, and Librarian Marian Howard.



## A Pilgrimage to Italy for the Canonization of two American Saints

**Kateri Tekawitha and Blessed Marianne Cope**

NEW YORK, NY—Regina Tours, a premier provider of customized Catholic interest tours, will celebrate the canonization of two Catholic Americans with a special program to Rome from October 15th through 22nd. The Pilgrimage to Italy for the Canonization of Kateri Tekawitha and Blessed Marianne Cope is an eight-day trip to the Eternal City, culminating in the historic canonization ceremony at St. Peter's Basilica on Sunday, October 21st.

Kateri Tekawitha, a Mohawk woman who was among the first Native Americans to convert to Catholicism, will become the first Native American to be canonized as a saint. Marianne Cope, a German-American nun who ministered to lepers in Hawaii, will also be canonized on the same day. Others to be canonized at the October 21st ceremony include Pedro Calungsod of the Philippines, Anna Schaffer of Germany, Giovanni Battista Piamartaa of Italy, Jacques Berthieu of France and Carmen Salles of Spain.

This special itinerary, offered exclusively by Regina Tours, is available for \$2,718 per person. A Papal Audience, round-trip international airfare, seven night hotel stay, breakfast and dinner daily, transportation within Italy and the services of a professional tour escort are all included in the package price.

For more information, please contact Regina Tours at 1-800-CATHOLIC or visit <http://www.regina-tours.com/STW/STWProduct.aspx?Theme=REGINA&ProductCode=31316>.

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## Capitol Comments: Planning for parenthood? Don't count on Planned Parenthood

By Jennifer Carr-Allmon, Associate Director, Texas Catholic Conference

My baby boy is teething, which means I am blessed with some additional time in the middle of the night for prayer and reflection while I rock and bounce him to soothe the pain. Last night, while rocking him in the nursery, I found myself wistfully thinking about the joy and anticipation of planning for his arrival. The blue room with the bright red racing stripes was so fun to decorate. Like most expectant parents, my husband and I took great care in preparing ourselves and planning for the arrival of our children.

Given all of the media coverage of Planned Parenthood insisting that they are a vital women's health provider in Texas, I am struck by the clear deception of their name and how far they fall short of what many would expect of a women's health provider. Despite the fact that they bemoan their exclusion from the Women's Health Program as causing thousands of women to go without care, they fail to provide several reasonable women's health services that a provider should offer, including mammograms, bone density tests, menopause treatment, treatment for post partum depression, ovarian cysts, or benign and premalignant tumors of the uterus and ovaries. Planned Parenthood supplies none of these diagnostic tests or treatments, only limited screen-

ings and referrals to health providers who are able to provide the actual treatments for these issues. Women who need this treatment must go elsewhere. Eighty percent of women in the Women's Health Program choose alternative providers who offer these comprehensive tests and treatments, and they are better served by exercising this choice.

Again, don't be fooled by a name - exactly what services does Planned Parenthood offer that assist in planning for parenthood? For many couples, the first step in planning for parenthood is to determine if they are able to conceive. Charting fertility signs is a critical part of planning to conceive. Are Planned Parenthood's clinic workers trained in fertility awareness methods? When a couple discovers that they are having trouble conceiving, is Planned Parenthood capable of diagnosing and treating the underlying disease or hormonal imbalance causing the infertility? If a couple is unable to conceive, does Planned Parenthood guide them through the process of adoption or just provide a referral?

No, Planned Parenthood doesn't provide any of these classes or services. They don't, in fact, assist anyone in planning for birth or planning to raise children. Babies R Us does more to assist mothers in planning parenthood.

## Wikipedia head joins Vatican meeting, talks about abortion controversy

By Cindy Wooden  
Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — The co-founder of Wikipedia told a Vatican audience that his online encyclopedia could contribute to peace by promoting "a more thoughtful world," even as the site was under fire for how it referred to those who oppose and support legalized abortion.

Jimmy Wales, who co-founded Wikipedia in 2001, was invited to address the annual assembly of the Pontifical Academy of Social Sciences. The meeting at the Vatican April 27-May 1 focused on Blessed John XXIII's 1963 encyclical "Pacem in Terris" and continuing challenges to promoting peace and justice in the world.

In an interview after his speech, Wales also spoke about Wikipedia's arbitration process to determine the correct Wikipedia use of the terms "pro-choice," "pro-life," "abortion rights" and "anti-abortion" to describe individuals and movements.

Wikipedia, which allows almost all entries to be initiated, updated and edited by almost anyone, had received complaints about an inconsistent use of the terms, which some people felt unfairly tended to use the negative "anti-abortion" to describe the pro-life position while almost always using the positive "pro-choice" label to describe those who support legal abortion.

The online site conducted a "community consultation" of users March 23-April 23, asking them to discuss the terms, their implications and list in order of preference the terms they thought were most appropriate. Wikipedia administrators were scheduled to review the discussion and votes before issuing a final ruling May 1 that would be binding for three years.

Wales told *Catholic News Service* he had not had a chance to read the online discussion or the final decision. But in general, he said, Wikipedia recognizes that certain words or terms "are heavily loaded" and the goal always is to find "a single, simple, neutral term."

One of the Wikipedia principles is that "you can refer to people as they refer to

themselves," Wales said. "Certainly the most common terms in the U.S. in this discourse are pro-life and pro-choice, but both sides have complaints" about the accuracy of the other's description.

Wikipedia also wants to be careful about using terms that implicitly imply a judgment, for instance by using the term "pro-abortion," he said. Those supporting legalized abortion "may be pro-abortion relative to a Catholic priest of course," he said, but most people who support legalized abortion would not say they promote abortion.

In his presentation to the Pontifical Academy of Sciences, Wales explained how Wikipedia pursues its goal of promoting "a world in which every single person on the planet has free access to the sum of all human knowledge."

Wales said he believes the online encyclopedia "has a significant role to play" in peacemaking because it encourages participation, has a broad reach, makes information accessible and is available in about 280 languages. The English, German, French and Dutch pages each have more than 1 million articles posted, he said.

Wikipedia is a "mediating and moderating influence on the discourse on the Internet," he said, because each article is open to review, discussion and correction. Much of the information people access through the news media tends "to be inflammatory. That doesn't contribute to peace at all," he said. His goal is to have Wikipedia be "calmer, slower and more reflective than that."

Wales said the Catholic Church must use the Internet and social media to engage in discussions with young people and it must do a better job of allowing them the space to comment and discuss.

Church sites, though, need to have filtering software and participants who can exercise "social control" on those who misbehave.

**Editor's Note:** A portion of our video interview with Jimmy Wales can be seen at <http://youtu.be/fAjL-UOFho>

## Catholic By Grace

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



### Yes, you are creative!

My dad was a terrific doodler. He could entertain my sister and me for quite a while with his version of Kilroy or a sketch of a silly Tam-wearing Scotsman. When dad finished entertaining us with his pad of paper and pencil, we'd turn to mom and ask her to draw something. She always said she just wasn't creative. No begging or cajoling could make her pick up the pencil.

Dad would push away from the table and tell her that she was more creative than she realized. Dad believed that creativity is a gift we all possess - having been made in the image of God, the ultimate Creator. Sometimes, we're just a little too insecure to let that creativity make a public debut.

I agree with that premise. I think each person has a creative flair; like my mom, I've felt a little insecure about putting my creativity on display.

I can't draw anything that resembles what I have in my mind, but I can write. Even when I'm not at the computer, I'm writing in my head. My rough drafts almost always start there. If it works in my head, it might make it to the keyboard.

The talent, however, is not my own. Sure, I worked at it. I studied English and have some diplomas to prove it. But the gift came from the Creator.

There are few things as rewarding as using our gifts for God. It simply feels right, like bringing up the bread and wine so that God can bless it and change it into the Body and Blood of Our Lord Jesus Christ. It is good to make an offering of those things human hands have made. We offer them back to God.

And then we wait.

We know that God does some of his best



## American Stories for America's Kids ~New technology, too~

American parents are taking notice of popular children's books that aren't exactly sending the right messages. Even in Hollywood! That's why Allen Covert - actor, writer, Dad - launched *Cherry Tree: American Stories for America's Kids* <http://www.cherrytreechildren.com/>. Allen is passionate about this new project, and even made a video <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=06D-vWvqZEG&feature=youtu.be> reading to his own daughter expressing the importance among today's parents who long to share stories promoting patriotism, American values and a strong work ethic with their children.

Cherry Tree is an exciting new children's entertainment brand. Our stories and games deliver American values through heartwarming lessons. These wholesome, moral children's stories are

work in moments like these, moments when he scoops up our gifts, blesses them, and does the miraculous to and through them.

When our human offerings are given back to God in the Mass, God does his greatest work of all. He changes our gifts, and they become Jesus himself. But the miracle doesn't end there.

In marriage, we give him our gifts. He enters into that offering, and a new life is formed.

He goes with us into the world, and makes us salt and light and leaven. And then those gifts are changed into beauty and justice and peace.

No gift is too small. No gift is too great. A smile. A martyr's last breath.

You are God's gift. God made you in his own image. And that means that you are creative. You are more creative than you think you are. You might not be able to draw a stick figure. You might have writer's block every time you sit at the computer. But God has given you something. An aptitude for making music with your voice or with an instrument. The ability to make a quilt. To decorate a room. To grow a garden. To teach a child.

You are creative. And when that creativity is unleashed and offered back to God, amazing things happen. Handel composes. Michelangelo paints. Tolkien writes.

Still think you aren't creative? Ask God to show you the talent that he has entrusted to you. Invest in that talent by studying it and practicing it. Learn from those who have perfected the talent. Imitate their tenacity. And offer that talent back to God. Then, you discover one of life's greatest joys. The joy of being used by the One who made you to be - uniquely you.

Don't let fear get in the way of that discovery.

Sure. There will be a few critics who don't appreciate your creative flair. Those who bring forth the gifts and place them at the feet of Christ are sometimes ridiculed.

And that's okay, too.

Our Lord can take our gifts and even the criticism they elicit. The God of creativity is also the God of frugality. He uses everything and wastes nothing. So, go ahead and pick up your gift. Walk the aisle of life. Place your unique gift at the feet of Christ.

You're more creative than you think.

e-mail: [denise.bossert@centurytel.net](mailto:denise.bossert@centurytel.net)

exactly what today's parents have been waiting for. Come get to know all the adorable Cherry Tree characters and their lovable families.

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Blessed Easter!

Sr. Rebecca Janacek  
Rotu Catholic Mission, East Pokot  
P.O. Box 105  
Marigat 30403  
Kenya, East Africa

April 7<sup>th</sup> 2012

Dear Everyone,

Holy Week 2012 saw me spending sacred moments ministering at the altar of humanity instead of kneeling before the church altar recalling the moments before, during and after Christ's death on the cross. I comforted a weeping mother who lost her child in a stillbirth, I heard the cries of a young child who smashed his fingers in the door of a school building the likes of which he has never seen before this year, I repaired an almost severed thumb of a man who quietly moaned in pain, I gave out food and water to the people who labored to repair the eroded road that connects them to the outside world. I cried with people whose families lost animals in a raid by the neighboring tribe. Each day Christ appeared at my door in another guise asking for my help in alleviating pain, thirst, hunger. I met Christ in the way of the cross of his present day brothers and sisters. These days were holy indeed. And tomorrow as we come together as community to celebrate Christ's resurrection I will meet these same people with their bandages, quenched thirst and hunger and we will smile a knowing smile at each other knowing we have experienced Christ this holy week.

Much like the early church, people here in this part of Pokot are hearing the name and message of Jesus for the first time. It is a slow teaching process that sees deeds speaking louder than words, especially when we do not know all the words! However each week sees new people arriving at our doorstep to hear about this person called Jesus and these people who are willing to help them improve their lives. We now have 3 communities that gather once a week to hear more and share the prayers of an emerging faith. Fr. Sean's knowledge of the Pokot language is slowly coming back to him. He does all the services in Pokot which means he spends many hours each day painstakingly preparing the liturgies.

In the meantime I continue to see the sick and operate my little shop selling food stuffs and various commodities that the people request from 'town'. We have had an offer of a greenhouse so are now preparing a small bit of land on which to erect it.

We will pipe water from one of the water tanks at the Mission which can be filled from the water well. We recently received a donation of food from the Kenya Bishops in Nairobi in the form of maize (corn), dry beans, finger millet flour and cooking oil to assist the people during this dry season. It is being distributed to the communities as food-for-work in which they present a project to improve something in the community and are then paid in food. So far we have improved the roads, the children of the new school in Rotu now have a playground after the community cut the bush, the community of Sukut has fenced its water pan and built a small shade of local trees for holding church services and other such projects.



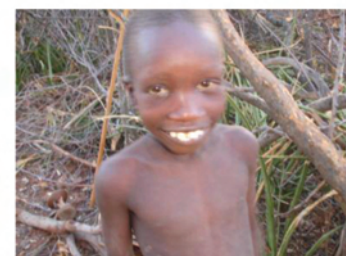
Parents clearing the bush from around the school to create a playground for the children.

Early morning of Good Friday gun shots were heard in the distance. As the men rushed to find out the source of the gun fire the women and children rushed to the Mission in concern. Reports came back that a group from the neighboring Turkana tribe had raided 7 homes about 8 miles away taking over 700 goats. Before the day was over the message went to the government general service unit policemen who tried to follow the raiders, but all in vain. So this Easter sees people crying for the loss of precious household animals.

Fr. Sean and Fr. David (Barpello Mission) have made a great effort in addressing food security by re-stocking camels for many in the Pokot communities with the aid of donor agencies from Ireland. Over 100 camels were purchased from northeastern Kenya and distributed to people. Here in Rotu 30 camels arrived. Twenty camels were given out while 10 have been reserved to provide milk for the school children. Sean and I spent some days in Barpello branding the camels before bringing them up to Rotu.



As you can well imagine the people were happy.



On March 26<sup>th</sup> a new Novitiate of the Incarnate Word Sisters in Africa was opened in Molo which is about 185 miles north of where it was originally located in Nairobi. It has been built on a piece of farmland purchased a few years ago. The novices now have plenty of wide open spaces in which to further discover and develop their calls to service in the church. We are all hoping they will share their fresh produce with us as well! The area in which they have settled is significant as it was an area of the country that suffered greatly during the post-election violence that racked the country in early 2008. In fact the building was delayed because of the clashes. All around the compound are the shells of burned out homes of people who have yet to return. The Sisters have joined other religious living in the area to help foster healing of still very tender wounds.

All is well here and once again I thank all of you for your continued support of our mission to God's people here in this dry corner of Africa. We could not do what we are doing without your support and prayers. Thanks and God bless!

Rebecca