

# The Catholic Lighthouse

The Cradle of Texas Immigration



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OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE DIOCESE OF VICTORIA IN TEXAS

February 2013



The penitential season of Lent begins with Ash Wednesday, Feb. 13, this year. The artwork includes a palm frond — a symbol of Christ's passion. (CNS/Nancy Phelan Wiehceh)

## Faith is genuine only if coupled with charity, pope says in Lenten Message

By Carol Glatz  
Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Faith and charity can never be separated nor opposed to each other, just as faith by itself isn't genuine without charity, Pope Benedict XVI said.

"Faith is knowing the truth and adhering to it; charity is 'walking' in the truth," the pope said in his annual message for Lent, which in 2013 begins Feb. 13 for Latin-rite Catholics. "Faith is genuine only if crowned by charity."

The text of the pope's message was released by the Vatican Feb. 1.

"It would be too one-sided to place a strong emphasis on the priority and decisiveness of faith and to undervalue and almost despise concrete works of charity, reducing them to a vague humanitarianism," Pope Benedict said.

"It is equally unhelpful to overstate the primacy of charity and the activity it generates, as

if works could take the place of faith."

At a news conference to present the message, Guinean Cardinal Robert Sarah, president of the Pontifical Council Cor Unum, which promotes Catholic charitable giving, told reporters, that insisting on the indissoluble link between faith and charity is like "hitting a raw nerve."

The cardinal said the pope's message underscores how misguided it is to see faith as an abstract, intellectual endeavor and charity as the concrete or practical side of the church, or to favor one over the other.

"It's convenient for many, inside and outside" the church, to see it as divorced from the real world, "inebriated from the scent of candles, busy putting the sacristy in order, focused on obscure theological debates and clerical quarrels rather than on the integral human person Christ

See *Faith is genuine*, p. 11

## Young Adults join thousands for Texas Rally for Life

The Diocese of Victoria Youth Leadership Team (YLT) joined a crowd of over 3,000 people who packed the State Capitol grounds for the annual Texas Rally for Life. The event took place January 26. The state's top leaders were also there to make it clear that they supported the cause.

Thousands from across the state waved signs in support of the pro-life cause, as they listened to several speakers.

This year the rally commemorated the 40th anniversary of the controversial Roe vs Wade Supreme Court decision that first made abortions legal. Pro-life supporters say their movement is now stronger than ever.

"Now, again, my goal, and the goal of all of us gathered here today, is to make abortion, at any



On January 26, a group of young adults went to Austin to attend the Texas Rally for Life. Above are some of the Youth Leadership Team just before the march started.

stage, a thing of the past," said Governor Rick Perry.

Some speakers called for people in the crowd to take an active role in the fight against abortion.

"If you've never gone and stood in front of an abortion clinic

and prayed you better start doing it now," said Abby Johnson.

Abby, was once the director of a Planned Parenthood facility in Texas, but joined the pro-life movement after witnessing an abortion being performed.

## More religious institutions to be exempt from HHS mandate

By Patricia Zapor  
Catholic News Service

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Exemptions from the requirement to provide contraceptive coverage under the Affordable Care Act will be simplified to include many more types of religious institutions and accommodate the needs of self-insured church entities.

A new set of proposed rules announced Feb. 1 by the Department of Health and Human Services attempt to accommodate objections raised by Catholic

institutions, among others, that said the previous rules would force them to stop providing employee health insurance because the federal requirement to include contraceptive coverage violates their religious beliefs.

The first version of proposed rules for this coverage exempted only religious organizations whose main purpose is the inculcation of faith and who employ and serve members of the faith.

See *More religious*, p. 12

Catholic Schools Week,  
Jan. 27 to Feb. 2

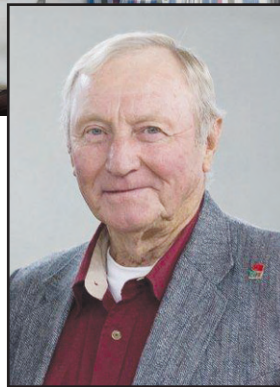
Coverage in center pull-out section







**KC MEMBERS RECOGNIZED FOR SERVICE**—The members of Knights of Columbus Council Archbishop Drossaerts #2490 of El Campo recently honored members with 25 and 50 years of service with service pins. Greg Witcher, Grand Knight, (left) presented 25-year pins to, l-r, Aaron Faas, Gary Shoenfield, and Tommy Dluhos. Not pictured are Dr. Fred Baron, DVM; Shawn Cerny, Bruce Dornak and Glen Jasek. (inset) Jerome Naiser was presented his 50-year service pin. Not pictured are Jerry Janis and William Zella.



The AP Biology Class at Sacred Heart Catholic High School in Hallettsville received the 1st Place Trophy for the best overall presentation in the 2012 Dia del Rio Watershed Study. AP Biology students pictured above are, front row (l-r): Kristen Henke, Katelyn Snider, Lauren Huser and Ariane Kubena; and back row (l-r): Robyn Pavlicek, Sandra Adams, Marianne Herndon, Mary Kossa and Joe Cash, instructor.

## SHCS Wins 2012 Dia Del Rio Watershed Study Competition

**HALLETTSVILLE**—The AP Biology Class at Sacred Heart High School in Hallettsville received the 1st Place Trophy for the best overall presentation in the 2012 Dia del Rio Watershed Study. This study included 87 school groups from Texas, New Mexico, and Colorado, as well as the country of Mexico. The Sacred Heart students collected water samples from the Lavaca River along a ¾ mile stretch from the Highway 77 bridge and northwards, testing them for temperature, pH, nitrate level, phosphate level, dissolved oxygen content, turbidity, coliform bacteria level, and the biological oxygen demand. These results were submitted along with essays evaluating our location on the Lavaca River, comparative evaluative essays of our data to others studying other locations on the Lavaca River, and comparative evaluative essays of our data to data collected on other rivers in the entire watershed studied, which included Colorado; Central, West, and South Texas; Central and Southern New Mexico; and Northeastern Mexico. The class then had a couple of weeks in which to prepare a 1-minute video edited from a video taken during the initial collection of

the samples from our stretch of the Lavaca River and a song written by the class about their experience doing the study. The class also created a PowerPoint Presentation in which the group developed a multifaceted presentation consisting of current images of our stretch of the Lavaca River, historical information about the discovery and naming of the river by the French explorer de la Salle who named it “Riviere de les Veches”, which translates into Spanish as “Rio La Vaca”. Information on the floods of 1940 and 1981 were presented along with a quote from an article on the dragging of the river following the 1981 flood which stated that it “seemed to increase conveyance in the channel and reduce the flooding.” This was followed in closure by the question, “Is it time to drag the river again?”

Sacred Heart High School is very proud of this group of hard-working students for receiving this award in recognition of their performance in this important study. To quote a member of the Rio Grande International Study Center, organizers of this event, “This is awesome, I’m glad to see how these girls are having fun outdoors. Tell the girls they did an excellent job.”



**2013 PRO-LIFE PRAYER PROCESSION**—On January 20, 2013, members of Sts. Cyril and Methodius Parish in Shiner held their third annual Pro-life Eucharistic Prayer Procession. Over 100 parishioners met on a beautiful Sunday afternoon at Welhausen Park to march for those who have been silenced by the offense of abortion. The march continued down thru main street to the church. At church, hymns and prayers were said for the victims of abortion, post-abortion parents, our social, political, and religious leaders and everyone else affected by this scourge on our country. Candles were lit and twelve roses were placed at the altar to signify our unity in this fight. Most of all, the gathering was to give thanks to almighty God for the gift of life and to renew our commitment to spread the Good News of God’s most sacred gift – the gift of life! Photo by: Lori Raabe

## Youth Calendar of Events

Thursday, Feb. 21 – Renewing the Vision – Holy Family - Victoria  
Saturday, Feb. 23 – Foundations  
Sunday, Feb. 24 – Spectacular – Holy Family - Victoria  
Sunday, March 24 – Confirmation Retreat – St. Mary’s - Victoria  
Saturday, April 13 – Foundations  
Sunday, April 21 – YLT – Camp David Planning



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

*For more information contact:*

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visit our website at [www.victoriadiocese.org/youthoffice](http://www.victoriadiocese.org/youthoffice)





## Bishop Grahmann seeks kidney donor

SAN ANTONIO—The Most Rev. Charles Grahmann, 81, bishop emeritus of the Diocese of Dallas, is undergoing regular dialysis treatment after experiencing kidney failure late last year.

Bishop Grahmann receives dialysis treatment three times a week in San Antonio, where he now lives and otherwise remains in excellent health. He has been approved for private organ transplant.



Bishop Grahmann was the bishop of the Diocese of Victoria from 1982 to 1990. He was then appointed coadjutor bishop of the Diocese of Dallas and later became bishop until his retirement in 2006. After retirement he continued to serve in ecumenical circles and the Focolare Movement. He also assisted by celebrating Masses and the Sacrament of Confirmation at parishes in the Diocese of Dallas and the Archdiocese of San Antonio.

Dialysis has now greatly limited Bishop Grahmann's ability to serve and he asks for prayers as he seeks a potential kidney donor. Anyone with interest should contact the Live Donor Department at the Texas Transplant Institute directly at (210) 575-4483.

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

Effective January 25, 2013, Deacon Jose Duplan, director of the Spiritual Renewal Center, is also appointed to exercise his diaconal ministry at Our Lady of Sorrows Church, Victoria, and its mission, Capilla de la Santisima Trinidad.

Effective February 11, 2013, the Rev. James Adjei-Buor, C.S.Sp. is relieved of his duties at Holy Family Church, Wharton, and appointed Parochial Vicar of Our Lady of the Gulf Church, Port Lavaca, and its missions.

## Lenten Fast And Abstinence Regulations

The season of Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, February 13, 2013. The Lenten *Fast and Abstinence Regulations* are, as follows:

1. Fasting and abstinence from meat on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday.
2. Abstinence from meat on all Fridays of Lent. The law of abstinence from meat is required of all those fourteen years of age and older.
3. The law of the fast means only one full meal may be taken during the day. Two light meals are permitted, but are not to equal one full meal. The consumption of solid food between meals is prohibited, but liquids may be taken at any time.
4. The law of fast binds those who have completed their 18th year and have not yet reached their 60th year.
5. Those, who by reason of their young age, are not bound by the laws of fast and abstinence, should be taught the true meaning of penance.

It is a traditional doctrine of Christian spirituality that a constituent part of repentance, of which is turning away from sin and returning to God, includes some form of penance, in order for a Christian to remain on the narrow path and be saved. As our Holy Father, Pope Benedict XVI, has written: *"Denying material food, which nourishes our body, nurtures an interior disposition to listen to Christ and be fed by His saving word. Through fasting and prayer, we allow Him to come and satisfy the deepest hunger that we experience in the depths of our being: the hunger and thirst for God."*

Apart from the special Lenten activities of individuals and parishes, Lent also affords a special opportunity for families to grow deeper in their commitment to Christ. Within the family, penitential practices and devotions can be conducted, including the use of Scripture, the Rosary, the Chaplet of Divine Mercy, and other forms of family prayer and devotion.

May this holy season of Lent be a time of conversion and renewal for all of us.

In Christ,  
Rev. Gary Janak, Chancellor

## Bishop Fellhauer's Schedule

### February

- 8 8:30 a.m., School Mass, St. Philip the Apostle Church, El Campo
- 10 9:30 a.m., Mass, celebrating 100th Anniversary of Ascension of Our Lord Church, Moravia
- 5:00 p.m., Vespers, Blessing of Columbarium, Holy Rosary Church, Hostyn
- 11 5:00 p.m., Liturgy Commission meeting, Chancery Office
- 12 6:30 p.m., Distinguished Alumni Award Dinner, The Club at Colony Creek, Victoria
- 13 8:15 a.m., Mass, Nazareth Academy, Victoria
- 17 3:00 p.m., Diocesan-wide Rite of Election, Call to Continued Conversion, Our Lady of Victory Cathedral
- 22 9:00 a.m., Mass, Principals' Retreat, Spiritual Renewal Center
- 24 5:00 p.m., Mass, Youth Spectacular, Holy Family Church, Victoria

### 28-March 1

Installation of Bishop Oscar Cantu, formerly Auxiliary Bishop in San Antonio, as Bishop of Las Cruces, New Mexico

### March

- 2 5:30 p.m., Mass, Girl Scout Religion Awards, Our Lady of Victory Cathedral
- 3 1:30 p.m., Catholic Knowledge Bowl, Holy Family Church, Victoria
- 6 10:00 a.m., Presbyteral Council meeting, Chancery Office

## DSA & Reflection of Faith Capital Campaign Updates

### 2012 DSA

Diocesan Goal:	\$1,623,907.00
Parish Pledge Totals:	\$851,377.94
Parish Contribution Totals:	\$833,827.94
Number of Parish Families Participating:	3,672

### Reflection of Faith Capital Campaign

Diocesan Goal:	\$9,000,000.00
Parish Pledge Totals:	\$12,900,917.66
Parish Contribution Totals:	\$10,936,235.61
Number of Parish Families Participating:	6,770



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**DEADLINE IS THE FIFTEENTH (15) OF THE PRECEDING MONTH.**

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## 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 January 25, 2013

	TOTALS
<b>— General Seminary Burse</b>	
Previously reported	\$101,564.00
In honor of Rev. Msgr. Gerry Cernoch's appointment as Monsignor by Veronica Morrow	<u>25.00</u>
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$101,589.00</b>
<b>— Rev. Jerome Caponi</b>	
Previously reported	\$12,500.00
In memory of Rev. Jerry Caponi on his 4th anniversary of death by John J. Marek	<u>500.00</u>
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$13,000.00</b>
<b>— Catholic Daughters of America Our Lady Queen of Peace Court #1374, El Campo</b>	
Previously reported	\$6,342.12
In memory of Viola Bender by CDA Court Our Lady Queen of Peace #1374	<u>100.00</u>
In honor of Charles and Kay Bluntzer by Don and Olivia McDonald	<u>30.00</u>
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$6,472.12</b>
<b>— Mrs. Elorine Tumlinson</b>	
Previously reported	\$1,790.00
Donation by Don and Olivia McDonald	<u>100.00</u>
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$1,890.00</b>
<b>— Rev. Michael Rother</b>	
Previously reported	\$4,560.00
In memory of Carolyn Jean Gassen by John Rother, Jr.	<u>25.00</u>
Bernard and Madeline Rother	<u>25.00</u>
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$4,610.00</b>
<b>— Louis and Edith Hickl Family</b>	
Previously reported	\$10,020.00
In memory of deceased family members of Louis and Edith Hickl	<u>1,500.00</u>
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$11,520.00</b>

<b>— Knights of Columbus Victoria Council #1329, Burse #3</b>	
Previously reported	\$12,632.50
In memory of James A. Rab by K of C Victoria Council #1329	<u>100.00</u>
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$12,732.50</b>
<b>— William Wearden</b>	
Previously reported	\$520.00
In memory of Will Wearden by: David and Gloria Coffey	<u>250.00</u>
Milana J. Schaar	<u>25.00</u>
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$795.00</b>
<b>— Our Lady of Victory Altar Society</b>	
Previously reported	\$700.00
By Grace E. Rigamonti in memory of: Joe Watts	<u>10.00</u>
Frank Evans	<u>10.00</u>
Dorothy Roberts	<u>10.00</u>
James Jurica	<u>10.00</u>
Mary T. White Heffron	<u>10.00</u>
Rollin Young	<u>25.00</u>
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$775.00</b>
<b>— Rev. Msgr. John C. Peters Burse #5</b>	
Previously reported	\$14,669.00
In honor of Rev. Msgr. John C. Peters' appointment as Monsignor by: Melvin and Mary Ann Jurica	<u>20.00</u>
Mark and Karen Janak	<u>25.00</u>
Bruce and Kelly Schimcek	<u>20.00</u>
Michael and Joyce Brier	<u>20.00</u>
Margie Fuller	<u>10.00</u>
Gilbert and Mary Rose Schindler	<u>25.00</u>
Robert and Rita Chase	<u>25.00</u>
Robert and Barbara Grahmann	<u>25.00</u>
John and Charlene Pillow	<u>20.00</u>
Tommy and Elsie Grahmann	<u>30.00</u>
Alton and Bernice Michalcik	<u>15.00</u>
Daniel and Dorothy Rother	<u>25.00</u>
George and Irene Knebel, Jr.	<u>100.00</u>
Ervin and Bernice Neskora	<u>25.00</u>
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$15,054.00</b>
<b>Closed Burse #5</b>	<b>\$15,000</b>

<b>— Rev. Msgr. John C. Peters Burse #6</b>	
Previous Balance carried forward	\$54.00
In memory of Bill Gohlke by Daniel and Dorothy Rother	<u>10.00</u>
In honor of Ed and Peggy Scherer's 50th wedding anniversary by George and Irene Knebel, Jr.	<u>50.00</u>
In memory of Lester Haas by Willie E. Barborak	<u>10.00</u>
In memory of Sylvester Janak by Ervin and Bernice Neskora	<u>20.00</u>
In memory of Henry Tupa by Ervin and Bernice Neskora	<u>10.00</u>
In honor of Rev. Msgr. John C. Peters' appointment as Monsignor by: Dennis and Sheila Jansky	<u>30.00</u>
Ed and Peggy Scherer	<u>30.00</u>
Charles and Dorothy Jansky	<u>30.00</u>
Jeff Dickinson	<u>100.00</u>
Charles and Frances Franta	<u>25.00</u>
Bruce and Debbie Schneider	<u>50.00</u>
Bill and Fran Byrd	<u>40.00</u>
Leroy and Alice Janak	<u>30.00</u>
Anthony and Sammie Grahmann	<u>25.00</u>
Henry and Frances Kallus	<u>20.00</u>
Patrick and Barbara Pesek	<u>50.00</u>
Alvin and Barbara Grahmann	<u>30.00</u>
Frank and Jo Nell Janacek	<u>25.00</u>
Henry Joe and Marcella Henke	<u>50.00</u>
Alphonse J. Besetzny	<u>50.00</u>
Royce and Irene Schulte	<u>100.00</u>
Bryant and Megan Kutac	<u>25.00</u>
George and Bernadette Kramer	<u>25.00</u>
Irene and Gene Cerny	<u>50.00</u>
Lillian Harned	<u>25.00</u>
Marvin and Annette Grahmann	<u>25.00</u>
Fred and Sharon Grahmann	<u>50.00</u>
Ricky and Barbara Steffek	<u>20.00</u>
Bernard and Mary Grahmann	<u>20.00</u>
Ervin and Terry Bludau	<u>100.00</u>
Lawrence and Carol Bludau	<u>25.00</u>
Leonard and Mary Sklar	<u>20.00</u>
Tony and Joyce Bludau	<u>200.00</u>
Theresa Adair	<u>20.00</u>
Marguerite Grahmann	<u>20.00</u>
In honor of Rev. Msgr. John C. Peters' appt as Msgr and in thanksgiving by Franklin and Rita Addicks & Annie Henneke	<u>200.00</u>
In memory of Joe and Olga Targac and John & Tillie Peters by Deacon Joey and Mary Targac	<u>50.00</u>
In memory of Elizabeth Fuller, Edwin Stock and Tillie Peters by David and Patsy Fuller	<u>50.00</u>
In memory of Helen Mitchon by Pat Mladenka	<u>10.00</u>
Mitchon Family Members	<u>100.00</u>
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$1,894.00</b>
<b>— Rev. Msgr. Celestino Say</b>	
Previously reported	\$7,445.00
In honor of Rev. Msgr. Celestino Say's appointment as Monsignor by: Dennis and Sheila Jansky	<u>20.00</u>
Ed and Peggy Scherer	<u>30.00</u>
Charles and Dorothy Jansky	<u>20.00</u>
Robert and Rita Chase	<u>25.00</u>
Gilbert and Mary Rose Schindler	<u>25.00</u>
Robert and Barbara Grahmann	<u>25.00</u>

John and Charlene Pillow	20.00
Daniel and Dorothy Rother	20.00
Jeff Dickinson	200.00
Mrs. Jerry J. Kallus	25.00
Willie and Mary Migl	20.00
M/M Marcus Grahmann	50.00
Rita and Frank Zaruba	100.00
K of C, Hallettsville Branch	250.00
M.J. and Helen Technik	50.00
Dorothy M. Bujnoch	25.00
Anthony and Joan Corte	25.00
M/M A. J. Jonietz	250.00
Henry Joe and Marcella Henke	25.00
Fred and Sharon Grahmann	50.00
Royce and Irene Schulte	100.00
Ricky and Barbara Steffek	20.00
Phil and Patricia Schlageter	<u>20.00</u>
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$8,840.00</b>

<b>— Rev. Jerome J. Stryk Burse #2</b>	
Previously reported	\$719.50
In memory of Irene Orsak by: Helen Muras	<u>35.00</u>
Steven and Ann Hennig	<u>25.00</u>
Robert and Joan Riley	<u>25.00</u>
Bill and Linda Byars	<u>25.00</u>
Mrs. Hattie Stryk	<u>5.00</u>
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$834.50</b>

<b>— Rev. Msgr. John C. Bily</b>	
Previously reported	\$10,924.00
In honor of Rev. Msgr. John C. Bily's appointment as Monsignor by: Leonard and Dorothy Bartos	<u>25.00</u>
Jeff Dickinson	<u>100.00</u>
Eugene and Elizabeth Patalik	<u>50.00</u>
Veronica Morrow	<u>25.00</u>
In honor of Rev. Msgr. John C. Bily's appointment as Monsignor and in thanksgiving by Franklin and Rita Addicks & Annie Henneke	<u>100.00</u>
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$11,224.00</b>

<b>— Catholic Daughters of America Court St. Ann #369, Victoria</b>	
Previously reported	\$9,458.99
In memory of Dorothy Dornak by JoAnn and Otto Bleier	<u>25.00</u>
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$9,483.99</b>

### Additional Burses for donations:

Rev. Msgr. Julius Petru Burse #2	
Rev. Joe Levya	
Rev. Marcus Valenta	
Rev. Godfrey F. Kuratko	
Rev. Msgr. John Hanacek	
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 BURSSES**  
DIOCESE OF VICTORIA  
P. O. BOX 4070  
VICTORIA, TX 77903

## St. Mary Annual Parish Festival Sunday – February 10 Victoria Community Center

### ROAST BEEF MEAL

Served 11:00 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. • \$8 PER PLATE

\*Plates to Go @ 10:30 – Use Ben Wilson Street Entrance\*

LIVE AUCTION at 12:30 p.m.

Antiques – Collectibles – Crafts – Jewelry – Quilts

GAMES, BOOTHS • SILENT AUCTION •  
FAMILY ENTERTAINMENT

FESTIVAL  
TIME !!







**VOCATION AWARENESS DAYS**—On January 15 and 16, 2013, over 220 fifth graders from the Catholic Schools in the Diocese of Victoria attended Church Vocation Awareness Days at Incarnate Word Convent in Victoria. The students heard a number of talks about religious life and the priesthood. They visited the Gift Shop and the Hall of Memories at the convent. The day culminated in a prayer service that highlights the gifts of the Holy Spirit. These Vocation Awareness Days are sponsored by the Vocations Office, the Serra Club of Victoria, Knights of Columbus Council #1329, Catholic Daughters of Americas Court St. Ann #369, and the Sisters of the Incarnate Word and Blessed Sacrament. In the top left photo, Sister Amata Hollas speaks to students from St. Ludmila Academy, Shiner; right, students from St. Rose of Lima shopping in the IWBS Gift Shop; bottom left, Father Phi Nguyen, chaplain of IWBS Convent, speaks to students from St. Philip, El Campo and St. Anthony, Columbus.

## Two churches added to Painted Churches Tour

**SCHULENBURG**—This year happens to mark the 100th anniversary for Ascension Parish in Moravia and the 125th anniversary for St. John Parish in St. John. Just in time for the two milestones, the Schulenburg Chamber began offering a new tour of the two lesser known painted churches along the Fayette-Lavaca county line. The new County Line Tours offer visits to both churches and a choice of two of the three museums in Schulenburg.

“We hope to get some of the groups that have come for the Painted Churches Tour,” said Marcia Hrcncir, Chamber executive director. “They can come back and take a different tour.”

The Greater Schulenburg Chamber of Commerce gives 40 percent of all proceeds from the Painted Churches Tours and the new County Line Tours to the churches visited: St. Mary in High Hill, St. John the Baptist in Ammannsville, Sts. Cyril and Methodius in Dubina, St. Mary in Praha, and now Ascension of the Lord in Moravia

and St. John in St. John.

Marcia and Marketing Director Mike Stroup reported that they have distributed \$24,819 to the churches in 2012. A search of the phrase “Painted Churches Tours” on Google reveals several businesses that offer tours of the churches. The Schulenburg Chamber is the only group that guarantees 40 percent of its proceeds to the churches.

(Story reprinted from the *Schulenburg Sticker* and written by Andy Behlen)




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## KC Archbishop Drossaerts Council #2490 receives international recognition

**EL CAMPO**—Knights of Columbus Council #2490 of El Campo is a Columbian Award winner for the 2011-2012 fraternal year. The award is presented for excellence in the sponsorship of programs that serve the Church, community, families, pro-life concerns and youth; as well as council members.

The announcement was made by the Knights of Columbus International headquarters located in New Haven, Connecticut. Alvin Kulcak, Victoria diocesan deputy, presented the engraved plaque to the council at the Annual Ladies Night and Awards Dinner on Saturday, January 12, 2013.

Supreme Knight Carl A. Anderson, president of the international organization, in recognizing the local winner, said, “Please accept my sincere congratulations on attaining this prestigious award. The dedication to the order shown by your council is seen in the high standards of excellence you have achieved. At the same time, I encourage you to carry forward

this enthusiasm to meet the challenges that will face the Knights of Columbus in the years ahead. May this award be a reminder and an inspiration to the members of your council to continue to promote the ideals of Columbianism for the good of the Church, your community, and the Order.”

In accepting the award, Grand Knight, Greg Witcher, head of the local council, said “Receiving this award is quite an honor. We’re pleased with this accomplishment.”

The Knights of Columbus is the world’s largest Catholic lay organization. It provides members and their families with

volunteer opportunities in service to the Catholic Church, their communities, families, and young people. With more than 1.8 million members in more than 14,000 councils around the world, the Knights of Columbus annually donates over \$158 million and 70 million hours of service to charitable causes. Please visit [www.kofc.org](http://www.kofc.org) for more information.



*Alvin Kulcak, Victoria Diocesan Deputy for the Knights of Columbus presented the Columbian Award engraved plaque to Greg Witcher, Grand Knight for the Archbishop Drossaerts Council #2490.*



**LIFE IS PRECIOUS!**—Forty-two Junior Catholic Daughters #206, Yoakum, members spent an evening focusing on Pro-Life at their January meeting. Guest speaker, Patti Jetter, registered nurse from Cuero Hospital Emergency Room, gave a powerpoint presentation on the miraculous stages of life in a mother’s womb. The greatest challenge a child faces today is surviving in the womb the first nine months of life. One in three children don’t get to live to their “birth” day. We pray that girls and women see God’s image more clearly in their femininity and realize the sacredness of an unborn child.





## Evangelizing Youth ... A New Generation of Disciples

The Office of Youth and Young Adult Ministry in conjunction with the Office of Catechetical Ministry for the Diocese of Victoria are hosting a workshop presented by Joan Weber of the Center for Ministry Development entitled Evangelizing Youth: Engaging a New Generation of Disciples. This workshop will share new energy, new methods and new resources for evangelizing youth and their families and will

help communities participate in the Year of Faith. The workshop is designed for all those whose ministries connect with youth and their families, including parish, school and diocesan leaders for youth ministry, catechesis, family ministry and sacramental preparation.

The Evangelizing Youth workshop will be held on February 21, from 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. at Holy Family Catholic Church in Victoria. The cost of the workshop is \$54 and includes lunch and a handout packet. Funding from the Capital Campaign allows the workshop to be offered for free to clergy, parish catechetical leaders (PCLs) and their assistants. Deadline for registration is February 15, 2013. Registration can be done by calling Tanya Starnes at (361) 573-0828 ext. 2224 or by e-mailing her at [tstarnes@victoriadiocese.org](mailto:tstarnes@victoriadiocese.org).

**The Diocese of Victoria  
Library and Media Center**  
361-573-0828  
[www.victoriadiocese.org](http://www.victoriadiocese.org)  
Open Monday - Friday  
8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

### Books for Lent

- Lent and Easter with the Church Fathers
- A Pictionary of Lent: Facts and Activities from A to Z for Grades 3 to 6
- The Tale of Three Trees
- The Restless Heart: Finding Our Spiritual Home in Times of Loneliness

### Videos for Lent

- Stations of the Cross for Children (dvd)
- With you Always (dvd)
- The Proud Tree (vhs)
- Journey Toward Forgiveness (dvd)
- When Did I See You Hungry (dvd)
- Celebrating the Season of Lent (vhs)
- Lent a Time to Forgive (vhs)

Dollywood and  
Gatlinburg, Tenn.  
May 18-25



• Alaska •  
July 9-20

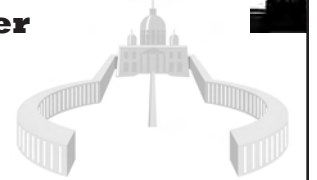
New brochures for 2013  
will be mailed soon.

If you are not on the mailing  
list call for a brochure.

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

### Catholic Knowledge Bowl Corner

## Sixth Annual Catholic Knowledge Bowl



The Diocese of Victoria will once again host the Annual Catholic Knowledge Bowl. The event consists of teams of four individuals competing in three separate rounds of 40 questions.

The questions are multiple-choice and cover topics such as Scripture, sacraments, liturgy, and church teaching. The study questions and answers for the Catholic Knowledge Bowl can be found on the diocesan web site. Teams can be made up of adults, teens, or family members with at least one minor on the family team. Participants include teams from parishes, schools, or Catholic organizations from the nine surrounding counties that make up the diocese.

The Sixth Annual Catholic Knowledge Bowl will be held on Sunday, March 3 at Holy Family Church in Victoria from 1:30 to 4:30 p.m. Participants are asked to arrive at least 30 minutes before the event. The contest is open to spectators.

The first 10 teams to register will receive free Catholic Knowledge Bowl T-shirts. The registration fee is \$35 per team. No registrations will be accepted after February 22. To register or for more information go to [www.victoriadiocese.org](http://www.victoriadiocese.org) and click on the Catechetical Ministry link and then click on the Catholic Knowledge Bowl link, or call (361) 573-0828.

### Pastoral Institute Courses Offered During the Year of Faith



During the "Year of Faith" Pope Benedict XVI has suggested that we take the opportunity to reflect and learn more about the Catholic faith. The Pastoral Institute is offering several courses in various places throughout the diocese. The cost for each course is \$20. To register please call (361) 573-0828 ext. 2223 or e-mail [mgutierrez@victoriadiocese.org](mailto:mgutierrez@victoriadiocese.org).

#### Extended Program

##### "Trinity"

Feb. 19, 26 and March 5, 12, 18, 19  
9:15 - 11:30 a.m. or 7:00 - 9:15 p.m.  
Three locations: Chancery, Victoria; Holy Cross,  
East Bernard and St. Ann, Point Comfort  
Instructor: Sister Marian Sturm, IWBS  
(The 5th class will be held on a Monday.)

#### Continuing Education Program

##### "Catechism of the Catholic Church"

February 28, March 7, 14 and 21  
7:00 - 9:15 p.m.

Chancery, Victoria  
Instructor: Brother Patrick Wildgen, O.S.S.T.

\* *The Catechism of the Catholic Church Second Edition*  
(paperback) will be available for purchase.



DISCIPLES  
*On The Journey*

FAITH-SHARING BOOKLET FOR SMALL GROUPS  
CYCLE C Sunday Readings & CYCLE A Scrutiny Readings

## "Disciples On The Journey" Written By Incarnate Word Sisters

The 10th edition of Disciples on the Journey is now available for Lent 2013. The books can be sold in packs of ten for \$25 or individually at \$2.50 per book. Call (361) 573-0828 to reserve a copy, or come by the chancery office in Victoria Monday – Friday between 8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

Since 2004, the Diocesan Office of Catechetical Ministry has edited and printed the *Disciples On The Journey*. This year Bishop David Fellhauer has turned over the task of writing and editing to the Sisters of the Incarnate Word and Blessed Sacrament of Victoria.

Sisters Digna Vela, Marian Sturm, Clare Underbrink and Mildred Truchard of the Incarnate Word and Blessed Sac-

rament solely wrote the commentaries, faith-sharing questions, and prayers for this publication. The Saint of the Week sections were replaced with excerpts taken from Porta Fidei "Door of Faith" Apostolic Letter of Pope Benedict XVI for the Year of Faith. This is offered for personal reading and reflection.

It has been said that the best way to meet Christ is to share faith. This Lent, don't miss out on a wonderful opportunity to deepen your relationship with God. Make plans to participate in a faith-sharing group by inviting 8 to 10 friends, neighbors, or family members to meet and share faith for the six weeks of Lent.





## Thank You Notes

### Dear Bishop Fellhauer:

Please accept my deepest appreciation to you and the people in the Diocese of Victoria for your generous contribution to Catholic Relief Services. Your support allows CRS to rebuild lives through shelter projects after natural disasters, respond with aggressive measures to help prevent the spread of the disease and empower the poor and vulnerable through microfinance initiatives to improve their standard of living. Thanks to you, CRS can continue to provide secure havens of hope and peace around the world.

This letter serves as a formal acknowledgement of your recent donation to Catholic Relief Services for the following gift from the diocese: \$113,303.97 for CRS Rice Bowl.

On behalf of all of us at CRS and those who will be touched by your gift, I thank you for leading the faithful in the Diocese of Victoria to live their faith in solidarity with those in need around the world.

May God bless you for your prayers and continued generous support,  
Dr. Carolyn Y. Woo  
CRS President and CEO

### Your Excellency:

On behalf of the Subcommittee for the Church in Latin America, I'd like to express my gratitude to you and the Diocese of Victoria for the generous contribution of \$31,272.25 to the 2012 Collection for the Church in Latin America (CLA).

As a result of your diocese's generosity, the subcommittee was able to award \$6.6 million to 418 different projects in 2012. These projects included the formation of seminarians and religious, the promotion of youth ministry, and the support of pastoral ministry activities, as well as the efforts of church reconstruction in several areas of the Caribbean devastated by Hurricane Sandy. Portions of the 2012 CLA collection went to youth ministries in countries preparing for the upcoming World Youth Day in Brazil and other exemplary youth programs across Latin America.

With funds from the Special Collection for Haiti, the subcommittee is supporting the Church in Haiti in rebuilding many churches, convents, rectories, and schools destroyed or damaged by the January 2010 earthquake. Towards the end of 2012, we witnessed several of these projects go under construction and others near completion.

In a particular way, the collection touches upon our ministry to the large number of Hispanic Catholics in the United States.

Without you, our solidarity could not

take shape into concrete programs that support the faith – not to mention the life and dignity – of so many people in Latin America. On behalf of the subcommittee and those who benefit from the collection, once again, I thank you.

Yours in Christ,  
Most Rev. Eusebio L.  
Elizondo, M.Sp.S.  
Auxiliary Bishop of Seattle  
Chairman, USCCB Subcommittee  
on the Church in Latin America

### Dear Bishop Fellhauer:

On behalf of the Subcommittee for the Church in Central and Eastern Europe, I thank you and the Diocese of Victoria for your generous contribution of \$43,055.46 to the 2012 Collection for the Church in central and Eastern Europe.

In 2012, the subcommittee awarded \$5.9 million dollars to 24 of the 27 countries it serves. These grants were made possible as a result of your efforts and prayers.

The global economic crisis has had a devastating effect in many of the poorest countries we serve such as Belarus, Georgia and Armenia. In many of these new nations the Church is still struggling to rise above the paralyzing legacy of communism. In other countries, secular governments that actively inhibit the Church from fulfilling her mission represent a new threat that must be addressed by a new generation of Church leaders.

Our next Collection is scheduled in most (arch)dioceses on Ash Wednesday, February 13, 2013. I ask you to do all you can to publicize and support the Collection.

Your leadership is invaluable to our efforts and enable us to serve the impoverished people of Central and Eastern Europe and support in solidarity our brother bishops, who serve in the ancestral lands of many Catholics in the United States. On behalf of the subcommittee and those who benefit from its work, once again, I thank you.

Sincerely yours in Christ,  
Bishop Blase J. Cupich  
Bishop of Spokane  
Chairman, USCCB Subcommittee  
on the Church in Central and  
Eastern Europe

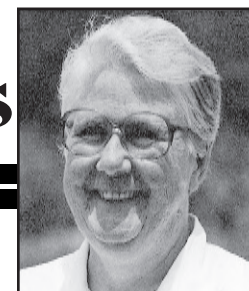
If you suspect a child has been abused or mistreated, you are required to report it to the Texas Department of Protective and Regulatory Services or to a law enforcement agency within 48 hours of the time you suspect the child had been or may be abused or neglected.

**Reporting Child Abuse Hotline**  
**1-800-252-5400**

# SISTERLY THOUGHTS

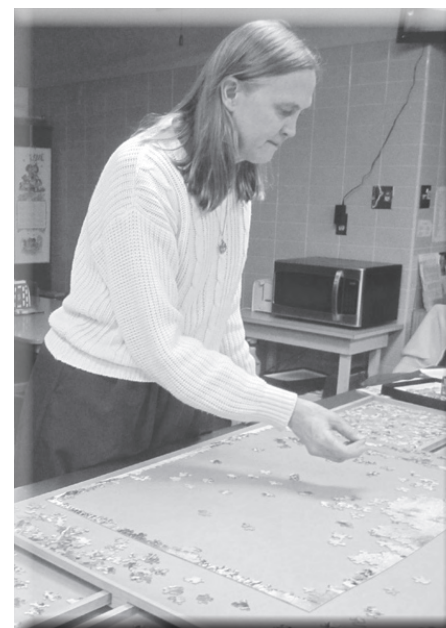


By Sister Mildred Truchard, IWBS



## Putting the Puzzle Together

Some friends gave us Sisters jig-saw puzzle boards for Christmas. These large boards have drawers in them so one can spread out the pieces and then close the drawers when table space is needed for other activities. We have one of these boards in our kitchen; this board always has a puzzle in progress. Sisters come by and add a few pieces at a time. Every time I go by, I try to add at least one piece. Sometimes when I am in a hurry, I get frustrated when I can't find a piece and have to leave without contributing that one piece. However if I take the time, I may be able to find several pieces.



Sister Clare Underbrink, IWBS working on a puzzle at the motherhouse.

Similarly, our faith development consists of many incremental steps developed one by one. At Baptism, each of us was endowed with the gift of faith. However, this gift has to be developed and practiced by each one of us.

Let us compare the completed border of the puzzle to that initial gift of faith which serves as a foundation for our faith life. I hope that each of us has been blessed with parents who have inspired us through their practice of faith, therefore guiding us in filling in many of the pieces. While faith is a gift which God freely gives, we must open ourselves to the reception of

this grace. If we are always in a hurry and too busy to allow God time to strengthen our faith, we may frustrate God's plan to facilitate our becoming the faith-filled person that we were created to be. On the other hand, if we give ourselves the time to open ourselves to God's action in our spiritual lives through our full participation in the Liturgy and the Sacraments, through prayer and penance, through reading and reflection especially on Sacred Scripture, through opportunities offered by our dioceses and parishes, and through reaching out to others by good works, we will be boosting our receptivity to God's generous faith-bestowing activity in our lives. So let us keep working on our spiritual puzzle as we continue the life-long task of faith development during this Year of Faith and beyond.

Happy puzzling!

**Stocks | Bonds | CDs**  
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## Thanks to Our Catholic School Employees Who Are Celebrating Anniversary Milestones:

*Continued from Catholic Schools Superintendent John E. Quarry's article from p. 9*

Since this is the first year of a diocesan-wide recognition, the following guidelines were adhered to:

1. All staff members who have reached 5, 10, 15, 20, 25, 30, etc. anniversaries of employment between the school contract dates of August 1, 2012, and July 31, 2013, are eligible for recognition.

2. Employees who have 6–9 years as of this school term will be recognized for the 5-year milestone. Employees who have 11–14 years as of this school term will be recognized for the 10-year milestone. Employees who have 16–19 years will be recognized for the 15-year milestone. Employees who have 21–24 years will be recognized for the 20-year milestone. Employees who have 25–29 years will be recognized for the 25-year milestone, and will receive a gift card, along with a certificate. Employees who have 30–34 years will be recognized for the 30-year milestone, and will receive a gift card, along with a certificate. Employees who have 35–39 years will be recognized for the 35-year milestone, and will receive a gift card, along with a certificate.

Employees who have 40–44 years will be recognized for the 40-year milestone, and will receive a gift card, along with a framed certificate. Employees with 45 years and more will also be recognized for the 45-year milestone, and will receive a gift card, along with a framed certificate.

3. As the program develops through the years, more forms of recognition may be included.

4. Employees will be recognized for their continuous service to the sponsoring Catholic school of the present school term. Therefore, if an employee transfers to another Catholic school during their service record, the number of years will begin again at the new school. This program does not affect the service record for determining pension, retirement, etc. It is solely for the purpose of recognizing continuous service to our Catholic schools.

5. If any staff member's name was omitted or misspelled, please accept our apology, and inform your principal/supervisor immediately so that the error may be corrected.

### School code

HC=Holy Cross, Bay City  
SAS=St. Anthony Columbus  
SMSC=St. Michael, Cuero  
SPS=St. Philip, El Campo  
SH=Sacred Heart, Hallettsville  
OLG=Our Lady of the Gulf,

Port Lavaca  
SRS=St. Rose of Lima,  
Schulenburg  
SCS=Shiner Catholic School  
NA=Nazareth Academy, Victoria  
OLV=Our Lady of Victory,  
Victoria  
SJHS=St. Joseph High School,  
Victoria  
SMSW=St. Michael, Weimar

### 5 Years of Service

Sharon Abrameit, OLV; Kathy Anderle, OLG; Pat Bartels, SAS; Patsy Beettner, SAS; Kathy Bruno, SJHS; Rose Burkett, NA; Frankie Cernoch, SPS; Sonya Crawford, SCS; Ofelia Escobar, HC; Cynthia Fogleman, SRS; Rosanne Gallia, SRS; Matthew Garrett, SJHS; Juanita Gonzales, OLV; Sharon Hajovsky, SAS; Robin Havard, HC; Ann Henke, SH; Courtney Kulcak, SPS; Greg Low, OLG; Barbara Machinsky, SAS; Brenda Matula, NA; Sandy O'Leary, SAS; Virginia Olsovsky, SRS; Grace Oppermann, SAS; Tronica Owens, SMSC; Lydia Pena, OLG; Janet Radley, SPS; Teresa Rodriguez, SRS; Melanie Rother, SMSW; Enemencia Santillano, SAS; Sue Spradlin, SRS; Heather Taylor, OLV; Tracy Theut, SAS; Angela Thompson, SRS; Adel Torres, SJHS; DeeDee Uresti, NA; Dorothy Vecera, SRS; Laura Walla, SAS; Neely Yackel, SCS; and Sandy Zaruba, SRS

### 10 Years of Service

Dana Beal, SCS; Matt Bonner, SRS; Mary A. Braden, SAS; Doris Bujnoch, SRS; Normalinda Cantu, SJHS; Cindy Carter, SRS; Richard Chen, OLG; Shanna Clark, SH; Theresa Dent, OLG; Laura Fogleman, SRS; Karen Frazier, OLV; Vickie Glynn, SAS; Amy Hartigan, SAS; Karen Lyssy, OLG; Gail Mason, OLV; Sr. Ann Meletio, NA; Jeannie Mican, SRS; Jennifer Moeller, SRS; Sandra Muras, SMSW; Stacy Oeding, SRS; John O'Leary, SAS; Janie Ortega, OLG; Carolyn Osina, SRS; Leonard Pokluda, OLG; Sofia Ramirez, SAS; Shannon Siegel, SCS; Johanna Spatafora, SAS; Linda Stuart, OLV; Sandra Tomek, HC; Mary Wenske, OLV; Anthony Wilhelm, NA; and Theresa York, SPS

### 15 Years of Service

Ruth Barton, SH; Debi Bludau, SH; Janice Bludau, SH; Janice Cox, SPS; Janet Eldridge, SPS; Brenda Etzler, SH; Kim Henke, SH; Cheryl Johnson, OLV; Bill McArdle, SJHS; Paula Parkinson, SH; Betty Reck, SPS; Judy Roeder, SMSC; Ann Slatter, SJHS; Lynette Strnadell, SPS; Patricia Weaver, OLG; and Karen Zavesky, SH

### 20 Years of Service

Pam Bohuslav, SH; Peggy Castillo, SAS; Lynn Cook, SH; Sandy Darr, SAS; Adeline Decker, SJHS; Cathy Divin, SMSW; Debbie Klesel, SH; Sr. Evelyn Korenek, NA; Trey Kraatz, SH; Deborah Machicek, SJHS; Rick Masek, SH; Wanda Orsak, SH; Maria Ortiz, SPS; Debbie Studer, SJHS; and Linda Torre, HC

### 25 Years of Service

Caroline Grohmann, SMSW; Jennifer Hessler, OLV; Donna Kunz, SRS; Georganna Meismer, OLV; David Smolik, SH; and Cynthia Sunderman, SAS

### 30 Years of Service

Doris Kay Bluntzer, OLV; Joe Cash, SH; Doris Fenner, SH; William Harper, SH; GERALYN Klimitchek, SH; Andy Kocian, SCS; Sally Kolos, SH; and Mike Tankersley, SH

### Over 30 Years of Service

Patricia Berger, SMSW, 35  
Pat Henke, SH, 35  
Irene Matula, SH, 35  
Mike Boyle, SJHS, 40  
Norma Smolik, OLV, 40  
Gwen Hall, OLV, 40  
David Pozzi, SJHS, 45



## Our Lady of Victory School Spring Barbecue



**Saturday, February 23**  
**11 A.M. – 1 P.M. Plates To Go Only**  
**following the parade**  
*(Airline Road. Parking Lot)*

**\$8.00 Per Plate**  
**Brisket, Sausage, German Potatoes,**  
**Beans and Relishes**

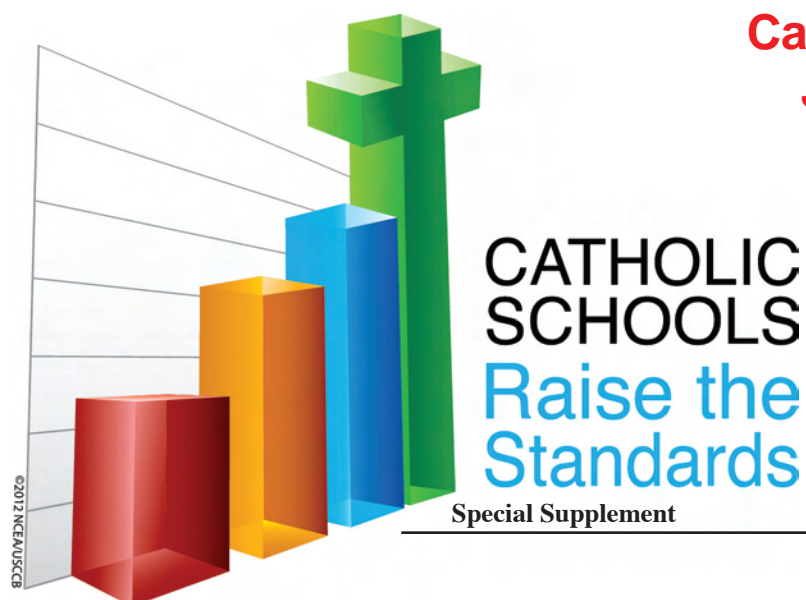


**MINI-RETREAT HELD AT RAPHAEL'S REFUGE**—A retreat for the faculty and staff of St. Rose of Lima School, Schulenburg, was held Monday, January 21, in the chapel of the Monument to the Innocents. Sister Emily Eilers, IWBS, from Victoria, led the retreatants in an analysis of the Church's theme for the year, "The Year of Faith." They were encouraged to re-evangelize themselves and to renew their spirits. In the closing ceremony, they rededicated themselves to service, to spreading the Light of Christ into the world. Raphael's Refuge is open every day, during the day. It is located two miles outside of Flatonia, at 2715 W US Hwy 90. For information, phone Midge Elam at (361) 865-3021 or visit [RaphaelsRefuge.org](http://RaphaelsRefuge.org).



# Catholic Schools Week 2013 January 27 - February 2

**Holy Cross - Bay City**  
**St. Anthony - Columbus**  
**St. Michael - Cuero**  
**St. Philip - El Campo**  
**Sacred Heart - Hallettsville**  
**Our Lady of the Gulf - Port Lavaca**  
**St. Rose of Lima - Schulenburg**  
**St. Ludmila Academy - Shiner**  
**Nazareth Academy - Victoria**  
**Our Lady of Victory - Victoria**  
**St. Michael - Weimar**  
**St. Joseph - Yoakum**  
**Sacred Heart High - Hallettsville**  
**St. Paul High - Shiner**  
**St. Joseph High - Victoria**



**CATHOLIC  
SCHOOLS**  
**Raise the  
Standards**

Special Supplement

Diocese of Victoria

February 2013

sponsored by the  
**National Catholic Educational  
 Association**



**TRADITIONS PREPARING FOR THE KINGDOM OF GOD—** Shiner Catholic School (SCS) celebrated Catholic Schools Week in a very special way this year. This school year marks the 115th year that students have been educated in the Catholic Faith in Shiner. The annual pancake breakfast kicked off the week of events accompanied by an Open House at the school. Each day of the week was dedicated to honoring all of the elements that make Catholic Education so special. Faith, Students, Teachers and Parents were all honored throughout the week in various ways. The annual noodle soup supper and school wide talent show was the highlight and finale of the week with hundreds of people in attendance. Sister Mary Anthony, OP, (top left) enjoys the Catholic Schools Week activities! SCS 3rd graders (left) take time to smile for the camera during the annual balloon launch.



If you are interested in joining the Shiner tradition of "Preparing the Children of God for the Kingdom of God," please contact the school office at (361) 594-3843.

## A Message from the Superintendent

For the past thirty-eight years, the National Catholic Educational Association (NCEA) has highlighted the accomplishments of Catholic Schools around the nation. This year's theme pays tribute to the high quality standards that Catholic schools have been noted for throughout our history.

Our schools have been built on a bedrock of support, service, and excellence in education for almost 150 years. Quality education begins with a quality school, supported by a dedicated staff and parent community, and sustained with a sense of service to the local and global community.

As we celebrate the Year of Faith in the Catholic Church, declared by Pope Benedict XVI, which began in October 2012 and will conclude in November 2013, we are reminded to become familiar with the Church documents that guide our teachings. Though there are several Church documents, some of them focus more on the education of our Catholic school students, e.g., *To Teach as Jesus Did: A Pastoral Message on Catholic Education*



*John E. Quarry, Superintendent  
Diocese of Victoria*

(1972), *The Religious Dimension in a Catholic School* (1988), and *The Catechism of the Catholic Church* (1994). Perhaps the most important ingredients in a quality school, however, are the classroom teachers, along with a uniquely qualified staff. We are very proud of our dedicated, servant-oriented, capable staff members who have served our schools for hundreds of years.

This year, we would like to begin a new tradition of recognizing those years of service by congratulating each of the following school staff members throughout the Diocese of Victoria.

Go to page 8 to see the guidelines and those people who are recognized this year.

## St. Michael students commit to community service projects

**CUERO—**During Catholic Schools Week, St. Michael's School in Cuero focused on the value Catholic education provides to young people and its contributions to our church, our communities, and our nation. This year's family project was to have

families depict their favorite bible story. The week began with the celebration of the Mass, followed by an Open House on Saturday.

Students demonstrated their commitment to community service by beginning two service projects. The first was a collec-

tion of items for the Cuero Animal Shelter. Students also made a "flipbook" of common terms in English that will be mailed to a representative in the Dominican Republic to help the students there learn English.

*See St. Michael, 2A*

## Explanation of Theme: Catholic Schools Raise the Standard

The theme for the National Catholic Schools Week 2013 is "Catholic Schools Raise the Standards." The annual observance starts the last Sunday in January and runs all week, which in 2013 is January 27 to February 2. Schools typically celebrate Catholic Schools Week with Masses, open houses, and other activities for students, families, parishioners, and the community at large.

The 2013 theme supports the recent launch of the National Standards and Benchmarks for Effective Catholic Elementary and Secondary Schools that ensure the effective operation and responsible governance of Catholic schools across the country, thus promoting high academic standards and Catholic identity. The logo designed for the week illustrates a chart of steady growth culminating in the highest achievement of all, a cross representing the faith that underscores all Catholic education. (*Reprinted with permission from the NCEA.*)

*"Educators must be welcoming and well-prepared interlocutors, able to awaken and direct the best energies of students towards the search for truth and the meaning of existence." ~ "Educating Together in Catholic Schools: A Shared Mission Between Consecrated Persons and the Lay Faithful - Congregation For Catholic Education (of Seminaries and Educational Institutions), Vatican City," 2007, paragraph 2.*





OLV students in wood shop (above) and in a One-Act Play, "The Happy Scarecrow" (right).

**"OLV, a Recognized Blue Ribbon School of Excellence"**



## Our Lady of Victory School Educating Minds, Inspiring Hearts

Our Lady of Victory School has served families in the Victoria community for 56 years and continues to provide the highest standards of Catholic education for students in grades Pre-K3 through 8th. Our strong academic program and extracurricular opportunities build character, self-discipline, and values in students to better prepare them for tomorrow's challenges.

Our Lady of Victory School's diverse curriculum meets the needs of all our students. The Early Childhood program focuses on the individual needs of young children, ages 3 to 5, providing consistent care and skill development in a safe environment. The challenging core curriculum taught in 1st through 8th grades continues to meet Blue Ribbon School standards. Our Lady of Victory's Fine Arts curriculum expanded this year to include Band for all 5th and 6th graders. Religious instruction and prayer are an integral part of the whole curriculum. Monthly service projects teach students that they are responsible to others as part of their Christian duty.

Our Lady of Victory's extracurricular opportunities enhances a student's academic experience, helping to develop well-rounded individuals. Opportunities include athletics, school clubs, choir, and academic competitions. Students are routinely rec-

ognized at the local and state levels in art, handwriting, PSIA and Duke University Talent Search programs.

Electives also contribute to a student's well-rounded educational experience. Eighth grade electives are offered each semester and include Art, Homemaking (sewing/cooking), MathCounts/Algebra, Music, Speech, Woodshop and One-Act Play added this year. Electives provide students an opportunity to enjoy a variety of learning experiences beyond their basic curriculum. Students may choose an elective that they already have shown an interest or talent in and want to further develop their skills or choose something completely new and different to explore. Some of the skills learned could lead to a lifelong hobby or vocation. Electives help students to discover their talents and gain a sense of who they are as individuals and as citizens of the community. It is our job to continue to develop our students' talents and to present new challenges so they continue to grow in wisdom and grace.

Our Lady of Victory School is very thankful to all those who contribute to the success of our school—our students, our dedicated teachers and administrators, and our supportive parents and volunteers.

## St. Michael students commit to community service projects

*Continued from p. 1A*

On Tuesday, students enjoyed many fun activities, including a Bunco tournament, presentations by parents, and treats in the afternoon.

Wednesday morning began with flag-raising outside by the flagpole with representatives from the Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts helping. Students were invited to dress in red, white and blue to show their support for the nation. Students also rallied

through downtown Cuero waving flags.

Speakers including religious and lay workers were invited on Thursday to speak to the students about how they serve God at their jobs. The annual dinner and Variety Show was held that evening.

The St. Michael's H.S.A. treated the faculty and staff to a special luncheon. The teachers then were able to enjoy their annual spiritual retreat.



Holy Cross, Bay City, students perform a dance for their parents.

## Holy Cross Catholic School Celebrates Catholic Schools Week

BAY CITY—To kick off Catholic schools week Mayor Mark Bricker, former student of Holy Cross School, presented our school with a proclamation recognizing the week of January 27- February 1 as Catholic Schools Week.

Catholic Schools Week is a time to celebrate the enduring value of Catholic education. Each year at this time, we focus on the gift that Catholic education provides to America's young people and its contributions to our church, communities and our nation. Catholic schools give a high level of service to the nation by serving students from all economic backgrounds and giving them a strong academic and moral foundation, allowing them to succeed in life, serv-

ing in the government, industry, business, non-profit and educational fields.

Our students are committed to a continual formation of a Christian community. We share the same faith, the same values, and the same love for each other. Students at Holy Cross are always ready to reach out to our neighboring communities. The students at Holy Cross work on family projects to display in the gym for our Open House. Holy Cross Catholic School also strives to bring our school community closer by having a family dinner and dance. The students learned a dance during P.E. to perform for their parents and we ended the evening with lots of music and dancing fun for all!

## Christ is the Reason for St. Philip School

*Continued from p. 20*

opportunity for growth and enrichment. Students have the opportunity to participate in various ministries during our weekly children's Mass, buddy programs and various academic events. Technology is used throughout each grade level as part of our academic diversification in all subject areas. From early childhood systems such as "Hatch" to various other software and web based curriculum for kindergarten through eighth grade, students are given the opportunity to learn in many capacities. Extracurricular activities such as theatre, academic and athletic competitions provide for building of new skills that are valuable skills for life.

Catholic School Week provides something for everyone! Throughout the week students, parents, faculty and staff celebrate the precious gift of faith in education. The annual "Faith Trot" and a special Mass kicks off a week of festivities. Fun activities such as Crazy Hair Day and Spirit Day are designed especially with the students in mind. Moms, dads and grandparents have the opportunity to have a special lunch with

their children and grandchildren.

As this is the "Year of Faith" our students are participating in a service project specific to evangelization. The theme is entitled "There Is Power In Understanding Scripture." Biblical parables that decorate our school hallways come alive providing many teachable moments. In addition, each classroom is part of the perpetual adoration on the World Day of Christian Unity.

One of the greatest assets that can be felt upon entering our school is the support received from our parents and our parish community. Many individuals and organizations work together with the common goal of strengthening the faithfulness of each generation. It is not uncommon to witness students, parents and parishioners all working together for the betterment of our school and parish.

At St. Philip Catholic School we teach to Know, Love, and Serve God and Others. St. Philip School is a place where we recognize and support that a Catholic education is a lifelong gift to children. The tradition of excellence continues.



## STJ students driven to learn

St. Joseph High School has provided the highest standard of Catholic education for generations of families in Victoria, and the surrounding area, since 1868 when it was founded by Reverend Augustine Gardet. What was once a school to educate young men, exclusively, has evolved into an educational environment that is known for its academic excellence, nationwide.

St. Joseph's students come from diverse backgrounds, each bringing a different view to the rigorous academic curriculum, while remaining true to the religious values, which have been the school's hallmark throughout its 145-year history. Tuition assistance is available to Flyer families and granted on a monetary-need basis. Nearly 50 percent of STJ families receive grants each year, which totaled nearly \$372 thousand in tuition assistance this year.

St. Joseph High School knows that in order for its students to be successful in the classroom, they must be known. Teachers, at STJ, know their students and are well educated. They have chosen to teach at STJ. Some were educated at STJ and have returned to give back. They choose to invest their time with students who want to learn and want to be inspired. Because of the low student-to-teacher ratio, students have close relationships with teachers and administrators. STJ holds the bar high for students' actions, both academic and behavioral,

which results in meeting those expectations with pride and dignity, values imperative to the development of character.

Seniors educated at St. Joseph High School have been accepted into universities such as The University of Notre Dame, Duke University, The University of Texas and Texas A&M University, annually, because of the profiles that have been acquired over the four years of study at STJ. Annually, 99 percent of St. Joseph's students are accepted into colleges with 65 percent awarded at least one scholarship, totaling \$2.6 million in college scholarships in 2012. STJ traditionally leads the Victoria community in the number of students recognized by the prestigious National Merit Scholarship program.

STJ students are driven to learn on the playing fields and stages, as they are in the classrooms. Flyers excel in sports ranging from football to swimming, as well as the arts and debate. However, before any extra-curricular competition begins, studies must be complete. STJ coaches are on board with this proven theory. Students are encouraged to attend daily tutorials, offered after school Monday-Thursday, before participating in athletics.

There is a saying that has been around at St. Joseph High School for some time, "Once a Flyer, always a Flyer." If your great grandfather says it, it must be true!



Weekly Mass at the STJ gym.  
Photo by Kevin Jordan



(left) Demolition of the old Rectory Garage Apartment to make way for the new Gym and Band Hall Facility. (below) Mariner Boat built for the new playground by parent volunteers.



## Raising the Standards Through Continuous Improvement

PORT LAVACA—When Our Lady of the Gulf opened a Catholic School in 1996, it started with 43 students in grades Kinder through 5th, in the parish's CCD building that was built back in the 1950's. Against many odds, the school has continued to grow over the past sixteen years in student population and square footage. Thanks to an endowment set up by Mrs. Louis Bauer, the school is blessed with a stable operating budget while keeping tuition rates affordable for parish and community families. The school is also blessed with a dynamic School Advisory Council and pastor that continue to provide a strategic vision of continuous improvement for the school facilities and its programs. Because of their hard work, the school broke ground for a new Gym and Band Hall Facility with a blessing by Bishop Fellhauer on January 27th as they kicked off Catholic Schools Week.

The spirit of continuous improvement is also strong within the Home and School

Association where parents have already donated over 1,400 service hours since the beginning of August to build a new playground, a temporary band hall and to hold fundraisers in support of the school's growth. The faculty and administration are also continually striving to improve academic programs through the use of new technology, professional growth programs and teacher teams aimed at student achievement in all core areas.

There was once a time, not too long ago, when OLG did not have the gift of a full time Catholic School to offer to its youth. But there is a spirit of determination within the school to not only keep the gift alive, but to grow and to continually improve. Perhaps one of their greatest strengths is that they do not take it all for granted. Providing an opportunity for Growth in the Light of Christ is a mission worth striving and sacrificing for each and every day.

## St. Joseph School Raised the Standards for Community

YOAKUM St. Joseph School Raises the Standards: In our parish on Sunday, January 27, the school family celebrated a special Liturgy at 9:00 a.m. with the student body singing and the 8th grade leading in the parts of the Mass. Students read essays at Mass on "Catholic Schools Raising the Standards". The Catholic Daughters of America served a roast beef dinner at the Family Center after Mass.

For the community service people on Monday, students did a "Thank You For Your Service" project. They distributed cards and sweets to the police and fire stations, Yoakum City Hall, Yoakum Hospital, and Yoakum Independent School District. HEB bags were decorated and distributed to the Yoakum community to

express gratitude for the different services they render to our community. The students participated in on-going projects of decorating Christmas cards previously and Valentine cards now for nursing home residents and collecting "Pennies for Patients" for the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society. The school raised the standards for the students to recognize the corporal works of mercy in their ongoing projects.

To "Raise the Standards" for our students, the faculty rewarded their high academic standards and achievements by having a fun day including movies, popcorn, and a "no homework night".

On Wednesday, the students made and hung prayer chains for each floor of the school with prayers for our nation. Students

attended Mass and wore red, white, and blue to show patriotism for our great nation and had a special blessing for our country given by Father Matthew Huehlefeld, pastor. The students prayed a living rosary in the church after lunch for our nation.

Thursday was a day for vocations; students prayed a special prayer for vocations. Students showed appreciation to the vocations by presenting a gift to Father Matthew and handmade cards to the Sisters of Incarnate Word.

On Friday, 8th graders honored the teachers by teaching their classes in the morning and provided snacks and lunch for them. A small token of appreciation was passed out to teachers. Everyone was rewarded with early dismissal.



If you know of any youngsters who have not yet enrolled in one of our diocesan schools, but would like to, please contact your local Catholic school and find out how they can receive a "F.I.R.S.T-class education ... for life!" (faith-integrity-respect-scholarship-tradition) For more information, please visit us on the web at [www.victoriadiocese.org/school/cathschool.htm](http://www.victoriadiocese.org/school/cathschool.htm)





Mayor Warren Grindeland, seated in center, signed a proclamation designating the week of Jan. 27-Feb. 1, 2013, as Catholic Schools Week in the City of Hallettsville. Witnessing the signing included students and faculty of Sacred Heart and Msgr. John C. Peters, pastor of Sacred Heart Church.

## Sacred Heart School Hosts Their 1st Annual Catholic Knowledge Bowl

HALLETTSVILLE—Sacred Heart Catholic School is taking the Year of Faith seriously. To help students and families study their faith in a fun way, a Catholic Knowledge Bowl was held on campus during Catholic Schools Week.

Scattered across the SHCS gym, were clusters of four with siblings, cousins, moms, dads and grandmas seeking to prove that their family is taking this Year of Faith seriously. Nearly 25 teams (100 students) of junior high and high school students vied to take the honors of Catholic Scholars.

Questions covering all aspects of the Catholic faith: scripture, sacraments, liturgy, saints, Catholic identity, were read and projected on screens for the team members to decide which answer they thought was correct. At the end of each session, while the answer sheets of the 29 competing teams were graded, participants and audience alike were given the correct answers to see how they did. Prizes were awarded to the first, second, and third place winners in each division.

Our Catholic Schools Week celebration began with our students, faculty, and parents serving as cantors, eucharistic ministers, ushers, organists, and offertory participants at all weekend Masses.

Charles and Cheryl Pavliska, parents of three Sacred Heart students, gave a presentation at each Mass regarding their commitment to providing their children with a Catholic education.

A live radio broadcast on KTXM 99 was held Wednesday morning on National

Appreciation Day for Catholic Schools. Senior students' Adrienne Klimitchek and Ariane Kubena were the DJ's and summarized the various CSW activities at Sacred Heart.

Thursday, January 31 was a full day of activities. Special guests, leaders in the community, and supporters of Sacred Heart Catholic School were all invited for a special luncheon and recognition. The Annual Open House was held in the evening followed by the Annual Coronation and Talent Show sponsored by the Senior class.

Friday, February 1 began with a special school Liturgy and Mass of Rededication of the faculty and staff. A Respect Life Prayer Service, followed by a March For Life, was held immediately after Mass. The Awards Ceremony for grades K – 8 students was then held in the gym.

Classes were then dismissed at 12:00 noon following the conclusion of the 1st Annual Catholic Knowledge Bowl.

For more information regarding Sacred Heart Catholic School please visit our website at [www.shschool.org](http://www.shschool.org) or call the school office at (361) 798-4251.



(left) Teachers Gail Bragg, Michelle Corona, Linda Hernandez, and Sister Mary Juroske put the finishing touches on their prize-winning "Leaning Tower of Cheeza" in the 8th grade/faculty competition.

(right) NA eighth graders Kristen Seger, Jillian Chapa, and Mia Hernandez take a break from calling out bingo numbers at the Senior Citizens Center on Murray Street.



## CSW at Nazareth Academy

Nazareth Academy celebrated Catholic Schools Week with a variety of prayers, programs, services and activities. The theme: "Raise the Standards" served to encourage everyone to believe in their giftedness and trust in the guidance of the Spirit.

As a service, the eighth graders went to the Senior Citizen Center, where they played bingo, served lunch and presented the seniors with gift items for their use. The seventh graders did the same for the residents of Homewood and Elmcroft.

Students in grades 1-4 collected cans of Campbell's Soup for the Victoria Food Bank. Before donating these, the students made a model of Nazareth Academy using the cans.

Kindergarten students were visited by representatives from the Retama Manor Nursing Facility who received their donation of items for the residence. Pre-K students collected items for the residents of Victoria Nursing & Rehab Center. A representative from the center visited the students and accepted their donations. A dachshund and beagle visited PreK3 and "barked their thanks" for the students' items from the Wish-List for Adopt-a-Pet.

Open House was held on Tuesday, inviting the public to visit and learn about the Christian education that Nazareth Academy has to offer.

On Tuesday, the student body held a prayer service in the gym, including the Living Rosary, asking the Blessed Mother, the patroness of the U.S., for her special protection of our country. This was followed by the presentation of colors by the veterans, the singing of the "The Star-Spangled Banner" by the Choir of Angels and student body, and the presentation of new flags by the Ladies Auxiliary and the VFW. The Junior ROTC from local high schools closed the program with their drills.

On Thursday, the entire student body participated in 146 minutes of continuous prayer, thanking God for the 146 years of service by Nazareth. Throughout the day, a large wooden rosary was passed from room to room inviting the class to pause and enter into 9 minutes of prayer lifting up the needs of students, faculty and staff, parents, supporters and country.

The Book Fair, Career Day, lunch with parents and grandparents, Games Day, partnering of older students with younger students in planned activities, and appreciating the faculty, staff, students, volunteers, parents and grandparents were other activities fused throughout the week.

The entire week was one to be remembered as we celebrated the tradition and Nazareth experience. The theme lives on in our striving to be people of faith.

## St. Michael, Weimar Celebrates CSW with Community

WEIMAR—St. Michael School opened CSW with an Open House followed by Mass to thank God for the many blessings he has bestowed on us and our school.

This year's service project was to write and mail thank you letters to all local businesses for their support.

St. Michael School family have many people in the community who generously help by volunteering and donating financially to the school to help "Raise our

Standards". They hosted a Benefactor/Volunteer meal for those special people who serve the school so generously.

Without the dedication of the parents and grandparents they would not be a strong educational facility. To show their appreciation, they provided breakfast in the morning car line.

To "Raise the Standards Through Fun and Fellowship" grades 6-8 attended Mass at Parkview Nursing Home. For the fun

part "Crazy Sock Day"- Sock Hop was held in the gym.

Thursday was "Teacher Appreciation Day" which included a teacher luncheon with the grades 5-8 students reading to Pk-4th grade students.

Friday the last day was to "Raise the Standards with Hard Work and Perseverance of the Students". The day included a closing Mass, student carnival, and bingo with early dismissal.







## Catholic By Grace

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



### We're moving, we're not moving – Que Será, Será

It's one of my earliest memories. Doris Day glides down the circular staircase as the soundtrack plays "Que Será, Será." Whatever will be, will be.

The message, however, is still a difficult one for me. I worry too much. Matthew 6:27? Well, I've never quite assimilated that verse either. "Can any of you by worrying add a single moment to your life-span?" No, but you wouldn't know that if you followed me around for any length of time.

Last June, my husband's employer presented him with the possibility of moving to Seattle. We considered our options and accepted the offer. Everything was about to change.

No more teaching. No more living close to our grown children and grandbabies.

What would I do there, anyway?

I was convinced we could not have a better priest and no parish could top Immaculate Heart of Mary in little New Melle, Missouri. My world was small – and I liked it that way.

The cost of living in Seattle could mean only one thing. Goodbye four-acre property and custom home. A two-bedroom townhouse would have to do.

The move was as good as done. The letter of intent – signed.

We began painting the house, doing landscaping, and ordering new carpet. I planted \$100 worth of tulip bulbs so the house would be ready to show in the spring of 2013. We told the family; I told my employer.

We purged much of our basement stuff. Every weekend, we made a trip to Goodwill

*See We're moving, p. 14*

### What FOUR things did Mother Theresa, Francis of Assisi, John Paul II, Catherine of Siena and Ignatius of Loyola all have in COMMON?

*They all practiced "The Four Signs"*

Over the course of the past few years, The Dynamic Catholic Institute has conducted research to explore the difference between engaged and disengaged Catholics. The results of this research are staggering: 6.4 percent of parishioners contribute 80 percent of the volunteer hours at a parish, 6.8 percent of parishioners donate 80 percent of financial contributions at a parish, and there is an 84 percent overlap between the two groups. These "Dynamic Catholics" are accomplishing more than 80 percent of what the Catholic Church is doing today – proving that engaging just one percent of Catholics could change the world.

As human beings we are constantly engaging and disengaging in everything we do. We engage and disengage at work, in marriage, as parents, in our quest for health and well-being, in personal finances, environmentally, politically, and, of course, we engage or dis-engage spiritually.

If you walk into any Catholic church next Sunday and look around, you will discover that some people are highly engaged, others are massively disengaged,

and the majority are somewhere in between. Why? What is the difference between highly engaged Catholics and disengaged Catholics?

Answering this question is essential to the future of the Catholic Church. If we truly want to engage Catholics and reinvigorate parish life, we must first discover what drives engagement among Catholics. Matthew Kelly explores this question in his groundbreaking new book, and the simplicity of what he discovers will amaze you.

Four things make the difference between highly engaged Catholics and disengaged Catholics: the four signs of a Dynamic Catholic.

Whether you are ready to let God take your spiritual life to the next level or want to help reinvigorate your parish, The Four Signs of a Dynamic Catholic promises to take you on a journey that will help you to live out the genius of Catholicism in your everyday life.

The central idea in this book should change the way we live our faith and the way we teach our faith. This book is a game changer.

## RCIA

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

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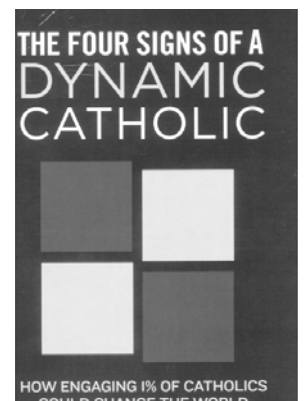
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### January Puzzle Contest Winners Announced

The winner of the January puzzle contest and the book "Kateri - Lily of the Mohawks" by Jack Casey is Emily Sulak from Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary in Ganado. The winners of the children's contest are Matthew Heath (13) of Our Lady of Victory Cathedral, Victoria, and Kadie Tsika (7) 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 February Puzzle Contest will win "The Four Signs of a Dynamic Catholic" by Matthew Kelly. Four years ago The Dynamic Catholic Institute began a major research project to explore the difference between highly engaged Catholics and disengaged Catholics. "The Four Signs of a Dynamic Catholic" presents the findings from that research, but more than that, it presents a blueprint for engaged and disengaged Catholics and the tools to increase engagement among engaged Catholics. To the left is a little more about the book. Please mail completed puzzle forms to arrive in *The Catholic Lighthouse* office, P. O. Box 4070, Victoria, TX 77903 by February 25.



HOW ENGAGING 1% OF CATHOLICS  
COULD CHANGE THE WORLD





## Question Corner

By Father Kenneth Doyle  
Catholic News Service



### Calculating the 40 days of Lent

*Q. I always hear about the “40 days of Lent,” but the math never seems to work out. When does it start and when does it end, and how do you arrive at 40 days? (Cherry Hill, N.J.)*

**A.** As often happens, a short and simple question requires a complicated answer. Technically, the Sundays of Lent are not part of this penitential season. Since it is always a “mini-celebration” of Christ’s resurrection, a Sunday can never be a day of fast and abstinence.

So when the Church decided to set aside a season of prayer and penance in preparation for Easter – and decided to make it 40 days, to mirror Christ’s fast in

the desert before his public ministry – it calculated this way: six full weeks, Monday through Saturday, plus Ash Wednesday and the three days that follow it, for a total of 40 days.

But here’s the complication: Although Good Friday and Holy Saturday are clearly part of the penitential season, liturgically they are not a part of Lent. In the Church’s liturgical calendar, Lent ends just prior to the Mass of the Lord’s Supper on Holy Thursday evening, and then the Easter Triduum begins.

*Questions may be sent to Father Kenneth Doyle at [askfatherdoyle@gmail.com](mailto:askfatherdoyle@gmail.com) and 40 Hopewell St., Albany, NY 12208.*

### We’re moving, we’re not moving – Que Será, Será

*Continued from p. 13*

and unloaded a pick-up full of donations. The amount of stuff we had accumulated since we built our house in 2005 was unbelievable. Our basement, which previously looked like a scene out of Waterworld, was now clean and tidy.

Then, the parade of realtors began. Three companies. All three experts yielded the same prediction.

Our house was worth a fraction of its original purchase price. Overnight, the Bosserts learned all about recession and the crisis in real estate market values. Each realtor had a different bottom line, but they had one thing in common. We would lose a lot of money, the only difference in their market comparisons was just how much we were likely to lose.

So much for planning. So much for purging. So much for panicking.

The move was now up in the air.

We talked. Lost sleep. Prayed. Reconsidered.

And eventually, the move was called off.

I feel like I’m gliding down a staircase and singing that Doris Day song, “Que Será, Será. Whatever will be, will be. The future’s not ours to see. Que Será, Será.” Now, however, I’m as serene as Doris Day.

But truthfully, I was a mess. So much for trust and faith and waiting upon the

Lord. It’s easy to sing this little ditty when life is going the way one expects it to go.

It’s harder to abandon one’s self to Divine Providence when the future doesn’t look remotely familiar. After the age of 40, big change is hard. Dramatic upheaval – more unwelcome. Whatever will be – will be – as long as it isn’t too difficult. As long as it doesn’t take me away from family. As long as I don’t lose all those things that make up my personal identity.

As long as I can control a few important things. Then, I’ll sing “Whatever will be, will be.”

But when the climb is uphill, when the way is rough, when the landing is unexpected, then I want to sing a Frank Sinatra song instead. “My Way.”

I have much to learn about walking in grace. As much as anything, it is about humble acceptance for next things. It’s about trust. It’s about not trying to anticipate the future.

Are we moving? Probably not. At least not right now. I’ve learned that anything is possible, though. I haven’t acquired a spirit of docile obedience to absolutely anything, but I’m getting there. I know this – worrying doesn’t change anything, and it can’t add a day to my life. But, quiet acceptance of God’s will brings peace.

So, for now, St. Louis is still home.

### Sunday Readings from Feb. 13 to March 17

Feb. 13 — Ash Wednesday	Joel 2:12-18 Psalms 51:3-4, 5-6ab, 12-13, 14 and 17 2 Corinthians 5:20—6:2 Matthew 6:1-6, 16-18
Feb. 17 — First Sunday of Lent	Deuteronomy 26:4-10 Psalms 91:1-2, 10-11, 12-13, 14-15 Romans 10:8-13 Luke 4:1-13
Feb. 24 — Second Sunday of Lent	Genesis 15:5-2, 17-18 Psalms 27:1, 7-8, 8-9, 13-14 Philippians 3:17 — 4:1 Luke 9:28b-36
March 3 — Third Sunday of Lent	Exodus 3:1-8a, 13-15 Psalms 103:1-2, 3-4, 6-7, 8, 11 1 Corinthians 10:1-6, 10-12 Luke 13:1-9
March 10 — Fourth Sunday of Lent	Joshua 5:9a, 10-12 Psalms 34:2-3, 4-5, 6-7 2 Corinthians 5:17-21 Luke 15:1-3, 11-32
March 17 — Fifth Sunday of Lent	Isaiah 43:16-21 Psalms 126:1-2, 2-3, 4-5, 6 Philippians 3:6-14 John 8:1-11

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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### Massgoers say two new saints have long been guiding influence for them

WASHINGTON (CNS)—For Herman Ray, a Native American from Arizona, and Franciscan Sister Margaret Christi Karwowski, currently living in the Washington Archdiocese, the canonization of two Americans last Oct. 21 – Sts. Kateri Tekakwitha and Marianne Cope – confirmed something they already knew: the holiness of two remarkable women. “She has been my guide in many ways,” Sister Margaret Christi said about St. Marianne, a Sister of St. Francis of the Neumann Communities in Syracuse, N.Y., who ministered both in education and caring for the sick. While Ray explained his belief that St. Kateri “has made a big influence on my life – thanks to her I believe I can be a Native American and still be Catholic.” About a thousand faithful joined Ray and Sister Margaret Christi, 11 bishops from across the United States and two from Canada, and more than 30 priests and deacons the afternoon of Jan. 26 at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception for a Mass of thanksgiving for the canonization of the two women. Among those at the Mass were people of Mohawk,

Tuscarora, Tohono O’odham and Pima Indian heritage. *For more information on St. Kateri, the book, “Kateri – Lily of the Mohawks” by Jack Casey and published by Staff Picks Press (not to be confused with his first edition published by Bantam Books of 1984) is available for purchase through Amazon and independent booksellers.*

### ABCATS Travel

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May 16-28  
Luxury Bus Tour of  
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Poland**

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June 8-16  
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## THE POPE SPEAKS

Pope Benedict XVI



CNS photo from Reuters

### Calling God 'father' is statement of trust in his love, pope says

By Cindy Wooden  
Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — When the Christian creed refers to God as “father,” it is affirming a trust that the God who created the universe loves each individual and will never abandon anyone, Pope Benedict XVI said.

“It isn’t always easy” to explain to people what it means to believe in God the father, especially when today’s fathers and their children experience such difficulty communicating with each other, the pope said Jan. 30 at his weekly general audience.

“For those who have had the experience of a father who is too authoritarian or inflexible, or indifferent and not affectionate, or particularly if he is absent, it is not easy to think of God as father and let oneself trust him,” Pope Benedict said.

In the second of his audience talks looking at statements of faith in the creed, the pope said understanding what the church means when it calls God “the father almighty” may mean people have to set aside their personal experiences when considering the words “father” and “might.”

The Bible, especially the Gospels, “reveals the face of God as a father who loves us to the point of giving his son to save humanity,” the pope said. The love of God is “infinitely greater, more faithful, more complete than any human love.”

“As father, God accompanies our existence with love, giving us his Word, his teaching, his grace and his Spirit,” the pope said.

Pope Benedict told the estimated 5,000 people gathered for

the audience that many people today believe God can’t really be “almighty” or all powerful when there is so much evil and suffering in the world. Some people, he said, basically expect God to exercise a kind of “magic power,” immediately changing any situation they find difficult or painful.

Often, he said, “we want a divine omnipotence that coincides with our mindset and desires.”

“Creating free creatures, God renounced part of his omnipotence,” the pope said. But even giving men and women the ability to choose evil over good, his constant love means God is always there, urging conversion and offering mercy, forgiveness and salvation.

“Only one who is truly all-powerful can fully exercise the power of love,” he said.

In allowing Jesus to die for the sins of all, Pope Benedict said, God shows what “true, authentic and perfect divine power” is: “responding to evil with good, to insults with pardon, to homicidal hatred with a love that gives life.”

At the end of the audience, Jesuit Father Hans Zollner, chairman of the steering committee of the Center for Child Protection at Rome’s Pontifical Gregorian University, presented the pope with a German copy of “Toward Healing and Renewal.” The book is a collection of speeches and essays from a conference last year designed to help Catholic leaders around the world improve their child-protection policies and reach out to victims of clerical sexual abuse.

**BOY WATCHES VIDEO AFTER RECEIVING PROOF OF U.S. CITIZENSHIP IN SAN FRANCISCO**—Mohamed Farag, 12, is joined by adults to watch a video after receiving proof of U.S. citizenship during a ceremony in San Francisco Jan. 30. A bipartisan panel of senators and President Barack Obama Jan. 28 and 29, respectively, announced their principles for comprehensive immigration reform legislation the lawmakers hope to pass and Obama hopes to sign into law by mid-2013. (CNS photo/Robert Galbraith, Reuters)



### Priests offer tips for Catholics long absent from the confessional

WASHINGTON (CNS)— After “Bless me, Father, for I have sinned” — even if they get that far — there are millions of Catholics who don’t exactly know what to say next.

This is especially true for Catholics who have not gone to confession in years, or even decades.

Despite parishes and dioceses inviting inactive Catholics to return to church at Lent, with the sacrament of reconciliation as an incentive, it is likely Catholics are afraid, bewildered or even intimidated at the prospect of returning to the confessional after such a long period away from it.

A rote recitation of sins doesn’t seem quite right. Laundry lists, as some priests call them, are out. In fact, one advises, even devising a game plan before returning to the confessional is out.

“Just come. Don’t prepare. We’ll do it in there. I’ll help you with this. At the end of it, you’re going to think about things we didn’t cover. You can come again,” said Msgr. Richard Lavalley, pastor of St. Francis Xavier Parish in Winooski, Vt. “The more complicated it becomes, the worse it becomes. They (penitents) don’t know what to make of it and they become ashamed.”

The motivations for wanting to go back to confession can be

many, said Jesuit Father Jake Empereur, a priest since 1965 and a parochial vicar at St. Matthew Parish in San Antonio.

“It could be because of health issues. It could be because their conscience moves them to finally be able to participate in the church and the liturgy and Communion and things like that,” he said. “People get married. Sometimes it’s someone’s first Communion, sometimes it’s a wedding. It’s all sorts of different reasons.”

And what they have on their mind — and want to get off their chest — can vary as well, Father Empereur told Catholic News Service.



### Faith is genuine only if coupled with charity for others, pope says

*Continued from p. 1*

spoke to,” the cardinal said. Another mistake, he said, is seeing the church as just another large philanthropic agency for which social justice and meeting people’s physical needs are the primary concerns, “forgetting that the desire for God lies at a person’s core.”

Yet another misconception is to divide the church into “good guys” dedicated to service and charity, and “bad guys” dedicated to defending human life and universal moral truths, he said. This

*See Faith is genuine, p. 12*

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## Faith is genuine

*Continued from p. 11*

is what happens when the church is praised for helping the sick but vilified for trying to “awaken the human conscience,” the cardinal said.

The theme of the pope’s message, “Believing in charity calls forth charity,” was taken from the First Letter of St. John (4:16): “We have come to know and to believe in the love God has for us.”

In the context of the Year of Faith, the pope dedicated his message to the relationship between faith and charity, which he also explored in his 2005 encyclical on charity (“Deus Caritas Est”).

All Christians, especially charity workers, need faith — that personal encounter

with God in Christ and the experience of his love, the pope said.

“Christians are people who have been conquered by Christ’s love and accordingly, under the influence of that love, they are profoundly open to loving their neighbor in concrete ways,” he said.

A Christian life starts with accepting God’s gift of faith with “wonder and gratitude;” but it is a journey that continues as God seeks “to transform us” to become more like Christ and share his love with others.

“Only then does our faith become truly ‘active through love;’ only then does he abide in us” he said.

## Bishop of Las Cruces retires; San Antonio auxiliary named successor

**By Catholic News Service**

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Pope Benedict XVI has accepted the resignation of Bishop Ricardo Ramirez of Las Cruces, N.M., and named as his successor Auxiliary Bishop Oscar Cantu of San Antonio.

The changes were announced in Washington Jan. 10 by Archbishop Carlo Maria Vigano, apostolic nuncio to the United States.

The Diocese of Las Cruces was established in 1982 and Bishop Ramirez, now 76, was named its first bishop. Canon law requires bishops to submit their resignations when they turn 75.

Bishop Cantu, 46, has been an auxiliary bishop in San Antonio since 2008.

The date for his installation has been set for February 28. The man he succeeds in Las Cruces had likewise been a San Antonio auxiliary bishop in his first episcopal assignment before being appointed to head the Las Cruces Diocese.

“I am humbled that the Holy Father would appoint me to lead a beautiful diocese in a state that I am not terribly familiar with,” Bishop Cantu said in a statement. “There is a deep sense of ‘being sent’ — sent, as the apostles were by Christ, to announce the good news of the Gospel to the four corners of the earth.”

“To be following a great man in the person” of Bishop Ramirez was also humbling, he added.

### More religious institutions to be exempt

*Continued from p. 1*

A later “accommodation” said nonexempt organizations could do this through third-party insurers.

The expansion would cover religious higher education institutions, health care providers and charitable agencies that do not discriminate on the basis of religion as to whom they serve or employ. The new proposed rules specify that no exemption will be given to “for-profit, secular employers” such as Christian-owned toy retailer Hobby Lobby, who has sued the federal government over the contraceptive mandate.



*Bishop Oscar Cantu  
(CNS photos/  
Paul Haring)*

Born Dec. 5 in 1966, in Houston, Bishop Cantu received his bachelor’s degree in English from the University of Dallas and two master’s degrees from the University of St. Thomas in Houston. He was ordained a priest of the Diocese of Galveston-Houston in 1994. Ten years later, the diocese was made an archdiocese. He did graduate studies in theology at the Pontifical North American College in Rome 1998-2002.

He was administrator of the Archdiocese of San Antonio between the departure of Archbishop Jose H. Gomez to the Archdiocese of Los Angeles and the installation of Archbishop Gustavo Garcia-Siller.

Bishop Ramirez was born in Bay City, Texas, Sept. 12,

1936. Both his parents and their families were migrant workers in southern Texas. He attended public schools in Bay City and graduated in 1959 from the University of St. Thomas in Houston. He was ordained to the priesthood as a member of the Basilian Fathers in 1966.

He served in parishes in Canada, Detroit and Mexico. He was on the staff of the Mexican-American Cultural Center (now the Mexican American Catholic College) in San Antonio when in 1981 he was appointed auxiliary bishop of San Antonio. A year later, he was named founding bishop of Las Cruces.

During his tenure in New Mexico, Bishop Ramirez has been a strong advocate for immigrant rights.

### Bishops offer prayers for victims of massive Mexico City explosion

MEXICO CITY (CNS) — The Mexican bishops’ conference expressed solidarity with the victims and families affected by an explosion at the headquarters of the Mexican state oil company Jan. 31 that killed at least 25 and injured 101.

“We lift prayers to the creator that the injured have a quick recovery, so that the deceased are granted eternal life and so that he gives the affected families the necessary strength in these moments of pain,” said the statement signed by conference president Cardinal Jose Francisco Robles Ortega of Guadalajara and secretary-general Auxiliary Bishop Eugenio Lira Rugarcia of Puebla.



*Bishop Ricardo Ramirez*

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**Jim Smith** – CFO of the Catholic Diocese of Tyler  
**Jonathan K. Henderson, Esq.** – Polsinelli Shughart PC  
**Dr. Kathryn Karges** – Ob/Gyn at Caritas Complete Women’s Care





## Church, governmental groups seek more funds as Syrians flood Jordan

AMMAN, Jordan (CNS) — As frightened Syrian refugees flood into Jordan and other nearby countries, U.N. officials at a donor conference in Kuwait appealed to the international community for desperately needed funding for victims of the 22-month crisis. The U.N. said a December request for \$1.5 million to aid displaced Syrians received less than 3 percent in pledges, hardly enough to handle the spiraling numbers. In Kuwait, media reported, the agency received about \$1 million in pledges. Caritas, the Catholic Church's humanitarian agency, is aiding about one-quarter of the Syrians seeking shelter in Jordan, said Omar Abawi of the group's emergency response unit. Each day in the last week of January, 3,000 Syrian refugees flooded into Jordan — about 5 times above the previous average of 700 per day. Jordan hosts some 320,000 displaced Syrians, almost half of the 700,000 housed in the region. About 2.5 million Syr-

ians are displaced within their own country. While the U.N. and a Jordanian aid organization are responsible for about 83,000 refugees in Jordan's sole Zaatari refugee camp, Caritas and others assist the larger bulk found in communities along the border and farther afield. Caritas has distributed food coupons, medical aid and heaters during this abnormally cold winter, which has included rain, snow and temperatures below freezing. "Although we've nearly reached our own appeal for \$1.7 million, we expect the numbers will need to be revised again, because Syrian refugee numbers could top 500,000 here even before April," Abawi said.

## Lent Begins on Ash Wednesday, Feb. 13

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## Cardinal relieved of public duties for past failure to protect children

LOS ANGELES (CNS) — Cardinal Roger M. Mahony will "no longer have any administrative or public duties" as retired archbishop of Los Angeles because of past failures to protect children from clergy sex abuse, Archbishop Jose H. Gomez announced Jan. 31.

The archbishop's statement came the same day the archdiocese published the files of clergy who were the subject of a 2007 global abuse settlement. The material has been posted on the website <http://clergyfiles.la-archdiocese.org>, along with supporting information that includes the names of hierarchy.

Archbishop Gomez also accepted Auxiliary Bishop Thomas J. Curry's request to be relieved of his responsibility as the regional bishop of Santa Barbara.

Cardinal Mahony, now 76, headed the archdiocese from 1985 until his March 2011 retirement. Bishop Curry, 70, was the archdiocese's vicar of clergy and chief adviser on sexual abuse cases in the mid-1980s.

## Religious leaders call for US initiative for Palestinian-Israeli peace

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Three Catholic prelates joined more than two dozen other Christian, Jewish and Muslim religious leaders in urging the United States to embark on a new initiative to secure peace between the Palestinian National Authority and Israel. The leaders called upon U.S. diplomats to seek a two-state agreement "before it is too late" in a statement from the National Interreligious Leadership Initiative for Peace in the Middle East. Cardinal Theodore E. McCarrick, retired archbishop of Washington, Bishop Richard E. Pates of Des Moines, Iowa, chairman of the U.S. bishops' Committee on International Justice and Peace, and Auxiliary Bishop Denis J. Madden of Baltimore were the Catholics who included their names on the Jan. 25 statement. Expressing concern that the violence that erupted in southern Israel and



**YOUNG MARRIED COUPLE GREET PRIEST DURING PRO-LIFE RALLY IN OREGON**—Holy Cross Father Gary Chamberland greets Jennifer and Roy Friend during the Jan. 20 Right to Life Rally in Portland, Ore. More than half of the 1,200 people on hand appeared to be in their 20s and 30s. It was 40 years ago that the U.S. Supreme Court legalized abortion across the country with its Roe v. Wade decision. (CNS photo/Gerry Lewin, *Catholic Sentinel*)

## Dioceses from coast to coast, north to south, mark Roe anniversary

WASHINGTON (CNS) — East to west, north to south, dioceses and parishes marked the 40th anniversary of the Supreme Court's Roe v. Wade decision

allowing abortion virtually on demand with prayers, rallies and processions. A Jan. 20 rally in Portland, Ore., drew an estimated 1,200 participants, more than half of whom appeared to be in their 20s or 30s. "This is no longer a woman's issue. It's a civil and human rights issue," said Liberty Pike, a recent graduate of Eastern Oregon University. Pike told the crowd her peers are turning away from support for abortion rights. She now helps college groups on behalf of Oregon Right to Life. In the past year, eight new clubs have formed on campuses in the state. "This generation is the pro-life generation," Pike said, causing the rally to erupt in cheers. "The post-Roe generation is rejecting abortion on demand," said Carol Tobias, president of the National Right to Life, who was making her first appearance in Oregon. "The generation has lost 55 million peers. They are joining the movement to save the next generation from the same fate." Mirroring a nationwide trend, abortions are down in Oregon. There are about 9,000 each year, down from an annual high of about 14,000 during the 1990s. In El Paso, Texas, about 5,300 expressed their support for life and their opposition to abortion during the annual Rally for Life in El Paso High School's Jones Stadium Jan. 20.

Gaza in November will continue periodically in the future, the leaders said the movement toward "a viable two-state solution continues to stagnate. The status quo is unsustainable and dangerous to both Israelis and Palestinians. Now is not the time for another cycle of recriminations. It is time to break the cycle of violence with bold initiatives for peace," the statement said. "The current dangerous stalemate, including the legacy of past failed peace-making efforts, undermines our security and that of others, destabilizes the region, fuels terrorism and extremism, allows continuing Israeli settlement expansion and prolongs Palestinian disunity," the leaders said. "These realities and the absence of negotiations threaten to kill the prospect of a viable two-state peace agreement, the only realistic solution to the conflict."





**Special Collections**  
*Aid to Church in Europe -*  
**Feb. 13 (Ash Wednesday)**  
*Operation Rice Bowl -*  
**Sundays of Lent and Easter Sunday**  
*Catholic Relief Services - March 10*

### Ongoing Events

**That Man Is You**—This men's group transforms men, families, and society as it presents the vision of man fully alive; see [www.thatmanisyou.org](http://www.thatmanisyou.org). It is held at Holy Cross, Bay City, Fri., 5:45-7:15 a.m.; Holy Family, Victoria, Wed., 5:45-7:00 a.m., St. Peter Parish Hall; and Assumption, Ganado, Wed., 5:30-7:15 a.m., JPII Family Center.

**Grief Group**—Meetings held the 1st and 3rd Thursday of each month at 7:00 p.m. in conference/brides' room at Holy Family Church in Victoria. Before attending, please call Sharon at (361) 578-7572.

**The Beginning Experience**—This is an international ministry that helps divorced, separated, and widowed individuals resolve their grief surrounding the loss of a marriage partner. San Antonio contact is (210) 734-2146 or [sanantonio@yaho.com](mailto:sanantonio@yaho.com); or see: [www.beginningexperience.org](http://www.beginningexperience.org).

**Catholic Family Services**—To find listings of e-mail/Websites of Catholic organizations that focus on the family, please go to the Catholic Association of Catholic Family Life Ministers at [www.nacflm.org](http://www.nacflm.org).

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

**Natural Family Planning**—NFP is the only Church-approved form of family planning. To learn about the Sympto-Thermal Method in the Victoria area and the NFP class schedules, contact David and Annie Coffey [victorianfpteachers@yahoo.com](mailto:victorianfpteachers@yahoo.com). Classes—Spring Session: April 21, May 19 and June 23; Summer Session: July 21, Aug. 18 and Sept. 15; Fall Session: Oct. 20; Nov. 17 and Dec. 15.

**Gabriel Project**—A ministry providing help to women experiencing a crisis pregnancy — an alternative to abortion — holds monthly meetings for all interested. Victoria meetings, 2nd Tuesday, 101 W. Convent, 6:30 p.m., includes light supper; Angel Workshop, meets 101 W. Convent, 3rd Saturday, 9:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.; contact Barbara (361) 649-1612 or Linda (361) 655-3008. Holy Family, Wharton, meets 4th Tuesday at 6:30 p.m.; contact (979) 532-3593, M-F, 9:00 a.m.-4:30 p.m. See: [www.victoriadiocese.org/lighthouse/gp.htm](http://www.victoriadiocese.org/lighthouse/gp.htm)

**Raphael's Refuge**—The mission of Raphael's Refuge is to build and maintain a memorial in honor of babies, born and unborn. It is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization located in Flatonia that also provides peer counseling and spiritual direction for those suffering a loss of a baby due to miscarriage, stillbirth, infant death, or abortion. Learn more at [www.raphaelsrefuge.org/](http://www.raphaelsrefuge.org/)

**Engaged Encounter**—For a registration form, contact your pastor, visit the website at [www.victoriadiocese.org/family/ee.htm](http://www.victoriadiocese.org/family/ee.htm). The weekend is held at the Spiritual Renewal Center. The 2013 dates are: Sept. 27-29 with ONLY 38 spaces available. For more info., call (361) 573-0828 ext. 2230. All registrations are on a first come, first serve basis. Fee must accompany registration form.

**Retrouvaille**—Retrouvaille, meaning rediscovery, is a marriage-healing ministry offered in the diocese to couples in difficult marriages. Go to [www.retrouvaille.org](http://www.retrouvaille.org); contact John and Jennifer Vincent at [jbjov@sbcglobal.net](mailto:jbjov@sbcglobal.net) or (361) 580-2770; (800) 470-2230; or [www.helpourmarriage.org](http://www.helpourmarriage.org).

**Marriage Encounter**—This program is no longer offered in the Diocese of Victoria; Retrouvaille (see above) has replaced it. To find a Marriage Encounter weekend outside of the diocese, go to [www.wwme.org](http://www.wwme.org).

**Courage**—This is a ministry for those experiencing same-sex attraction and looking for answers. It is a Roman Catholic

Apostolate endorsed by the Pontifical Council for the Family. EnCourage ministers to family and friends of persons with same-sex attraction. Learn more at [couragec.net/](http://couragec.net/).

**Presidio La Bahia Museum and Visitor Center**—The Presidio, located in Goliad, is the only Spanish fort in the possession of the Catholic Church in North America and is a National Historic Landmark. It and its museum are open daily from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.; and closed on major holidays. The Quarters, a two-bedroom guest quarter, is available for overnight stays. For rates and more information, contact (361) 645-3752 or see [www.presidiolabahia.org](http://www.presidiolabahia.org). Upcoming Event: March 23 and 24 — 28th Annual Goliad Massacre - Fort Defiance Living History Program. A recreation of the occupation of the fort by Col. Fannin and the Goliad Massacre, the only event of its kind in the State of Texas, Saturday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Candlelight Tours 7 to 9 p.m.; and Sunday, following the Massacre Reenactment at 10:00 a.m., there will be a memorial service and a pilgrimage to the Fannin Memorial.

### Picnics, Activities, etc. February

**Vanderbilt**—St. John Bosco Spring Raffle/Dinner/Dance on Feb. 9 at St. Theresa's Hall in LaSalle. With each \$25 raffle ticket you get a complimentary grilled chicken dinner catered by Werner's of Shiner (5:00-6:30 p.m.) and a dance from 8:00-midnight with Scorpion DJ Sounds by L.T.M. Mardi Gras Mask is optional attire! There will also be a St. John Bosco Baker's auction at 6:30 p.m. and more.

**Victoria**—St. Mary Parish Festival Feb. 10 at the community center. A roast beef dinner served from 11:00 a.m.-1:30 p.m. at \$8 p/p with dine-in or plates-to-go available. A live auction begins at 12:30 p.m. There will be games, booths and more.

**Shiner**—Taste of Texas Gala Feb. 16 - for tickets or more information call Lindsey Morkovsky at (361) 772-1885.

**Victoria**—Our Lady of Victory Lenten Fish/Shrimp dinner on Fridays, Feb. 15, March 1 and 22 at the cafeteria from 5:00-7:00 p.m. With dine-in or take-home plates at \$7 p/p.

**Schulenburg**—St. Rose of Lima School Fundraiser featuring The Original Triumphs Feb. 16, at Swiss Alp Hall. Please contact Laura Fogle at [lfogle@strosecardinals.org](mailto:lfogle@strosecardinals.org) for tickets.

**Schulenburg**—CDA Court St. Rose of Lima #1597 will have their annual fried-chicken dinner Feb. 17 at the KC Hall. Serving starts at 11:00 a.m. with dine-in or plates-to-go available at \$8 p/p. There will also be a silent auction, cakewalk, country store and more.

**Victoria**—Our Lady of Victory School Spring Barbecue Feb. 23 from 11:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. with plates-to-go only at the Airline Road parking lot. A brisket dinner will be served at \$8 p/p.

### Upcoming Events

**Hillje**—St. Procopius Spring Festival March 3 at the parish hall. A fried-chicken dinner will be served starting at 11:00 a.m. with dine-in or plates-to-go available at \$8 p/p. There will also be a bake sale in the hall.

**Hungerford**—KJT Society #79 and KJZT Society #57 Annual Barbecue and Sausage Dinner March 3 at the community center. Serving begins at 10:30 a.m. with dine-in or plates-to-go available. There will also be an auction and a free dance with the music by the Red Ravens until 5:00 p.m.

**Blessing**—K of C Council #4307 will sponsor their annual Lenten fish fry, auction and raffle on March 10 at the parish hall. A fried-catfish dinner will be served from 10:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at \$8 p/p. The auction will be held during the event.

**Schulenburg**—St. Rose Spring Festival March 10 at the KC Hall. A turkey dinner served from 10:30 a.m.-1:00 p.m. at \$8 p/p. There will be a live auction at 11:30 a.m., cakewalk, music and more.

**New Taiton**—St. John's Altar Society Annual Chicken Dinner and Spring Festival March 10 at the community center. Starting at 11:00 a.m. a fried-chicken dinner with homemade dressing, with dine-in or plates-to-go at \$8 p/p. There will be an auction, cakewalk, games, country store and more.

### Charity Golf Tournaments

**Bay City**—ACTS Golf Tournament March 9 at Rio Colorado Golf Club. The cost for this event is only \$280 per four man team. Teams will be given the opportunity to bid on the chance to have the bishop play on their team. For more details and to pre-register call Rene Villasana at (979) 476-0054 or Mike Allison at (979) 479-1370.

### Masses • Retreats • Conferences

**Victoria**—Holy Family will offer a mini-retreat for Lent on Feb. 9, registration begins at 8:30 a.m. Call the church office for more information at (361) 573-5304.

**Victoria**—The Sisters of the Incarnate Word and Blessed Sacrament invite you to attend Lenten Vespers on the Sundays of Lent. Feb. 17, 24, March 3, 10, 17 and 24, from 5:00-5:45 p.m. Evening Prayer (or Vespers) is patterned on an ancient Jewish prayer form that predates the Church.

**Victoria**—The Sisters of the Incarnate Word invite you to a Taizé Prayer Service on Feb. 28, from 7:00-8:00 p.m. in the Amor Meus Prayer room at Incarnate Word Convent. Taizé prayer consists of music, song, chant, scriptural readings, meditation and prayers of praise and intercession. For more information call (361) 575-7111.

**El Campo**—John Michael Talbot will be at St. Philip Church on March 4-5, each evening beginning at 7:00 p.m. John Michael will lead the congregation in worship through reflections, music and prayer. Call (979) 543-3770 for additional information. A free will offering will be accepted.

**Victoria**—Incarnate Word Prayer Group invites you to Praise and Worship on Mondays at 7:30-9:00 p.m. in the auditorium. Events are held at Incarnate Word Convent, 1101 N.E. Water Street. FMI on any event, contact Sr. Louise Marie Jones at (361) 575-7111, or [amormeus@yahoo.com](mailto:amormeus@yahoo.com).

**Victoria**—Spirit Wind Ministry to present a weekend retreat led by Father Ronald Rolheiser April 26-28 at the Spiritual Renewal Center. "Solitude and Prayer: In Search of the Deepest and Ultimate Sustenance" will be the theme. For information on Father Rolheiser, visit his website at [www.rolheiser.com](http://www.rolheiser.com). The cost is \$170 p/p for double occupancy (\$190 single occupancy). Space is limited and will be reserved in the order deposits are received (\$50/non-refundable). Partial grants are available should finances be a problem. Make checks payable to Spirit Wind Ministry and mail to: Susan Oakley, 103 Woodmere, Victoria, TX 77904. Please include your name, address, telephone number and email address with your deposit. For additional information contact Susan Oakley at (361) 576-1515/ (361) 649-6391 or e-mail: [smoak53@msn.com](mailto:smoak53@msn.com).

**Victoria**—Healing Mass and Prayer at Our Lady of Lourdes Church, 105 N. William St., on the first Saturday of the month at 10:00 a.m. with Father Phi Nguyen, chaplain of IWBS Convent. Mark your calendars now for next month. For more information, please contact Sister Louise Marie Jones at [iwbsvoc2@yahoo.com](mailto:iwbsvoc2@yahoo.com).

**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.



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## CRS Rice Bowl Brings Faith to Life During Lent

BALTIMORE, MD—With a new name, a refreshed design, and numerous new resources created to enrich the experience of Lent, CRS Rice Bowl offers meaningful ways for Catholics to embrace Lent this year. By highlighting the beauty of the Lenten trio – prayer, fasting, and giving – CRS Rice Bowl connects people more closely with the global mission of the Catholic Church.

“The program’s new message, ‘For Lent, For Life: What you give up for Lent changes lives’ captures the essence of the sacred call to love thy neighbor. In this Year of Faith, as declared by Pope Benedict XVI, CRS Rice Bowl is ready made to help individuals and faith communities embark on a season of spiritual renewal,” said Joan Rosenhauer, CRS’ executive vice president of U.S. Operations.

During each of the weeks of Lent, CRS Rice Bowl features five different countries

and one U.S. diocese along with stories and profiles that demonstrate the impact CRS Rice Bowl contributions make in the fight to stop hunger and improve health for people around the world.

“The sacrificial gifts from CRS Rice Bowl play a significant role in providing effective, quality services to people in need so their

lives and the lives of their children can be improved”, said Rosenhauer. “The faces of hunger may be different from one country to the next, but the needs are similar. That’s why we address the root causes of poverty and hunger in all of our programs.”

Twenty-five percent of the monies collected through CRS Rice Bowl remain in the dioceses where it is collected to address the needs of the local community. Often dioceses offer small grants or fund food pantries, community gardens and other hunger prevention efforts.



**MARCH FOR LIFE**—The first ever March for Life in Columbus was quite a success. Lorraine Novosad said she came up with the idea last summer to have a Pro-Life March in Columbus. She said, “Since we encounter so few people from our local area when we attend the March for Life in Austin, and they don’t go to Victoria either, we should give them the opportunity to express themselves closer to home.” So on Saturday, January 26, about 100 sign-carrying marchers gathered at Windshield Express on Milam Street. The city of Columbus provided a police escort to the Stafford Opera House where marchers gathered for a short rally. Guest speakers were Victor and Karen Perez from “Silent No More”, an organization that reaches out to people hurt by abortion, encouraging them to attend abortion after-care programs. Their testimony was riveting, heartbreaking and filled with forgiveness, healing, and hope.

## Above All

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put our faith into action by serving the Lord. St. Rose of Lima students spend countless hours each year reaching out to those in need.

St. Rose of Lima Catholic School students are praying, serving, learning

and succeeding, but ABOVE ALL they are a school family bound by Christ’s love. As Christ was raised, we are called as witnesses to share that good news with the gift of our lives – this is truly raising the standards.

## For St. Anthony, CSW is not just one week in January

*Continued from p. 20*

school. The 8th annual Field Day is held in the gym where all 12 teams compete. At the end of the day, the 8th grade will take on the staff for the annual Volleyball game. Our week concludes with Mass, a team lunch in the teacher’s rooms and a school wide movie in the cafeteria. All

students (from 4k-8th) bring blankets and pillows and take over the floor to watch the presentation. Afterwards, the teams’ awards are presented. From 8th grade to 4k, the students become a tight knit family after the week of helping one another and sharing in Christ’s love.

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(above) Daniel Cantu, LeAnn Ernka, Evan Herchek display their team flag. (left) Glynn's Gleaming Givers gathered to put finishing touches on their flag.

## For St. Anthony, CSW is not just one week in January

COLUMBUS—Catholic Schools Week is not just one week in January. At St. Anthony Catholic School, we begin the festivities months ahead of time by dividing our school (4k-8th grade) into teams. Each teacher heads a team and together with the students, they come up with inspirational names. The actual CSW is spent focusing on the theme for this year. Raising the Standards is displayed throughout the week but especially in our opening Mass on Sunday. The whole school enters church wearing their team colors while carrying banners displaying their team names. There is also time set aside for a school wide rosary.

Striving to raise the academic standards is a constant focus all year but we highlight it this week with a spelling bee. Raising our standard of service is the biggest focus for our week. As teams, we start our week cleaning our school and the neighborhood. We also gather items and write letters to soldiers serving overseas. The school has many wonderful traditions including our dress up themes. The crowd favorite has to be "I'd Rather Be" day. The students dress up (or down) in clothes that represent what they would rather be doing than going to

*See For St. Anthony, p. 15*



St. Philip School 4th grade teacher, Mrs. Jane Radley, models her love of reading to her class while at the same time engaging different learning styles of the children by allowing them to hear a story.

## Christ is the Reason for St. Philip School

EL CAMPO—"Be it known to all that Christ is the reason for our school. He is the unseen, but ever present teacher in our classrooms. He is the model for our faculty and the inspiration of our students." Our mission statement is one that we try to live and is the primary reason for so many families choosing St. Philip Catholic School."

St. Philip Catholic School is very blessed this year to have added to its campus a new gym, music room, weight room, parish fellowship center and the Hancock

Early Childhood Center. The renovation enables the campus to meet the needs of every student. Student enrollment begins at age three with our pre-kindergarten and goes through eighth grade.

The 63 year history of St. Philip Catholic School has provided students a strong foundation of personal spirituality, faith development and a strong academic program for children. There are many activities across the grade levels offering

*See Christ is the Reason, p. 2A*



St. Rose of Lima, Schulenburg, students gathered at the Marti Love Children's Chapel and Jack Hooper Prayer Garden as a school family to celebrate the feast of Christ the King. Two representatives from each class processed to the chapel with a cross bearing crowns created by each student. These crosses were displayed in the church for all weekend Masses and then following a short prayer service placed in the chapel.

## Above All

SCHULENBURG—This year's Catholic Schools Week theme "Catholic Schools Raise the Standards" highlights how Catholic Schools are raising the standards in education. St. Rose of Lima Catholic School strives for academic excellence, offers varied opportunities in extracurricular activities, provides religion classes, spiritual formation and much more. Just these things alone indicate a desire to go above and beyond standard education. But, it doesn't end there. As Christians, to hear the word "raise" implies so much more than just being lifted up or aiming high. The phrase "raising up" turns our thoughts to resurrection, new life, a new life in Christ. God raised his son in order that we might have new life in Him. This is truly what is at the heart and soul of Catholic Education and what is being celebrated daily at St. Rose of Lima Catholic School.

*"God has raised this Jesus to life, and we are all witnesses of the fact."*  
-Acts 2:32

So as witnesses of the risen Lord, how do we respond? A witness must see and act. The beauty, love and wonder we have seen in Christ is put into action daily at St. Rose of Lima Catholic School in countless ways all centered around the new life we have through Jesus.

This year as we focus on consciously creating a connected school family, we are building our ability to reach out and empathize with others, accept and celebrate differences, communicate feelings directly,

resolve conflicts in a constructive ways and enjoy being contributing members of a community.

This begins by seeing the best in others more specifically, seeing Christ in each person. Each morning, greeters take time to be truly present through this ritual as well as a daily connecting song and school chant during morning announcements.

Monthly school-wide assemblies provide the unique opportunity to gather as one through song, prayer, and celebration. Students and faculty are encouraged to share good news and accomplishments highlighting the goodness and diversity that makes us unique. During the assembly Principal Rosanne Gallia highlights the lesson for the month. Each month students in older grades join their "buddy" groups in the lower grades to share a story that teaches one of the following skills: composure, encouragement, assertiveness, choices, positive intent, empathy and consequences. Each of these skills builds in each of us the values of integrity, interdependence, respect, empowerment, diversity, compassion and responsibility.

Teachers prepare lessons to challenge and engage students daily. Core curriculum challenges students academically, preparing them for success in their educational future. Extracurricular activities and electives in athletics, band, choir, PSIA, and cheerleading provide every student a place to excel and explore their talents.

As witnesses of the resurrection we

*See Above All, p. 15*