



In This Issue . . .

- Eagle Scouts fund Shiner convent renovation, p. 5
- Spiritual Direction and Directed Retreats, p. 7
- Student program initiated at La Bahia, p. 10
- Restored Yorktown parish, p. 11
- Catholic Trivia and Catholic Technology, pp. 12/13
- Hope in Ciudad Juarez, p. 14
- Spiritual retreats coming, p. 15
- Parish picnics, p. 19
- Triplets - top grads of class, p. 20

A surprise I never wanted to receive – Death of a Pastor –

By Cynthia Brewer

In a meeting, learning about how to utilize Twitter for *The Catholic Lighthouse* at the Catholic Press Association Conference in New Orleans on June 4, 2010, I noticed my cell phone had received a couple of messages from fellow parishioners of St. Mary's Parish in Victoria.

The first was short, just saying to call her back because she needed to touch base with me regarding Monsignor (Brunner); the second caller, who knew I was out of town, only said to please give her a call.

By then I was suspicious that something was wrong with Msgr. Brunner. I returned the calls and found out that he had died, unexpectedly and alone, while he was preparing for his day, the first Friday of June, the month dedicated to the Sacred Heart of Jesus.

By Saturday I learned the wake service

would be Sunday evening and the funeral would be Monday morning. Everything was happening all too fast.

Msgr. James C. Brunner had been the pastor at St. Mary's Parish in Victoria (my parish) since 1998, replacing Father Joe Hybner.

Many people were very sad to see Father Joe leave because he was so warm, always ready for a celebration, and very "down to earth." On the other hand, we thought Msgr. Brunner was quieter, more of a scholar and very "down to earth." On the other hand, we thought Msgr. Brunner was quieter, more of a scholar and very "down to earth."

Even my husband and I had different preferences. He liked an easygoing, warm homily at Mass; whereas, I enjoyed Msgr.

Brunner's historical and theological explanations of the meaning of the Sunday's Scriptures. I would say it's hard for a pastor to please all of his parishioners.

Around the age of 12, Jim Brunner attended St. John's Seminary in San Antonio, more than 100 miles from his small, hometown of Weimar. He stayed there through college and major seminary, being ordained to the priesthood in 1954.

He continued his studies obtaining a master's degree in education and a PhD in educational administration. He was superintendent of Catholic Schools in the Archdiocese of San Antonio from 1960 – 69, leading the San Antonio Archdiocesan school system into state accreditation. He was also director of vocations for two years.

Words that described Msgr. Brunner during his wake service and funeral included: remarkable, intellectual and genius.

During the vigil, Bishop David Fellhauer stated that Msgr. Brunner had accomplished many achievements. Before choosing Msgr. Brunner as diocesan Vicar General in 1990, the bishop asked others of their opinions of Msgr. Brunner. He was told that he was a Churchman, a person

See A surprise I never wanted, p. 6



Msgr. Brunner and his ever-present laugh are caught amongst guests at the Hermes Hall dedication ceremony at the Spiritual Renewal Center November 4, 2009.

Father Casey celebrates 50 years as a priest

By Cynthia Brewer

BAY CITY, Texas—Holy Cross Parish in Bay City celebrated their pastor's Golden Jubilee with much fanfare.

Father Casimir Jarzombek's anniversary Mass was held Sunday, May 23, 2010, in honor of his ordination date of May 26, 1960.

The Fourth Degree Knights of Columbus welcomed Father Casey into the sanctuary while the Life Teen band sang "Let the Fire Fall" in recognition of Pentecost Sunday.

As vocations are so important to Father Casey, it is no wonder that many vocations have come from his parish. Assisting as altar servers were seminarians Jacob Koether and John Dougharty, and assisting him at the altar was Larry Koether, acolyte and future deacon, and Deacon Guadalupe Rodriguez.

Father Paul Chovanec, pastor of St. Justin Martyr Church in Houston and a former student of Father Casey's when he taught at Corpus Christi Academy High School, said the homily. When asked to say the homily, "Father Casey's only request was that I issue the call to vocations to the priesthood and religious life," Father Paul said.

After teasing him a bit about how tough a teacher he was, he then said, "He was a good teacher, strict but caring, and he had a wry sense of humor and a big generous smile. I remember him with gratitude."

He then spoke on vocations, saying, "Every priest that you've ever known sat in the pews just like you. Think and

listen in your heart. The Holy Spirit that descended [on Pentecost], might be calling you!"

Following the homily, Father Casey rededicated himself to the Blessed Mother, placing a dozen yellow roses at the feet of her statue. He said his mother had dedicated him to the Blessed Mother. "If that hadn't occurred, I wouldn't have been here today. It's the mother that pulls you up."

The eucharistic rite was concelebrated by Father Casey and about a dozen diocesan priests, as well as Father Paul and Msgr. Frank Kurzaj of St. Paul Parish in San Antonio.

Following Mass, a presentation and reception were held at the Knights of Columbus Hall in Bay City.

Father Casey was born to Thomas and Elizabeth Jarzombek on August 15, 1933, in Falls City, Texas, and was baptized James Leo. Later when he joined the Benedictine Order he took the name of Casimir. Father has one sister, Florence Jarzombek Dugi.

He was ordained May 26, 1960, at St. Theresa's Church in Corpus Christi by Bishop Mariano Garriga. He celebrated his first solemn High Mass in Falls City on May 29, 1960.

His early education was received at the Holy Trinity Catholic School and Falls City Elementary School. From 1948 – 1952, he attended St. John's Minor Seminary where he graduated from high school and completed one year of college. In September

See Father Casey celebrates, p. 4



Pictured on the steps of Sts. Cyril and Methodius Church in Dubina are Msgr. Anders along with fellow clergy and young relatives. Front left: Rev. John Bily; altar servers Lillie Kucherka and Nathan Anders; and back: Jacob Kucherka, Rev. John Peters, Msgr. Joe Petsch, Msgr. Arnold Anders, Msgr. Albert Hubertus, Msgr. Michael Harrold, Deacon Edward Wendell and Father Tim Kosler.

Msgr. Arnold Anders Celebrates 60 Years of Priesthood ~A Family Affair~

By Adelle Anders

DUBINA—On a beautiful Sunday, May 23, 2010, the family and friends of Monsignor Arnold Anders gathered to celebrate the 60th anniversary of his priesthood. He is a native son of the parish of Sts. Cyril and Methodius in Dubina.

The 11:30 a.m. Mass was celebrated in the beautiful church, which is on the Painted Churches tour. With Msgr. Anders as the celebrant, other concelebrants were his classmates, Msgr. Albert Hubertus,

homilist, and Msgr. Joseph Petsch, both of San Antonio, and Msgr. Michael Harrold of Victoria, and Fathers John Peters of Hallettsville, Tim Kosler of Schulenburg, and John Bily of Weimar. Deacon Edward Wendell of Hillje proclaimed the Gospel. Altar servers were great niece Lillie Kucherka and great nephews Jacob Kucherka and Nathan Anders, all of Rosenberg.

Lectors for their uncle's Mass were

See Msgr. Arnold Anders, p. 6



Bishop Fellhauer's Schedule

July

- 8** 6:30 p.m., Bishop's Charity Banquet, Victoria Country Club
- 10** 10:00 a.m., Diaconal Ordination of Lawrence Hoelscher, St. Philip's Church, El Campo
- 11** 11:30 a.m., Mass, celebrating 25th Anniversary of Ordination of Father Charles Otsiwah, Our Lady of Victory Cathedral
2:00 p.m., Incarnate Word and Blessed Sacrament Jubilee, Incarnate Word Convent, Victoria
- 13-18** Catholic Daughters of the Americas National Convention, Buffalo, NY
- 25** 3:00 p.m., Mass, celebrating 25th Anniversary of Ordination of Father Johnson Owusu Boateng, St. John Bosco Church, Vanderbilt
- 28** 9:30 a.m., Lay and Pension Board meeting, Chancery Office
- 31** 9:00 a.m., Our Lady of the Gulf Church golf tournament, Colony Creek Country Club, Victoria

Official Appointments By Most Rev. David E. Fellhauer

Effective June 26, 2010:

The **Rev. George Henninger** is appointed Parochial Vicar at Holy Family Church, Victoria.

Effective June 30, 2010:

The resignation of the **Rev. Frank B. Lenz** as pastor of Sts. Peter & Paul Church, Meyersville, and its mission, St. Aloysius Church, Westhoff, is accepted, as well as his retirement from full-time ministry.

Effective July 14, 2010:

The **Rev. Edward J. Winkler** is appointed Parochial Vicar at Sts. Cyril & Methodius Church, Shiner.

The **Rev. Dan Morales** is relieved of his office as pastor of Our Lady of the Gulf Church, Port Lavaca (and its missions), and appointed pastor of St. Mary Church, Victoria

The **Rev. Ty J. Bazar** is relieved of his office as pastor of St. Patrick Church, Bloomington, and appointed pastor of Our Lady of the Gulf Church, Port Lavaca, and its mission churches in Point Comfort, Port O'Connor and Seadrift.

The **Rev. Samuel Appiasi** is relieved of his office as pastor of St. Peter Church, Blessing, and its mission, St. Robert, Markham, and appointed pastor of St. Patrick Church, Bloomington.

The **Rev. Peter Yeboah-Amanfo** is relieved of his duties at St. Rose of Lima Church, Schulenburg, and its missions, and is appointed pastor of St. Peter Church, Blessing, together with its mission church, St. Robert, Markham.

Effective July 31, 2010:

The resignation of the **Rev. Henry Rachunek** as pastor of St. John the Baptist Church, Hungerford, is accepted.

Effective August 2, 2010:

The **Rev. Charles Dwomoh** is relieved of his office as pastor of St. Anthony Church, Palacios, and appointed pastor of St. John the Baptist Church, Hungerford.

The **Rev. Bryan Heyer** is relieved of his duties at Our Lady of the Gulf Church, Port Lavaca, and its mission churches, and appointed pastor at St. Anthony Church, Palacios.

Missionary Catechists choose leadership team

While holding their Fifth Provincial Chapter June 23 – 28, the Missionary Catechists of the Sacred Hearts of Jesus and Mary chose their Leadership Team for 2010 – 2013. The team consists of Provincial Superior Sister Miriam Perez; Vice provincial Sister Susan Islas; Councillors

Sister Antonieta Salazar, Sister Midory Wu and Sister Silvia Serrano. The Province of the Immaculate Heart of Mary would like to express their profound gratitude for prayers, for the presence of the Spirit was enthusiastically experienced.



During the 2010 Texas State Council Knights of Columbus annual convention held in Corpus Christi, Lt. Col. Douglas Oldmixon of Austin, his wife, Jo-Dee Benson, and his mother, Mary Oldmixon of Goliad, received recognition from KC State Secretary Tony Herreth.

Local family honored by Knights of Columbus

CORPUS CHRISTI—At the annual convention of the Texas State Council Knights of Columbus held in Corpus Christi in May 2010, Lt. Col. Douglas E. Oldmixon, a retired United States Air Force officer and current State Advocate for the over 93,000 Knights in Texas, was awarded the State Deputy's prestigious Patriotism Award for over 26 years of military service to our country. He is a member of the Father Gene Dore Council 10131 in Austin.

In 2003 he was named the Commander of the Intelligence Section of 115 Fighter Wing, capping his distinguished career. Duty highlights include serving in Turkey during Operation Desert Storm and in 2006 and 2008 two tours in Iraq.

Doug currently serves as the administrator of the Real Estate Commission for the state of Texas. He is an accomplished attorney, patriot, public servant and a faithful Catholic. As a devoted husband and father, Doug exemplifies the principles of the Knights of Columbus.

Also at the 2010 Texas State Council Knights of Columbus annual convention, his mother, Mrs. Mary Oldmixon of Goliad, was presented as a Cardinal Medeiros Fellow. The Cardinal Medeiros Trust fund was created in May 1981 as part of State Council Charities. Cardinal Humberto Medeiros was a former bishop of the Brownsville Diocese and State Chaplain of the Texas State Council from 1969 to 1970.

Thank You Letter

May 18, 2010

Your Excellency,

I am pleased to have received a check in the amount of \$10,000 as a contribution for the support of the Holy See from the Diocese of Victoria for the year 2010, in accordance with the provisions of Canon 1271.

On behalf of His Holiness, I thank you for this expression of generosity, and I assure that this sum will be forwarded to the Secretariat of State.

May God continue to bless you and the faithful you serve.

With prayerful regards, I remain

Sincerely yours in Christ,
Archbishop Pietro Sambi
Apostolic Nuncio
to the United States

June 30, 2010

Dear Bishop Fellhauer:

Please accept my deepest appreciation to you and the people of the Diocese of Victoria for your generous contribution and heartfelt concern for the poor around the world. Your gift allows Catholic Relief Services to assist the vulnerable following natural and man-made disaster, set up structures and systems to help with recovery efforts and enhance social environments to promote human dignity for those in need.

This letter serves as a formal acknowledgement of your recent donation to Catholic Relief Services for the following gift from the diocese: \$91,625.93 for Operation Rice Bowl.

May God bless you for your prayers and continued generous support,
Ken Hackett, CRS president


DSA & Reflection of Faith Capital Campaign Updates

2010 DSA

Diocesan Goal:	\$1,349,808.00
Parish Pledge Totals:	\$ 533,042.05
Parish Contribution Totals:	\$ 456,911.05
Number of Parish Families Participating:	3,290

Reflection of Faith Capital Campaign

Diocesan Goal:	\$ 9,000,000.00
Parish Pledge Totals:	\$12,981,234.33
Parish Contribution Totals:	\$ 7,719,559.79
Number of Parish Families Participating:	6,752



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In Memory of ...



KJZT #53 PRESENTS BISHOP FELLHAUER WITH DONATION—Catholic Fraternal of Texas (KJZT) #53 in Wied presented Bishop David Fellhauer with a check for \$425 to fund a televised Sunday Mass. They also treated the confirmation candidates, their families and the parish with donuts, coffee and juice Sunday, April 25, at St. Mary's Church after the Confirmation Mass with Bishop Fellhauer. Pictured, left to right: Lucille Klekar, Katherine Kahanek, Margaret Dornak, Bishop Fellhauer, Gerda Janak, Helen (Dornak) Janak, president; Molly Peters, Bea Butschek and Helen Janak



KJZT SUPPORTS MISSIONS—KJZT Society #101 recently presented a check to the Sisters of the Incarnate Word and Blessed Sacrament at their convent in Victoria on behalf of Sister Rebecca Janacek, IWBS, who is in Nairobi, Kenya. The funds have been donated to help build wells and provide medicines for the sick. Sister Rebecca is also a member of KJZT #101. Pictured from left: Irene Brosch; Evelyn Dierlam, presenting a check to Sister Evelyn Korenek, general superior; Wendy Hrcncir, Rosie Olsovsky, Dolores Stryk and Carolyn Nevlud.



Golf tournament director, Monroe Rieger, along with committee members, present Bishop David Fellhauer, Debbie Vanelli and Father Dan Morales, vocations director, with a check for \$28,393. Pictured with them, are from left, Mike Brown; seminarian Matthew Soto, Dennis Lockstead, Ed Lehnert, George Wenzel, Tommy Treybig, Bennie Vitek and Hardy McCullough. Not pictured is Gerald Bludau.

Vocation and Youth Ministries benefit from K.C.'s help

The 13th annual Bishop David Fellhauer Charity Golf Tournament, held for the Victoria Diocese youth and vocation offices, was one of the most successful ever, thanks to the generosity of the people of the diocese.

The tournament, which was held at the Colony Creek Country Club Friday, April 23, 2010, is sponsored annually by the Knights of Columbus Holy Family Council 9088 of Victoria.

This year's tournament brought in over \$28,000 thanks to many generous sponsors and the participation of 31 teams. The proceeds were split between the diocesan offices of Vocations, directed by Father Dan Morales, and the Youth and Young Adult Ministry, directed by Mrs. Debbie Vanelli. These proceeds will benefit numerous new and existing vocations and youth programs throughout the diocese.

HALETTSVILLE - Helen M. Etzler, 95, of Hallettsville, died peacefully in the company of her family on Wednesday, May 19, 2010.

She was born on Nov. 4, 1914, to Frank and Mary Matejek Henke in Hallettsville. On Nov. 22, 1938, Helen married Joseph (Joe) Etzler Sr. at Sacred Heart Catholic Church. She was a member of Sacred Heart Catholic Church, Christian Mothers Society and Catholic Daughters of the Americas.

Helen is survived by: five sons, Leroy and wife, Anita, Joseph and wife, Dorothy, Anthony and wife, Anna, Leon and wife, Nancy, and Wilbert and wife, Carol; four daughters, Sr. Lois Marie Etzler, Irene Fishbeck, and Marilyn Kovalcik and husband, John, and Linda Shimek and husband, Tim; 19 grandchildren; 28 great-grandchildren; and sister, Annie Henke Etzler.

Helen was preceded in death by: her

parents; her husband, Joe; son-in-law, Frank Fishbeck; grandchildren, Jeffrey Fishbeck and Douglas Etzler; great-grandchildren, Riley and Reese Manning; sister, Angela Henke; and brothers, Charlie Henke, George Henke, Leo Henke, Hilbert Henke, Frank Henke, and Bill Henke.

Funeral Mass was held Saturday, May 22, 2010, at Sacred Heart Catholic Church in Hallettsville, with Rev. David Berger and Rev. John Peters officiating. Interment followed at Sacred Heart Catholic Cemetery.

Pallbearers were her grandsons: Leroy Etzler Jr., Travis Etzler, Joseph C. Etzler, Kevin Etzler, Aaron Etzler, Chad Fishbeck, Noel Etzler, Nathan Etzler, Neal Etzler, Darren Shimek and Derek Kovalcik.

Honorary pallbearers were her granddaughters: Gail Zambie, Amy Provence, Angela Henneke, Nicole Sanders, Tracy Manning, Jill Cox, Sarah Kovalcik and Jenna Shimek.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to Sacred Heart Catholic Church or Hospice of South Texas.

Words of comfort may be shared with the family at www.kubenafuneralhome.com.



Msgr. James C. Brunner

Monsignor James C. Brunner, age 79, of Victoria, passed away Friday, June 4, 2010. He was born Oct. 8, 1930, in La Grange, to the late Paul Henry Brunner and Molly Rainosek Brunner. He attended elementary school at St. Michael in Weimar. His high school education took place at St. John's Seminary in San Antonio. At the same seminary, he studied philosophy and two years of theology. His last two years of theology took place at Assumption Seminary in San Antonio.

James Brunner was ordained to the priesthood by Archbishop Robert E. Lucey in the San Fernando Cathedral May 29, 1954.

After ordination, he accepted assignments at St. Mary's, Nada, in 1954, Assumption Parish, Ganado, from 1954 - 1956, and St. Margaret Mary Parish in San Antonio, from 1956 - 1959.

He attended Catholic University of America in Washington, D.C., from 1959 -1960, where he earned a master's degree in educational administration. He became superintendent of Catholic Schools for the Archdiocese of San Antonio in 1960 and held that post for nine years. For two of those years, he doubled as the archdiocesan director of vocations. During his tenure as superintendent, he led San Antonio Archdiocesan School System into state accreditation.

From 1969 to 1976, he served as pastor of Holy Name Parish in San Antonio. While there, he completed work on a doctorate in educational administration at the University of Texas at Austin on May 15, 1971.

In 1976, he transferred to St. Philip the Apostle Parish and School in El Campo, where he served as pastor for 12 years. On March 17, 1985, Pope John Paul elevated him to the rank of Prelate of Honor, giving him the title of Monsignor. His next assignment was to Holy Cross Parish and School in Bay City, where he served for nearly 10 years. On Aug. 10, 1990, Bishop

David Fellhauer appointed him as Vicar General of the Diocese of Victoria, a post that he held until his death. In 1997, he was made the director of pro-life activities in the Diocese of Victoria. On Jan. 14, 1998, he became pastor of St. Mary's Catholic Church in Victoria. He was a member of the Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre of Jerusalem and KJT.

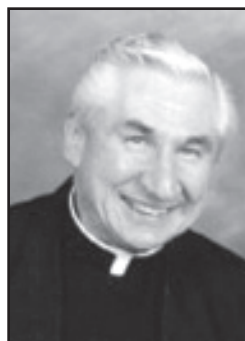
Msgr. Brunner was an author, having published *Encountering Christ Today*, a 916-page, new and freshly written catechism for adults. He was also an award-winning columnist who had written over 100 articles for the Victoria diocesan newspaper, *The Catholic Lighthouse*. Msgr. Brunner had always been interested in adult Christian education. He enjoyed classical music and frequently attended concerts of the Houston Symphony and operas by Houston Grand Opera. He was also interested in flying, sailing, travel and photography.

He is survived by his brother, Leroy P. Brunner and wife, Betty, of Richardson; sister, Elaine Drozd and husband, Robert, of Brazoria; nieces and nephews, Michele Worrel and husband, Dr. Richard Worrel, of Austin; Paul Brunner of Dallas; Mary Morvan and husband, Armel, of Austin; Bettina Loukili and husband, Ahmed, of North Carolina; James J. Drozd of Houston; and Eugene James Drozd of Billings, Montana; and great-nieces and nephews, Wyatt and Anna, Lila and Alexander, and Andrew, Raquel, Kirstin and Tristan.

His parents preceded him in death.

A vigil service was held Sunday, June 6, 2010, at St. Mary's Catholic Church. Mass of the Christian Burial was celebrated June 7, 2010, at St. Mary's Catholic Church with the Most Reverend David Fellhauer officiating. Entombment followed at Resurrection Cemetery.

Serving as pallbearers were members of the Fourth Degree Knights of Columbus. Honorary pallbearers were the staff of St. Mary's Catholic Church.



*May the souls
of the faithful
departed rest in
Peace!*



Seminary Burses

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

As of June 24, 2010

— General Seminary Burse	
Previously reported	\$97,789.00
In honor of Msgr. Arnold Anders anniversary of priesthood by Deacon/M Dick Wearden and James	25.00
In honor of Rev. Casey Jarzombek's 50th anniversary of priesthood by Deacon/M Dick Wearden and James	25.00
In memory of Msgr. James Brunner by: M/M Robert Bochat	50.00
Edwin Petering	50.00
Total	\$97,939.00

— Rev. Msgr. Edward C. Bartsch Seminary Burse	
Previously reported	\$4,280.00
In memory of Msgr. Edward Bartsch by Eugene Shaefer	20.00
Gift to burse by Knights of Columbus Council #13010	50.00
In memory of Vaclav G. "Jim" Kalina by Alphonse and Josie Kubenka	25.00
Total	\$4,375.00

— Rev. David Berger Seminary Burse	
In memory of Helen Etzler by M/M Richard Coerver	\$100.00
Total	\$100.00

— Rev. John C. Bily Seminary Burse	
Previously reported	\$8,244.00
Gift to burse by Catholic Daughters Court-St. Michael #559	200.00
In honor of Fr. John Bily's 52nd anniversary by Evelyn Kloesel	20.00
Total	\$8,464.00

— Rev. Jerome "Jerry" Caponi Seminary Burse	
Previously reported	\$500.00
In memory of Marie Marek Luchak by John & Lillian Marek	200.00
Total	\$700.00

— Rev. Msgr. James Brunner Seminary Burse	
In memory of Msgr. Brunner by: Robert Kennedy	\$200.00
In memory of Msgr. Brunner and to honor his home parish pastors' 60th anniversary Msgr. Joseph Petsch, Msgr. Michael O'Shaughnessy and Msgr. Michael Harrold by Rev. Ty Bazar	200.00
Total	\$400.00

— Knights of Columbus Ganado Council #3204 Rev. Joseph Hybner Seminary Burse	
Previously reported	\$2,186.00
In memory of Bennie A. Hybner by Arnold, Rosemary, Jennifer, and Barbara Riske	10.00
Total	\$2,196.00

— Knights of Columbus Council #2971, Weimar, Seminary Burse	
In memory of Shannon Allen Thomason by KC Council #2971	\$25.00
Total	\$25.00

— Knights of Columbus Victoria Council #1329 Seminary Burse #3	
Previously reported	\$9,457.50
In memory of Rev. Msgr. James Brunner by KC Council #1329	100.00
In memory of Leonard L. Bomersbach by KC Council #1329	100.00
Total	\$9,657.50

— Sr. M. Barbara Konvicka Seminary Burse	
Previously reported	\$180.00
In memory of Abena Kwabna Agyare by Helen Lempa	20.00
Total	\$200.00

— Rev. Msgr. Michael O'Shaughnessy Seminary Burse	
Previously reported	\$8,134.90
In honor of Msgr. O'Shaughnessy's 60th anniversary of priesthood by: M/M Gene Bundren	20.00
Fred, Lisa, Blake and William Westhoff	1,000.00
Total	\$9,154.90

— Rev. John C. Peters Seminary Burse #4	
Previously reported	\$12,729.00
Gift to burse by Sacred Heart School Faculty, Staff & Students	350.00
In honor of Deacon Sonny & Elaine Rogers' 63rd wedding anniversary by Gilbert and Mary Urbish	25.00
Total	\$13,104.00

— Josephat R. Janak Seminary Burse #2	
Previously reported	\$1,648.77
In honor of Fr. Gary Janak's 22nd anniversary of priesthood by Rose Marie Janak & Family	20.00
In memory of Fr. Johnson Owusu-Boateng's mother by Ann Margaret Kutac	20.00
In thanksgiving for Rev. Msgr. Arnold Anders' anniversary of priesthood by Ann Margaret Kutac	20.00
Total	\$1,708.77

— Rev. Jerome J. Stryk Seminary Burse	
Previously reported	\$12,154.50
Gift to burse by La Grange Knights of Columbus #2574	275.00
In memory of Rev. Jerome Stryk by Josef and Theresa Stryk Family	400.00
In memory of Gerald Kalina by Alphonse & Josie Kubenka	50.00
In honor of M/M Charles Kutchka's 50th wedding anniversary by Daniel and Stanley Stryk	50.00
Total	\$12,929.50

— Rev. Theophil Okruhlik & Rev. Vincent Verdarama Seminary Burse	
Previously reported	\$9,920.44
In memory of Randy Shafer by Catholic Life Ins #55	100.00
In memory of Frank Mabry by M/M Anton Schoener	20.00
Total	\$10,040.44

— Rev. Michael Rother Seminary Burse	
To honor Fr. Michael Rother by: Bill and Fran Byrd	\$20.00
Sherry Hale	20.00
Leo and Evelyn Hoffer	100.00
Joan Pruet	50.00
Total	\$190.00

— Rev. Celestino Say Seminary Burse (Catholic Life Ins.)	
Previously reported	\$3,759.71
Gift to burse by Victoria Br 51 - Catholic Life Insurance	30.29
Total	\$3,790.00

— Catholic Daughters of America Our Lady Queen of Peace Court #1374	
Previously reported	\$4,942.72
In memory of Mary Ann Krauskopf and Rosa Lee Bourques by CDA Court #1374	110.00
Total	\$5,052.72

Additional Burses for donations:

- CDA St. Ann #369 Burse #2
- Rev. Msgr. Julius Petru Burse #2
- Rev. Joe Levya
- Rev. Marcus Valenta
- Rev. Godfrey F. Kuratko
- Rev. Msgr. John Hanacek
- Catholic Family Fraternal of Texas KJZT Burse #5
- Sophie Schmidt
- Rev. Sean Donohue Burse #2
- Rev. Msgr. Robert Schmidt
- Rev. Msgr. Vaclavic Bily
- St. Mary's Church - Praha
- St. Mary's Church - High Hill

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

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

Father Casey sways to the recessional hymn after his Golden Jubilee Mass. Departing the church beside him is acolyte, Larry Koether.



Father Casey celebrates 50 years as a priest

Continued from p. 1

1952 he entered the Benedictines at New Subiaco, Ark., and completed his college, philosophy and theology studies. After his formation in 1960 he was ordained for Corpus Christi Priory in Corpus Christi. He continued further theological studies at Conception Abbey in Conception, Mo., during the summer of 1961 and 1962. From 1962-63 he was sent to Loyola University in Chicago, Ill., for further studies.

He taught at Corpus Christi Academy High School during the school years of 1961 - 66. In 1966, the abbot and Bishop Garriga assigned Father Casey to be campus chaplain at Texas A & I University in Kingsville. He also was assistant pastor at St. Martin Catholic Church in Kingsville.

In 1970, Father Casey left the Benedictine Order and went in search of a bishop and a diocese. He went to the Diocese of Pueblo in Colorado, where he enjoyed priestly ministry with the people of the two parishes he served, Holy Rosary Parish in Pueblo, and Sacred Heart Parish in Alamosa, Colorado. He was also assigned to the campus ministry at Adams State College in Alamosa.

Father Theo Janysek, his pastor at Holy Trinity in Falls City, strongly encouraged him to return to the Archdiocese of San Antonio. Some time later he had a meeting with Archbishop Furey and was accepted as a priest in the Archdiocese of San Antonio in the summer of 1974.

In June 1974, he was assigned associate pastor at St. Mary's Church in Victoria. When the Diocese of Victoria was established in 1982, Father Casey became the

administrator of St. Mary's until October when he was assigned to Holy Cross Parish in Yorktown and its two mission churches, San Luis, and St. Ann in Nordheim. From 1988-89 he was chaplain and instructor at the Blessed Sacrament High School in San Antonio. He also assisted at San Felipe de Jesus Parish in San Antonio on weekends.

In June 1989, Father Casey was transferred to St. Anthony in Palacios where he served as pastor for nine years. He was assigned to Holy Cross Parish in Bay City in January 1998. During the past 12 years, he has been instrumental in the implementation and formation of *ACTS*, *Perpetual Adoration*, *Life Teen*, *Edge*, *Gabriel Project* and *That Man is You* at Holy Cross.

Father Casey has also been an avid leader in World Wide Marriage Encounter having served as a team priest presenting Marriage Encounter weekends in Victoria, Austin, Houston, Laredo, Oklahoma and Atlanta, Georgia, between 1978 and 1994. He plans to become actively involved again as a team priest giving weekends in the Diocese of Victoria.

"I would like to say that I enjoy being a priest and thank God for this gift he has given me," he said in his priest's dossier. "There is no better way than to give thanks to the Lord for giving me the gift of being his priest than celebrating the Eucharist, the Mass, with all of you on this my 50th anniversary."

In honor of his Jubilee, Father Casey and Deacon Guadalupe Rodriguez went to Rome, Italy, for a two-week vacation in July.

Pope says life of hermit pope shows silence still important

SULMONA, Italy (CNS) — The life of a 13th-century monk who became pope should be an inspiration for contemporary people living in a society of materialistic excess and false values, Pope Benedict XVI said. The German pope honored the birth 800 years ago of St. Celestine V in his hometown of Sulmona, Italy, in a Mass and meetings with local residents and young people July 4. St. Celestine, who lived 1209-1296, is best known for being the last pope known to have given up the

throne of Peter. He abdicated in 1294 after only four months in office and has been known through history as a holy man who rejected the political machinations of the medieval papacy. Pope Benedict chose not to emphasize St. Celestine's short tenure as pontiff, but rather the importance of both the inner and outward silence that allowed him "to perceive the voice of God, which guided his life." The pope acknowledged the difficulties faced by residents of the small city of Sulmona, which was seriously affected by the April 2009 earthquake in nearby L'Aquila. He encouraged them to take heart and example from St. Celestine in gathering strength and perceiving the needs of others. "We live today in a society in which every space, every moment must be 'filled' with initiatives, activities and sound," so that there is no time for listening and dialogue, the pope said.

Ultimate Getaways
Savannah - Charleston - Jekyll Island - Myrtle Beach

September 18-25

New York Christmas
Nov. 29-Dec. 3
Statue of Liberty
Ellis Island
Rockettes-Broadway Show

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

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Devin Pesek and Blue Hybner (members of Shiner Boy Scout Troop 231) lead the crowd at the dedication ceremony in the Pledge of Allegiance.



Wearing hard hats to indicate the start of the restoration project includes.... front: Sister Ester Gerbermann; second row: Sister Lois Etzler, Sister Amata Hollas, Judy Jalufka, building committee member; Connie Thomas, SCS advisory board member; Joe Machacek, building committee, third row: Fred Hilscher, Mayor of Shiner; David Kapavik, president of SCS advisory board; Leah Wagner and Jeff Siegel, building committee members; Joanna Prihoda and Brad Cutright, architect from Brad Cutright and Associates; fourth row: Father Bob Knippenberg, Blue Hybner, Devin Pesek, Darryl Pesek, building committee member; fifth row: SCS Assistant Principal Neely Yackel and Rob Whitworth, Principal of SCS.



Devin Pesek, Blue Hybner and Father Bob Knippenberg accept a plaque from the Historic Old Town Shiner members for helping to restore a piece of Shiner's history.



Future Eagle Scouts Dream of Restoring 1916 Convent

SHINER—Blue Hybner and Devin Pesek of Shiner Boy Scout Troop 231 and young parishioners of Sts. Cyril & Methodius Catholic Church, as well as fourth generation students at Shiner Catholic School, chose to raise funds to help restore one of the parish's buildings as their Boy Scout Eagle Project.

It is out of love, admiration and deep respect for the Sisters of the Incarnate Word and Blessed Sacrament (IWBS) that these young men have chosen to renovate the four-story convent, lovingly built by the Sisters in 1916.

In this way Sts. Cyril & Methodius Catholic Church will be able to provide safer and more adequate building facilities for both the Shiner Catholic School students and the CCD students and also honor the Sisters of IWBS who were instrumental in creating the Shiner Catholic School over 113 years ago.

Mother Saint Claire, foundress of the IWBS Congregation in the Americas, was asked by Bishop Anthony Forest in 1897 for a sixth IWBS foundation to be built in Texas. On February 18 she accompanied four other sisters to Shiner where the sixth order was created on February 24, 1897. The new Incarnate Word Academy later became known as St. Ludmila Academy.

The first school erected was a primitive two-story frame structure that consisted of both the sisters' living quarters and classrooms for the students. In 1916, an attractive four-story building was erected due to the hard work of the Sisters and generosity of the pastor, Father Francis Machan. For the past 94 years, this building has served as one of the primary educational facilities for the students attending Shiner Catholic School and the parish's CCD program.

In 1987, the Sisters of the IWBS lovingly gifted the 1916 convent to Sts. Cyril & Methodius Parish.

The 94-year-old, four-story school has, through normal deterioration, numerous areas that need to be addressed with regard to maintenance and restoration. With lack of attention to these areas over the years due to numerous other financial burdens, the safety of this historic building has declined. Some of the major areas requiring attention include deteriorated plumbing, outdated electrical wiring, leaking roof, water damaged windows, and damage to the exterior mortar.

Blue and Devin approached Father Robert Knippenberg, pastor of Sts. Cyril & Methodius Church, with their dream in the summer of 2007. After much discussion he decided that the best plan of action for the parish was to move forward with renovation of this historic building only after a master plan for the entire school and

parish site was obtained. In this way, the beauty and history of the convent building could better be preserved.

Through the first phase of their Eagle Scout project, the two young men were able to raise the necessary funding in the amount of \$25,000, which was used to hire Heimsath Architects of Austin, Texas, an architectural firm familiar with church and school renovations. Blue and Devin were able to obtain the \$25,000 through a Texas Historic Preservation Grant and several donations from generous organizations, parishioners and friends supporting the project.

Phase II of their project included the master planning process, which entailed several congregational forums and retreats that were held in the summer of 2008. The future Eagle Scouts were in charge of coordinating the site, time, food/refreshments and cleanup for the planning sessions.

The Master Plan was finalized by the architects and has helped the parish determine how to best utilize each area of the Sts. Cyril & Methodius Church campus. This was done through several meetings where the entire parish, Catholic school and CCD teachers, and parish officers and committee members were invited to participate. The Master Plan created for the parish in Phase II of the project will be used for future changes or renovations to the church campus and will be coordinated as a separate project by the parish.

Through the master plan process, the parish was able to determine that it was the strong consensus of their parishioners to renovate the historic 1916 convent building on the church campus and in this way be able to provide safe and adequate building facilities for all students and teachers.

After a year and a half of planning, the two young men entered Phase III of their project, which included obtaining funding to help with the actual restoration of the 1916 convent building.

After writing numerous grants, the two young men have obtained a \$10,000 anonymous grant, a \$150,000 grant from the Stephen & Mary Birch Foundation, a \$250,000 grant from the New Jersey Community Foundation and a challenge grant from the Stephen & Mary Birch Foundation. The Birch Foundation offered to give the two men \$2 for every \$1 they raised up to an additional \$500,000.

Guidance In Giving Associates was hired to do a feasibility study as to whether or not a capital campaign in the parish should be entertained. After the parish committees, architects, parishioners and the young boys decided to pursue the

capital campaign, the campaign went from May 2009 through August 2009.

To date, due to many generous donors, there has been \$650,000 pledged to the campaign to help restore the 1916 convent building, rewire the church and rework the bell tower of the church. With the funds raised through the capital campaign, the challenge grant was met and thus, another \$500,000 was realized from the Stephen and Mary Birch Foundation. Upon completion of raising \$1.5 million, the project was then turned over to the Sts. Cyril & Methodius Building Committee, who hired an architect and contractor and made many necessary decisions regarding the project.

A dedication ceremony organized by Devin and Blue was held on May 26, 2010, on the steps of the 1916 building. Blue Hybner opened the ceremony with announcements of the dignitaries and

welcoming of all guests. Guest speakers were Father Robert Knippenberg, Mayor Fred Hilscher, Sister Amata Hollas, archivist of the Sisters of the IWBS and past principal of Shiner Catholic School; Rob Whitworth, current principal of Shiner Catholic School; David Kapavik, president of Shiner Catholic School Advisory Committee; and Devin Pesek and Blue Hybner, Eagle Project Coordinators.

Devin Pesek closed with thanks to the hundreds of people who have helped him and Blue over the past three years to make this day possible, especially to Bishop David Fellhauer, Father Bob Knippenberg and Father Tommy Chen for their support and guidance throughout the project.

The restoration project officially began June 1, 2010, and its expected completion date is February 28, 2011.

*Congratulations Eagle Scouts
Devin and Blue!*



Devin Pesek and Blue Hybner with the Sisters of the IWBS on one of their trips to the IWBS Convent in Victoria

(96): Feeding the multitude (also known as the miracle of the loaves and fish)

Harvest Feast

Sunday, August 8

Fried Chicken & Stew Dinner
at 11:00 a.m. - Adults \$7.50 - Children \$4
Drive-Thru Plates & Plates-To-Go \$7.50

Veterans Memorial Park
Drive-Thru Take-Home Plates will be available at
St. Michael Family Center Only

Music By:
Czechaholics
11:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.
Red Ravens
3:00-7:00 p.m.
Southbound
7:00-11:00 p.m.

Auction - 1 p.m.
Country Store
Cakewalk
Children's Activities
Bingo - 2-6 p.m.
in A/C Hall
Lic. 1-74-1110101-1
And Much More!

St. Michael Weimar, Texas



A surprise I never wanted to receive

Continued from p. 1

with a sense for the Church – ‘To think as does the Church.’

“I could rely on his judgment for sensible advice and counsel,” the bishop said.

He also spent years preparing and researching for his encyclopedic catechism of the Catholic faith, titled *Encountering Christ Today*, completing it in 1997. Bishop Fellhauer said that Msgr.’s only regret regarding his catechism was not getting it out before Pope John Paul II put out the Catechism of the Catholic Church. If he had, Msgr. jokingly had said, it might have sold better.

Eventually St. Mary’s parishioners learned that despite Msgr. Brunner’s wealth of knowledge and high intellect, he was also down to earth and loved life.

Parishioner Al Bomba described Msgr. Brunner by saying, “He loved life and he loved his vocation. He loved them both, and you never saw him without a smile.”

Although he received the papal dignity of Domestic Prelate, with the title of monsignor, from Pope John Paul II in 1985 at the age of 55, he still answered his telephone, “Father Brunner.”

On a 1990 priest information form, he listed as his hobbies/special interests: music, photography, travel, sailing, flying, water skiing and computers.

He had fun telling of how he fought a bull during one of his and his former classmate, Father Thompson’s, foreign travels; and one of his focal points during St. Mary’s February Parish Festival was the auctioning off of his own homemade, “world-famous,” chocolate, caramel and pecan Turtles, which always brought in a hefty sum.

Besides enjoying tasty food, it seemed his highlight at a parish dinner was to hear a good joke. I don’t know if I would call one lucky to be on Msgr. Brunner’s e-mail address list, because if you were, you’d expect to receive almost daily lists of jokes.

His niece, Michele Worrel, told me that when she was cleaning her grandmother’s house after she had passed away, she found a note written by Msgr. Brunner when he was a Boy Scout at camp that his mother had saved. At the end of the letter were three jokes. Michele said it must have been a precursor to his forwarded e-mail jokes. This was a perfect way to blend two of his loves: jokes and computers.

Another way that he combined his interests of computers, travel, history and theology, was by preparing and presenting Powerpoint productions of his travels to religious sites from around the world, such as the Holy Land or the Footsteps of St. Paul in Turkey and Greece. He would always introduce the presentations as “Miracle Productions,” because, he would say laughingly, “If it came off without a hitch, it would be a miracle.”

He also loved music, especially classical and frequently attended concerts of the Houston Symphony and operas by Houston Grand Opera.

Whenever Msgr. Brunner discovered something that interested him, he would just jump into it 100 percent, his brother, Leroy, said. He wanted to learn to fly, so he took lessons and not only became licensed, but became instrument rated, which would have enabled him to fly commercial flights.

He thought sailing would be fun, so in the 1980s, around the age of 55 or 60 years, he bought a Hobie Cat catamaran, something strong enough to pull two water skiers – not your typical leisurely sailing boat.

However, his hobbies didn’t sideline pastoral duties. Msgr. Brunner is also responsible for the many beautification and restoration projects of St. Mary’s Church and halls. He was proud of the beauty and history of the church and made sure the

parish always kept its structures safe and beautiful. Under his watch he also had the St. Mary’s Annex built: an area for the Sewing Ladies to make quilts, Boy Scouts to hold meetings and play basketball, and the St. Vincent de Paul Society to store resources.

Bishop Fellhauer said he chose the readings for the evening vigil service because they fit Msgr. Brunner, particularly the pastoral epistles of Timothy and Titus: “I charge you in the presence of God, ... proclaim the word; be persistent whether it is convenient or inconvenient... For the time will come when people will not tolerate sound doctrine... and will stop listening to the truth and will be diverted to myths” (2 Timothy 4:1 – 4).

Anyone who heard Msgr. Brunner’s homilies, read his monthly *Faith Point* column in *The Catholic Lighthouse*, or his catechism, *Encountering Christ Today*, knows that he “performed the work of an evangelist and fulfilled his ministry” whether convenient or inconvenient (2 Timothy 4:2-5).

Katherine Harrod, a St. Mary’s parishioner, said that Msgr.’s favorite ministry was to hear confessions and take communion to the hospitals and shut-ins.

“He hired me for four years at St. Philip Church in 1985 as an adult religious education coordinator,” said Sister Elizabeth Riebslaeger, CCVI. “He was a very intelligent and reasonable man to work with; very kind and very fair. He had an absolute confidence that he could trust the laity,” she continued.

At his funeral, concelebrated by Bishop Fellhauer and about 35 priests, Msgr. Thomas C. McLaughlin gave a eulogy to Msgr. Brunner that even Msgr. Brunner would never have permitted. He limited eulogies to the wake, diligently holding funeral homilies to an explanation of the Scriptures.

But as a good friend of Msgr. Brunner’s, having roomed together for nearly 15 years in the Archdiocese of San Antonio, Msgr. McLaughlin didn’t hold to St. Mary’s pastor’s rules. Rather he shared stories about him, describing him as full of life, full of voice, loud and clear, laughing as only he could laugh; and saying that all diocesan meetings were going to be duller without him.

Msgr. Brunner was made director of pro-life activities in the diocese in 1997. With regard to the crime and sin of abortion, Msgr. McLaughlin said, “I can say without fear of contradiction that we have just lost the biggest, the best director of life, the best opponent of abortion, of any diocese in the country.”

Rounding out his life, he said, “It is well known that Msgr. Jim Brunner was an intellectual genius. By the world’s standards with that intelligence, what a success he could have been in the secular world; what a fortune he could have made in worldly terms; what fame he could possibly have achieved. But instead he gave himself totally and completely, genius and all, to Jesus Christ, to the priesthood and to the Church. What a blessing, what a benefit his life has been to the Church; what a loss his death is to God’s people.”

Editor’s note: As editor of *The Catholic Lighthouse*, I had asked Msgr. Brunner to please try to limit his columns to 1,200 words. He didn’t like that, but he tried to stay within the limit. Any time he sent me a column with less than 1,200 words, he jokingly said he wanted those words to be saved as credit for him in a future column. Well, unfortunately it’s also been difficult for me to stay under 1,200 words, so I hope Msgr. doesn’t mind, but I’m using up his word credits for “his” article. “I love you and miss you, Msgr.”



SERRA CLUB NORTHWEST TREATS PRIESTS—Fathers Frank Lenz, Joe Hybner and David Berger enjoy a laugh June 3 at the Priests’ Steak Dinner at St. Mary’s outside of Hallettsville.

Msgr. Arnold Anders Celebrates 60 Years of Priesthood

Continued from p. 1

Ben Anders of Rosenberg and Edith Hartensteiner of Sugar Land. The intentions in the prayers of the faithful were read by members of the family, namely Mary Ondrey, Cecilia Anders, Catherine Huebner, Angela Scire, James Kucherka, Barbara Adams, Jeanette Ross, Nicole Anders and Kathleen Malone.

Anita Barbar, a cousin, of Refugio, was the organist, playing a prelude of hymns before Mass, and accompanying as song leaders were nieces Rita Kasper of Shiner, Daria Emmel of Weimar, and Margie Janicka of Dubina. The original composition of Mrs. Janicka and her daughter-in-law Cassandra Janicka was sung by Cassandra before Mass and Mrs. Janicka sang the Lord’s Prayer in German by special request of the honoree.

As a memorial to the deceased members of Monsignor’s family, the names of all were read at the end of Mass. The names of the Anders family were read by Anna Nester and those of the Guenther family were read by Anton Kallus.

Msgr. Arnold Anthony Anders was born in Dubina to Frank and Annie Guenther Anders on December 11, 1925. He is one of six children; only he and one brother and two sisters-in law survive: John and his wife, Adelle, and Leona, wife of Frank (d.). The other siblings and their spouses have passed away. They are Arthur and wife, Sophie; Leona and husband, Tony Garza; Margaret and husband, Bernard Hartensteiner, and brother Frank.

Upon completion of his studies in St. John’s Seminary in San Antonio, he was ordained on May 27, 1950, in San Fernando Cathedral by the Most Rev. Robert Lucey for the Archdiocese of San Antonio.

He later received his master’s degree in education from our Lady of the Lake University in San Antonio. In 2003, the title of Monsignor was conferred upon him by Bishop David Fellhauer of Victoria.

His assignments have included St. Mary’s in Victoria (twice), St. Mary’s in Nada, The Shrine of St. Anthony and St. Peter’s in San Antonio and St. Michael’s in Weimar. While fulfilling his tenure in Weimar, his father became seriously ill and passed away. He also served in Our Lady of Sorrows and St. Dominic’s in San Antonio. With the formation of the Victoria Diocese, he was assigned to St. Andrew’s in Hillje-Louise, St. Robert’s in El Campo and The Church of the Immaculate Conception in Goliad, where he also ministered to four early Texas missions, namely Charco, Berclair, Fannin and La Bahia.

His last pastoral assignment was in Ganado at the Church of The Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary. He currently resides in Corpus Christi where he serves as chaplain to the nuns at the retirement center of Mount Carmel.

A dinner followed in the parish hall, which was prepared by members of the family with generous help from the local parishioners. A large chocolate and white cake in the shape of an open Mass missal was baked by Dana Listi. Dana and fiancé Danny Hartensteiner presented the cake for dessert.

The coordinators for the celebration, nieces Barbara Adams of Houston and Emily Kucherka of Rosenberg, welcomed all and expressed their appreciation for all the guests coming to participate in this memorable celebration from many parts of the state.

Reporting Abuse

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

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

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

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



What is Spiritual Direction and Directed Retreats?

Sister Digna Vela, IWBS, and director of the Office of Catechetical Ministry for the Diocese of Victoria, is currently in a three-year program at Creighton University in Omaha, Nebraska, for a graduate certificate in Spiritual Direction and Directed Retreats. Sister spent the month of July last summer studying at Creighton and will return again this summer for her second year of studies.

selling, giving advice, or psychotherapy. Spiritual direction is the process of accompanying people on a spiritual journey in a context that emphasizes growing closer to God. Spiritual direction most

this “spiritual journey” work – does the director suggest forms of prayer, readings or writings for the person?

Sr. Digna: People who go for spiritual direction usually meet with their director once a month for an hour. The director does not tell the directee what to do in a way that requires obedience. The directee has the final decision as to what to do in his/her spiritual life. Questions are asked to get to know the directee’s present life circumstances and spiritual life. The goal is to help the directee to discern how the Holy Spirit is personally leading, recognizing that God has a special and distinct plan for each person’s life and everyone

is not called exactly the same way. Sometimes a director may suggest forms of prayer and readings that might help the person on their spiritual journey.

Cindy: If I wanted to go for spiritual direction, what should I do and what would it involve?

Sr. Digna: First, I would encourage you to find a person who has studied and been trained in spiritual direction from a credible Catholic institute. After obtaining a spiritual director, it usually entails meeting with this person for an hour each month. After three sessions with the direc-

See What is Spiritual Direction, p. 15



Sister Digna Vela, IWBS, in front of Incarnate Word Convent, which houses Amor Meus Spirituality Center.

In an interview with Cindy Brewer, editor of *The Catholic Lighthouse*, Sister Digna explained the details of her new ministry.

Cindy: What prompted you to work toward this graduate certificate at Creighton?

Sr. Digna: I have always wanted to go to Creighton to study spirituality. When my community, the Sisters of the Incarnate Word and Blessed Sacrament, opened Amor Meus, a spirituality center, at Incarnate Word Convent last year, I decided that this was the time to prepare myself to help with this new ministry of spiritual direction and directed retreats.

Cindy: What is spiritual direction? What does it entail?

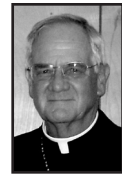
Sr. Digna: First of all, let me say what spiritual direction is not. It is not coun-

often refers to a relationship that is more like spiritual companionship or friendship where the director is present as a spiritual friend who listens with the intent of helping the directee recognize how the Holy Spirit is leading and working in one’s life. The emphasis is on helping the directee develop a good prayer life and relationship with God.

Cindy: Could you go in depth as far as what one should expect if they are receiving spiritual direction? How often would you meet, and for how long? How does

Workshops to be on New Translation of the Roman Missal, the Sacrament of Matrimony

Conference coordinator Christella Alvarez is pleased to announce that the Most Reverend David E. Fellhauer and Monsignor Thomas C. McLaughlin will each offer a workshop at this year’s catechetical conference. Christella hopes that everyone will make the commitment to attend the twenty-third annual conference, which will be held at Holy Family Parish in Victoria, Saturday, September 25, 2010.



Bishop Fellhauer

The day-long event provides an opportunity for people to hear local and national speakers present workshops on various Catholic topics. “It is an engaging, exciting, and informative event for all the people of the diocese,” stated Christella.

Bishop Fellhauer’s workshop will give pertinent information about the new English translation of the Roman Missal. As the bishop stated in the June issue of *The Catholic Lighthouse*, “There is much to be said about the revised English translation.”

Monsignor McLaughlin, Vicar General and Chancellor of the Victoria Diocese, will offer a workshop on the 2010-2011 catechetical theme, “Matrimony: Sacrament of Enduring Love.”

The day-long conference will provide workshops on catechetical, liturgical, sacramental, family, prayer/spirituality, and Scripture topics. The August issue of *The Catholic Lighthouse* will feature other local workshop presenters. Call 361-573-0828 for more information, or visit www.victoriadiocese.org.



Msgr. McLaughlin

Summer Short-Term Classes Continue

Across the Diocese of Victoria, many Pastoral Institute classes are being offered. Each class offers an opportunity to ascertain further understanding about the Church and its teachings. To register, call (361) 573-0828, e-mail calvarez@victoriadiocese.org, or go online at www.victoriadiocese.org.

July 8 & 15	Catholic Morality	6 - 9 pm	OL of Sorrows/Victoria (CCD center)
July 8 & 15	The Learner	6:30 - 9:30 pm	Holy Cross/East Bernard (RE building)
July 10	Roles of the Catechist	9 am - 12:00 pm	St. John/Hungerford
July 13 & 14	Sacraments	6 - 9 pm	Holy Rosary/Hostyn
July 13 & 15	Church	6 - 9 pm	St. Joseph/Yoakum
July 14 & 21	The Scriptures	5:30 - 8:30 pm	Sacred Heart/Hallettsville
July 15	Getting Started as a Catechist	6:00 - 9:00 pm	Holy Cross/Yorktown
July 19 & 21	Liturgy	6:00 - 9:00 pm	Chancery/Victoria
July 20 & 22	The Learner	6:30 - 9:30 pm	St. Anthony/Columbus (cafeteria)
July 21	Methods 7 & 8	6:30 - 8:30 pm	Sacred Heart/Flatonia
July 21 & 28	The Scriptures	6 - 9 pm	St. Michael/Cuero School Library
July 24	Methods 1 & 2	9:30 - 11:30 am	St. John/Hungerford
July 27 & 29	I Believe, We Believe	6:00 - 9:00 p.m.	Chancery/Victoria
July 28	Methods 5 & 6	6:30 - 8:30 pm	Sacred Heart/Flatonia
July 28 & 29	Prayer & Spirituality	6 - 9 pm	St. Agnes/Edna
August 3 & 5	Liturgy	6:30 - 9:30 pm	St. Philip/El Campo
August 3 & 10	I Believe/We Believe	6 - 9 pm	Sts. Cyril & Methodius/Shiner (activity center)
August 4	Roles of the Catechist	6 - 9 pm	St. Agnes/Edna
August 4	Methods 1 & 2	7 - 9 pm	St. Philip/El Campo
August 4	Methods 3 & 4	7 - 9 pm	St. Philip/El Campo

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

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

The Diocese of Victoria Library and Media Center

361-573-0828 • www.victoriadiocese.org
Open Monday - Friday 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Action, Excitement, Mystery, and More

Summer is a wonderful time to get out of the heat, and watch exciting movies with the family. The Diocese of Victoria Library and Media Center is the place to find the movies that will inform, enliven, and entertain you and those in your family. Come by the chancery office between 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. Monday thru Friday to take a look at the various media items that are available. All the books, videos, and dvds are listed on the diocesan website www.victoriadiocese.org. Below are just a few movies that are available for check out.

Action & Adventure

- The Story of Saint Perpetua
 - Saint Edith Stein
 - St. John Vianney
 - St. Catherine of Siena
 - Saint Teresa of Avila
- (the above have English/Spanish audio)

Mystery of Faith

- Eucharist: Experience for Yourself the Profound Mystery
- This Sacred Place: Your Parish Church and the Mystery of Faith
- Mystery: Conversion, Faith, Hope, Love

Spirituality

- Spirituality and the Two Halves of Life
- On Blessings
- Generative Discipleship: The Deeper Invitation of Jesus
- Finding God in all Things (VHS)

Host Families Needed

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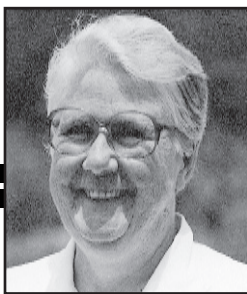
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SISTERLY THOUGHTS



By Sister Mildred Truchard, IWBS

Pro-Life Catholics, Then and Now

Somehow pro-life beliefs seemed much clearer when I was growing up; abortion had not yet been legalized; I had not heard of euthanasia; and, like many folks around me, I had never given capital punishment a second thought.

Then abortion was legalized in the Supreme Court decision Roe vs. Wade; consequently pro-lifers sprang into action in defense of the unborn. The Church spoke out emphasizing the dignity of the human person and respect for life – womb to tomb. Pope Paul II repeatedly called for the development of a “Culture of Life” and bemoaned the pervading “Culture of Death” that prevailed in many parts of the world. End-of-life issues, including euthanasia and capital punishment were addressed; however, somehow some of us may not always have heard or heeded the messages. So let us review some of them.

On December 12, 1999, and other occasions Pope John Paul II said, “I therefore renew my appeal to all leaders to reach an international consensus on the abolition of the death penalty, since ‘cases in which the execution of the offender is an absolute necessity are very rare, if not practically non-existent.’”

The United States Conference of Catholic Bishops said, “We renew our common conviction that it is time for our nation to abandon the illusion that we can protect life by taking life. Ending the use of the death penalty would be one important step away from a culture of death and toward building a culture of life.

Our witness to respect for life shines most brightly when we demand respect for each and every human life, including the lives of those who fail to show that respect for others. The antidote to violence is love, not more violence.”

The Catechism of the Catholic Church, no. 2258 states: “Human life is sacred because from its beginning it involves

the creative action of God and it remains forever in a special relationship with the Creator, who is its sole end. ...”

The Catechism of the Catholic Church also states in no. 2267: “Assuming that the guilty party’s identity and responsibility have been fully determined, the traditional teaching of the Church does not exclude recourse to the death penalty, if this is the only possible way of effectively defending human lives against the unjust aggressor.

If, however, non-lethal means are sufficient to defend and protect people’s safety from the aggressor, authority will limit itself to such means, as these are more in keeping with the concrete conditions of the common good and more in conformity with the dignity of the human person.

Today, in fact, as a consequence of the possibilities which the state has for effectively preventing crime, by rendering one who has committed an offense incapable of doing harm – without definitively taking away from him the possibility of redeeming himself – the cases in which the execution of the offender is an absolute necessity ‘are very rare, if not practically non-existent.’”

The Holy See stated its position in the Declaration of the Holy See to the First World Congress on the Death Penalty in Strasbourg: “It is surely more necessary than ever that the inalienable dignity of human life be universally respected and recognized for its immeasurable value. The Holy See has engaged itself in the pursuit of the abolition of capital punishment and an integral part of the defense of human life at every stage of its development and does so in defiance of any assertion of a culture of death.”

Now, have we been listening to what the Church is calling us? Can we be agents of a “Culture of Life” who promote life –womb to tomb- in our society? Let us pray that we can!

Local Catholic hopes for spot with Oprah’s Network

Former Nazareth Academy daycare director and Pre-K instructor vies for spot with Oprah’s Network, for her own TV show. Educator and author, DeAnn Vilchez, entered a contest, sponsored by Oprah Winfrey, to find the next best TV show host. DeAnn submitted a video describing the type of show she would like to host and why she would be the right person for the job. Her vision is to have a talk show to help educators, daycare workers and parents better deal with difficult or challenging behavior

in children.

The five participants whose video submissions obtain the highest number of valid votes will be deemed “Finalists” and considered for the program. At least one of the five finalists from the video submission process will be cast in the program.



DeAnn Vilchez

Videos may be viewed at www.oprah.com by clicking on the “Your Own Show” tab. Go to the “Browse Auditions” box and then type, “Browse all Auditions” in the search box to see all contestants videos.

Right Fit: Sacred Heart & Coach Cash ~ State Champions ~

HALLETTSVILLE— Sacred Heart Catholic High School won the 2010 Texas Association of Private and Parochial Schools (TAPPS) 2A Boys Track & Field State Championship in the contest held on May 7 and 8 in the Baylor University Hart-Patterson Track & Field Complex in Waco. This is the first Boys’ State Track & Field Championship ever won by Sacred Heart. Championships are not won by athletes or coaches alone. Championships are won when the right combination of athletes and coach are brought together.

On the opening Friday evening of the 2010 University Interscholastic League

State Track and Field Meet in Austin, Sacred Heart’s Coach Joe Cash took the field, prior to the beginning of the A and AAAA session, with a group of men who started history twenty-nine years ago. These men were the athletes, coached by Coach Cash in his three years at Refugio High School, who won the first three state track and field championships for Refugio High School.



Coach Joe Cash

The traditions, work ethics, and confidence established by the teams of 1981, 1982 and 1983, as the Class

AAA State Champions, began an astonishing sequence of UIL state track championships for Refugio High School, which went on to win a total of sixteen state track and field championships: ten by the boys and six by the girls, for which the school was being honored as one of the top three schools in the history of the UIL State Track and Field Meet.

Congratulations to Coach Joe Cash, Refugio High and the Sacred Heart Indian Track & Field Team.

Congratulations to Coach Joe Cash, Refugio High and the Sacred Heart Indian Track & Field Team.



TWO STUDENTS WIN GOLD MEDALS—Two instrumental music students from St. Joseph High School of Victoria were awarded State Gold Medals for superior performances at the Texas State Solo & Ensemble Contest on Saturday, May 29, sponsored by the Texas Private School Music Educators. Sophomore, Sofia China-Alvarado, right, (Alto Saxophone), and senior, Hilary Kristynik, left, (Flute), were each presented a State Gold Medal for their solo performance. Michael Petrisky, band director for St. Joseph High School commented, “It was a pleasure to be associated with these young adults. All of the St. Joseph music students are to be commended for their work. I appreciate their dedication to participate and excel.”

Sts. Peter & Paul Catholic Church

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Inside The Hall

Red Ravens 4 - 8 PM

Music during the day by DOUGLAS POLASEK

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RELAY FOR LIFE TEAM MADE UP OF TEENS—The All Teen Relay for Life team, Los Conquistadores of St. Joseph High in Victoria, raised \$1,850 for the American Cancer Society through fundraisers of bake sales and a garage sale, as well as a glow glasses/fruit cups sale at the relay itself. The relay took place April 30 and honors cancer patients who have survived, suffered, or died from this disease. This team was the only “All High School Team” that organized, planned and raised big dollars for this Relay for Life. They all deserve a big round of applause! Los Conquistadores consisted of, front row: Kayla Janeczek, Megan Joy, Maddison Franklin, Brandi Calvo; 2nd row: Michael Petrash, Cody Valle, Spencer Driver, Lauren Alexander, Leslie Zepeda, Sarah Zepeda; back row: Eric Still, Brett Hager and Nathaniel Hawes; not pictured: Laura Leigh Steele, 2009 graduate.

Catholic Author Shares First-hand Insights on Engaging Teens with their Faith

NEW YORK—At a time when churches are concerned about attracting young people to an active faith and parish life, award-winning author, speaker and self-proclaimed “Bible Geek,” Mark Hart, shares his first-hand experiences achieving that goal on *Christopher Closeup*, the half-hour weekly radio show produced by *The Christophers*. The two-part interview can be heard online at <http://www.christophers.org/CloseupPodcast>. *Christopher Closeup* also airs on Sundays on The Catholic Channel (Sirius 159 and XM 117) at 6:00 a.m. and 6:30 p.m. Central. Hart admits that he didn't see the Church as relevant



Mark Hart

while growing up despite attending Catholic school and going to Mass with his family every week. That slowly changed through various experiences over the years including an emergency plane landing and a couple of earthquakes that brought him face-to-face with his own mortality. Hart laughingly admits to *Christopher Closeup* host Tony Rossi, “I was really stubborn. I think holier people would have figured it out a lot sooner than me.” As he notes during the interview and in his new book “The ‘R’ Father: 14 Ways to Respond to the Lord’s Prayer,” a key factor in his turnaround was nurturing a personal relationship with Jesus, a concept that is popular in Protestant circles and gaining ground in the Catholic world. The sacraments combined with a relationship with Christ continue to be the powerful foundation of his rich faith life. As the executive vice-president of Life Teen International who has worked in full-time youth ministry for 16 years, Hart understands the challenge of reaching today’s youth who are growing up in a world where they’re constantly engaged in social networking or texting — “I work with young people every day ... and they have a harder time having conversations and looking you in the eye (because) they’re a screen-based culture.”

Yet Hart is hopeful about the future because he’s seen what teens are drawn to — “Modern teenagers ... want depth. They

want deep relationships...They’re really drawn to the mystical. When you start walking them into the mystical elements of the sacraments and the depth and breadth of the mysteries of the Church, their hearts become enlivened... They’re looking for reasons to turn screens off and to engage. They just don’t know how.”

Hart believes the convictions of the person running a youth ministry program is vital — “My prayer life, my holiness, my desire for God, my pursuit for God — that is where ministry needs to flow from. Teenagers are honest. While they put on masks, they’re also far more authentic than most adults I encounter... If they think that you are inauthentic, they will tell you.” Hart also offers advice on avoiding a common mistake in approaching teens, explaining, “A lot of times, catechists and adults talk at teenagers, but not necessarily to teenagers. We should take a lesson from Christ on the road to Emmaus. He walked and listened before he taught.”

Despite the challenges of reaching teens, Hart concludes, “People talk about all the negatives of teenagers (but) ... I am consistently amazed and blown away by the quality of our young people!”

Choose the good, no matter what it costs

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Pope Benedict XVI urged young people to be inspired by St. Maria Goretti’s courage and strength and to always choose the good no matter what it costs. This young virgin and martyr was “a girl who, despite being very young, knew how to show strength and courage against evil,” the pope said July 7. The 11-year-old girl was repeatedly stabbed by a young neighbor after she refused his sexual advances. She died in the hospital the next day, July 6, 1902, after forgiving her attacker. The pope called on young people to pray to St. Maria to help them “always choose the good, even when it comes with a price.”

Youth Calendar of Events

July 18-21 — Quo Vadis? — Diocesan Vocation Camp for Young Men ages 15-21 (or those who will be sophomores in high school)
July 23-25 — Life Awareness Retreat — Girls Vocation Camp
August 21 — Altar Server Appreciation at Splashway

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

For more information on any of these events, please contact:
Debbie Vanelli or José Ortega at the Office of Youth Ministry
at (361) 573-0828 ext. 32 / ext. 50 or e-mail at
dvanelli@victoriadiocese.org or jortega@victoriadiocese.org
Web site: www.victoriadiocese.org/youthoffice

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St. Philip’s One ACT Play brings awards to the El Campo school and actors. Above is the cast of “The Diviners,” the play the school performed at the PSIA state meet, the Bay City Junior High Dungeoneers Festival and at El Campo High School.

St. Philip performs One ACT Play, honors director of eight years

EL CAMPO, Texas—The culmination of another successful year was the public performance of the One Act Play June 2 at the El Campo High School auditorium. The award winning play, “The Diviners,” was well attended. At the performance, a special presentation was made to Keri Graff who started the St. Philip One Act Play (OAP) eight years ago; this was her last year working with the program.

“The Diviners” by Jim Leonard Jr. tells the story of a disturbed young man (Matthew Graff) and his friendship with a disenchanted preacher (Isaac Kresta) in Southern Indiana in the 1930’s. When the boy was young he almost drowned, and this trauma and the loss of his mother in the accident has left him afraid of water. The preacher, who has left his calling, works in the boy’s father’s (Audrey Anderson) garage, but the women of the town try to persuade him to return to preaching. All these factors culminate in tragic results.

The cast competed twice this year. At the Private Schools Interscholastic Association (PSIA) state meet in San Antonio, the play placed third, with Matthew Graff named Best Actor; Isaac Kresta and Rosemary Krenek earned All-Star Cast honors; and Audrey Anderson and Katelyn Baros earned Honorable Mention All Star Cast.

At the Bay City Junior High Dungeoneers Festival, the play earned Superior Rating, with nine cast members earning individual honors: Best Actor — Matthew Graff; All Star Cast — Isaac Kresta, Jennie Ritter and Katelyn Baros; Honorable Mention All Star Cast — Rosemary Krenek, Elise Raun, Megann Faas, Lindsey Jones and Hannah Tupa. The cast was also

awarded Most Professional Company and Best Set.

The cast was made up of: Rosie Krenek (Basil Bennet), Elise Raun (Dewy Maples), Matthew Graff (Buddy Layman), Jessica Gaines (Luella Bennet), Megann Faas (Melvin), Isaac Kresta (C.C. Showers), Jennie Ritter (Jennie Mae Layman), Audrey Anderson (Ferris Layman), Katelyn Baros (Norma Henshaw), Lindsey Jones (Darlene Henshaw), Hannah Tupa (Goldie) and Miranda Hollingsworth (Violinist). On the technical crew were Morgan Sparks (Lights) and Kaitlyn Davlin (Sound). The show was directed by parent volunteers Keri Graff, Molly Kresta and Suzi Baros.

Members of each cast from the past eight years were present to publicly thank Ms. Graff, and she was given eight charms for her charm bracelet, each with special meaning to each of the plays she has directed. Keri was the Mother Seton Award winner from St. Philip School this year.

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Newton M. Warzecha, director of the Presidio La Bahia, addresses the crowd at the museum's grand re-opening on June 8.



Presidio Museum contains the kitchen as well as Spanish Colonial, Mexican Colonial and Texas artifacts spanning more than 250 years.



Bishop David E. Fellhauer of Victoria was assisted in the ribbon cutting by Louise O'Connor of Austin and grand-daughter of Kathryn O'Connor who funded the restoration of the National Historic Landmark more than 50 years ago, and Suzi Warzecha (l), coordinator of the Friends of the Fort.



Nine flags fly before Presidio La Bahia. In addition to the six flags over Texas (Spain, France, Mexico, Republic of Texas, Confederate States of America and United States of America), three other flags have flown over Goliad, all flags of revolution: the first Republic of Texas (1812), the second Republic of Texas (1821), and the Goliad Flag, which flew here on December 20, 1835, the date of the signing of the First Texas Declaration of Independence.

Presidio Initiates Student Education Program; Re-opens Renovated Museum

By Preston F. Kirk

GOLIAD—A bronze cannon blasting, a bishop's blessing and a BBQ-and-beans buffet marked the grand re-opening of the historic Presidio La Bahia (Fort of the Bay) Museum <http://www.presidiolabahia.org/> in Goliad on June 8, 2010. Yet, the celebration was practically upstaged by an ambitious, new project.

Through a generous grant from the Mary Hobbs Griffith Foundation, the 289-year-old National Historic Landmark is offering free admission in March, April and May of 2011 to 10,000 Texas students in 4th and 7th-grade social studies, as well as funds to help underwrite transportation costs.

"Education is what Presidio La Bahia is all about," said Newton M. Warzecha, director of the Presidio since 1991. "We've been concerned that students were not learning about the rich Spanish, Mexican and Texas history here at the Presidio and Goliad. School field trips have declined

from 5,000 students five years ago to 2,200 this spring."

David Vickers, a seventh-grade social studies teacher in Beeville, Texas, is developing a lesson plan that will enable the Presidio to show schools "that we are going to teach the students what the curriculum indicates they should know about our history," Newton emphasized.

"This program is on a first come-first serve basis," he said. "To qualify, reservations have to be made in advance. We will even have historic re-enactors here to add to the student's Presidio experience."

The transportation grants to the schools will be based on the student miles traveled and will typically cover about one-half of the transportation cost, to a maximum of \$5 per student.

~ Blessing and Blasting ~

About 170 politicians, historians, archeologists, re-enactors, news media, Friends of the Fort (FOF) members and astonished

tourists witnessed the museum re-opening, ribbon cutting and formal blessing. The museum was fully renovated at a cost of more than \$500,000 during the past three and a half years.

In addition to its colonial periods, the Presidio was central to the Texas Revolution of 1836. Just beyond and within its three-foot-thick walls, 342 Texians were massacred under orders from Mexican Gen. Santa Anna.

Bishop David E. Fellhauer of the Diocese of Victoria explained how the diocese came to own such a sacred pantheon of Texas, Mexican, Spanish and Catholic history.

After years of negotiation, the crumbling Our Lady of Loreto Chapel and the ruins of the fort were purchased from the City of Goliad in 1853 for \$1,000. The first full restoration of the fortress occurred in the 1960s with extensive funds from the Kathryn Stoner O'Connor Foundation.

In his blessing, Bishop Fellhauer proclaimed, "God is the Lord of history. History is a form of truth. We proclaim his majesty in many and varied ways.

"May all who come to the museum in pursuit of knowledge and understanding always be docile to the wisdom of Your word . . . and will strive to create a more civilized world," he prayed.

The bishop was assisted in the ribbon cutting by Louise O'Connor of Austin and grand-daughter of Kathryn O'Connor, and Suzi Warzecha, coordinator of the Friends of the Fort.

The hilltop bastion is located one mile south of Goliad on U.S. Hwy. 183 (77A), a few hundred yards from the San Antonio River. It features eight-foot tall stone walls, parapets, cannons, a bell tower containing two bells, a religious statue estimated at 300 years old, a charming Texas-version fresco of the Annunciation and more than 150 artifacts on display from among more than 54,694 collected from the grounds.

"The Quarters," previously used by officers and later priests, can accommodate four persons for overnight stays in one of the most historic – and eerie – lodging accommodations in America.

The most recent improvements to the complex were completed with funds provided by members of The Presidio La Bahia Foundation, its advisory board, FOF

members, and numerous individuals and area foundations.

Re-enactors in period costumes from around South Texas were on hand for the museum tours and to salute the occasion by firing a recently acquired, 250-year-old bronze cannon.

Lunch was served on the Quadrangle grounds, compliments of Sally and David Johnson of Goliad, directors of the foundation. The Johnson's barbecue team, the Farm Industrial Good Guys, prepared the food, which was served by members of the Goliad County Historical Commission.

~ Museum Now First-Class ~

Museum designer Drew Patterson of Drew Patterson Studios in Austin believes "This may be the only presidio on what was the Northern Frontier of New Spain that is totally intact. The museum now accommodates a high quality look into Spanish Colonial life and the later Mexican culture, as well as Texas' quest for independence," said the physical anthropologist. "The exhibits have been re-designed with new, museum-quality cases and lighting, and all interiors have been repainted; murals and decorations refreshed; the floors repaired and re-sealed and the gift shop expanded," Patterson stated. "The soldiers' barracks have been upgraded and the entry and museum are now more wheelchair accessible."

"Our daily admission prices for the Presidio offer real family value and real educational opportunities," Warzecha insisted. "Many fans of the Texas Independence (tourist) Trail have seen the Alamo in San Antonio, the San Jacinto Battleground and Monument, even Gonzales or Independence, Texas.

"But if they have not visited the Presidio and Goliad, they are missing one of the bloodiest, enlightening and educational chapters of the Texas revolution and our great state's history."

Admissions are \$4 (ages 12-59); \$3.50 (60 and older and military personnel), and \$1 (children ages 6-11). Children age five and younger are admitted free. Group rates are available with advance reservations. The Presidio's Facebook Fan Page is at: <http://www.facebook.com/#!/PresidioLaBahia?ref=ts%20>.



2011 WORLD YOUTH DAY—A games party will be held August 8 at Sacred Heart Family Center in Hallettsville to help raise funds for WYD. Round up a group of friends together, bring your cards, dominos or board games and join in the fun. The fun runs from 2:30 until 6:00 p.m. at just \$7 p/p (meal included) along with door prizes, 50/50 and a silent auction. Pictured above, trying to decide what to play, is (l-r): Jordan Fries, Cory Bena and Father David Berger. Proceeds benefit the area youth attending 2011 World Youth Day in Madrid, Spain. Reservations may be made by contacting Leona Sedlar at (361) 575-3160; Donna Maxey at (361) 576-2670; or Wendy Eggert at (361) 655-0531 by August 5.



'Like walking into heaven' - Yorktown church restored

By Erica Rodriguez
The Victoria Advocate

YORKTOWN—Like walking into heaven is how long-time church members describe the restored Holy Cross Catholic Church.

After six months and more than \$350,000 of work, the church, known for its architectural beauty and history born of fire, looks like something out of a glossy-paged historic tourism magazine.

Holy Cross Church is on a quiet corner of Yorktown between fields of grazing cattle and ranch land. Sunday morning, the parking lot is as snug as the pews.

The church building, a terra cotta brick structure built by Polish and German immigrants in 1915, echoes a design of many rural Catholic churches, but the inside is what's changed.

"It was so beautiful when I first walked in, I didn't think that the church could be restored to its beauty as it is now," said Eleanor Sturn, a 92-year-old churchgoer.

Sturn has attended church there for a lifetime - 71 years to be exact - and remembers changes to the structure over the years. This has been the biggest.

"It's like walking into heaven," she said.

The church is stately. The 42-foot ceiling arches high above the praying congregation. The Romanesque design echoes of centuries-old European churches. Tall, stained-glass windows portray devout-looking saints; at the bottom of the panes the names of hard-to-pronounce Polish families hints at the church's ethnic history.

Ecclesiastical Studios Missouri, owned by Don A. Wendt, was the group that restored the church.

The crew worked for weeks basically gutting the structure, which suffered from damage from water leaks and a ceiling that was crumbling in areas.

Now, granite columns support a metal ceiling dotted with fleur de lis designs.

Outside the church, a plaque from the Texas Historical Commission explains the namesake of the church, which was originally named Immaculate Conception.

A spring fire in 1915 brought the former church building to ashes. Nearly everything was lost - except for the steeple cross.

But the Polish parishioners were resilient. Many lived in tents around the site while they constructed the building that stands today. It was completely rebuilt by the fall, costing \$28,000, and many families donated the stained-glass windows at \$100 each.

The church was renamed Holy Cross Catholic Church, and the same cross salvaged from the fire now sits atop the steeple.

Today, many of the Holy Cross families are of Polish and German descent, but over the years, the congregation has become more diverse.

Hispanic and black families have mixed with descendants of those who

helped found the first church, like 94-year-old Irene Ibron, whose family name is inscribed on a stained window.

"It's the only church we like, we love to go," she said in a mild Polish ac-



A stained-glass window of St. Hedwig can be found at the church. Hedwig, born in 1371, became queen of Poland in 1382, was beatified in 1979, and canonized in 1997 by Pope John Paul II. Photos by FRANK TILLEY/ftilley@vicad.com



cent. Ibron can rattle off the names on the windows like a fluent Pole. Her heritage and loyalty to the building are deeply rooted.

"I was baptized here and they're going to

carry me away," said 94-year-old Hedwig Jendry, who feels the same.

A handful of historical churches, like

Holy Cross, dot DeWitt County, said Peggy Ledbetter, treasurer of the DeWitt

County Historical Commission. Restorations like the church's are something she believes can provide an economic boost to the area through tourism.

church will leave a legacy not just for his generation of parishioners, but for many to come.

"I think it's putting an accent on the church of tomorrow," he said. "I think everything that we did there really accomplishes that, plus the people who've been here all their lives seem to be pleased with it. It's a wonderful sacred worship place for the people."

Holy Cross Catholic Church is located at 1214 Zorn Road in Yorktown. For more information, call 361-564-2893.



Father Roger Hawes, pastor of Holy Cross, enjoys the beauty of the newly renovated church.

"I feel like it helps the community, and it's something that the citizens are always proud of after they get it restored," she said. "I think we have a tendency to be a throwaway society. It's really, really great to save something that was built so many years ago."

More than anything, the church pastor, Rev. Roger Hawes, hopes the

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Got Catholic Trivia?

More than one billion people throughout the world proudly call themselves Catholic. However, understanding the long, complex, and rich history of the Church can sometimes seem a daunting task. Author and historian Scott Paul Frush wants to shed light on the Catholic Church by examining its extraordinary history, traditions, and contributions in the book, *Ultimate Catholic Trivia: 1001 Fun and Fascinating Facts* (Marshall Rand Publishing).

My singular aim is to showcase the best of the Catholic Church in a way that is entertaining, educational, and of course spiritual, says author Scott Paul Frush. If you desire to learn more about the Catholic Church or simply want to test your knowledge, this is the perfect book for you.

Ultimate Catholic Trivia reveals facts that cover many diverse topics, such as Jesus Christ, the Holy Bible, saints, popes, the Vatican, origins, liturgical seasons, the Mass, sacraments, organizations, and clergy. Bonus material includes Catholic Top 10 lists, a chronological timeline of Church history, detailed accounts of key events in Catholic history, inspirational quotes from pioneering Catholics, and

a list of all popes and when each one reigned. Photos and illustrations are included to bring the trivia to life. Consider this book part history manual, part entertainment book, and part spiritual guide all combined into one.

Ultimate Catholic Trivia is available for purchase online at www.Amazon.com, by calling 1-800-431-1579, or by mailing \$9.95 plus \$2.50 postage to Marshall Rand Publishing, P.O. Box 1849, Royal Oak, MI 48068-1849. Customers who order by mail will receive author signed copies.

Quantity discounts of this book are available on bulk purchases for educational purposes; contact publisher for more information.



About the Author: Author Scott Paul Frush, an accomplished financial advisor by trade, holds a masters degree from the University of Notre Dame and a bachelors degree from Eastern Michigan University. He is a self-proclaimed history buff, trivia extraordinaire, avid writer, and of course a proud Catholic. Scott is the author of seven other books, including *Ultimate Italian Trivia* and *Ultimate Republican Trivia*.

Looking Around

By Father William J. Byron, SJ
Catholic News Service



Summertime, and the reading is easy

Summertime without a few good books is like a ball without a bat or a beach without the surf. It is mind-stretch time as well as time for travel, sports and summer jobs. For kids of any age, it is time to cultivate the reading habit and enjoy daily interaction with the printed page.

This summer is the 50th anniversary of the publication of Harper Lee's great novel "To Kill a Mockingbird." If the vacationing young are unfamiliar with this must-read book, that's a sign that the reading habit needs attention.

Reading habits begin in strange ways.

My brother always had a flashlight under the covers when we were supposed to be down for the night and sound asleep.

My Jesuit friend, the late Clement J. McNaspy, a true genius, received a complete set of a popular encyclopedia when he was just 6 years old. It came from his parents by way of compensation for uprooting and relocating him from New Orleans to Lafayette, La., where his father took a new job.

Over the course of the summer months, the 6-year-old McNaspy read the entire set, volume by volume, from beginning to end. In the move, he lost some friends but gained a love of learning.

According to the *Wall Street Journal*, Bill Gates became a "diligent learner" at an early age. As a youngster, he read the entire World Book Encyclopedia from start to finish, and his parents encouraged his reading habit by paying for any book he wanted.

Everyone knows that as a boy, Abraham Lincoln liked to read. One biographer refers to the "small but steady diet of books he mastered," in the process learning "to rely on his books and his imagination to satisfy his curiosity and intellect."

These books, according to his cousin, Dennis Hanks, included "Aesop's Fables," "Robinson Crusoe" and "The Arabian

Nights," along with William Scott's "Lessons in Elocution" and Noah Webster's American Spelling Book. And Hanks remarked, "He was a constant and I may say stubborn reader."

Many successful leaders will tell you that they enjoy reading history. It might be the history of their country or the world; it might be the history of the organization they lead or the industry or profession within which they lead.

Some read military history to gain an appreciation of tactics and strategy. Some read biography in search of clues to the development of character.

Many people read just for the love of reading. This is always a hopeful sign that they are likely to be well-informed and intellectually alive.

Dennis Recio, a Jesuit who teaches English literature at the University of San Francisco, explains what he does by saying, "I teach students to see beyond their own experience."

That's what those who are wise enough to read widely — just for the love of reading — are doing; they are seeing beyond their own experience and, in the process, becoming more fully human.

This summer represents a growth opportunity for any out-of-school youngster who is wise enough to set aside an hour or so a day for reading good books.

At summer's end, every reading vacationer will have met new friends, discovered new places and picked up new ideas simply by turning the printed page. They will also have made progress on their respective ways to becoming more fully human.

Not a bad way to spend the summer!

(Jesuit Father Byron is university professor of business and society at St. Joseph's University in Philadelphia. E-mail: wbyron@sju.edu.)

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Family Puzzle Contest

The next Family Puzzle Contest winner will win "Ultimate! Catholic Trivia – 1001 Fun and Fascinating Facts" by Scott Paul Frush and published by Marshall Rand Publishing. See book review on this page.

The winner of the June Family Puzzle Contest and "The Power of Prayer, Endurance and Truth" by David Beato and published by Trastevere Publishing, is Rudolph J. Petru of Sacred Heart Parish in Hallettsville.

The winner of the youth contest is Lane Sulak (13) of Holy Cross Parish in East Bernard. He will receive a gift from the Incarnate Word Gift Shop.

If you have not won the puzzle contest within the past six months, please send completed puzzle and contest form to *The Catholic Lighthouse*, P.O. Box 4070, Victoria, TX 77903, by July 25 for a chance to win "Ultimate! Catholic Trivia." Youth 18 years of age and under will have the opportunity to receive a gift from the Incarnate Word Gift Shop (youth, please state age).

Trivia Questions

Look in this issue for the answers to these questions found in "Ultimate! Catholic Trivia."

- (96) Apart from the Resurrection, what is the only one miracle mentioned by all four Gospels?
- (134) Which apostle is a patron saint of bankers and stockbrokers?
- (270) Approximately how many lay people work at the Vatican?
- (400) Name the very first Catholic university in the United States.
- (966) True/False: Unmarried permanent deacons must remain celibate.

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Twenty Something

By Christina Capecchi
E-mail: Christina@ReadChristina.com



Off the grid, out of the grind

“Are you tweeting from Palestine?”

It was a harmless question popping up in my inbox, and I had already begun typing my Twitter handle, eager to pick up a few more followers, when I paused to consider the offer I was about to make. Did I really want to chronicle my Holy Land trip via Twitter? Did the fact that I could access an iPhone mean I should? Did I actually see myself tweeting “at Church of the Holy Sepulchre, reflecting on Jesus’ crucifixion”?

I stopped mid-sentence.

Something about tweeting on a pilgrimage feels wrong, contrary to the purpose. To tune in, I must log off. To open my eyes, I must still my fingers.

I’ll have ample opportunity to relay the experience when I return. I might as well give myself the 15-hour flight home as a buffer between seeing and sharing.

Social networks like Twitter and Facebook are challenging our notion of public and private. Their default setting is public; you have to take action to make it private. The assumption is yes,

green light, go.

Saying “no” requires a deliberate stance. But it’s a healthy one. You must say no to some things in order to say yes to others.

A tweet may be just 140 characters, but it’s long enough to interrupt a thought or a prayer. And those are the little moments that allow for the big ones that bring us to our knees.

I’m saying yes to silence, to emptiness, to the absence of it all — a mode that doesn’t come naturally to wired young adults. I’m going to the Holy Land to see the bigger picture and the higher ground. I’m hoping to capture sights and smells that linger, lending new meaning throughout the year to old readings.

I’m planning to turn off my phone so I can experience the spiritual joy St. Therese of Lisieux once described. “For me prayer is a surge of the heart,” she said. “It is a simple look towards heaven. It is a cry of recognition and of love.”

I’m proud to take a break from a habit that shortens, if not eliminates, the line between perceiving and publishing. I’m

pleased to give a little less to a force that keeps demanding more. This spring Twitter unveiled a tracking tool that pins an exact location to each tweet. When I was invited to activate it, I didn’t have to think twice. Thanks but no thanks.

Many others, evidently, feel differently. Location-based applications like Foursquare are growing in popularity.

Personally, I’d rather go off the grid, as they say. I’m not keen on that kind of accessibility. There’s value in traveling lightly — no footsteps or footnotes.

I’m seeking the kind of discovery that comes with disappearing. After all, Jesus needed 40 days (in a desert I’ll soon see!). So I’m packing my suitcase and preparing an out-of-office message. Do you know how good that feels? Do you know how rarely I use that feature?

I’m inspired by my uncle Mike, who went off the grid for two weeks last fall to serve as the keeper of a historic lighthouse. He watched birds soar across sunsets, playing his flugelhorn into the glassy water. Sans electricity and Internet, he attuned his body to nature’s rhythms.

Uncle Mike is going back again this fall, and he’s planning to pack even lighter. He knows how to keep the light burning.

Christina Capecchi is a freelance writer from St. Paul, Minnesota. She can be reached at <http://www.readchristina.com/>.

Sunday Readings from July 11 to Aug. 8

July 11 — Fifteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time	Deuteronomy 30:10-14 Psalms 69:14, 17, 30-31, 33-34, 36, 37 Colossians 1:15-20 Luke 10:25-37
July 18 — Sixteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time	Genesis 18:1-10a Psalms 15:2-3, 3-4, 5 Colossians 1:24-28 Luke 10:38-42
July 25 — Seventeenth Sunday in Ordinary Time	Genesis 18:20-32 Psalms 138:1-2, 2-3, 6-7, 7-8 Colossians 2:12-14 Luke 11:1-13
August 1 — Eighteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time	Ecclesiastes 1:2; 2:21-23 Psalms 90:3-4, 5-6, 12=13, 14-17 Colossians 3:1-5, 9-11 Luke 12:13-21
August 8 — Nineteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time	Wisdom 18:6-9 Psalms 33:1, 12, 18-19, 20-22 Hebrews 11:1-2, 8-19 Luke 12:32-48

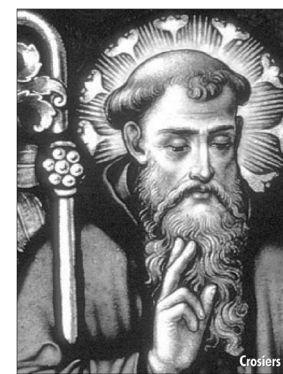
All daily and Sunday readings, as well as a reflection video, are available in text or audio at:
www.usccb.org/nab/

Benedict

c. 480-547

feast — July 11

Born to a distinguished Italian family, Benedict studied in Rome. When he wearied of Rome’s worldliness, he lived as a hermit. Disciples joined him and he built 12 monasteries, each for 10 monks. Pressure from local clerics forced their move to Monte Cassino, where they built a monastery and Benedict wrote his famous Rule. He is believed to have died there shortly after the death of his sister, Scholastica. Pope Paul VI named this patriarch of Western monasticism patron of Europe, and Benedict XVI took his name as pope in 2005.



Saints for Today

© 2005 CNS

All things in moderation, particularly the Internet

According to Saint Benedict, whose feast day is July 11, all things — eating, drinking, sleeping, reading, working, and praying — should be done in moderation ~ from the Online Guide to Saint Benedict at: http://www.e-benedictine.com/about_his_life_2/

Editor’s Note: I’m including both of these Internet stories along with St. Benedict’s wisdom, to remind each of us to use moderation in all things, including or especially, the Internet.

(134): Saint Matthew

Smartphone applications integrate prayer life with daily technology

By Gretchen R. Crowe
Catholic News Service

ARLINGTON, Va. (CNS) — Praying is now so 21st century.

Instead of a paperback missalette, there’s iMissal. Instead of prayer cards, there’s a touch-screen Saint A Day. Instead of randomly jotting down prayer requests, there’s a digitally organized list in PrayerSteward.

These three applications — better known as apps — only scratch the surface of faith-related digital materials available in Apple’s App Store and, to a lesser extent, in the Android Market and Palm Pre App Catalog. With these digital Catholic resources comes the undeniable convenience of modern-day prayer.

“I know people who before they even get out of bed they have their iPod Touch or their iPhone in their hand,” said Sister Kathryn James Hermes, a Daughter of St. Paul and director of digital publishing for Pauline Books and Media, in an interview with the Arlington Catholic Herald, newspaper of the Arlington Diocese.

“You could be looking at the psalms or the morning meditation,” she added.

In March, Parks Associates, a market research and consulting company specializing in digital technologies, reported that smartphone (i.e. iPhone, Android, Palm Pre) users are expected to quadruple by 2014, resulting in 1 billion users world-

wide.

That’s a market that everyone, even the Vatican, can get behind.

On Easter Sunday, the Vatican Observatory Foundation, which promotes scientific research of the heavens, launched the Vatican-approved iPhone app: “Daily Sermonettes with Father Mike Manning.”

“These daily reflections are inspired by Scripture, using God’s uplifting message as a guide in your daily life, supporting the foundation’s mission of scientific research, education and discovery,” the Web site reads.

Also approved by the Vatican is iBreviary (available on iPhone and Android), an app developed in part by Italian priest Father Paolo Padrini, that contains daily readings, the Liturgy of the Hours and other prayers in multiple languages.

“As religious, we take to heart that (Pope) Benedict has said we need to give a soul to technology, a soul to communications,” Sister Kathryn said. “We do that through prayer, through reflection, through the love with which we carry out our apostolate — even the way in which we create our apps, trying to make them a truly beautiful experience.”

Sister Kathryn and the Daughters of St. Paul always are on the lookout for ways to give the Internet a soul by using it to spread the good news.

“For those who never go

into a church, through the media we’re able to allow wherever they are to become a church,” she said. “It becomes a place of encounter for them, a sacred space, a type of church. It becomes a way to multiply our presence to a whole new audience.”

The iMissal app, developed by Cantcha Inc. and available for iPhone and Android users, contains a full calendar displaying all liturgical seasons, all Mass readings for every liturgical cycle, audio readings, a daily Bible verse and a list of popular prayers.

“It really is meant to become the source of everything Catholic that Catholics turn to for prayer and devotion and faith,” Sister Kathryn said. “It’s this very simple thing. You can have the readings right in your hand along with everything else that organizes your life.”

Through the Rosary Miracle Prayer app, available in June, users can pray the rosary in his or her own “sacred space.” Audio tracks feature the Daughters of St. Paul — recorded at their studio in Boston — praying the decades, and 18 different sets of pictures help draw the faithful into the four sets of mysteries.

From within the app, users can e-mail the Daughters of St. Paul directly with personal prayer intentions.

With the Saint A Day app, invoking a prayer to the patron

See *Smartphone*, 15

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Buscando Vida

Por Moises Sandoval
Servicio Noticiero Católico



A mission of hope in Ciudad Juarez

“Another year of grace! Yes, we face crises like never before, but crises stimulate hope, and with hope come efforts for truth, justice and peace. That effort breeds optimism and even joy. Some saints say that Jesus on the cross, though crying out in desperation, experienced a deep interior joy at a work accomplished.”

These words from Sister of Mercy Betty Campbell and Carmelite Father Peter Hinde, founders of a community of contemplation and political action called Tabor House in Ciudad Juarez, across the Rio Grande from El Paso, are good advice for all of us.

Sister Betty and Father Hinde live in a bleak neighborhood that I visited early in the 2000s. Nothing seemed to grow there. The yards, front and back, were hard-packed desert soil.

But though Tabor House was just as drab as neighboring dwellings, its yard was lush with growing vegetables, flowers and shrubs. Every spare drop of water used for cooking and washing was recycled to the garden. The shaded patio hosted classes and workshops. Everything about the lives of these two former missionaries to Peru spoke of hope.

In Juarez since 1995, Tabor House “accompanies the church and people of God of Ciudad Juarez,” Father Hinde said in a recent e-mail. “Our principal purpose was to continue the solidarity work of “evangelización concientizadora” (conscientizing evangelization) of the churches and people of the United States with respect to U.S. policy in Latin America.”

Until 2008, Father Hinde and Sister Betty received 30 to 50 delegations a year from universities and parishes for a week’s tour of the border. Since then, because of the difficulty of crossing and the increasing violence of Mexico’s war against drugs, only two or three come.

“We still receive individuals or small groups, generally people more familiar with the border,” Father Hinde said.

The horrendous violence took the lives of 2,500 people, including 140 women, in one year.

“Patrols of the army, and now national police, cruise our area in two open jeeps

with from eight to 13 heavily armed men but hardly ever get to the action on time,” Father Hinde said. “We have had instances in our neighborhoods where army or federal police refuse to act when right at the scene of the killings.”

Many people have fled the city, their homes and businesses abandoned. Pastoral workers persevere despite the threatening situation.

“What is most worrisome is the contempt for life, the human person made into merchandise, a disposable object,” the Mexican bishops’ conference declared. “We are losing any sense of the dignity of the human person or the ability even to see ourselves as human.”

Father Hinde asks: “Is this not the logic of consumer capitalism, i.e., make everything, even a person, a saleable commodity? And therefore disposable?”

North of the border, such logic is apparent in the campaign to deport so-called “illegals.”

The work of Tabor House goes on.

Emilia Requeses Garcia, 60, a nun for 24 years and a resident of Juarez for 29 years, works in the women’s movement and helps children with their schoolwork two days a week.

Sister Betty, 76, is “as active as ever with women in the surrounding parishes and recently with chickens in our backyard.”

Father Hinde, 87, helps with Sunday Mass in chapels nearby, serves on the board of Christians for Peace in El Salvador, accompanying clergy and medical doctors who go there, and does book reviews for “The Carmelite Review” of the Chicago Province.

“Those of us at Tabor intend to hang in here with our friends as long as life permits,” Father Hinde said.

Conferencia Carismatica “Ven, Espíritu Santo, llena los corazones de tus fieles”

July 23-24 – Starting Friday at 7:00 p.m. with Mass and on Saturday at 8:30 a.m. at Our Lady of the Gulf, Port Lavaca, with Fr. Alberto Lilo-Luemba, CICM, from Diocese of Brownsville

National gathering of Hispanic Catholics to meet in Chicago

CHICAGO—Hundreds of Catholic leaders and dozens of national associations that serve Hispanics in the United States will gather in Chicago for the National Congress on Hispanic Ministry “Roots and Wings 2010,” the fourth such gathering in the United States.

The current immigration situation and the high level of school dropouts among Hispanics are two of the topics to be discussed at the national congress.

The National Congress on Hispanic Ministry “Roots and Wings 2010” is expected to be an extraordinary gathering of Catholic organizations, leaders, and individuals from across the United States involved in Hispanic ministry. This gathering will provide the opportunity to celebrate, reflect on how the Catholic Church serves the Hispanics of the United States, carry out theological reflection, and look toward the future with concrete ways of responding to the needs of the Hispanic community.

“Roots and Wings 2010” is organized by the National Catholic Council for Hispanic Ministry (NCCHM), a voluntary

and independent umbrella association of national and regional Hispanic ministry organizations.

At a regional level, DePaul University, Catholic Theological Union, Notre Dame University (IN) and ESFOR (the Hispanic youth ministry formation institute of the Archdiocese of Chicago) cosponsor the congress.

The congress is also cosponsored by the American Bible Society, the Mexican American Catholic College (San Antonio), Barry University (Miami), Boston College, Catholic Theological Union (Chicago) and the Jesuit School of Theology of Santa Clara (California).

His Excellency Francis Cardinal George, of Chicago; Most Reverend José Gomez, the newly appointed archbishop coadjutor of Los Angeles (Ca.); and the Most Reverend Jaime Soto, bishop of Sacramento, Ca., and chairman of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops’ Secretariat of Cultural Diversity in the Church and chairman of the board of the Catholic Legal Immigration Network, are among the bishops scheduled



MARIAN TRIDUUM CELEBRATED—San Roberto Bellarmine Catholic Daughters Court #2275 celebrated a three-day Marian Triduum honoring our Lady. Our Lady is and always will be our advocate; she never tires of praying for us. Her message has always been “Prayer and Conversion.” How easy and yet how difficult it is to do this simple act of prayer? The San Roberto Bellarmine CDA vice-regent, Terri Beltran, personally thanks the CDA members, Father Matula, the parishioners and the children who came out the entire three days to pray the rosary. “What an honor it is to be able to PRAY in this great country,” she said. “Thank you to Father Matula, because without his ‘Yes,’ we would not be able to do the Marian Triduum.” She also thanks the parishioners who continue to support the CDA efforts, and the children, Alejandro and Seleine Mujica, who had the honor of crowning our Lady.

Hispanos Católicos de todo el país se reunirán en Chicago

Cientos de líderes católicos y docenas de asociaciones nacionales que sirven a los hispanos de los Estados Unidos se reunirán en Chicago para celebrar el Congreso

Nacional del Ministerio Hispano “Raíces y Alas 2010”, el cuarto encuentro de este tipo en los Estados Unidos.

La inmigración y el alto porcentaje de abandono escolar entre los hispanos son dos de los temas de actualidad que abordará el Congreso Nacional “Raíces y Alas 2010”.

El Congreso Nacional del Ministerio Hispano “Raíces y Alas 2010” será un extraordinario encuentro de organizaciones, líderes e individuos católicos involucrados en el ministerio hispano procedentes de todos los Estados y Puerto Rico. Este congreso ofrecerá la oportunidad de celebrar, reflexionar sobre la realidad actual del servicio a los hispanos por parte de la Iglesia Católica en los Estados Unidos, realizar reflexión teológica y dirigirse al futuro con acciones concretas para responder a las necesidades de la comunidad hispana.

El Congreso Nacional “Raíces y Alas 2010” ha sido organizado por el Consejo Nacional Católico para el Ministerio Hispano (NCCHM, por sus siglas en

inglés), una asociación independiente que agrupa a organizaciones de carácter nacional y regional dedicadas al ministerio hispano. “Raíces y Alas 2010” está siendo organizado en colaboración con el Secretariado de Diversidad Cultural en la Iglesia, de la Conferencia de Obispos Católicos de los Estados Unidos (USCCB).

A nivel regional, está copatrocinado por DePaul University, Catholic Theological Union, Notre Dame University (IN) y ESFOR (Escuela de Formación en Pastoral Juvenil Hispana de la Arquidiócesis de Chicago).

También está copatrocinado por la American Bible Society, Barry University (Miami), Boston College, Jesuit School of Theology of Santa Clara (California) y Mexican American Catholic College (MACC) (San Antonio).

Su eminencia, el Cardenal Francis George, de Chicago; el excelentísimo José Gómez, el recién instalado arzobispo coadjutor de Los Angeles, CA; y el excelentísimo Jaime Soto, obispo de Sacramento, CA, y presidente del Comité de Diversidad Cultural en la Iglesia de la Conferencia de Obispos Católicos de los Estados Unidos y presidente de la junta directiva de la Catholic Legal Immigration Network son algunos de los obispos que se tiene previsto participen en el Congreso Nacional “Raíces y Alas 2010”.

Los asistentes al Congreso Nacional representan organizaciones y asociaciones nacionales y locales, y sus miembros, dedicadas al ministerio hispano; oficinas diocesanas y regionales; organizaciones y movimientos laicos católicos hispanos y sus miembros; párrocos y sus feligreses; individuos que sirven con y a hispanos; y todos aquellos comprometidos con el ministerio hispano.

El Congreso Nacional del Ministerio Hispano “Raíces y Alas 2010” se celebrará en el área metropolitana de Chicago, en el hotel Hyatt Regency O’Hare, en Rosemont, IL. Los líderes, organizaciones nacionales y sus miembros están invitados a participar del 23 al 26 de septiembre, 2010. Los parroquianos, movimientos y demás personas están invitados a participar en los talleres el 25 y 26 de septiembre, 2010.

El Consejo Nacional Católico para la Pastoral Hispana (NCCHM) es una red y foro nacional para la promoción religiosa, social, profesional y cívica de la comunidad católica hispana de los Estados Unidos. Visite su página digital www.ncchm.org.

to participate.

Participants will represent national and local Hispanic ministry organizations, associations, and their members; diocesan and regional offices; Hispanic Catholic lay organizations; Catholic lay movements; pastors and their parishioners; individuals ministering with and to Hispanics; and anyone committed to Hispanic ministry.

The National Congress on Hispanic Ministry “Roots and Wings 2010” will take place at the Hyatt Regency O’Hare, in Rosemont, Ill.

The participants from national and regional organizations will meet on September 23-26, 2010, and pastors, parishioners and other interested persons will meet on September 25-26, 2010.

The National Catholic Council for Hispanic Ministry (NCCHM) is a national network and forum for the religious, social, professional and civic advancement of Roman Catholic Hispanics in the United States.

Visit www.ncchm.org to learn about NCCHM’s goals, objectives and current members.



Living in God's Embrace - Aug. 7

HALLETTSVILLE—Have you had a profound retreat or spiritual experience? Are you stressed from the pressures of day-to-day life and the happenings of the world around you? You are not alone, and help could be on its way.

A day of spiritual renewal will be held on Saturday, August 7, 2010, from 8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. at Sacred Heart Parish Family Center in Hallettsville, Texas. Anyone from the Victoria Diocese who seeks a deeper relationship with God and desires to know more about prayer and Catholic Spirituality will benefit from this day of renewal. You will learn how to live in God's Embrace in the daily circumstances of your life.

This day of renewal will be offered by Michael Fonseca, the director of Adult Spiritual Formation for the Diocese of Gaylord, Michigan. Michael has been the facilitator for Spiritual Formation in the Diaconate Program for the Diocese of Victoria for the past 11 years. He will

provide a healthy mix of input and prayer sessions. There will be time for questions, and the Sacrament of Reconciliation will be offered.

Bishop Fellhauer has endorsed this program, as do Fathers Gabriel Maison and John Peters, pastors respectively of St. Joseph's Church in Moulton, and Sacred Heart Church in Hallettsville. Please consider prayerfully this invitation.

There is no cost to attend this program; however, you can make a good-will offering to help this ministry if you so desire. You may brown bag your own lunch, or something will be available for you to purchase that day.

Anyone interested in attending this event may contact any of the following: Michael Fonseca (michaelfonseca@verizon.net); Kenneth Fishbeck (kwfishbeck@sbcglobal.net) or 361-596-4650; Bill Briscoe (briscoe3@cvctx.com) or 979-263-5212; or Deacon John McCourt (johnmc16@verizon.net) or 979-968-

Retreat featuring Father Rolheiser to be held Oct. 15 – 17

Spirit Wind Ministry is pleased to present a weekend retreat led by lecturer, columnist and author Father Ronald Rolheiser October 15-17, 2010, at the Spiritual Renewal Center in the Diocese of Victoria.

The theme will be "Entering the Soul through Stories – Spirituality and Self-understanding through the Biblical, the Analogical, the Metaphoric, the Archetypal and the Poetic."

Nothing breaks open our self-understanding and shows us the inner workings of the soul as clearly as does a good story. Some of the stories that help us understand ourselves most deeply come from our own lives, others from Scripture, others from ancient wells of mythology, and still others from great writers and poets, past and present. This retreat will use stories, sacred and profane, old and new, to try to provide tools for us to shine a beam of light into our souls to see more clearly what happens there.

Father Rolheiser is currently serving as president of the Oblate School of Theology in San Antonio. His books, including "The Shattered Lantern," "The Holy Longing" and "The Restless Heart," are popular throughout the English-speaking

world, and his weekly column is carried by more than 60 newspapers worldwide. For additional information on Father Rolheiser, visit his Web site at www.rolheiser.com.

The retreat cost is \$170 per person for double occupancy. There may be a limited amount of single rooms (\$190) available depending on the size of the retreat but there is no guarantee. You may request a single and if one should become available the extra \$20 can be paid upon arrival.

The retreat begins Friday evening and ends with lunch on Sunday. Space is limited and will be reserved in the order of deposits (\$50/non-refundable). Balance due September 1. Retreat fees (less deposit) refundable until Sept. 1, but no refunds after that date.

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 e-mail address with your deposit. For additional information contact Susan Oakley at (361) 576-1515/ (361) 649-6391 or e-mail: smoak53@msn.com.

Smartphone applications integrate prayer life with daily technology

Continued from p. 13

saint of cancer, artists, flying or mail delivery is only an index finger away. A quick search results in a wide breadth of information on a particular saint, and users then are able to e-mail it to a friend in need.

PrayerSteward, an application released earlier this month by Safe-t-Technologies LLC, offers an easy way to keep track of prayer intentions.

Once a user makes a promise to remember someone in prayer, it can be added to the PrayerSteward list. The user can set time limits or reminders or e-mail the prayer request to others. More information is available at prayersteward.com, and a quick search on YouTube provides a useful tutorial.

Besides the digital apps, the Daughters of St. Paul have six CDs available for download on iTunes and will soon have books available for e-readers like Amazon's Kindle, Barnes & Noble's Nook and Apple's iPad.

Despite all the apps, smartphones and fancy devices, however, the mission of evangelization for the Daughters of St. Paul — and for the Church — remains the same today as 2,000 years ago in St. Paul's time.

"All of these things are means," Sister Kathryn said. "They are a way to reach out to a lot of people at once. That's really the essence of our mission, to evangelize out."

Pope Benedict XVI's July 2010 Intentions

General – Justice in Electing those who Govern: That in every nation of the world the election of officials may be carried out with justice, transparency and honesty, respecting the free decisions of citizens.

Missionary – An Urban Culture of Justice, Solidarity and Peace: That Christians may strive to offer everywhere, but especially in great urban centers, an effective contribution to the promotion of education, justice, solidarity and peace.

THE POPE SPEAKS

Pope Benedict XVI



CNS photo from Reuters

Pope says Year for Priests became "summons to purification"

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Pope Benedict XVI said the Year for Priests might have been ruined by the clerical sex abuse scandal, but instead became a "summons to purification" in the Church.

Concelebrating Mass June 11 with some 15,000 priests, the pope said that "the enemy," Satan, wants to drive God out of the world and opposes those who work to ensure that God is at the side of every man and woman, especially in times of trouble. "And so it happened that, in this very year of joy for the sacrament of the priesthood, the sins of priests came to light — particularly the abuse of the little ones, in which the priesthood, whose task is to manifest God's concern for our good, turns into its very opposite," the pope said in his homily at the Mass concluding the Year for Priests.

The priests, 80 cardinals and 350 bishops and archbishops, who were sitting under the hot sun in St. Peter's Square, signaled their agreement with the pope's statement by applauding. The Vatican said the liturgy marked the largest concelebra-

tion ever held at the Vatican.

Addressing the abuse scandal in his homily, Pope Benedict said the Catholic Church begs forgiveness from God and "from the persons involved, while promising to do everything possible to ensure that such abuse will never occur again."

In admitting men to the seminary and priesthood, he said, "we will do everything we can to weigh the authenticity of their vocation and make every effort to accompany priests along their journey, so that the Lord will protect them and watch over them in troubled situations and amid life's dangers."

The priests and bishops, who turned St. Peter's Square into a sea of white albs and stoles, were well aware of the scandal and of the shadow of doubt it cast over the Catholic priesthood.

But, the pope said, "Let us look upon all that happened as a summons to purification," the pope said. He then led the priests in the solemn renewal of their priestly promises to be faithful ministers of Christ, working not for their own interests, but for the good of all men and women.

What is Spiritual Direction and Directed Retreats?

Continued from p. 7

tor, you and your director will discern and decide if you are right for each other. If not, you should look for another director.

Cindy: Is there a fee for spiritual direction?

Sr. Digna: No, there is not a fee; however, people offer a stipend or donation for spiritual direction.

Cindy: What is a directed retreat and how does this differ from other retreats?

Sr. Digna: An individually directed retreat involves first the Lord, second the retreatant, and third the retreat director. Conference or preached retreats are aimed at the general situation of a number of people and private retreats are sometimes made by experienced retreatants on their own without the assistance of an experienced spiritual guide. On the other hand, individually directed retreats are tailored to suit the unique calling and experience of an individual through the assistance of an experienced spiritual guide.

Cindy: What does an individual directed retreat entail?

Sr. Digna: Once daily while on the retreat, a retreatant will meet individually with the director. The rest of the time is spent in meditation and other activities designed to deepen an awareness of God and one's relationship with God. These activities are solitary and contemplative and can include journaling, reading, listening to music or walking. The number, nature, and length of periods of formal prayer each day will depend upon the ability and needs of the individual, as will the length of the retreat itself. Most people make retreats of five to eight days in length. It is strongly recommended that a directed retreat be a minimum of at least three, full days since it takes some time just to slow down and get into the silence.

Cindy: Are there any opportunities for a directed retreat in Victoria?

Sr. Digna: As far as I know, there is

not an opportunity at the present time for the general public to make a directed retreat. A directed retreat is offered at Incarnate Word Convent each summer for six sisters. However, the Incarnate Word sisters do plan to offer these retreats in the future at Amor Meus when the facilities are prepared for overnight retreats.

Cindy: How are you preparing for this ministry?

Sr. Digna: In addition to my studies at Creighton, I will have to direct three persons this coming year with supervision each month. I will also have to direct two persons for an eight-day directed retreat and be supervised each day of the retreat. I plan to find a Jesuit retreat center where I can do this.

Cindy: If someone wanted to ask you if you would be their spiritual director, how would they go about doing this?

Sr. Digna: After August 8, they could call me at (361) 573-0828 or e-mail me at dvela@victoriadiocese to get more information about spiritual direction or to set up an appointment to talk about this.

(400): Georgetown University, founded in 1789

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Elizabeth Disco-Shearer (l.), associate national executive director of the South Central Region of the National Council of the United States Society of St. Vincent de Paul, Inc., assists Angela Smoker and her son, Willie Samuels. (below) Society of St. Vincent de Paul members help deliver hurricane relief supplies to 55 families still suffering from Hurricane Ike damage.



Hurricane Ike assistance continues nearly two years later

The East Texas Catholic ~ Diocese of Beaumont

BEAUMONT, Texas—The Society of St. Vincent de Paul delivered furniture and appliances to 55 families still in need of assistance due to Hurricane Ike damage in Jefferson and Hardin counties June 12-13, 2010, as part of a Celebration of Vincentians in Action.

The organization began helping victims immediately after the storm hit Southeast Texas in September 2008 and has continued ever since. SVdP members from throughout Texas gathered at Our Mother

of Mercy, Beaumont, each morning to load up and deliver, person to person, service to those still in need.

Angela Smoker's family was among the 55 families to receive furniture over the weekend. She said she couldn't believe the organization was helping so much. Smoker continues to struggle nearly two years after Ike. Her roof continues to leak and up until the furniture was delivered her children were sleeping on borrowed beds.

"Yes!" was heard from Smoker's daughter Jakala Samuels as her mattress was moved into their home.

New Web site highlights Catholic Church's significant role in immigration

WASHINGTON—The United States Conference of Catholic Bishops' Migration and Refugee Services (USCCB/MRS) has partnered with The Catholic University of America to develop an educational Web site that highlights the significant role that the U.S. Catholic bishops and the institutional Church in the United States have played on immigration related issues, especially since the early twentieth century. The Web site, "U.S. Catholic Bishops and Immigration," can be found at <http://libraries.cua.edu/achrcua/packets.html>.

For more than 80 years the Catholic Church in the United States, through the successive variations of what today is the USCCB, has provided a strong, institutional presence in support of immigrants and in favor of more just immigration laws.

"This story has not been widely shared

in the past but it is important to do so now," said Todd Scribner, education outreach coordinator at MRS. "The bishops have long been committed to helping immigrant communities, both through the provision of services and through tireless advocacy on their behalf."

This Web site will facilitate access to primary documents that help to highlight these efforts and an expansive narrative that will provide the historical context necessary to understand the importance of these documents. In addition, there will be a number of other educational tools that students, faculty and researchers can use. Diocesan and parish directors of religious education and social concerns may also find this Web site to be a useful resource when highlighting immigration and the role of the U.S. Catholic Church in this issue in recent decades.

Catholic media has role in building up unity of believers, prelate says

NEW ORLEANS (CNS) — Catholic media "should strive to build up the unity of believers" and also must speak "to those who are not members of our community," the head of the Pontifical Council for Social Communications said in a speech in New Orleans June 4. Archbishop Claudio Celli made the remarks during the closing banquet at the Catholic Media Convention, sponsored by the Catholic Press Association of the U.S. and Canada and the Catholic Academy for Communication Arts Professionals. The archbishop attended the entire June 2-4 convention, including a dialogue session between North American bishops and Catholic media professionals. A fundamental element of the identity of the Catholic media is that it "has a particular role to play in the church's basic mission of evangelization," he said at the banquet. "The communication of the good news of God's love for all people, as expressed in the life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ, is what unifies and makes sense of all the other aspects of the life of the church," he said.

are holding weeks-long prayer vigils. Still others are steering clear of commenting on the law, but have stepped up their activities in support of national immigration reform legislation. In early June, the superiors of each of the nine U.S. Jesuit conferences sent a letter to President Barack Obama and members of Congress pressing for immediate reform. "With the new Arizona law, there is a real risk that life on our national borders will become subject to a patchwork of state responses," said Jesuit Father Thomas H. Smolich, president of the Jesuit Conference of the United States, in a statement accompanying the letter. "Congress is faced with both a constitutional and a moral imperative to act." A week later, leaders of nine major conservative evangelical churches or institutions at a press conference in the Capitol made a similar call to action by Congress, with an added emphasis on tying such steps as legalization to prerequisites to control illegal traffic across the Mexican border. Meanwhile, the Interfaith Immigration Coalition has organized a national solidarity vigil and fast, running from June 6 to July 28, the date Arizona's legislation is scheduled to take effect. The coalition's members include Lutheran, Mennonite, Jewish, Islamic, Sikh and Unitarian groups as well as Franciscans, Jesuits, Sisters of Mercy, Pax Christi USA and Network, a Catholic social justice lobby.

Faith groups across the spectrum taking up call for immigration reform

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Across the faith spectrum this year, from the Sojourners to the Ethics and Religious Liberty Commission of the Southern Baptists, prayer, education and advocacy are being taken up for the cause of immigration reform. Arizona's passage in April of a law making it a crime to be in the state without immigration documents has spurred a range of actions by churches, including some that decided to move their conventions out of the state and others that

In the midst of his suffering, Job said: "I know that my Redeemer is alive, and that at the end he will rise up upon the earth. After I awake, he will set me beside him."

— Job 19:25-26

MORAVIA ASCENSION PARISH PICNIC

MORAVIA, FM 957 & FM 532
Sunday, July 18

MASS: MORAVIA: Sunday - 10:00 a.m.

DINNER 11:00 a.m.

STEW & FRIED CHICKEN

ADMISSION: Adults \$7.00 - Children \$4.00 & TRIMMINGS
Drive-thru Plates To Go From 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. \$7.00

COUNTRY STORE
TOY WALK,
DUNKING BOOTH &
GAMES



Cake Walk
12:00 Noon
BINGO
Lic.#17461806097
1:30-5:30 p.m.

AUCTION SALE AT 1:00 P.M.

Hamburgers, Refreshments and Entertainment on the Moravia Parish Picnic Grounds

MUSIC DURING THE DAY AND NIGHT BY

ENNIS CZECH BOYS
TEXAS SOUND CHECK

EVERYBODY WELCOME - FUN FOR ALL!

Prize Drawing
8:00 P.M.

Abortion and Federal Funds

A new GAO report shows that organizations performing or promoting abortion received nearly \$1 billion in federal funds between 2002 and 2009.

Organization	Federal Funds Received (in millions)
PLANNED PARENTHOOD FEDERATION OF AMERICA	\$657.1
POPULATION COUNCIL OF THE UNITED STATES	\$284.3
GUTTMACHER INSTITUTE	\$12.7
ADVOCATES FOR YOUTH	\$8.7
INTERNATIONAL PLANNED PARENTHOOD FEDERATION	\$3.9
SEXUALITY INFORMATION AND EDUCATION COUNCIL OF THE UNITED STATES	\$3.3

Source: Government Accountability Office

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Pope becomes first person to register for 2011 World Youth Day

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Pope Benedict XVI became the first person to register for the international World Youth Day gathering in Spain next year. The pope kicked off the registration process at a meeting July 2 with Cardinal Antonio Rouco Varela of Madrid and other organizers of the event. In a talk to the group, the pope said the gathering offers young people a great opportunity to know Jesus Christ and learn to trust his guidance in their lives. They will also be able to share their values and aspirations with others from around the world, united by “the desire to build a better world inspired by Gospel values,” he said. The World Youth Day international gathering is to be held in the Spanish capital Aug. 16-21, 2011. Pope Benedict will join the young people for a vigil Aug. 20 and Mass Aug. 21. The pope told the Spanish cardinal the event “is not just a mass gathering but a privileged occasion for the young of your country and of the entire world to allow themselves to be conquered by the love of Christ Jesus, the Son of God and of Mary, the faithful friend, the victor over sin and death.”

Pope to visit England

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — The Vatican confirmed Pope Benedict XVI's visit to the United Kingdom, where he will meet Queen Elizabeth II and beatify Cardinal John Henry Newman during his four-day visit Sept. 16-19.

Italy appeals European court ban on crucifixes in classrooms

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Italy defended the display of the crucifix in public schools before Europe's human rights court, arguing that it is a symbol of the country's cultural heritage and not an imposition of religious belief on students. In a hearing June 30 before the appeals body of the European Court of Human Rights in Strasbourg, France, a representative for the Italian government urged the court to overturn a November 2009 ruling that banned the custom as a violation of religious freedom. The issue has potentially enormous

Catholic high school graduates likely to attend college, says report

Continued from p. 20

The recently published book, “The Death and Life of the Great American School System” by Diane Ravitch, also credits Catholic schools for their successful graduation and college attendance rates.

An April 30 article about her book in The New York Times said Ravitch's views about public schools are influenced by her “long study of and admiration for Roman Catholic education, especially in serving low-income black and Hispanic students.”

In Ravitch's view, Catholic

consequences as Europe grapples with increasing secularism and a significant influx of other religions such as Islam through immigration. Nicola Lettieri, a magistrate, argued that the crucifix was a symbol of Italian cultural heritage and history and should not be considered a religious imposition when displayed in classrooms. The case challenging such a display was brought before the European court by a Finnish-born Italian citizen who said that her two children's religious and educational freedom in a school in northern Italy was compromised by the presence of crucifixes. Her attempts to have them removed from the classroom through the Italian judicial system were unsuccessful.

Women's economic empowerment key to family and society, nuncio says

UNITED NATIONS (CNS) — Women's economic empowerment is essential for the economic development of families and society, Archbishop Celestino Migliore said July 1. “Tragically, violence against women, especially in the home and workplace, and discrimination in the professional field, even on the pay and pension scale, are growing concerns,” the Vatican's U.N. nuncio told leaders of the world body. “Through adequate legal frameworks and national policies, perpetrators of violence must be brought to justice and women must be afforded rehabilitation. Women and girls must be guaranteed their full enjoyment of civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights including equal access to education and health,” he said. Archbishop Migliore delivered the statement to the U.N. Economic and Social Council during a session about implementing international goals for women's equality and empowerment. He said it was particularly important to discuss women's empowerment before the World Summit on the Millennium Development Goals — targets set by the world's nations for reducing poverty and improving the standard of living of the world's poorest people. The summit will be at the United Nations Sept. 20-22. Archbishop Migliore noted that ever since world leaders committed their governments to the development goals, “some remarkable progress has been achieved in mainstreaming women's perspectives in development both in multilateral and national policies.”

schools serve as a model because they “never gave over to the obsession with standardized tests” and “never conceded their curriculum to progressive trends like whole language, constructivist math and relativistic history.”

“As a result,” she added, “black and Hispanic students in Catholic schools did not necessarily score higher than those in public schools on standardized tests like the SAT, but they were far more likely to take rigorous classes, graduate on time and attend college.”

Vatican prepares revisions to 2001 sex abuse norms

By John Thavis
Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — The Vatican is preparing to update the 2001 norms that deal with priestly sex abuse of minors, in effect codifying practices that have been in place for several years. While the changes are not “earthshaking,” they will ultimately strengthen the church's efforts to identify and discipline priests who abuse minors, the sources said. The revisions will be published with ample documentation and will be accompanied by a glossary of church law terms, aimed at helping nonexperts understand the complex rules and procedures that the Vatican has in place for dealing with sex abuse allegations.

The revisions were expected to extend the church law's statute of limitations on accusations of sexual abuse, from 10 years after the alleged victim's 18th birthday to 20 years. For several

years, Vatican officials have been routinely granting exceptions to the 10-year statute of limitations. The revisions also make it clear that use of child pornography would fall under the category of clerical sexual abuse of minors. In 2009, the Vatican determined that any instance of a priest downloading child pornography from the Internet would be a form of serious abuse that a bishop must report to the doctrinal congregation, which oversees cases of sexual abuse.

The revised norms modify the procedures for priestly sex abuse cases that were promulgated by Pope John Paul II in 2001, when he classified sexual abuse of a minor by a priest as one of the “most grave crimes” and giving the doctrinal congregation the power, in some “very grave and clear cases,” to laicize without an ecclesiastical trial priests who have sexually abused minors.

The sources said the Vatican was not preparing to publish

other documents on priestly sex abuse. Although some have argued that some of the strict sex abuse norms adopted by U.S. bishops in 2002 should be universalized, the sources said there was no imminent plan to do that.

Are you ready for Hurricane Season?

June 1 - Nov. 30, 2010

Victoria officials urge you to be prepared. Portions of Victoria County may be required to evacuate during severe hurricane threats.

If you or someone you know needs aid to evacuate prior to a hurricane, Dial 2-1-1 to register for a ride. Pets welcome!

For more information log on to: www.victoriatx.org/oem/index.asp.

SACRED HEART CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL



TAPPS STATE 2A

STATE MUSIC CHAMPIONS

2008 2009 2010 THREE-PEAT



- Amy Klimtchek
- Carly Osina
- Megan Pavlicek
- Amanda Shimek
- Whitney Snider
- Tesse Stoner
- Amaris Wick
- Katelynd Allen
- Alexandra Bludau
- Collin Brewer
- Roger DeLaRosa
- Ariel Fojt
- Haylee Grahmann
- Daniel Halata
- Cameron Heger
- James Hemmi
- Mogan Meyer
- Jordan Pettus
- Olivia Raphael
- Destiny Ruthart
- Charles Steffek
- Jeffrey Tuttle
- Jamie Vanek
- Cole Bludau
- Kelsie Buchanan
- Jordyn Hicks
- Hannah Hines
- Nathan Hollas
- Emily Kossa
- Shelby McElroy
- Caitlin Orsak
- Nickolas Patalik

If our children are going to become academically strong, it would reason they should be spending time in the presence of other successful students...

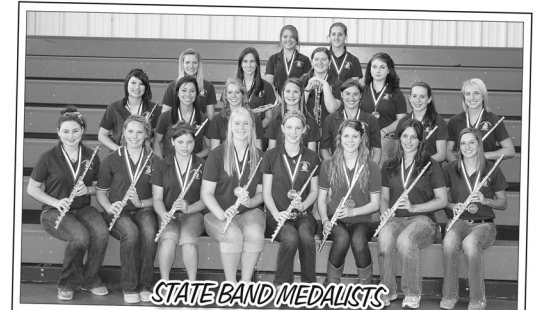
Students in music are scoring 20 to 40 points higher on SAT tests, and the longer a student participates in the school music program, the higher the SAT scores. There is a strong correlation between music and disciplines of science and math - music uses the same reasoning processes.

And the social requirements of group effort and communication, along with the development of motor skills, are an integral part of every music lesson. Many have said that their musical background helped to develop the “forgotten side of the brain.” For music encourages us to use acquired knowledge to deal with various aspects of life: values, ethics, creative decision making and problem solving.

Music develops the appetite for learning and creates habits of self-discipline and personal tenacity which carry over into every facet of school. Young musicians are skilled at concentration, alertness, memory, and self-control. These attributes are basic for success in higher education, but more importantly, in succeeding at life.

Excerpts from “The Value of Music”
By Tim Lautzenheiser
Attitude Concepts for Today

- Shelby Rivers
- Shyanne Schlauch
- Emily Seyl
- Drew Shimek
- Amber Smolik
- Cole Wick
- Kelly Wick
- Sandra Adams
- MacKenzie Bell
- Cade Brewer
- Jenna Brown
- Alex DeLaRosa
- Kirsten Heger
- Marianne Herndon
- Lauten Huser
- MacKenzie Kennedy
- Adrienne Klimtchek
- Ariane Kubena
- Christopher Kunz
- Amber Labay
- Matthew Mason
- Robyn Pavlicek
- Leighth Pilat
- Anna Reardon
- Brier Shimek
- Brady Sitka
- Hailey Smith
- Katelyn Snider
- Tyler Wagner
- Ashley Zimmerman
- William Harrison
Band Director



www.shschool.org



Capital Comments

By Maria Huemmer
Public Relations and
Outreach Coordinator
Texas Catholic conference



A Government of the People, for the People, by the People

During July we celebrate Independence Day and the inception of the United States. Religion and faith influenced our Founding Fathers as the ink dried on the Declaration of Independence, and that influence still continues today.

There is a common misconception that the US Constitution requires a separation of church and state. The Constitution actually protects the freedom of religion by prohibiting the state from establishing a specific religion or preventing the people from practicing their religion. As Catholics we have a right and a responsibility to act as Faithful Citizens, and we are blessed to live in a country where we can do so publicly. But what does our faith teach about the responsibilities of the state?

The Catechism of the Catholic Church affirms that every human community needs an authority to govern it and that it is the role of the state to defend and promote the common good of civil society (CCC 1898, 1927).

The Common Good consists of three essential elements (paraphrased from CCC 1906-1910):

Respect for the person - public authorities must respect the fundamental and inalienable rights of the human person.

Social well-being and development of the group - it is the proper function of authority to arbitrate, in the name of the common good, between various particular interests; but it should make accessible to each what is needed to lead a truly human life: food, clothing, health, work, education and culture, suitable information, the right to establish a family, and so on.

Peace - stability and security of a just order.

Furthermore, the political community has a duty to honor the family by ensuring the protection of marriage, the freedom

to raise children according to one's moral and religious convictions, the right to private property, free enterprise, work and housing, medical care, assistance for the aged, family benefits, and the protection of security and health (paraphrased from CCC 2211).

It is not the sole responsibility of the individual or the Church to act charitably toward the poor and vulnerable in our midst. The Church, individuals, businesses, nonprofits, other organizations, and government must all work to promote the common good in our society.

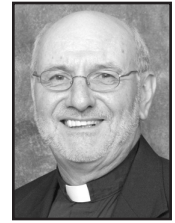
With references to "Washington," "the Feds," and "Big Brother," we may be inclined to forget that the government is not an inanimate object, but rather institutions created of, for, and by the people. In our prayers and advocacy, let us never forget that those working in government are first and foremost children of God, and that they share our call to promote justice.

In teaching about state authority, the Catechism includes the Church's most ancient prayer for political authorities from Pope St. Clement of Rome: "Grant to them, Lord, health, peace, concord, and stability, so that they may exercise without offense the sovereignty that you have given them. Master, heavenly King of the ages, you give glory, honor, and power over the things of earth to the sons of men. Direct, Lord, their counsel, following what is pleasing and acceptable in your sight, so that by exercising with devotion and in peace and gentleness the power that you have given to them, they may find favor with you (CCC 1900)."

If you don't have a Catechism of the Catholic Church, you can order, or read, it online here www.usccb.org/catechism. For more information on Catholic Advocacy, visit www.TXcatholic.org.

Cradle of Life

By Father John S. Rausch



Gulf Oil Spill

The pictures of oil encrusted seagulls and cranes from the Gulf of Mexico glimpse only the surface of the death and destruction beneath the sea from the Deepwater Horizon/BP oil spill. Marine biologists fear for shrimp, oysters, crabs and untold varieties of fish endangered by the oil assault on the fragile ecosystem. The wetlands of Louisiana, a critical spawning ground for many species, present the next worry.

Our addiction to oil keeps 7,000 oil platforms with 35,000 wells in the Gulf pumping crude to fuel our lifestyle of mobility and convenience. Yet, federal statistics reveal 172 spills of more than 2,100 gallons in the Gulf over the last decade. The effects of the Exxon Valdez spill still linger in the coastal habitat two decades later along the Alaskan shoreline. Our petroleum economy with its drilling, shipping, refining and burning oil is killing the planet locally with poisoned water and air and globally with accelerated climate change.

While secular publications raise the issues of economic impact and legal liability, people of faith are reflecting on phrases like "common good," "solidarity" and "care of creation." The National Catholic Rural Life Conference (NCRLC) issued a statement encouraging people of faith to "ask for the wisdom to live in harmony with God's plan and the courage to serve as stewards of God's creation." The statement implies our ordinary economic ways disregard God's plan, especially when rural residents and the environment pay the price. (Disclosure: as board member, I contributed to the statement.)

Carelessly we ignored essential moral principles and consequently invited disaster. All workers have a right to a safe workplace, yet we complacently allow workers to risk their lives to supply our energy from oil rigs and coal mines. Eleven men died in the Gulf rig explosion when

only two weeks before 29 miners died in West Virginia's Upper Big Branch Mine. The global economy demands productivity and profits, producing a corporate culture that occasions short-cuts and negligence. Regulations go unenforced and workers give their lives for a paycheck. Bishop Michael Bransfield of the Wheeling-Charleston Diocese in his pastoral letter, "On My Holy Mountain," asks: "Why is it safer to travel in space than to work in a West Virginia mine?"

Extractive industries, now virtually controlled by giant corporations, operate for the enrichment of their stockholders. With a "least cost" incentive, frequently their methods reduce the rural area to a sacrificial resource colony. In the Gulf those whose livelihoods revolve around fishing or tourism just got sacrificed. In Appalachia community people whose lives and well-being depend on their well water and forests just lost to mountaintop removal.

Care of creation comes directly from the Book of Genesis when God put humanity in the garden "to care and cultivate it" (Gen. 2:15). God's garden, i.e. creation, needs attention because it possesses inherent worth. God found it "very good" (Gen. 1:31), and not just "useful."

The NCRLC statement recommends that "we reflect about our own lifestyles that make undue demands on nature." The U.S. with 4.5 percent of the world's population uses 33 percent of all electricity generated each year and consumes 42 percent of gasoline refined. How many vacant parking lots are illuminated all night, and how many computers are on "sleep mode" all weekend?

"In these days of anxiety, we encourage people of faith to assemble for prayer and sharing," says the NCRLC statement. The Gulf folks need one another's support, but the whole church needs to ratchet up care of creation to a higher ranking in the Gospel of Life.

Moving from tolerating to welcoming

By Stephen Kent
Catholic News Service

It has been his experience for about three decades when meeting persons with no religious affiliation, the homilist said, that "not one of them ever said they do not like Jesus."

"On the other hand," he continued, "quite a few told me they do not like Christians."

We model God as we perceive God to

be, he said. Jesus acted with compassion and mercy in his earthly ministry, for that is how he perceived God.

One reason some Christians might not be liked is that they are seen as not being models of Christ.

That homily came to mind when reflecting on the current immigration issue. As Christians we should be offering hospitality, not just acceptance. We are called to higher things, to excel.

The president of the Pontifical Council

for the Pastoral Care of Migrants and Itinerant People made this point at a regional conference on migration in Washington, D.C., earlier this month.

"Offering hospitality grows out of our effort to be faithful to God, to hear God's voice in the Scriptures and in the people around us," said Archbishop Antonio Maria Veglio. "Welcome, compassion and equal treatment are all part of an appropriate Christian response, which will break down social barriers. ...

"It requires an openness of heart, a willingness to make one's life visible to others, and a generosity of time and resources," said Archbishop Veglio.

Hospitality goes far beyond not discriminating, not imposing harsh and restrictive laws, not breaking up families.

The Christian response to migration goes beyond the boundaries of minimally acceptable treatment of migrants - and even that can't seem to be done in the United States.

Politicians are certainly not appealing to the higher good these days with their calls for more punitive laws, more walls as they react to "voter anger" as though thoughtless anger is worthy of response.

"Sometimes we cling so tenaciously to our political positions that we refuse to cross over to the other side of the road, with the result being a circumventing of

the demands of the Gospel, as well as lost opportunities to address the pressing needs of our neighbors," Bishop Joseph Galante of Camden, N.J., said in an April statement on immigration reform.

Jesus acted with compassion and mercy in his earthly ministry, for that is how he perceived God. Not just to tolerate the stranger but to welcome.

Crossing a border illegally or remaining in this country illegally does not eliminate a person's human dignity.

Advocating for change in laws to protect human dignity is the minimal requirement, not seeking amnesty nor open borders but reasonable immigration policies that serve the common good.

The best method of managing immigration is to reduce the reason for emigration by reducing the economic disparity between Mexico and the United States. But that solution will not happen soon.

Spending a billion dollars for a militarized, walled border is not the long-term solution. Walls - whether in Berlin, the Great Wall of China, the Maginot Line and others - have proven their ineffectiveness in keeping citizens in or migrants out.

There can be differences of opinion about methods. But honoring the dignity of the human person and protecting basic human rights is not a matter of opinion. (966): True



St. Joseph Parish Picnic

Yoakum Community Center

Sunday, August 1



Picnic Stew, Sausage & Trimmings

All Plates at \$7 p/p dine-in (air conditioned)
or drive-thru for plates-to-go — Serving begins at 10:30 a.m.
Soft Drinks & Refreshments Available

Register for Raffle Prizes — Total Value \$12,439.95 to be Drawn
Top Prize: 100 silver dollars with a value of \$2,000

Auction 12:30 p.m.
Pyramid Cheese and
Poppyseed Rolls
• Arts & Crafts • Quilts •
• Livestock •
• Many more items •

Horseshoe Tournament • Country Store •
Cakewalk • Games • Pantry Wheel and More!

Mexican Food available in the afternoon.

Annual St. Joseph Alumni Reunion — Sat. July 31
Call the rectory for tickets at (361) 293-3518



Special Collection Retired and Needy Priest of the Diocese September 5 Ongoing Events

St. Francis and St. Clare Fraternity/Secular Franciscans—For meeting dates call Mary Ann LeBlanc at (361) 575-1858.

Marriage Encounter—The Marriage Encounter Weekend is open to married couples, Catholic and non-Catholic. Worldwide Marriage Encounter is designed to make good marriages even better. For more information, see www.wme.org; or for upcoming weekends, please contact Milton and Diane Rejcek at (979) 245-0323 or at: register@mevictoria.org.

Retrouvaille — The word Retrouvaille means 'rediscovery.' It is a program that offers the chance to rediscover yourself, your spouse and a loving relationship in your marriage. Tens of thousands headed for divorce have successfully saved their marriages by attending. Contact Gerd and Linda Conner (979) 543-3493 or (800) 470-2230 for more information. For dates in Texas, please go to www.retrouvaille.org or www.helpourmarriage.org.

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

Natural Family Planning—For English or bilingual sessions of the Sympto-Thermal Method (S-TM) in Palacios, call Rene and Wilma Galvan at (361) 972-5030. Available for counseling and classes. For information about the Sympto-Thermal Method in the Victoria area, contact David and Annie Coffey at zoukoda@yahoo.com. Introductory presentations on the Creighton Model Ovulation Method are offered in Wharton at Our Lady of Mount Carmel Church and in East Bernard at Holy Cross Catholic Church. Please contact Melissa Morse at (979) 335-7306 for more information. To learn more about Natural Family Planning, please go to Natural Family Planning Outreach at: www.nfpoutreach.org. Natural Family Planning is the only church approved form of family planning. If unable to connect with any of these trainers, please contact Father David Berger at frdvbrgr@gmail.com.

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

Engaged Encounter—Register as soon as you have contacted your pastor due to limited space. *It is strongly recommended that you attend an encounter weekend four to six months prior to your wedding date.* For a registration form, contact your pastor, visit the Web site at www.victoriadiocese.org/family/ee.htm, or write to: Engaged Encounter, P.O. Box 4070, Victoria, Texas 77903. The weekend is held at the Spiritual Renewal Center. The dates for 2010 are: Sept. 24-26 and Nov. 19-21; the dates for 2011 are: Feb. 25-27, April 15-17, June 24-26, Sept. 8-11 and Nov. 11-13. For more info., call (361) 573-0828 ext. 30. All registrations are on a first come, first serve basis. Fee must accompany registration form.

Picnics, Activities, etc.

July

Moravia—Ascension of Our Lord Parish Picnic July 18 (located at FM 957 and FM 532) with Mass at 10:00 a.m. A stew and fried-chicken dinner begins at 11:00 a.m. at \$7 p/p for adults and plates-to-go and \$4 for children. There will be a country store, toy walk, dunking booth and cakewalk along with much more. Auction starts at 1:00 p.m. Refreshments and food available throughout the day. Music by the Ennis Czech Boys and Texas Sound Check. For more information see ad on p. 16.

Victoria—Knights of Columbus Council 1329 chicken-barbecue fund-raiser July 18 at the KC Hall. The price is \$6 per chicken. Beans and Spanish rice available for \$1.50 per pint. Sale starts at 8:30 a.m. Proceeds benefit council's projects.

Port O'Connor—Knights of Columbus 9088 annual 3 R's Fishing Tournament July 30-31. For more information contact: Bryan Ellis at (361) 578-0877 or Dennis Lockstedt at (361) 573-9505. Proceeds to go to Nazareth Academy in Victoria. For more information see ad on p. 12.

North East, Pa.—Alumni of the former Saint Mary's Seminary of North East, Pa., are invited to a three-day reunion at the former Redemptorist Fathers' preparatory college and high school from July 30 to Aug. 2, hosted by the school's current owners, Mercyhurst North East. For more information,

go to www.smsreunion2010.com or contact Jack Breslin at jbreslin@iona.edu or phone (914) 632-9805.

Upcoming Events

Boling—St. Joseph Mission will hold its 42nd Annual Bazaar Aug. 1, at the Boling Community Center (CR 162). A barbecue chicken, beef and sausage dinner will be served from 11:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m. with dine-in or drive-thru plates available at \$8 p/p. Live music in the hall and outside from 10:30 a.m.-1:00 p.m. The auction begins at 1:00 p.m. There will also be games a waterslide and much more.

Frelsburg—Sts. Peter and Paul Annual Festival Aug. 1 beginning with Mass at 8:15 a.m. (located at 1031 Church Lane, at FM Road 109). A fried fish dinner will be served starting at 11:00 a.m. at \$8 for a large plate and plates-to-go; \$5 for a small plate (hamburgers, nachos and snacks available after 3:00 p.m.). The auction will begin at 1:00 p.m. There will also be a country store, children's games, cakewalk and more. Music during the day and evening. See p. 8 for more information.

Yoakum—St. Joseph Parish Picnic Aug. 1 at the community center starting at 10:30 a.m. with dinner. Serving picnic stew and sausage dinner with dine-in or plates-to-go available at \$7 p/p. The auction begins at 12:30 p.m. with many items. There will be a horseshoe tournament. For more information see the ad on p. 18.

Palacios—St. Anthony Shrimporee Aug. 1

Weimar—St. Michael Harvest Feast Aug. 8 at the Veteran's Memorial Park. A fried-chicken and stew dinner begins at 11:00 a.m. at \$7 p/p for adults and plates-to-go and \$4 p/p for children 12 and under. There will be entertainment for all: train ride, country store, cakewalk, ring toss and more. Auction starts at 1:00 p.m. Refreshments and food throughout the day. Music by Czechaholics 11:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.; The Red Ravens 3:00-7:00 p.m.; and Southbound 7:00-11:00 p.m. For more information see the ad on p. 5.

Victoria—KJZT #101 will hold a breakfast in honor of their living and deceased members at Our Lady of Victory Cathedral following the 7:30 a.m. Mass Sunday, Aug. 8. Please RSVP at (361) 573-2669.

Hillje—St. Andrew Summer Festival Aug. 15 at the parish hall. A prime-beef barbecue, homemade sausage dinner will be served starting at 11:00 a.m. with dine-in or plates-to-go available at \$7 p/p. Bulk sales will be available at the pit. There will be an indoor auction beginning at 12:30 p.m. Also, a country store, bake sale, cakewalk, music, games and more.

Praha—St. Mary Parish Picnic Aug. 15 on the parish grounds. The day will start with Mass at 10:00 a.m. celebrated by Bishop Fellhauer and visiting priests. Followed by dinner featuring Praha stew and fried-chicken at \$8 p/p with dine-in or plate-to-go available from 11:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m. There will be a country store, bingo (1:00-5:00 p.m. and 6:00-10:00 p.m.), cakewalk, children's games, homemade ice cream and much more. The auction begins at 1:00 p.m. Music throughout the day with Fritz Hodde & the Fabulous Six (11:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. and 3:00-5:00 p.m.); Donnie Wavra Band (1:00-3:00 p.m. and 5:00-7:00 p.m.); Incredible Music Makers (7:00-10:00 p.m.). Hamburgers will be available after 4:00 p.m. For more information contact Charlie Bartos, chairman, at (361) 865-2167 or go to www.stmarys-praha.com.

Cistern—Sts. Cyril and Methodius Parish Annual Homecoming Picnic, Aug. 22 with dine-in or drive-thru plates available. Serving V & V Sausage and fried-chicken with all the trimmings. Music, auction, bingo and games throughout the day. Something for everyone!

Victoria—Our Lady of Victory Boy Scout Troop 364 Annual Barbecue Chicken Dinner Aug. 22 at OLV Cafeteria from 10:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. with dine-in or plates-to-go available. Plates will have half-a-chicken and the trimmings for \$7 p/p. There will also be a bake sale.

High Hill—St. Mary Catholic Church Sesquicentennial Parish Picnic — 150th Anniversary 1860-2010 to be held on Sept. 5. Chicken & Stew Dinner will be served. Visit the newly restored Queen of the Painted Churches. Flag raising ceremony at 9:30 a.m., Mass with Bishop David Fellhauer as celebrant at 10:00 a.m. with San Antonio Liederkrantz Choir, cakewalk at 11:00 a.m., Liederkrantz Performance at 12:30 p.m. The auction and horseshoe tournament begin at 1:00 p.m. There will be a souvenir booth, featuring cookbooks and stained glass art on slate, toy walk, country store, duck pond, ring toss, ball throw, train rides, bingo (Lic. # 3-00-0620320-9) 2:00 — 6:00 p.m.; nachos, hamburger stand, High Hill homemade sausage, sweepstakes drawing at 9:00 p.m. Music during the day by Texas Sound Check and Mark Halata. Free dance at night by Texas Dream. Grand Finale with a Super Spectacular Fireworks Show at 10:00 p.m.. Come join us.

Cuero—Our Lady of Guadalupe Jamaica Sept. 5

Shiner—Sts. Cyril and Methodius Picnic Sept. 5

Hallettsville—Sacred Heart Festival Sept. 5

Nada—St. Mary Picnic Sept. 5

Vanderbilt — St. John Bosco Parish Picnic Sept. 5

Inez — St. Joseph Parish Picnic Sept. 12

Yorktown — Holy Cross Festival Sept. 12

Victoria—Victoria County's Annual Czech Heritage Festival Sept. 26 at the community center. A Czech-English Mass will be celebrated at 9:00 a.m. at Our Lady of Victory Cathedral followed by music, food, museum, arts & crafts, Czech demonstrations and a tarok tournament with much more. Admission is \$5 p/p - under 15 free. More information at www.victoriaczechs.org.

Dallas—Save the date for the Holy Trinity Seminary 2010 Seminarian Welcome Dinner to be held Tuesday, Oct. 5, at the Fairmont Dallas. For more information, please go to <http://www.holytrinityseminary.com>.

Praha—Veterans Memorial Service Nov. 7 at 9:30 a.m.

Masses • Retreats • Conferences

Corpus Christi—A Fullness of Truth Conference featuring Dr. Scott Hahn, Dr. Brant Pitre, Dr. Michael Barber, Dr. John Bergsma, Shawn Carney, and a concert with Eric Genius will be presented at the American Bank Center July 17 and 18. The Theme is "The Mystery Unveiled—A Catholic Approach to the Book of Revelation." Spanish, middle school and high school tracks, childcare and movie night are available. Pre-register by noon July 14 at 877-21-TRUTH or www.FullnessOfTruth.org.

Port Lavaca— Conferencia Carismatica in Memory of Mrs. Lucia R. Ornelas, July 23-24 starting Friday at 7:00 p.m. with Mass and on Saturday at 8:30 a.m. at Our Lady of the Gulf Church with Father Alberto Lilo-Luamba, CICM, from Diocese of Brownsville. The theme will be "Ven, Espiritu Santo, llena los corazones de tus fieles." Music will be by "Voces de Cristo."

Hallettsville—"Living in God's Embrace," a day of spiritual renewal, will be held on Saturday, August 7, 2010, at Sacred Heart Parish Family Center in Hallettsville for anyone from the Victoria Diocese who seeks a deeper relationship with God and desires to know more about prayer and Catholic Spirituality. This day of renewal will be offered by Michael Fonseca, the facilitator for Spiritual Formation in the Diaconate Program for the Diocese of Victoria for the past 11 years. There is no cost to attend; however, a good-will offering will be accepted. Anyone interested in attending may contact any of the following: Michael Fonseca (michaelfonseca@verizon.net); Kenneth Fishbeck (kwfishbeck@sbcglobal.net) or 361-596-4650; Bill Briscoe (brisco3@cvctx.com) or 979-263-5212; or Deacon John McCourt (johnmc16@verizon.net) or 979-968-3408. To learn more, please see story on p. 15.

Victoria SRC—Spirit Wind Ministry is pleased to present a weekend retreat led by Father Ronald Rolheiser October 15-17, 2010, at the Spiritual Renewal Center. The retreat cost is \$170 per person for double occupancy. Space is limited and will be reserved in the order of deposits (\$50 non-refundable). Balance due Sept. 1. To register or to learn more, please see story on p. 15.

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

Tivoli—Our Lady of Guadalupe Church invites you to a Healing Mass and Prayer Service every First Friday of the month at 7:00 p.m. Mass is followed by praise and worship/adoration, healing prayers, praying over, etc. Counseling available. For more information, please contact Rev. Gabriel P. Coelho at (361) 286-3349.

Houston—Coming Events at Holocaust Museum Houston — Education Center and Memorial: www.hmh.org/pc_home.asp.

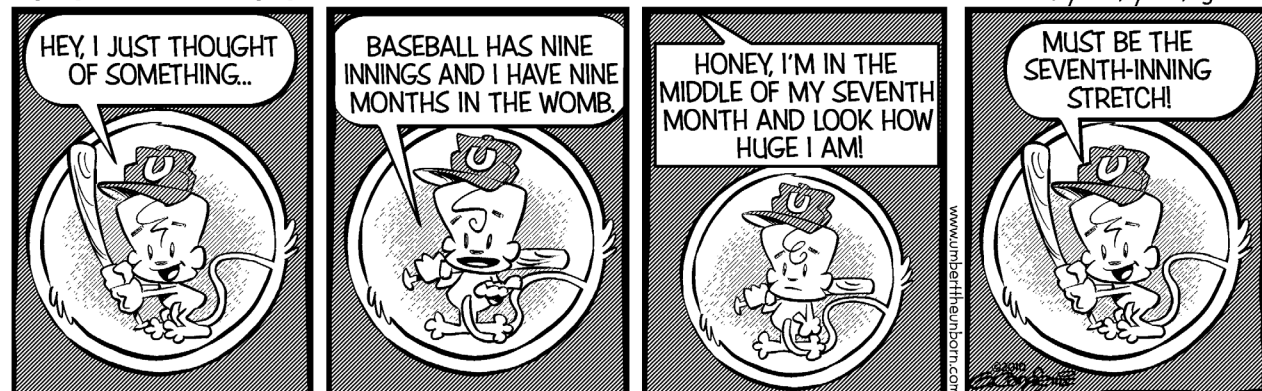
Pilgrimages, Tours, etc.

Victoria—Victoria, Where Texas History Began will be open to the public through January 29, 2011. Viewing hours are Tuesday — Saturday, 10:00 a.m. — 4:00 p.m. at the Museum of the Coastal Bend, located on the campus of The Victoria College, at the corner of East Red River and Ben Jordan. Visit www.museumofthecoastalbend.org for more information. Admission is \$3.50 for adults, \$2.50 for senior citizens, and \$2 for students ages 4 years through 8th grade. Admission is free for museum members, faculty, staff and students of The Victoria College and the University of Houston - Victoria, and for children under 4 years of age.

Europe—13-day Pilgrimage to Italy & France May 16 — 28, 2011, with spiritual director Father Tony Boateng-Mensah of St. Mary's in Victoria. Go to Lourdes, St. Anthony of Padua, Venice, Assisi, tomb of Padre Pio — San Giovanni Rotondo, Mass at St. Michael's Cave, hometown of Padre Pio - Pietrelcina, tour of ancient Rome, St. Peter's Basilica, papal audience, panorama of Paris, Basilica of St. Therese of Lisieux. Tour operated by Little Flower Tours & Travel, Ltd.; hosted by St. Mary's Catholic Church Padre Pio Prayer Group, Victoria. For detailed itinerary/reservation form, please call Dora Silva at (361) 573-7761.

Umbert the Unborn

by Gary Cangemi



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Triplet brothers top three graduates from St. Paul High

By Cynthia Brewer

Triplets, Justin, Brandon and Michael Pesek, of St. Paul High, Sts. Cyril & Methodius Parish school in Shiner, Texas, graduated the top of their class with 4.0, 3.97, and 3.97 GPAs respectively on May 22. They are the first set of triplets to do so at St. Paul. According to a news search on the Web, they may be the first male triplets to accomplish this feat.

The brothers were born to Anthony Pesek, of Shiner, and Donna Sussman-Pesek, originally of Miami, Florida, on January 16, 1992, in Charleston, South Carolina.

The sons of an officer in the United States Coast Guard, the boys had lived in various places throughout their lives, including New Orleans, La.; Miami, Fl.; Pennsylvania; California; League City, Texas; and then settling in Shiner for their high school years.

Justin Price Pesek was the Valedictorian of the 2010 graduating class at St. Paul High School. He graduated high school with fifteen college hours and maintained a 4.0 GPA throughout high school. Beginning the fall of 2010, he will attend Texas A&M University, majoring in biomedical sciences. From there he hopes to enter medical school to achieve his ultimate goal of becoming an anesthesiologist.

Brandon Scott Pesek earned the title of Salutatorian of St. Paul High School. Brandon is a light-hearted individual who enjoys spending time at school and with friends. Upon graduating from high school, he plans to study education and human development at Texas A&M University, where he expects to graduate as a science and mathematics teacher.

Michael Pesek was named the Historian of St. Paul's Class of 2010. Besides his exceptional academic activities, an opportunity to travel to an abortion clinic in Houston during the "40 Days for Life," has motivated Michael to seek an end to

abortion. His young life experience of living in seven cities in six states has helped develop his acceptance of all ethnicities without stereotyping them, to not judge people before he meets them, and to respect those in authority. Michael plans to



The Pesek triplets, Justin, Michael and Brandon, who all plan to attend Texas A&M University this fall, graduated at the top of their class at St. Paul High in Shiner May 22.

attend Texas A&M University in College Station where he will pursue a career in chemical engineering.

The boys have been very active in their parish, community and school, becoming third degree Knights of Columbus members, volunteering throughout their neighborhood, and having won numerous academic, sports and school organization awards.



Congratulations to all our Graduates!



BAY CITY SCHOLARS—Bay City High School seniors, Ashley Allison, Karl Sundin and Courtney Cortez, are three of the five Catholic Daughters of the Americas Court Resurrection #2054, Bay City, \$400 Scholarship recipients this year. Not pictured are the other two recipients: Adrian Pena and Andrew Pena. Proceeds for these scholarships are made possible through the CDA Bingo Kitchen food sales at the Bay City Knights of Columbus Hall every Tuesday night.



EL CAMPO GRADUATES—San Roberto Catholic Daughters Court #2275 celebrated Mass and held a breakfast for the graduating class of 2010. Those receiving CDA scholarships are: Daniel Dominguez (son of Carmen Dominguez), Eric Garcia (grandson of Benita Garcia), Monica & Ryan Gutierrez (grandchildren of Oralia Gutierrez), Courtney Hernandez (granddaughter of Eva Molina), Emerald Leal (granddaughter of Maggie Salazar), Jared Marcial (son of Janel Marcial), Gabrielle Martinez (granddaughter of Bernice Martinez), Taelor Schulze (daughter of Eloisa O'Canas) and Gabriella Villalobos (daughter of Loretta Cano). Pictured from left to right in the front row are Anthony Cisneros, speaker; Monica Gutierrez, Alicia Aguilar***, Terri Beltran, V-Regent; Elma Escobar, Regent; 2nd row: Gabriela Martinez, Cruz Leon, Laura Echeverria, Emerald Leal, Jessica Lopez, Jessica Arvizu*, Savanna Delgado, Gabrielle Villalobos*; 3rd row: Hector Pedroza, Patricio Cervantes**, Anthony Cruz, Nicholas Gutierrez*, Ryan Gutierrez, Erik Garcia and Daniel Dominguez. The Catholic Daughters thank everyone who came to the breakfast including special guests Rich Dubro, high school principal; Mr. Cecil Davis and Tommy Turner, ECISD Board of Trustees. Asterisks *denote Honor Graduates top ten for ECISD; ** Honor Graduate for Wharton ISD; and *** College Graduate.



OUR LADY OF THE GULF 2010 SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS—The Our Lady of the Gulf Knights of Columbus 3253 congratulate Nikki Rhea Tijernia and Samantha Marie Perez as their 2009-2010 scholarship winners. Mr. Ralph Cormier (c.) presented the scholarship awards.

Catholic high school graduates likely to attend college, says report

By Catholic News Service

WASHINGTON (CNS)—In brochures and online materials, Catholic high schools often boast of the high percentage of their students who graduate and attend college — often in the 90-100 percent range. According to a new study, this is not just happening at some Catholic high schools but is part of a nationwide trend.

The report by the National Catholic Educational Association shows that students who attend Catholic high schools are more likely to graduate and attend college than students attending other schools.

Catholic secondary schools report a graduation rate of 99.1 percent, higher than rates reported by other religious schools (97.9 percent), nonsectarian schools (95.7 percent) and public schools (73.2 percent).

Students graduating from Catholic high schools are also more likely to attend four-year colleges (84.7 percent) than students graduating from other religious (63.7 percent) and nonsectarian (56.2 percent) schools. Catholic school graduates are twice as likely to attend four-year colleges as graduates of public schools

(44.1 percent).

The figures are from the Annual Statistical Report on Schools, Enrollment and Staffing, United States Catholic Elementary and Secondary Schools 2009-2010, recently released by the NCEA. Data for this analysis came from several publications of the U.S. Department of Education's National Center for Education Statistics, as well as information collected by the NCEA.

"This report illustrates the ongoing excellence of Catholic schools," said Marie A. Powell, executive director of the Secretariat of Catholic Education of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops.

"Catholic high schools have a remarkable record of graduating their students and preparing them well for post-secondary education," she said. "Their effectiveness in educating students, even from disadvantaged backgrounds, has been cited consistently in research published over the last 25 years. The Catholic community can be very proud of their support for such schools."

See Catholic high school graduates, p. 17