Victoria Family Visits Solemn Auschwitz

By Sarita V. Richmond, TCL Editor

Curiosity about their family roots led a Victoria family on a vacation to Poland this summer. Doug and Tanya Seiler, who are parishioners at Holy Family Catholic Church, travelled with their two children to Kraków, Poland to learn more about the history of her dad’s family, who was from the Warsaw area of Poland. It is important for them that their children visit different places where they can learn and experience history, so vacations for the Seilers often include lessons in history.

Their itinerary included a trip to see the solemn site of Auschwitz where millions of lives were lost at the hands of the Nazis. This piece of history was one that both Doug and Tanya wanted their children to see first hand. Tanya shared, “We felt we couldn’t go to Poland and not see what happened to the Polish people in WWII and during the Holocaust.” In the days leading up to their trip, feelings of dread and uncertainty filled their minds not knowing what they would encounter when they arrived.

Once on the grounds of Auschwitz, they walked through long hallways with display cases filled with thousands of shoes, hairbrushes, suitcases and other personal belongings that had been taken from the prisoners. Tanya shared, “the most hor-

See Victoria Family Visits, pg. 18

Seiler family in Warsaw at the town center during summer vacation.

The Sisters of the Incarnate Word and Blessed Sacrament celebrated three special events on July 22, 2016: The 420th anniversary of the birth of their Foundress of the Order, Venerable Jeanne Chézard de Matel who was born in France; the 200th anniversary of the restoration of the order in France in 1816 after the French Revolution; and the 150th anniversary of the arrival of the Incarnate Word and Blessed Sacrament Sisters to Victoria on December 21, 1866 with Mother Saint Claire Valentine as the Founding Superior. Representatives from four foundations in the United States, five foundations in Mexico and two foundations of the Sisters of Charity of the Incarnate Word in the United States attended the International Reunion, themed, “Celebrating Our Treasured Heritage”, as well as IWBS Associates and friends. The celebration opened with a Mass at Holy Family Church in Victoria and other events were held at Incarnate Word Convent. Praised be the Incarnate Word, now and forevermore. Amen!

See IWBS Sisters, pg. 24.

Pictures from the IWBS International Reunion can be found on pg. 24.
The Victory of Life

On August 14, 1941 a Catholic priest named Father Maximilian Kolbe was put to death in the Nazi Concentration Camp of Auschwitz. As a young man this priest had offered his life to the Immaculate Heart of Mary, and in a true act of heroic love he later offered to sacrifice his life in that evil camp so another man could survive. In October 1982 Pope John Paul II preached at the Mass in which this priest formally became honored as St. Maximilian Kolbe. Pope John Paul II said:

“Men and women saw what happened in the camp at Auschwitz. And even if to their eyes it must have seemed that a companion of their suffering “died,” even if humanly speaking they could consider “his departure” as “a disaster,” nevertheless in their minds this was not simply “death.” Maximilian did not die but “gave his life...for his brother.” In that death, terrible from the human point of view, there was the whole definitive greatness of the human act and of the human choice. He spontaneously offered himself up to death out of love.

And in this human death of his there was the clear witness borne to Christ: the witness borne in Christ to the dignity of humanity, to the sanctity of human life, and to the saving power of death in which the power of love is made manifest.

Precisely for this reason the death of Maximilian Kolbe became a sign of victory. This was victory won over all systematic contempt and hate for humanity and for what is divine in humanity - a victory like that won by our Lord Jesus Christ on Calvary. “You are my friends if you do what I command you” (John 15:14)."

World Youth Day was celebrated in Poland this year, and included visits to some of the horrible Concentration Camps. Out of the places that were so filled with hate and evil – truly “hell-on-earth” - believers came to see the victory over sin and death in those who were willing to love and share and care for their brothers and sisters in midst of this evil. We believe that one human and divine act of love on Calvary conquered all the forces of evil once and for all. We believe also that each act of love, done in union with the merciful love of Christ, conquers all the evil forces in the world today.

Don’t feel defeated by any news of temporary successes of the evil one – Christ has risen victorious and given us the power of His Spirit. As St. Paul wrote to the Romans many years ago: “Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good” (Romans 12:21). Thank you for the many ways in which you witness goodness overcoming evil every day. I can think of so many examples from right around here – giving blood to help strangers in need; preparing backpacks so all children can be ready to get back to school; volunteering in school activities to make every classroom a bright, hopeful place of learning; praying a daily rosary for peace; etc., etc., etc.,...

May God bless you and your families, that our Light may shine Victorious each and every day, let’s keep one another in prayer.

+Brendan

Bishop Brendan Cahill A Shepherd’s Message

Ordained as Bishop June 29, 2015

DSA update

2016 Diocesan Services Appeal
Diocesan Goal: $1,936,221.00
Parish Pledge Totals: $721,477.19
Parish Contribution Totals: $627,203.92
Number of Parish Families Participating: 2,692

Official Announcements

Effective July 21, 2016, Father John Kollannur, currently parochial vicar at Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Church in Victoria, is assigned as parochial vicar at Holy Family Catholic Church in Wharton, its mission of Saint Joseph in Boling and Our Lady of Mount Carmel.

Effective August 16, Father Francis Nguyen, parochial vicar at Saint Philip the Apostle Catholic Church in El Campo, is assigned as parochial vicar at Saint Anthony of Padua Catholic Church in Palacios and the Vietnamese Apostolate.

Effective September 16, Father Philip Brun, parochial vicar at Our Lady of Sorrows Catholic Church in Victoria, is assigned as parochial vicar at Saint Robert Bellarmine Catholic Church in El Campo.

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DEADLINE IS THE 15TH OF THE PRECEDING MONTH

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### Seminary Burses

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

July 26, 2016

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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:

Diocese Of Victoria
Seminary Burses
P. O. Box 4070
Victoria, TX 77903

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**Happy Birthday to Our Seminarians!**

**Nick Aparicio**  
August 13  
College III

**Dalton Ervin**  
August 25  
Theology II

---

**Pray for Priestly and Religious Vocations**

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**Mark Your Calendar**

**Holy Cross Church**  
Bay City  
Fall Festival & Turkey Dinner  
October 2
Years of Relative Stability
(Continued from last month)

By the 1890’s the community of the Sisters of the Incarnate Word was well established in Victoria. The building spree of the 1870’s had met the space needs of the school and convent for the time being. Numerous vocations, especially among the graduates of the school, increased the community with devoted religious who were dedicated educators. Their bishop, Bishop John Narez of San Antonio, was a strong devotee of Catholic education, and appreciated the work of the Sisters. Their good friend and mentor, Father Augustine Gardet, the pastor of St. Mary’s Church, had given his house to the Sisters upon their arrival to Victoria in 1866, remained a strong spiritual and financial supporter. The many immigrants who were arriving were sending their children to the school. If female students lived outside of commuting distance of the academy, they were accepted as boarders and lived at the convent. Moreover, the people of Victoria, regardless of their religious affiliation, had great respect for the Sisters and their teaching. God was indeed blessing the flourishing academy as the Sisters continued their day-by-day ministry of making the beloved Incarnate Word known and loved by their students.

Some people have expressed wonder why the Sisters did not get bored living within a cloistered institution with little access to the outside world. In response to this concern, I think that most of us understand that when a person feels called to his or her specific life style (whether it be marriage, single, or ordained or consecrated), their love of God and others sustains them in the ordinary routine of life. I’m sure that all of us can think of persons, from all walks of life, who have served as the stars to which Pope Benedict referred when he wrote, “The true stars of our life are the people who have lived good lives. They are lights of hope. Certainly, Jesus Christ is the true light, the sun that has risen above all the shadows of history. But to reach him we also need lights close by—people who shine with his light and so guide us along our way. (Spe Salvi, 49) During this time of progress, the Sisters were happy to have enough members so that they could respond to Bishop Narez’s request to begin a foundation in Hallettsville; consequently, three Sisters were welcomed by the pastor, Father John Anthony Forest, and began teaching the day after their arrival in 1882. If you want to follow up on this foundation, just ask anyone from Sacred Heart Parish in Hallettsville!

In spite of the many blessings that the Victoria community was experiencing, the Sisters would soon face some unexpected challenges. First of all, they suffered the loss of their beloved pastor and benefactor, Father Augustine Gardet, who died in 1892. A year later, Bishop John Narez, bishop of San Antonio, who had been a strong supporter of their educational endeavors, also died. His replacement, the new Bishop John Anthony Forest was no stranger to the Sisters; he had been a beloved pastor and friend of the Sisters during his prior service in the Hallettsville area.

Another blow, this one financial, was dealt the Sisters when they no longer received the public school salaries which they had been receiving for four months each year. They chose to forfeit the salaries rather than give up the wearing of their religious habits when their garb became an issue.

It was soon afterward that Bishop Forest requested that the Sisters begin a foundation in Shiner; so in 1897 two Sisters from Victoria, one from Houston, and one from Brownsville went to Shiner. Check on some Shiner folks for their memories of the Sisters.

This mistrust seeps over into our relationship with God, too.

It’s easy to treat God’s words as lightly as those we read in the daily paper. But Luke 11:1-13 gently reminds us that God keeps His promises.

Like the neighbor who needed bread for his visitor, when we faithfully and consistently pray, God will hear us and provide what we need. Not always what we want, but something better: the “good gift” He knows we need. It’s a lifetime guarantee. Certified, testable, 100 percent provable.

BISHOP’S CHARITIES DINNER—The Annual Bishop’s Charities Banquet, sponsored by the Knights of St. Gregory (K3G), was recently held at the Victoria Country Club. Father Don Ruppert, pastor of Holy Cross, East Bernard, served as master of ceremonies. Rev. Joe Vrana, pastor of St. Mary’s, Nada, led the invocation. The benediction was given by Most Rev. David Fellhauer, Bishop Emeritus of Victoria. Entertainment was provided by Randy Faulk. Pictured above is the Honorable Donald Naiser, president of the K3G, presenting a donation for various charities to Bishop Brendan Cahill.

From A Pastor’s Desk

By Rev. Tim Kosler, Pastor
St. Rose of Lima, Schulenburg

How easily promises are made in the world today. Everything we buy or sell seems to come with a guarantee, from the bread we eat to the cars we drive. Newspaper and television advertisements shout “Complete satisfaction or your money back!” “Guaranteed to make your life easier, better, happier ...” The problem is that so many of these are “pie crust promises,” easily made and easily broken. After a few disappointments, we learn to take lightly the promises we hear, even from trusted sources.
The Knights of Columbus Council #1329 of Victoria held their Annual Scholarship Calendar Raffle with proceeds going towards tuition for council members who have children in Catholic Schools. Pictured are the recipients.

Photo from Nazareth Academy: pictured from left to right are Sister Lois Marie, Office Manager; Grand Knight Donald Shellenbarger and Sister Ann Meletio, Business Manager.

Photo from OLV: pictured left to right are Dorothy Gerhke, School Secretary; Donald Shellenbarger, Grand Knight and Sister Laura Toman, Principal.

Photo from St. Joseph High School: pictured left to right are Terese Arnecke, Business Manager and Donald Shellenbarger, Grand Knight.

NEW SCHOOL YEAR—School principals for 2016-17 recently held their first meeting of the new school year with the Catholic School Superintendent Dr. John Quary. Pictured, left-right, Sean Mooney, St. Joseph, Yoakum; Gwen Edwards, St. Philip, El Campo; Kevin Haas, Sacred Heart, Hallettsville; Carolanne McAfee, St. Michael, Weimar; Thomas Maj, St. Joseph High School, Victoria; Rosanne Gallia, St. Rose of Lima, Schulenburg; Theresa Dent, Our Lady of the Gulf, Port Lavaca; Jennifer Saenz, St. Michael, Cuero; John O'Leary, St. Anthony, Columbus; Inez Kucera, Holy Cross, Bay City; Sr. Evelyn Korenek, IWBS, Nazareth Academy, Victoria; Neely Yackel, Shiner Catholic Schools; Dr. Quary and Sr. Laura Toman, IWBS, Our Lady of Victory, Victoria.

School Bells Ring Again
First Day of Classes

St. Joseph High School, Victoria • Monday, August 8
St. Ludmila Academy and St. Paul High School, Shiner • Thursday, August 11
Holy Cross School, Bay City • Monday, August 15
Nazareth Academy, Victoria • Monday, August 15
Our Lady of Victory School, Victoria • Monday, August 15
Sacred Heart School and High School, Hallettsville, Monday, August 15
St. Anthony School, Columbus • Monday, August 15
St. Joseph School, Yoakum • Monday, August 15
St. Michael School, Cuero • Monday, August 15
St. Philip School, El Campo • Tuesday, August 16
Our Lady of the Gulf, Port Lavaca • Wednesday, August 17
St. Michael School, Weimar • Wednesday, August 17
St. Rose of Lima School, Schulenburg • Wednesday, August 17

Back-to-School Days of Goodness and Mercy
By Dr. John E. Quary, Superintendent of Schools

Longer days, higher temps, drier conditions, overactive a/c units, and prayers for showers to bring temporary relief…it’s just another hot summer in South Texas. Nevertheless, it also means as summer draws to a close, we turn our thoughts to falling leaves, milder days, football games, and the return of our children to normalcy...school begins.

This year, however, will be slightly different, as we will be completing the Jubilee Year of Mercy, heralded by our Holy Father, Pope Francis. The United States Council of Catholic Bishops informs us, “The Jubilee of Mercy that Pope Francis has called, from December 8, 2015 – November 20, 2016, is an Extraordinary Jubilee. This designation as an ‘Extraordinary Jubilee’ sets it apart from the ordinary cycle of jubilees, or holy years, which are called every 25 years in the Catholic Church. By calling for a holy year outside of the normal cycle, a particular event or theme is emphasized. For example, Pope Francis called this particular Extraordinary Jubilee of Mercy to direct our attention and actions ‘on mercy so that we may become a more effective sign of the Father’s actions in our lives . . . a time when the witness of believers might grow stronger and more effective’” (MV, 3 . . . ).

Research has indicated that the word “mercy” appears more than 240 times in the bible, the number of times varies slightly, depending on the version of the bible used for reference. One of the most familiar refrains is found in the book of psalms, “Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life: and I will dwell in the house of the LORD for ever,”(Ps. 23:6). In our Catholic schools, therefore, for this school year especially, this psalm will serve as a reminder, as educators, about the importance of being examples of mercy and forgiveness for and to their students. May God bless our school year with health, happiness, holiness, and a hunger for learning and loving in the spirit of Jesus Christ.
One of four groups that attended Library Summer Fun Days.

St. Joseph VBS 2016 in Yoakum serving over 100 youth!

Vacation Bible School enjoyed at St. Mary’s, Victoria.

St. Anthony Vacation Bible School in Palacios.

Our Lady of Victory Summer Camp

Diocese of Victoria Library and Media Center

The Diocese of Victoria Library and Media Center opened in 1991 in order to serve the people of the 50 parishes and 19 missions of the diocese which are located in a nine county area. The diocesan library catalog is fully searchable and available 24 hours a day on the internet at www.victoriadiocese.org.

The library houses an excellent collection of books and videos on spirituality, scripture, prayer, liturgy, catechetical topics, morality, saints, church documents, and many more topics not readily available at a public library or book store.

All are invited to visit the library on the second floor of the Chancery building to check out books or other materials.

For more information please contact the Office of Catechetical Ministry at (361) 573-0828 or by email at dvlibrary@victoriadiocese.org.
My name is Joseph Ramos. I was born in El Campo, Texas on September 25, 1957; however, I was raised in Bay City, Texas where I now reside. My parents are D. L. Ramos and the late Guadalupe Mireles Ramos. My parents taught my seven siblings and me to love God and our neighbor. I feel I have been around the church all of my life together with my three brothers and four sisters. I remember going to Our Lady of Guadalupe Church in Bay City at a very early age and attending CCD through my high school years. I also served as an altar server. I have always had a good example set for me by all of the priests, sisters and deacons that served Our Lady of Guadalupe Parish. I learned so much of my Catholic faith from them and am so grateful to God for all of them.

From a very young age, I have always felt that God wanted me to serve Him in a deeper and more committed way. In December of 2003, I took my first step toward the journey to the Diaconate Program. My wife, Letisia, walked this spiritual journey into the Diaconate Program with me as well as our daughter, Stephanie.

I was ordained in December of 2009. I remember our Spiritual Director said that of Guadalupe Church in Bay City at a very early age and attending CCD through my high school years. I also served as an altar server. I have always had a good example set for me by all of the priests, sisters and deacons that served Our Lady of Guadalupe Parish. I learned so much of my Catholic faith from them and am so grateful to God for all of them.

From a very young age, I have always felt that God wanted me to serve Him in a deeper and more committed way. In December of 2003, I took my first step toward the journey to the Diaconate Program. My wife, Letisia, walked this spiritual journey into the Diaconate Program with me as well as our daughter, Stephanie.

I was ordained in December of 2009. I remember our Spiritual Director said that we could know a lot academically, but our spiritual formation was the most important, and that we must spend many hours at the feet of the Master, Our Lord Jesus Christ. I have come to believe this with all of my heart. I feel that my wife and I have grown so much spiritually, but this journey has also blessed our marriage and brought us closer together.

For me, it is a joy to serve all of God’s people at Our Lady of Guadalupe Church in Bay City. I serve Our Lady of Guadalupe Church under the direction of my pastor, Monsignor Gerard Cernoch. It is an honor and privilege to serve with him, Deacon Luan Tran and Deacon Bill Key and all of God’s people. I am bilingual and I love being able to use that gift for the glory of God and His people.

Some of my responsibilities as a deacon include teaching baptism class as well as administering the sacrament of baptism; leading funeral/wake services; assisting at weddings and quinceñeras; leading bible study groups and also assisting at Sunday Mass. I also serve the community as a chaplain for the Bay City Police Department where I am employed. Many of the ministries in which I am involved include my wife who assists and supports me. Letisia and I celebrated our 25th wedding anniversary this year.

It will be seven years that I have served as a deacon and it seems like yesterday. It is a team effort led by God’s grace and strength. It is amazing how quickly the years go by when you stay so busy!
Sin, Mercy, and Healing – A Look into the Work of the John Paul II Healing Center

By Father Jacob Koether
Parochial Vicar, Holy Family, Victoria

“I’m fine. Why do I need to go? Healing retreats are just for people who are really messed up.” That’s what I told myself when I first heard about the John Paul II Healing Center and the retreats and conferences that they put on across the country. I was in seminary at the time and had a couple of friends in my class who had attended a few of the Healing Center’s events. In my mind, attending a retreat led by the John Paul II Healing Center would have a certain stigma attached to it. I considered this organization’s events to be shameful things for the guys who had failed or had very serious problems or weren’t strong enough. And to be in a place where everyone was striving with all their might to be perfect, a healing retreat was the clearest sign that you were not. I had no idea, however, what kind of impact the John Paul II Healing Center would eventually have in my life; but before I continue I would like to give some context.

This article marks the beginning of a three part series that will be devoted to explaining the work and ministry of the John Paul II Healing Center, specifically in preparation for a conference called Healing the Whole Person that will be hosted at Holy Family in Victoria this November 10-12. This conference is being offered to everyone could know. This organization has a profound sense of peace, joy, and freedom that I wish everyone could know. This organization has had a huge impact on my life and I hope it can help bring healing to you too.

Since I first was handed that book in seminary, I have been on retreats and conferences and facilitated book studies on Be Healed, finally realizing the incredible benefits of the John Paul II Healing Center and how greatly it is needed in our world today. I have experienced a profound sense of peace, joy, and freedom that I wish everyone could know. This organization has a huge impact on my life and I hope it can help bring healing to you too.

To register for the conference that will be held at Holy Family, or just to get more information, visit jpiihealingcenter.org and look for the Victoria Healing the Whole Person event.

Sin makes us blind, but confession heals, pope says

By Cindy Wooden

Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Exercise a little courage and go to confession, turn away from selfishness and sin and back to God during the Year of Mercy, Pope Francis urged people at a Lenten penance service.

“When our desire to be healed becomes more courageous, it leads to prayer, to crying out fervently and persistently for help, as did Bartimaeus: ‘Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me,’” the pope said, quoting from the Gospel of St. Mark.

The penance service in St. Peter’s Basilica March 4 kicked off the Rome celebration of “24 Hours for the Lord,” a period when select churches around the city were to be open all night — or at least for extended hours — for confession and eucharistic adoration.

After delivering his homily at the service, Pope Francis walked to one of the confessionalists in the basilica and knelt in front of a priest to confess his sins. Then he and 60 priests went to other confessionalists, or even just plastic chairs set in quiet corners, to hear confessions.

Like Bartimaeus, who was blind, Catholics go to confession because they want to see again, the pope said. “Our sins have made us lose sight of all that is good and have robbed us of the beauty of our calling, leading us instead far away from our journey’s end.”

The blindness of sin “impoverishes and isolates us,” the pope said. It prevents people from seeing what is most important and instead makes them focus on themselves “until we are indifferent to others and to what is good.”

“How easy and misguided it is to believe that life depends on what we have, on our success and on the approval we receive,” the pope said. Sin makes people believe “the economy is only for profit and consumption” and “that personal desires are more important than social responsibility.”

The Year of Mercy, Pope Francis said, “is the favorable time to welcome God’s presence, to experience his love and to return to him with all our heart. Like Bartimaeus, let us cast off our cloak and rise to our feet: that is, let us cast aside all that prevents us from racing toward him.”

Speaking to priests, particularly those about to administer the sacrament, Pope Francis urged them to ensure that nothing they do makes it more difficult for people to draw close to Jesus in confession.

Priests are meant to “inspire courage, to support and to lead others to Jesus,” he said. “Our ministry is one of accompaniment so that the encounter with the Lord may be personal and intimate, and the heart may open itself to the savior in honesty and without fear.”

The gift of priesthood, he said, is a gift that brings with it the ability to facilitate a sinner’s personal encounter with the Lord and, even more, “to stretch out our hand and to absorb, thus making his mercy visible and effective.”

“We certainly must not water down the demands of the Gospel, but we cannot risk frustrating the desire of the sinner to be reconciled with the Father,” Pope Francis said. “For what the Father awaits more than anything is for his sons and daughters to return home.”

“May every man and woman who comes to confession find a father who welcomes them and the Father who forgives them,” the pope said in a brief addition to his prepared homily.

Pope Francis confesses in St. Peter’s Basilica at the Vatican. (CNS photo/Max Rossi, Reuters)
What is Gabriel Project?

Gabriel Project is a confidential and compassionate outreach to women who are distressed over an unplanned pregnancy. The Gabriel Project relies on local parish communities to respond to the needs of the mother-to-be.

A trained “Gabriel Angel” from a participating church supports the woman’s choice for life through friendship, encouragement, and prayer throughout her pregnancy. In addition to providing emotional and spiritual support, the “Gabriel Angel” helps the expectant mom with various practical needs, including finding resources such as accompanying a woman throughout her pregnancy, being a positive male role model to mothers-to-be and fathers-to-be, collecting monetary, maternity and baby items from parishioners, maintaining an inventory of the donations, working the telephone hotline, preparing meals for new mothers, providing child-care for moms, helping with money management/income tax preparation for moms and praying for the moms and volunteers of the Gabriel Project.

Today, in the Diocese of Victoria the Gabriel Project has grown to 17 Catholic parishes and missions, and one Baptist Church serving the Counties of Victoria, Jackson, Lavaca, Calhoun, Matagorda, Dewitt, Wharton and Goliad. This devotion and dedication to serving our Lord has been the success of the Gabriel Project helping mothers in a crisis pregnancy and spreading the news of being the Good Samaritan to others.

If you or someone you know is dealing with a crisis pregnancy, Please contact 1-866-627-9243 or 1-866-Mary Aid, immediately. You may also visit: www.victoriagabrielproject.org.

FEAST OF ST. ANN CELEBRATED—On Sunday, July 24, the parish family at St. Ann in Hochheim gathered to celebrate their patron and to mark the 110th anniversary of the canonical establishment of the parish and the building of the Church. Bishop Brendon Cahill joined the parish family in his first pastoral visit and was assisted by Father Matthew Huehlefeld, pastor, and Deacon Louis Poth (native vocation who returned for the feast). The KJZT Society #37, St. Ann of Hochheim, sponsored the celebration and provided a meal and refreshments in the Parish Pavilion afterwards. Pictured above are Father Huehlefeld and Bishop Cahill along with members of KJZT #37. Mass is celebrated every Sunday at 7:00 a.m. at the little church on the prairie.

Bishop Brendan Cahill visits the grave of Msgr. Michael O’Shaughnessy while visiting in Dublin, Ireland. Msgr. O’Shaughnessy served the Diocese of Victoria prior to retiring to his homeland of Ireland.

New Secretary Hired

The Diocese of Victoria welcomes Sister Maria del Rosario Resendez, IWBS as the new Secretary for Bishop Brendan Cahill. She is from Bay City and is beginning her apostolic year at the Incarnate Word and Blessed Sacrament Convent. Sister Rosario will begin work at the Chancery on Monday, August 8.
Diocese of Victoria XXIX Annual Catholic Conference

Prayer: The Faith Prayed

Keynote Presenters

Bishop Cahill
Mrs. Katra
Ms. Martinez

Dear Friends,
I am delighted to invite and encourage you to attend the Diocese of Victoria XXIX Annual Catholic Conference. This conference is for all adult Catholics - those in the pew whether at Mass or adoring the Eucharist, evangelizers, catechists, lectors, extraordinary ministers of Holy Communion, choir members or any person who wants to take the opportunity to enjoy the benefits of this annual diocesan event. I will also be offering a keynote address in English and Spanish, "Gladly Will I Glory In My Infirmities" based on the spirituality of Father Charles Kram, a past priest of this diocese. It will focus on prayer and spirituality as a means of renewing our faith in God. A second keynote will follow: To be Known as God's & As God Knows Us by Mrs. Charleen Katra. Ms. Rita Martinez will offer a similar keynote in Spanish. I hope to see you at the conference!
Bishop Brendan Cahill

Saturday, October 1
Holy Family Church
2011 Briar Lane
Wharton, TX 77488
Opens (8:00 a.m.) and Ends (4:30 p.m.) with Closing Liturgy:
Bishop Brendan Cahill presiding

What’s Online....

- Presenter Bios
- Complete List of Workshops
- Online Registration
- Conference Schedule
- Vendors

Deadline for Registration:
September 22, 2016
Cost: $35 (includes lunch)
www.victoriadiocese.org

Sacred Heart Parish Fall Picnic
Sunday, September 4, 2016
Halletsville
at the K.C. Hall in Halletsville, Texas

Dinner: Serving from 10:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.
Drive thru Plates-to-Go: 10:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.
Dining in the KC Hall
Country Fried Chicken, Stew, Homemade Cornbread Dressing with all the trimmings!

Adults $9.00 Children (10 & under) $4.50

Short Memorial at 1:00 p.m. given by Rev. Msgr. John Peters

Music on the Main Pavilion
Kovanda Czech Band
11:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.
Free Dance on the Polka Pavilion/Biergarten
The Dujka Brothers & The Red Ravens
1:00 - 9:00 p.m.

Washer Pitching Tournament begins at 5:00 p.m.

Delicious Hamburgers, French Fries, Nachos, Popcorn, Funnel Cakes, Snow Cones, Lemonade & Sodawater all afternoon!!

Come join in on the FUN!
On Sunday, July 10, 2016, seven Sisters of the Incarnate Word and Blessed Sacrament celebrated the anniversaries of their professions at Incarnate Word Convent. The Most Reverend Brendan Cahill and Bishop Emeritus David Fellhauer officiated at the 2:00 p.m. Mass. Also present and co-celebrating was Father Phu Nguyen. Bishop Cahill was the homilist. Guests came from as far away as California.

Those celebrating 75 years were Sister Mary Grace Korenek and Sister M. Carmelita Casso; those celebrating 60 years were Sister M. Esther Gerbermann, Sister M. Amata Hollas, Sister M. Geraldine Pavlik, and Sister M. Carola Hajdik; Sister M. Edwardine Lesak was celebrating 50 years. Together they contributed 440 years of service to the Church in ministries of education, health care, administration and pastoral services.

75th Jubilee Celebration

Sister Mary Grace Korenek, daughter of the late William and Albina Samohyl Korenek, was born in Plum. She attended St. Jerome Grade School, the public high school and graduated from St. Ludmila Academy in Shiner. She entered the postulancy at St. Ludmila Convent on June 25, 1939; received the habit at Nazareth Convent in Victoria on June 10, 1940; and pronounced her first vows on June 11, 1941. She received a Bachelor of Arts degree with a major in English and a minor in Latin from Incarnate Word College in San Antonio.

During her years of ministry as a professed sister she taught at Nazareth Academy, St. Ludmila Academy in Shiner, St. Edward School in Dubina and St. Mary School in Nada. She also did library work in Shiner and taught religion classes in Moulton, Flatonia and Praha. When stationed in Ganado, she visited the home-bound, assisted with the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults classes and coordinated prayer groups. She now lives in the IWC Health Care, ministering in the Apostolate of Prayer and Suffering.

Sister M. Carmelita Casso, daughter of the late Jesse and Luisa Diaz Casso, was born in San Antonio. After she graduated from Blessed Sacrament Academy in San Antonio, she entered the postulancy at Blessed Sacrament Convent in San Antonio on September 9, 1939; received the habit at Nazareth Convent in Victoria on June 10, 1940; and pronounced her first vows on June 11, 1941. She received a Bachelor of Arts degree with a major in English and a minor in Spanish from Incarnate Word College; a Masters of Arts degree in Spanish from the University of Houston; and a Master of Arts degree in Theology from St. Mary’s University in San Antonio.

During the early years of her ministry, Sister Carmelita taught at the grade school level in Shiner, Loire, San Marcos, Weimar, Selma, Cuero and Nazareth Academy. She taught High School classes at Blessed Sacrament Academy and then served as secretary general of the congregation for six years. From 1982 until 2010, she lived in Rome, Italy, and Lyons, France, while translating the French writings of the Order’s Foundress Venerable Jeanne Chézard de Matel into English and in working on the Cause toward the Canonization of the foundress. Sr. Carmelita now resides at Incarnate Word Convent and enjoys participating in the community’s prayers and activities. Her favorite pastime is reading.

60th Jubilee Celebration

Sister M. Esther Gerbermann, daughter of the late Alvin and Anastasia Syring Gerbermann, was born in Nada, Texas. She attended St. Mary’s School in Nada and graduated from Nazareth Academy. She received a BA degree from Incarnate Word College with a major in History and a minor in Latin. She received an M. Ed. degree from Southwest Texas State University with a major in administration and a minor in psychology.

During her 60 years as a professed member of the congregation, Sister Esther taught at St. Agnes School in San Antonio, St. Michael School in Cuero, Holy Cross School in East Bernard, Assumption School in Ganado, Sacred Heart School in Floresville, Blessed Sacrament School in San Antonio, Sacred Heart School in La Grange, Sacred Heart School in Crosby, and St. Paul High School in Shiner. She also served as DRE at Holy Cross Parish in East Bernard, St. Philip the Apostle in Corpus Christi and as DRE in St. Vincent de Paul Parish in San Antonio. She enjoys sewing and gardening. She now lives in the IWC Health Care, ministering in the apostolate of Prayer and Suffering.

Sister M. Amata Hollas, daughter of the late Albert and Ann Gerdes Hollas, was born in Lott, Texas. She received her grade-school education in Vanderbilt and Edna and graduated from Nazareth Academy. She became a postulant on December 8, 1954, received the habit on August 25, 1955, and pronounced first profession of vows on August 27, 1956. She received a BA degree from Incarnate Word College in San Antonio with a major in English and a minor in Latin. She received an M. Ed. degree from Southwest Texas State University with a major in administration and a minor in psychology.

During her 60 years as a professed member of the congregation, Sister Amata ministered as a teacher and/or principal at St. Leo School in San Antonio, Our Lady of Victory School in Victoria, Holy Cross School in East Bernard, Sacred Heart School in La Grange, and St. Ludmila Academy in Shiner. She served in the San Antonio Archdiocesan School Office for seven years. For eighteen years she served as initial formation director and for the last sixteen years she has served on the leadership team of the congregation as councilor and now as secretary. She enjoys working in the archives and sharing our sacred heritage as well as sewing and gardening.

Sister M. Geraldine Pavlik, daughter of the late Joseph and Julia Weber Pavlik, was born in Weimar, Texas. She attended Wildwood Public School and St. Michael School in Weimar and graduated from Nazareth Academy. She became a postulant on December 8, 1954, received the habit on August 25, 1955, and pronounced first profession of vows on August 27, 1956. She received a BA degree from Incarnate Word College with a major in History and a minor in Speech and Math. She received an M. Ed. degree from Southwest Texas State University with a major in administration and a minor in psychology.

During her 60 years as a professed member of the congregation, Sister Geraldine has ministered as teacher and/or principal at Sacred Heart School in Floresville, Assumption School in Ganado, St. Agnes School and St. Leo School in San Antonio, St. Michael School in Cuero, Our Lady of Perpetual Help in Selma, and Holy Cross School in Bay City. At the present time she ministers as local superior of Incarnate Word Convent. She loves to cook, do arts and crafts and read.

Sister M. Carola Hajdik, daughter of the late Louis and Emilia Orsak Hajdik, was born in Sealy, Texas. She attended Immaculate Conception School and Sealy High School and graduated from Nazareth Academy. Following in her sister’s

See Incarnate Word Sisters, pg. 14
Three New Permanent Deacons Ordained

Who Are Permanent Deacons?

In the Catholic Church, the diaconate is the first of three ranks in ordained ministry. Deacons preparing for the priesthood are transitional deacons. Those not planning to be ordained priests are called permanent deacons. Married men may be ordained permanent deacons, and single men may be ordained with a commitment to celibacy.

Men who are ordained to the permanent diaconate promise to live out the charism of service to God and the people of God through a life of ordained ministry. This commitment is characterized by service to the Word of God, the Sacraments of the Church, and a life of Heroic Charity.

Deacon Anthony Hensley, Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Ganado
Deacon Edward Huse, Holy Family, Victoria
Deacon Michael Tankersley, Sacred Heart, Hallettsville

Deacons’ wives: Barbara Tankersley, Marilynn Hensley and Janet Huse carry the gifts.

Bishop Cahill places the Book of the Gospels in Deacon Anthony Hensley hands. Right, Deacon Anthony and Marilynn with their son Clint.

Bishop Cahill with Deacons Anthony Hensley, Edward Huse and Michael Tankersley. Right, Bishop Cahill processing at beginning of Mass with Deacons Steve Borowicz and John McCourt.

Deacon Edward Huse vested by Father Greg Korenek and Father Dan Morales. Below, Deacon Edward and Janet Huse with their family.

Bishop Cahill places the Book of the Gospels in Deacon Anthony Hensley hands. Right, Deacon Anthony and Marilynn with their son Clint.

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2016 Women’s Olympic Gymnastic Team Member Has Diocesan Ties

At the conclusion of the Olympic trials in San Jose, CA on Sunday night, July 10, USA Gymnastics announced the 2016 Women’s Olympic Gymnastics team. A five person team that will participate in Rio in August included Madison Kocian.

Madison and her family, parents Thomas and Cindy Kocian, and brother Ty live in Dallas. Ty will be a junior at Jesuit High School in Dallas this fall.

Her paternal grandparents are Franklin and Rose (Machacek) Kocian of Wharton. Rose grew up in Shiner and Madison’s great-uncles and great-aunts, Edwin and Mildred Machacek, Josephine Machacek, and Marvin and Alice Machacek, all reside in Shiner. Her great-grandparents are the late John and Frances Machacek of Shiner. Maternal grandparents: Katherine Roberts, formerly of Cuero. Uncles and Aunts include: Bryce and Cindy Kocian (Wharton); Eric and Karissa Kocian (LaGrange); Debbie Roberts (Cuero); Mark and Valerie Gottschalt (Plano); and Lisa Martinez (San Antonio).

“...My fondest memories of Shiner are when the family gets together. The food and fellowship are second to none. Everybody in Shiner is so nice,” said Madison. Another fun fact about the 19 year old Madison is that she was baptized at Sts. Cyril and Methodius Church in Shiner.

Madison began her gymnastics career at the age of 6 in Plano. In 2014, she won a team gold medal at the Worlds Competition in Nanning China. In 2015, Madison won two gold medals in Glasgow Scotland. She has also won many other medals.

Madison is a 2015 high school graduate. She deferred her gymnastics scholarship to UCLA for one year so she could train for the 2016 Olympics. Madison will attend UCLA in the Fall of 2016.

The Kocian family greatly appreciates all the prayers and support that family and friends have provided throughout her gymnastics career.

AFRICAN MISSION DONATION—KJZT #53 donates to African Mission. A check was presented to Sister Rebecca Janacek for her missionary work in Kenya. Proceeds were from a recent church picnic and a matching gift from the state office. Left to right: Katherine Kahaneck, KJZT President, Sister Rebecca Janacek, and Msgr. John Peters, pastor of St. Mary’s Hallettsville.
footsteps (Sister Marietta), Sister Carola became a postulant on December 8, 1954, received the habit on August 25, 1955, and pronounced first profession of vows on August 27, 1956. She received a BA degree from Incarnate Word College with a major in History and a minor in Speech and Sociology. She received a MA degree in religious education from St. Thomas University in Houston.

During the 60 years she has been a member of the congregation, Sister Carola ministered as teacher in Holy Cross School in East Bernard, Our Lady of Victory School in Victoria, St. Michael School in Weimar, Sacred Heart School in Floresville, St. Mary School in Nada, and Sacred Heart School in Crosby. She served as diocesan director of religious education for the first three years after the Victoria Diocese was formed. She then ministered as DRE for Sacred Heart Parish in Flatonia, St. Philip Parish in El Campo, and Holy Cross Parish in East Bernard. She retired from these ministries in 2006 and resides at Incarnate Word Convent where she has been sacristan and assists in various other ministries. Her hobbies are fishing, making noodles, cross-stitching, embroidery and quilting.

**50th Jubilee Celebration**

Sister M. Edwardine Lesak, daughter of the late Adolph and Helen (Druding) Lesak of Ganado, Texas, was born in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. Sister Edwardine has spent the majority of her 50 years as a Sister of the Incarnate Word and Blessed Sacrament in the healthcare field. She has worked at various area hospitals and at Incarnate Word Convent ministering to the sick and aged. For the last 23 years Sr. Edwardine has worked at Victoria Citizens Medical Center in surgery, which is special to her. She continues working with different ages of people and their needs which provides them with a better quality of life. She finds this ministry very fulfilling. Sister also enjoys music, working with arts, crafts and handiwork, and visiting with family and friends.

**Incarnate Word Sisters Celebrating Their Religious Consecration**

Continued from pg. 11

Temptations – It is easy to pray when you aren’t challenged internally through temptation. But, when the temptations enter in, it becomes drudgery.
A reading from the Letter to the Hebrews: Brothers and sisters: / Faith is the realization of what is hoped for / and evidence of things not seen. / Because of it the ancients were all attested. / By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called to go out to a place / that he was to receive as an inheritance; / he went out, not knowing where he was to go. / By faith he dwelled in tents with Isaac and Jacob; / the same promise; / for he was looking forward to the city with foundations, / whose architect and maker is God. / By faith he received power to generate, / even though he was past the normal age / and Sarah herself was sterile / for he thought that the one who had made the promise was trustworthy. / So it was that there came forth from one man, / himself as good as dead, / descendants as numerous as the stars in the sky / and as countless as the sands on the seashore.

Sunday Readings from August 7 - September 11

AUGUST 7, 2016
19TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
READING II
- Hebrews 11:1-2, 8-12

reading from the Letter to the Hebrews: Brothers and sisters: / Faith is the realization of what is hoped for / and evidence of things not seen. / Because of it the ancients were all attested. / By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called to go out to a place / that he was to receive as an inheritance; / he went out, not knowing where he was to go. / By faith he dwelled in tents with Isaac and Jacob; / the same promise; / for he was looking forward to the city with foundations, / whose architect and maker is God. / By faith he received power to generate, / even though he was past the normal age / and Sarah herself was sterile / for he thought that the one who had made the promise was trustworthy. / So it was that there came forth from one man, / himself as good as dead, / descendants as numerous as the stars in the sky / and as countless as the sands on the seashore.

Spectacular Fireworks Show at 10 p.m.
Sunday, September 4
Flag Raising Ceremony at 9:30 a.m. • Polka Mass with Bishop Cahill at 10:00 a.m.
Cakewalk 11:00 a.m. • Toy Walk • Country Store • Duck Pond • Ring Toss • Horseshoe Tournament at 1:00 p.m. • Washer Pitching at 3:00 p.m. • Train Ride • Hamburgers • High Hill Homemade Sausage • Souvenir Booth • Bingo (Lic.#3-00-0620320-9) 2:00 - 6:00 p.m.
Sweepstakes (Over 50 Prizes) Drawing at 9:00 p.m.
Music During the Day by Texas Sound Czech and Mark Halata/Texavia
Free Dance at Night by Texas Dream

Chicken & Stew Dinner
11:00 a.m. to ?
(German Potatoes, Saurkraut, Green Beans, Peaches & Tea)
Adults - $9 /Children $5 (Dine-in) • (Drive-thru plates-to-go $9)
Auction 1:00 p.m.
La Victoria de la Vida

En el 14 de agosto 1941, un sacerdote católico llamado Padre Maximilian Kolbe fue condenado a la muerte en el campo de concentración Nazi de Auschwitz. Cuando era joven este sacerdote había ofrecido su vida al Corazón Inmaculado de María, y en un verdadero acto de amor humano y de la elección humana, había grandeza definitiva del “dio su vida... para su hermano”. En esa partida como “un desastre”, sin embargo humanamente podrían considerar “su sufrimiento “murió”, aunque hablando y a los ojos debe visto lo que sucedió en el campo de Auschwitz.

Papa Juan Pablo II dijo: “Hombres y mujeres vieron lo que sucedió en los lugares que estaban de concentración. Fuera de los horribles campos y pueblos, los ancianos, las personas inocentes y niños y los jóvenes, las mujeres y los hombres, los ancianos, las personas inocentes y los que han sido agredidos por casualidad. Sana su cuerpo y el corazón, que se sientan fortalecidos por tu consuelo, aleja de ellos el odio y el deseo de la venganza.

Santo Espíritu Consolador, visita a las familias que lloran la pérdida de sus familiares, víctimas inocentes de la violencia y el terrorismo. Cúbreles con el manto de tu divina misericordia. Que encuentren en ti la fuerza y el valor para continuar siendo hermanos y hermanas de los demás, especialmente de los extranjeros y los inmigrantes, testimonio y aleja de ellos el odio y el deseo de la venganza. 

Papa Francisco reza por la paz, protección de la violencia, el terrorismo

Por Catholic News Service

CRACOVIA, Polonia (CNS) — Aquí está el texto en Español de una oración por la paz y protección contra la violencia y el terrorismo que rezó el Papa Francisco en la Basílica de San Francisco en Cracovia el 30 de julio: 

Oración por la paz y por el fin de la violencia y el terrorismo
Dios omnipotente y misericordioso, Señor del universo y de la historia humana.
Todo lo que has creado es bueno, y tu misericordia y compasión por el hombre, que te abandonó una y otra vez, es inagotable.
Venimos hoy a implorarte que ampares al mundo y a sus habitantes con la paz, alejando de él el destructivo oleaje del terrorismo, restaurando la amistad y derramando en los corazones de tus criaturas el don de la confianza y la prontitud para perdónar.
Dador de la vida, te pedimos también por los que han muerto, víctimas de los brutales ataques terroristas. Concedeles la recompensa y la alegría eterna. Que intercedan por el mundo, sacudido por la angustia y desgracias.
Jesús, Príncipe de la Paz, te rogamos por los heridos en los ataques terroristas: los niños y los jóvenes, las mujeres y los hombres, los ancianos, las personas inocentes y los que han sido agredidos por casualidad. Sana su cuerpo y el corazón, que se sientan de erróneos de “el malvado”: Cristo ha resucitado victorioso y nos ha dado el poder de su Espíritu. Como San Pablo escribió a los Romanos hace muchos años: “No sean vencidos por el mal, pero venza el mal con el bueno” (Romanos 12:21). Gracias por las muchas maneras en que usted es testigo de la bondad de vencer el mal cada día. Puedo pensar en muchos ejemplos aquí en nuestro diócesis: dando sangre para ayudar a extraños en necesidad; preparando mochilas para que todos los niños pueden estar listos para volver a la escuela; ayudando en las actividades escolares para que cada sala de clase sea una lugar brillante de esperanza y de aprendizaje; rezando el rosario por la paz, etc., etc., …. Que Dios bendiga a todos ustedes y a sus familias, que nuestra Luz puede brillar victorioso cada día, mantengamos uno al otro en la oración.

+Brendan
Diócesis de Victoria
Vegésima Novena Conferencia Anual Católica
Oración: La Fe Orada

Presentadores Principales

Estimados Amigos:

Me complace invitar y animarlos a asistir a la Vegésima Novena Conferencia Anual Católica del Diócesis de Victoria. Esta conferencia es para todos los católicos adultos - los que están en el banco ya sea en misa o adorando la Eucaristía, evangelizadores, catequistas, lectores, ministros extraordinarios de la Comunión, los miembros del coro o cualquier persona que quiere tener la oportunidad de disfrutar de los beneficios de este evento anual diocesano. Yo también voy a ofrecer un discurso de apertura en Inglés y Español, Con Mucho Gusto Me Gloriaré en Mis Debilidades que está basado en la espiritualidad del Padre Charles Kram, un cura pasado de esta diócesis. Se centrará en la oración y la espiritualidad como un medio de renovar nuestra fe en Dios. Una segunda apertura seguirá: A Ser Conocido Como de Dios y Como Dios Nos Conoce por Sra. Rita Martínez. ¡Espero verte en la conferencia!

+Obispo Brendan Cahill

Por Junno Arocho Esteves
Catholic News Service

A BORDO DEL VUELO PAPAL HA-
CIA CRACOVIA, POLONIA (CNS) — El
mundo, no la religión, está llevando una
guerra “a trozos”, dijo el papa Francisco.

Aunque esta “no es tanto orgánica”
como las pasadas guerras mundiales es
“organizada … pero es guerra”, dijo el papa
a periodistas el 27 de julio durante su vuelo
hacia Cracovia para la Jornada Mundial de
la Juventud.

“Alguno puede pensar: está hablando de
guerra de religión. No. Todas las religiones
queremos la paz. La guerra la quieren los
otros”, dijo el papa.

El habló un día después del asesinato de
un sacerdote durante una Misa en una igle-
sia católica en Saint-Etienne-du-Rouvray,
Francia. Dos hombres armados con pa-
tiñales, entraron a la iglesia durante la Misa.
Los atacantes asesinaron al padre Jacques
Hamel, de 85 años de edad, degollándolo.

“Este santo sacerdote murió pre-
cisamente en el momento en que estaba
ofreciendo oraciones por toda la iglesia”,
él dijo. Mientras lamentaba la muerte del
sacerdote, el papa añadió que él fue uno de
los incontables inocentes asesinados por
una guerra combatida “a trozos”.

“¿Cuántos cristianos, cuántos inocentes,
cuántos niños?”, él preguntó. “No tenemos
miedo de decir esta verdad. El mundo está
en guerra porque ha perdido la paz”.

El papa también agradeció a la gente
por sus incontables condolencias después
del asesinato. El dijo que esto incluyó
el presidente francés Francois Hollande,
quien “ha querido comunicarse conmigo
telefónicamente, como un hermano”.

El papa Francisco expresó su deseo de
que los jóvenes que asisten a la Jornada
Mundial de la Juventud en Cracovia ofrez-
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cáutico.
rifying thing to me was to see the mounds of human hair, many of which were still in braids.” The most difficult part for their children to see were the gas chambers with scratch marks on the walls. It is estimated that 6 million Jews and others not believed to be “racially superior” died during the Holocaust. Some of the first prisoners at Auschwitz included professors, priests and anyone who would challenge authority and resist the Nazis. One of the prisoners at Auschwitz was St. Maximilian Kolbe, a Conventual Franciscan Friar, who became a martyr and saint for giving his life for another prisoner. He was put in a starvation room with ten other men where he stayed alive for two weeks before being injected with a carbolic acid. A memorial is there today in his honor.

As they travelled throughout Poland, one thing always stood out: the impact of the Catholic Church on Poland. Doug shared, “The interesting thing to me was to learn how the Polish resistance worked with the Catholic Church to resist the Communists after WWII. The church never went away.” The Polish credit Saint Pope John Paul II for the Solidarity Movement. The Seilers mentioned never having seen so many memorials to one person as the Polish people have for Saint Pope John Paul II. Everywhere they went, it seemed that there was a memorial to him. Saint Pope John Paul II spent his formative years as a student and then as a young priest in Kraków. They were also amazed that there were 120 Roman Catholic Churches in the city of Kraków!

This summer, World Youth Day 2016 took place in Kraków, Poland. The event drew up to 2.5 million participants at the final Mass and up to 40,000 American citizens. Pope Francis met with former prisoners of the German Nazi concentration and extermination camp Auschwitz, prayed at the wall of death at Block 11, in the Maximilian Maria Kolbe cell, and at the monument of the victims of the Birkenau camp. His message to the youth and the theme of the World Youth Day came from the fifth beatitude, “Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God” (Mt 5:8).

Many youth experienced the strong presence of the Catholic Church in Poland and those who visited Auschwitz witnessed the cruel and horrific piece of history that took place during the Holocaust. Whether for vacation like the Seilers or World Youth Day for thousands of travelers from around the world, many experienced Poland this summer and have a new respect for its local culture, church and history.

St. Mary’s Basilica (Bazylika Mariacka), Kraków visited by the Seiler family.

St. John Bosco’s Festival
Sunday, September 4th
Trinity Family Center
5508 FM 616 ~ Vanderbilt, Texas

Sunday Mass at 10:00 AM
BBQ Pork Steak and Sausage Plates
$10.00 with all the Trimmings

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Serving 11:00 AM—1:30 PM
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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 bishop or the chancellor at the Chancery at (361) 573-0828; or
• Call Fr. Gary Janak (361) 575-4741 or Sr. Emilie Eilers (361) 575-7111, Coordinators of Pastoral Care and Outreach; or
• Mark your letter “Personal and Confidential”. Write to: Most Rev. Brendan J. Cahill, Diocese of Victoria, P.O. Box 4070, Victoria, TX 77903.

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 forth a complaint or need more information, please contact: Fr. Gary Janak at (361) 575-4741.

Reporting Child Abuse Hotline • 1 (800) 252-5400 • www.txabusehotline.org
If you know or suspect a child or person 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.

If the person is in immediate danger, call 911.
WyD pilgrims try to grasp the grimness of death at Auschwitz camps

By Dennis Sadowski

Catholic News Service

OSWIECIM, Poland (CNS) — Walking into the site of the former Nazi concentration camp at Auschwitz, Stephanie Dalton felt a chill up and down her spine.

She called it the spirit of those who died at the hands of the Nazis more than 70 years ago.

“You could tell the people’s presence (was) still there,” she said after her group from the Diocese of Brooklyn, New York, walked through the camp July 25 as part of their World Youth Day pilgrimage.

Dalton, 19, a member of Sts. Simon and Jude Parish, spoke to Catholic News Service during a break after touring the camp and the nearby Auschwitz-Birkenau extermination camp where nearly 1 million people were killed in secret during World War II.

Looking at forested areas at Birkenau, Dalton said she could see the people who were held “in the beauty” after arriving by train in crammed boxcars as their fate was being determined by the Nazis.

“They didn’t know what was going to happen,” she said in a solemn tone.

The Brooklyn contingent totals about 600. Forty of them filled a bus and joined thousands of others from around the world at the camps a day before the official opening of World Youth Day.

At Auschwitz, visitors walked in silence under the famous gate with the slogan “Arbeit macht frei” (Work makes you free.) Only the footsteps of the pilgrims on the dry, rocky ground could be heard.

For some of the Brooklynites, the silence echoed what it may have been like for the Jews, Roma and others identified for extermination as they left the trains and walked to their death.

Wadley Fleurime, 18, a native of Haiti and a member of Immaculate Heart of Mary Church, compared the pain of losing friends in his homeland’s 2010 earthquake to how families must have felt when they lost loved ones and friends at Auschwitz.

“It breaks my heart that something like this could happen, because I know what the heartbeat is like,” he said.

Patricia, 22, and Gabriella Ruiz, 19, sisters who belong to Mary Queen of Heaven Church, said after leaving Auschwitz they found it difficult to comprehend the killing that occurred onsite. They expect to share what they saw and learned with parishioners at home.

“It was crazy that we were walking in the same place that they harmed people,” Gabriella Ruiz said. Her sister described her experience as “surreal.” The sisters want to research the Holocaust more deeply so that they can support their experience with additional facts and photos.

“We can say we saw it with our own eyes,” Patricia Ruiz said.

Several contingents from France stopped at various locations at the expansive Birkenau site to pray and sing hymns of atonement for the sins of humanity.

Dominick Costantino, 24, vocation program coordinator for the Diocese of Scranton, Pennsylvania, was walking with a young Polish woman, Monika Hulewicz, discussing the history of the camps.

“It’s very sad that humans could have done this to other humans,” Costantino said. “It’s amazing (that) you’re walking in the suffering. In the silence you hear the stumbling, the falling, the crying of the people.”

Hulewicz, 23, said it is imperative for Poles to tell the story of the carnage at the camps.

“It is very important for us to show that this is not just Polish heritage, but that this is the heritage of the whole world,” she said. “It is a big, big reminder of how we can avoid doing it in the future.”

At the crumbling bricks of a dynamited concentration camp at Auschwitz, Stephanie Garcia, 26, a member of St. Peter Prince of the Apostles Parish in San Antonio, stopped to discuss with a friend what she was seeing. She said that studying the Holocaust in school was far different than seeing the camps where mass executions were carried out.

“You honestly don’t get the full picture until walking the grounds,” she said.

As a fifth-grader in a Catholic school, Garcia had a Jewish teacher who would tell stories about the Holocaust. “Her stories can’t compare to seeing this,” Garcia told CNS. “She would take us to the San Antonio Jewish museum, but you can’t compare it.”

She said the pilgrims who visit the concentration camps must take the stories home and encourage others to make the same trip if they can. She said she already had been sharing what she saw on social media.

“It’s important not to leave it in the storytelling. Stories come and stories go. But if you live it, you can help others understand it,” she said.

Pope Francis touches the death wall at the Auschwitz Nazi death camp in Oswiecim, Poland, July 29. (CNS photo/Paul Haring)

The ballroom of the Wyndham Grand Hotel looked more like a political convention.

Under Motto ‘Unity and Charity,’ Catholic Daughters Holds Convention

The biennial convention featured a keynote speech by Bishop Donald J. Kettler of St. Cloud, Minnesota; business meetings; bylaws discussions; and presentations on Catholic Daughters of the Americas’ national charities such as the Laboure Society, Holy Cross Family Ministries, Smile Train, Apostleship of the Sea and the National Center on Sexual Exploitation.

Outgoing national regent Shirley Sefried welcomed the newly elected national officers, who were installed at a Mass and ceremony July 23 by Pittsburgh Bishop David A. Zubik at St. Paul Cathedral in the city’s Oakland neighborhood.

The new officers are Helene Shepard, national regent; Olga Samaniego (Texas), national regent-elect; Sherry Nilles, first vice national regent; Vickie Feist, second vice national regent; and Emily Guilherme, national secretary-treasurer. Several national directors also were elected.

With more than 1,300 courts, or chapters, in the United States, Puerto Rico, Mexico, Peru, Guam and the Virgin Islands, the Catholic Daughters has become an international organization.

After a priest in Kenya, Father Peter Wambulwa, watched an Eternal Word Television Network program about the group, he contacted its U.S. leaders, who traveled there. More than 100 Kenyan women now belong to the Catholic Daughters.

Father Wambulwa was in Pittsburgh to speak at the convention and receive a sizable donation from the Catholic Daughters to aid the fledgling group. Again, charity is part of being in the organization.

“We have to say this: To be a Catholic Daughter, you have to have a very generous heart,” said Peg Rafferty, a member of St. Bernadette Parish in Monroeville, who is first vice state regent for Pennsylvania and helped with preparations for the convention. “We’ve had people that joined and then they say, ‘My goodness, they’re constantly giving,’ and I’m like, ‘Sorry, that’s what we do.’”

She said prospective members should “be willing to give time, talent or treasure.”

“If you don’t have the money, then give of your time. We eat that up as fast as the treasure,” Rafferty told the Pittsburgh Catholic, the diocesan newspaper.

“We do have fun. It’s not all work, work, work. We’re a fun group,” she said.

The biennial convention featured a keynote speech by Bishop Donald J. Kettler of St. Cloud, Minnesota; business meetings; bylaws discussions; and presentations of high school senior academic scholarships.

Proceeds benefit high school senior academic scholarships

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Sunday, September 11
St. Peter’s Parish Hall • Blessing
Serving from 11:00 a.m. till?
Bowl - $9 (served with rice, dessert and tea)
Live Auction during the day

Proceeds benefit high school senior academic scholarships

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Catholics urged not to give in to hatred after French priest’s death
WASHINGTON (CNS) — While Catholics mourn the senseless killing of a beloved French priest church leaders have emphasized that shock and grief over this attack cannot fuel hatred against Muslims or immigrants.

“Whoever makes this choice, profanes Christian martyrdom,” said Chaldean Catholic Patriarch Louis Sako of Baghdad, warning that responding with hatred or increased suspicion is “sacrilegious blasphemy” of the priest’s death.

“These people betray and disrespect Father Jacques more than those who inspired their killers,” he told the Vatican Insider two days after the 85-year-old priest was killed during Mass in St.-Etienne-du-Rouvray. The attackers, who slit the priest’s throat, claimed allegiance to the Islamic State and the group later claimed responsibility for the priest’s murder. Paris Cardinal Andre Vingt-Trois’ immediate reaction to the attack was to urge Catholics to “overcome hatred that comes in their heart” and not to “enter the game” of religions.

World record-holder swimmer still says ‘a prayer – or two – before any race’
WASHINGTON (CNS) — Four years ago, at age 15, swimmer Katie Ledecky won Olympic gold in the women’s 800-meter freestyle. Since then Ledecky, who attended Catholic schools in Bethesda, Maryland, has become the world record holder in the 400-, 800- and 1500-meter freestyles, and the American record holder in the 500-, 1000- and 1650-yard freestyles. In the Olympics in Rio de Janeiro, she will compete in the 200-, 400-, and 800-meter freestyle. Yet before every race, she’ll offer a prayer, she told the Catholic Standard, newspaper of the Archdiocese of Washington. “I do say a prayer – or two – before any race. The Hail Mary is a beautiful prayer and I find that it calms me,” she told the Catholic Standard in an email interview. In the interview, Ledecky discussed how her faith is a source of strength and how the communities at home have supported her along the road to her second Olympics. She attended Little Flower School through eighth grade and Stone Ridge School of the Sacred Heart for high school. “I received an excellent, faith-filled education at both schools. Having the opportunity to attend academically rigorous schools has facilitated my interest in the world and in serving others and has enriched my life so that it is not solely focused on my swimming and athletics,” Ledecky said in the email. “Nevertheless, going to these schools was important to my swimming — my Catholic schools challenged me, they broadened my perspective and they allowed me to use my mind in ways that take me beyond just thinking about swim practices, swim meets and sports.”

The world is at war, but religions are not, pope says on way to Krakow
ABOARD THE PALAP FLIGHT TO KRAKOW, POLAND (CNS) — The world, not religion, is waging a war in pieces, Pope Francis said. While it “is not as organic” as past world wars, “it is organized and it is war,” the pope told journalists July 27 on his flight to Krakow. “Someone may think that I am speaking about a war of religions. No, all religions want peace. Others want war,” the pope said. He spoke one day after the murder of a priest during Mass in a Catholic church in Saint-Etienne-du-Rouvray, France. Two men, armed with knives, entered the church during Mass. The attackers murdered 85-year-old Father Jacques Hamel, slitting his throat. “This holy priest who died precisely at the moment he was offering prayers for the whole church,” he said.

While lamenting the priest’s death, the pope added that it was one of countless innocents butchered by a war fought in pieces. “How many Christians, how many children, how many innocents?” he said. “We are not afraid of saying this truth: The world is at war because it has lost peace.”

Pope Francis: Cruelty did not end at Auschwitz; it continues today
KRAKOW, Poland (CNS) — Human-kind’s cruelty did not end with the Holocaust, but rages on in the suffering of those living through war, homelessness and persecution, Pope Francis said.

“This cruelty exists today. We say: ‘Yes, we have seen cruelty, 70 years ago; but today, in so many places in the world where there is war, the same thing happens,’” the pope told a crowd gathered late July 29 outside the archbishop’s residence in Krakow where he is staying. The pope’s words came at the end of a day focused on the suffering of innocents. He had begun the day with a silent prayer at the Auschwitz-Birkenau Nazi death camp in Oswiecim, followed by a visit to a local children’s hospital and participation in the Way of the Cross with young people at Blonia Park. Calling it “a day of sorrow,” the pope said that in following the Way of the Cross, Christians were united in Jesus’ sufferings. However, Christ not only “suffered 2,000 years ago,” but continues to suffer in today’s world.

‘Go out,’ keep writing Gospel of mercy, pope tells clergy, religious
KRAKOW, Poland (CNS) — Catholic priests and nuns must renounce their personal interests and create a church that “goes into the world” with “living writers of the Gospel,” Pope Francis said.

“In our lives as priests and consecrated persons, we can often be tempted to remain enclosed, out of fear or convenience, within ourselves and in our surroundings,” the pontiff said July 30 during a Mass with Polish religious, priests, seminarians and bishops. “Jesus directs us to a one-way street: that of going forth from ourselves,” he said.

“It is a one-way trip, with no return ticket. It involves making an exodus from ourselves, losing our lives for his sake.” Pope Francis was preaching at Krakow’s St. John Paul II Shrine on the fourth day of his visit to Poland for World Youth Day. With a reliquary containing a vial of St. John Paul’s blood present in the sanctuary, Pope Francis told the clergy and religious their lives should be “marked by service and availability” with “no closed spaces or private property for our own use.”

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![Kenneth J. French, Sr.](image)

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Sts. Cyril & Methodius Church Picnic
Cistern • Sunday, August 28

**Mass**
10:00 a.m.

**Bingo - A/C Hall**
12:00-4:00 p.m.

**Horseshoes**
12:00-1:30
Registration
Start: 2:00 p.m.

**Auction**
1:00 p.m.

**Magic Show**
3:00 p.m.

**Water Slide**
11:00 a.m.-8:00 p.m.

**Crispy Chicken & V&V Sausage**
11:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. (dine-in, plates-to-go, walk-up or drive-thru)

**Country Store • Cake Spin**
Games & more!

**Trail Ride**
9:00 a.m.

**Karaoke**
Vic Rodriguez
3:30-7:30 p.m.
In her popular book, “For Women Only—What You Need to Know About the Inner Lives of Men,” author Shaunti Feldhahn explained to a seminar of women something seemingly incomprehensible to her female audience: that men would forgo love to obtain respect from their spouses. Feldhahn had surveyed numerous groups in preparing for her books and concluded that there are gender differences and frequently considerable agreement within a gender.

She recalled attending a seminar on “Relationships” where the leader asked the assembled men to choose between two bad things: “Would you rather feel alone and unloved in the world or would you rather feel inadequate and disrespected by everyone?” She said she thought to herself, what kind of choice is that? Who would ever choose it. She said she thought to herself, what he accomplishes, Respect in Communication, Respect our judgment, Respect his abilities, Respect his feelings, and persevere. You have to continue to sit through the noise just wash over them. But if you put it on yourself to go into some desert to explore spirituality. Her prompt reaction was not to just an early death but also a complete awakening of the secrets that silence has to teach us is not easy. Silence, until properly uncovered, is scary and the process of befriending it is the soul’s equivalent of crossing a hot desert. Our insides don’t easily become calm, restlessness doesn’t easily turn into solitude, and the temptation to turn to the outside world for consolation doesn’t easily give way to the idea of quiet. But there’s a peace and a meaning that can only be found inside the desert of our own chaotic and raging insides. The deep wells of consolation lie at the end of an inner journey through heat, thirst, and dead-ends that must be pushed through with dogged fidelity. And, as for any epic journey, the task is not for the faint of heart.

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There’s a profound truth: Silence confronts us with an unbearable bottomlessness and we have no choice but to align ourselves with the religious depth of men. There’s a profound truth: Silence confronts us with an unbearable bottomlessness and we have no choice but to align ourselves with the religious depth inside us. Sadly, for most of us, we will learn this only by bitter conscription when we have to actually face our own death. In the abandonment of dying, stripped of all options and outlets we will, despite struggle and bitterness, have to, in the words of Karl Rahner, allow ourselves to sink into the incomprehensibility of God. Moreover, before this surrender is made, our lives will always remain somewhat unstable and confusing and there will always be dark, inner corners of the soul that scare us.

But a journey into silence can take us beyond our dark fears and shine healing light into our darkest corners. But, as Vandekerckhove and other spiritual writers point out, that peace is usually found only after we have reached an impasse, a “dead point” where the only thing we can do is “to pierce the negative.”

In her book, The Taste of Silence, Vandekerckhove recounts how an idealistic friend of hers shared his dream of going off by himself into some desert to explore spirituality. Her prompt reaction was not much to his liking: “A person is ready to go to any kind of desert. He’s willing to sit anywhere, as long as it’s not his own desert.” How true. We forever hang on idealized deserts and avoid our own.

The spiritual journey, the pilgrimage, the Camino, we most need to make doesn’t require an airline ticket, though an experienced guide is recommended. The most spiritually rewarding trip we can make is an inner pilgrimage, into the desert of our own silence.

As human beings we are constitutionally social. This means, as the bible so bluntly puts it, that it is not good for the human person to be alone. We are meant to be in community with others. Heaven will be a communal experience; but, on the road there, there’s a certain deep inner work that can only be done alone, in silence, away from the noise of the world.

Used with permission of the author, Oblate Father Ron Rolheiser. Currently, Father Rolheiser is serving as President of the Oblate School of Theology in San Antonio Texas. He can be contacted through his website, www.ronrolheiser.com, or on Facebook www.facebook.com/ronrolheiser
EVENTS

August

Frelsburg–Sts. Peter and Paul Country Festival, Aug. 7
Victoria–Our Lady of Sorrows Jamaica Aug. 7 at the Victoria Community Center.
Yoakum–St. Joseph Parish Picnic Aug. 7 at the Yoakum Community Center.
Praha–160th Prazeba Pout/Praha Picnic Aug. 15. A 10:00 a.m. Mass with Bishop Cahill at St. Mary’s Church. From 11:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m. a beef, pork, and sausage dinner at $9 p/p. Music from 11:00 a.m.-10:00 p.m. There will be a cakewalk, games, country store and more throughout the day. Auction at 1:00 p.m. For more information visit stmaryspraha.org.
Hillje–St. Andrew Summer Festival, Aug. 21 at the Parish Hall. A prime beef barbecue and sausage dinner at 11:00 a.m. with drive-thru plates-to-go also available both at $9 p/p. Indoor auction at 12:30 p.m. There will be a country store, bake sale, cakewalk and more along with some music.
Cistern–Sts. Cyril and Methodius Picnic, Aug. 28, see ad on pg. 21.

September

Cuero–Our Lady of Guadalupe Jamaica, Sept. 4, see ad on pg. 9.
Fayetteville–St. John Church Picnic, Sept. 4 starting with a Polka Music Mass at 10:00 a.m. An all-you-can-eat BBQ beef, pork, and sausage dinner beginning at 11:00 a.m. at St. John Recreation Hall. Auction at 1:30 p.m. Games, music and other events throughout the day. For further information call (799) 378-2244.
High Hill–St. Mary’s Parish Picnic, Sept. 4, see ad on pg. 15.
Shiner–Sts. Cyril and Methodius Picnic, Sept. 4, see ad on pg. 7.
Hallettsville–Sacred Heart Parish Picnic, Sept. 4, see ad on pg. 10.
Vanderbilt–St. John Bosco Festival, Sept. 4, see ad on pg. 18.
Blessing–KC’s #4307 Shrimp/Gumbo meal, Sept. 11, see ad on pg. 20.
Inez–St. Joseph Picnic, Sept. 11, see ad on pg. 22.
Yorktown–Holy Cross Festival, Sept. 11, see ad on pg. 8.
Bay City–Our Lady of Guadalupe Jamaica, Sept. 18, see ad on pg. 17.
Victoria–St. Mary’s Altar Society will sponsor a half-day retreat on Tuesday, Sept. 20, at St. Mary’s Activity Center. More information in upcoming issues.
Bloomingston–St. Patrick’s Fall Festival, Sept. 25

October

Victoria–Nazareth Academy Festival, Oct. 2
Victoria–Cathedral of Our Lady of Victory Festival, Oct. 9
Goliad–Immaculate Conception Festival, Oct. 16

Amor Meus Spirituality Center–On-going opportunity for guidance and discussion on one’s spiritual journey with experienced spiritual directors. Call for appointment. Amor Meus Spirituality Center, 1101 N.E. Water St., Victoria, TX 77901; (361) 575-7111; e-mail: amormeus@yahoo.com; website: www.amormeusspiritualitycenter.org.

Catholic Family Services–To find Catholic organizations which focus on family, visit the Catholic Association of Catholic Family Life Ministers at www.naclm.org.

Courage–Ministers to persons with same-sex attractions and their loved ones. The ministry also has an outreach, Encourage, which ministers to relatives, spouses, and friends of persons with same-sex attractions. It is a Roman Catholic Apostolate endorsed by the Pontifical Council for the Family. For more information, visit www.couragec.net.

Emmanus Center–Offers Individual, Couples, Family, Adolescent and children’s counseling as well as specialized Support Groups for Men, Women and those afflicted by Grief. Spiritual Direction is also available on request. The Emmanus Center is located at 1908 N. Laurent St., Suite #140 (behind the VA Clinic). Appointments may be made by calling (361) 212-0830.

Engaged Encounter–Sept. 16-18, Nov. 4-6. Registrations are on a first come, first serve basis. Fee must accompany registration form. For more information, call (361) 573-0828 ext. 2230 or visit www.victoriadiocese.org.

Gabriel Project–Helps women experiencing a crisis pregnancy–an alternative to abortion. Meetings are the 2nd Tuesday of each month at 6:30 p.m. at 101 W. Convent. Light supper included. For angel workshop/training dates, please contact Barbara at (361) 649-1612 or barbaramccain85@yahoo.com. Holy Family, Wharton, meetings are the 4th Tuesday of each month at 6:30 p.m.; Sts. Peter and Paul, Meyersville, meetings are the 3rd Tuesday of each month at 6:00 p.m. For more information, call (799) 532-3593, M-F, 9:00 a.m.-4:30 p.m.

Grief Ministry–A new Grief Support Group is forming. Please call Sharon at (361) 578-7572 for information.

Hospice of South Texas–Volunteer to provide continuity of inpatient care, home care, and bereavement services.

Pilgrimages

Spiritual Director: Father Kristopher Fuchs (OLV)–12 Day Pilgrimage to Portugal, Spain & France visiting Lisbon, Adjustable, Valinhos, Fatima, Santiago de Compostela, Burgos, Leon, Lourdes, Zaragoza & Madrid on June 14-27, 2017. For a copy of the itinerary, please e-mail Dora Silva at dsilva4415@gmail.com. Deposit and payments must be submitted to Little Flower Tours & Travel, for further payment information please contact Susan at (888) 843-7373.

Spiritual Director: Bishop Brendan Cahill–Holy Land Prayer & Encounter Jan. 23-Feb. 3, 2017, to walk in the footsteps of Jesus. The Gospels and the Rosary come to Life as we visit Nazareth, Bethlehem, Cana, sail on the Sea of Galilee, Mt. Tabor, Jericho, and pray the Stations of the Cross in Jerusalem on the way to an early Mass in the Church of the Holy Sepulcher. Contact: Ceci Triska by email at jctriska@sbcglobal.net or call (799) 543-8575.

Free grief support group meetings are the 2nd Monday of each month at 10:00 a.m. in Victoria and the 4th Tuesday of each month at 5:30 p.m. in Hallettsville. For more information, call (800) 874-6908, (361) 572-4300, or visit www.hospiceofsouthtexas.org.

Incarnate Word Prayer Group–Praise and worship on Mondays 7:30-9:00 p.m. in the auditorium at Incarnate Word Convent, 1101 N.E. Water Street. For more information, contact Sr. Louise Marie Jones at (361) 575-7111 or amormeus@yahoo.com.

Natural Family Planning–NFP is the only church-approved form of family planning. To learn about the NFP class schedules in the Victoria area, contact David and Annie Coffey at victoriaparouspeachers@yahoo.com. For the CREIGTON MODEL Fertility Care System (CMS) featuring NaPro TECHNOLOGY™ contact Susanne Koch in Wharton at (505) 710-0903 or susanekoch614@gmail.com.

Raphael’s Refuge–RR’s mission is to build and maintain a memorial in honor of babies, born and unborn. It is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization located in Flatonia. Peer counseling and spiritual direction are available for those suffering a loss of a baby due to miscarriage, stillbirth, infant death, or abortion. For more information, contact Midge Elam at (361) 865-3021, (361) 258-1514, or visit www.raphaelsrefuge.org.

Retrouvaille–Retrouvaille, meaning rediscovery, is a marriage-healing ministry offered in the diocese to couples in difficult marriages. Contact John and Jennifer Vincent at jbjvjes@sbcglobal.net or (361) 580-2770; call (800) 470-2230; or visit www.helpourtmarriage.org or www.retrouvaille.org. Upcoming weekend: Aug, 12-14.

St. Francis and St. Clare Fraternity/Secular Franciscans–For dates, contact Mary Ann LeBlanc at (361) 575-1858 or visit www.lostrescompaneros-sfo.org.

Conferences • Masses • Retreats and more

Wharton–Prayer: The Faith Prayed - Conference for Catechesis and Ministry Oct. 1 at Holy Family Church. Keynotes by Bishop Brendan Cahill, Charleen Katra and Rita Martinez. The conference begins at 9:00 a.m. and closes with Mass at 4:30 p.m. For complete descriptions of workshops and presenter biographical information, go to www.victoriadiocese.org, click Ministries, then XXIX Annual Conference for Catechesis and Ministry, or call (361) 573-0828.

ACTS Retreats–For information, visit www.actsmissions.org.

Tivoli–Our Lady of Guadalupe Church celebrates the Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament the 1st Friday of each month at 6:00 p.m. Mass begins at 7:00 p.m. at 501B William St. with Father Paulson Panakal. For more information, call (361) 237-3634.

Victoria–Our Lady of Lourdes holds Healing Mass and Prayer the 1st Saturday of each month at 10:00 a.m. at 105 N. William St. with Father Phi Nguyen, chaplain of IWBS Convent. For more information, contact Sr. Louise Marie Jones at iwbsvoc2@yahoo.com.
Expressions Of Gratitude

The Incarnate Word Sisters and Associates express their sincere appreciation to EVERYONE who assisted them in anyway in the preparations and celebration of their 150th Anniversary in Victoria and their six day International Reunion with representatives of all the Incarnate Word Sisters and Associates. Through your generosity and God’s overwhelming love and providence our dreams have come true. Be assured of our prayers for each of you.

~ Sisters and Associates of the Incarnate Word and Blessed Sacrament