Ministry for the Homebound Brings Joy

By Sarita Villafranca Richmond, Editor

The Homebound Ministry is a prayerfully quiet, yet powerful ministry that is happening all around us in our very own Diocese of Victoria. Each week there are dozens of people preparing, praying and selflessly visiting someone, who at one time could be an active member of the parish community and is now homebound due to age or illness. Those who have been called to serve in this ministry do not seek recognition or to be noticed. When I began to inquire about those in our diocese active in this ministry, I was amazed to hear in less than 24 hours from many of the parishes in our diocese that they had a thriving homebound ministry! Some responded with names of people who have been serving from a few weeks to 30 years! This ministry, through volunteer effort, visits residences, nursing facilities and other home situations of parish members.

Each parish assigns their ministers to certain homebound parishioners that they visit on a regular basis. The format of each visit is similar as they pray together, review the Sunday gospel, receive Holy Communion and are brought a bulletin and other reading material. Each visit is unique, as the one serving brings their personality and spirit to each visit.

Pam Kovar, a parishioner of St. Joseph in Inez began her ministry 15 years ago. She invited me to join her and personally accompany her on one of her visits. When we arrived at Mrs. Lemcke’s home she was anxiously awaiting Pam’s arrival. She greeted us dressed in a pretty, bright red blouse and invited us to sit at her kitchen table. Her warm home reminded me of my grandmother’s home. The image of the Last Supper was hung within view. Pam gave Mrs. Lemcke the bulletin from St. Joseph Church and with the sign of the cross began her prayers. Together we recited an Our Father and a Hail Mary and Pam prayed with her, thanking God for the blessings of the day and asking for Him to protect Mrs. Lemcke and her family. She then gave her the Eucharist. One could see that after three years of visiting these two beautiful women clearly had a special connection. I could see that this visit like the many before was the highlight of her day.

When we finished visiting with Mrs. Lemcke we drove to St. Joseph Church so that Pam and I could talk more about her ministry. We drove up and decided to sit in their beautiful and newly dedicated Rosary Garden which has Knockout Roses, a statue of Mary, a fountain, and soft music playing The Chaplet of Divine Mercy. Pam shared, “I’m a psychotherapist by degree and I felt called by God to take those gifts of wanting to be present and listen to people, as well as my love of the Eucharist into people’s homes and nursing homes.” To prepare for her visits she begins her day with The Chaplet of Divine Mercy in Song produced by Trish Short. She goes to the church to get the Eucharist and prays for the day, for those she will visit that day, and

See Ministry for the Homebound, pg. 17
Christian, Remember Your Dignity

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

In one of his Christmas homilies Pope St. Leo the Great (he was Pope from 440-461) seemed to burst out when he said: “Christian, remember your dignity!” He was speaking of the reality we are blessed to experience as Christians – when we look at the child Jesus in the manger we are able to see a reflection of ourselves in the hopeful expression of the baby. St. Leo proclaimed that day: “the Son of God took for himself our common humanity in order to reconcile it with its creator.”

As that baby was born in a manger we can imagine the dark night and the struggle of Mary and Joseph to protect the innocent child. This is the same love and struggle that God offers to each one of us in our journey. It’s hard to grasp in our mind – the Lord of heaven and earth, the God of all creation looks on each of us individually with a tender, compassionate gaze.

My prayer for each of you is that you prepare yourself and your family for the celebration of Christmas you can open your heart to receive the complete love of God for you. This is the personal love that marks each of us as Christian – chosen and called by God from the moment we first stirred in our mother’s womb. As Pope St. Leo was able to express in his early experience of faith, the miracle of Christmas begins in the acceptance of God’s loving plan for the world.

As I’m writing this letter for the Catholic faithful of the Diocese of Victoria I’m attending our annual US Bishop’s Meeting in Baltimore. What has struck me this year at our meeting is how this faith experience of Christian dignity and our common humanity stands as the foundation of so much of our work in the present day. The love of the child Jesus makes us see the world differently. Indeed, every child born into the world breathes new life and hope. Most of our discussion during this meeting has revolved around how we can protect and proclaim the truth.

Beginning with the passionate defense of unborn children, and including our discussion of how to protect and promote the full development of the potential of each child to grow into a contributing member of our society, our talks have centered in the inherent, God-given value of every human person. There is so much beauty in the world created by God, yet we also realize there are threats and struggles that continue in the world.

We bishops have been discussing issues ranging from the persecution of Christians around the world to the sin of racism in our communities to the challenging discussion of immigration policy and enforcement to the continued assistance of our families affected by hurricanes Harvey, Irma and María. At first glance the number of struggles that we face on life’s journey seems overwhelming – but as I reflect with you the preparation for Christmas in the year 2017 in Texas I experience the same faith of that great Pope Leo so many years ago – “the Son of God took for himself our common humanity in order to reconcile it with its creator.”

May you and your families be blessed this year with the knowledge of the personal love of God for each of you. Again, I want to particularly thank each of you who have committed to pray the Rosary for the gift of peace in the world and for the family. As St. John Paul II invited us to pray this faithfully, I believe we can maintain our confidence in the power of this prayer – more than we ever know! Let’s keep each other in prayer.

+Brendan
December
1 11:30 a.m. Serra Club meeting

1-3 KC Mid-Year Meeting, San Marcos

3 Legion of Mary – Immaculate Heart of Mary Curia, Bay City

4 Advent Retreat for Diocese of Victoria employees at the Spiritual Renewal Center

5-6 TCCAC Meeting, Austin

8 8:10 a.m. Mass & School visit at Nazareth Academy, Victoria

4:00 p.m. Ribbon Cutting ceremony at the Emmaus Center

5:30 p.m. Mass at Our Lady of Victory, Victoria

9 5:30 p.m. Bishop’s Advent dinner at the Spiritual Renewal Center

11 5:30 a.m. Mañanitas and Mass with Missionary Catechists

2:00 p.m. Interfaith meeting

12 5:30 a.m. Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe at Santisima Trinidad, Victoria

13 6:00 p.m. CCD Visit at Our Lady of Sorrows, Victoria

14 6:00 p.m. Holy Sepulchre Dinner, Victoria Country Club, Victoria

15 8:30 a.m. School Mass and visit at St. Philip, El Campo

18 1:00 p.m. Baptisms and Confirmations at the Stevenson Unit, Cuero

20 2:30 p.m. Finance Board Meeting

4:00 p.m. Building Board Meeting

21 8:30 a.m. Closing of 150th Anniversary Mass at IWBS Convent

24 4:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Mass for IWBS Healthcare Sisters

25 12:00 a.m. Christmas Midnight Mass at the Cathedral of Our Lady of Victory, Victoria

28 11:00 a.m. Mass of the Innocents at Raphael’s Refuge, Flatonia

29 6:00 p.m. Serra Club Mass & Dinner at Holy Family, Victoria

January
1 10:00 a.m. New Year’s Mass at the Cathedral of Our Lady of Victory, Victoria

3 5:30 p.m. CCD visit at Holy Family, Victoria

4 6:00 p.m. St. Agnes Christmas Social, Edna

5 8:05 a.m. School Mass & visit at Sacred Heart, Hallettsville

6 9:00 a.m. RCIA Scrutinies

8-12 Bishop’s Retreat, San Antonio

In Memory of ...
Rev. John Kollannur

Father John Kollannur passed away Saturday, November 18, 2017 in India. He was incardinated in the Archdiocese of Trichur, India and served in the Diocese of Victoria for several years as parochial vicar of Our Lady of Guadalupe Church, Bay City and Our Lady of Lourdes Parish in Victoria and the Catholic parishes in Wharton.

He will be buried in India. May his soul rest in peace.

APOSTLESHIP OF THE SEA—Bishop Brendan Cahill celebrated Mass with port chaplains and visited the Port of Baltimore while at the United States Catholic Conference of Bishops General Meeting, November 17. He also visited one of the ships and met seafarers from the Philippines and Eastern Europe. Bishop Cahill is the Bishop Promoter for the Apostleship of the Sea.

Attention Lighthouse Advertisers!

It has been a pleasure to serve you through your advertising in The Catholic Lighthouse. As you may have noticed, the last three Lighthouse issues were in full color and on Hibrite paper. We have decided to continue printing The Lighthouse in full color and on Hibrite paper. Due to this change, we must increase our advertising prices. This change will go into effect for the January 2018 Lighthouse. Letters and the new rate cards have been mailed. They are also available on the website at https://www.victoriadiocese.org/advertising.

Thank you!
Lighthouse Staff

Please remember in prayer the priests of the Diocese of Victoria, who were ordained during the month of December:

Rev. Eliecer Patiño Hurtado 12/01/07 Our Lady of Sorrows Church, Victoria
Rev. Gabriel Oduro Tawiah 12/06/97 St. John Nepomucene Church, New Taiton
Rev. George Kunnath, MCBS 12/18/74 Our Lady of Guadalupe Church, Bay City

“Let us pray for more vocations to the priesthood”

Here I am Lord, standing at the crossroads of my life. The time has come for me to choose the road that leads to you. I hesitate for fear of what lies ahead of me, for I am much afraid of the unknown. Take my hand in yours and walk with me, for the road is long, and there are no short cuts. I place myself into your hands.

You know the way, You are the way. Amen.

Please remember in prayer the priests of the Diocese of Victoria, who died during the month of December:

Rev. Msgr. C.J. Martin 12/01/89
Rev. Joseph A. KoebeL 12/12/05
Rev. Msgr. Alex Kraus 12/19/92
Rev. Msgr. Eustace A. Hermes 12/23/16
Rev. Joseph Leyva 12/31/83

Jesus said to her, “I am the resurrection and the life; whoever believes in me, even if he dies, will live, and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?” (John 11:25-26)
In Memory of Edward Korenek Father of Rev. Greg Korenek

Edward J. Korenek, 82 of Nada passed away on November 2, 2017. He was born on January 26, 1935, in Nada to the late Adolph and Justina Janish Korenek.

Edward was a lifetime member of St. Mary’s Church in Nada. He served on the church board, St. Mary’s School board, an extra-ordinary minister of Holy Communion, a lector, and choir member.

Edward was a member of the Knights of Columbus, and held several offices, including Grand Knight, and Faithful Navigator for the fourth degree. He was a member of the KJT. In 1985, he was appointed a Knight of St. Gregory.

Edward served on the various boards throughout Wharton and Colorado Counties. Edward was always very willing to serve in these capacities, and saw it as both an honor and a duty.

Edward was a lifetime farmer and rancher, and served his brother Knights as an insurance agent for the Knights of Columbus for 28 years.

Edward was a hard-working man. His passion was farming and ranching, and he thoroughly enjoyed the demanding work and long hours this lifestyle required. Providing for his family was something he held as a priority. Contributing to his church and community was also an important part of his life.

Edward is survived by his wife Bernita Gold Korenek of Nada, daughter Phyllis Lesak (Richard) of Wharton, sons Rev. Greg Korenek of Bay City, Brian Korenek (Lorrie) of Nada, and Duane Korenek (Michelle) of El Campo, grandchildren Kyle Lesak (Jennise), Lauren Lesak Caraway (Gabe), Kristen Lesak, Magen Lesak, Chelsea Korenek Glueck (Brian), Rachel Korenek Valenta (Cody), Josh Korenek, Tucker Korenek, Kurt Korenek, Madsen Korenek, Lannah Korenek, Ty Korenek, and Kynleigh Korenek, 5 great-grandchildren, sisters Edna Shimek, Alice Drapela, Jeanette Ham, Leona Brzozowski, Sister Odilia Korenek, IWBS; Lucy Buenger, Betty Salas, and Patsy Korenek, and brothers Raymond and Clement Korenek.

He was preceded in death by his parents and brother Lambert Korenek.

The funeral Mass was held Tuesday, November 7, with Rev. Greg Korenek officiating. Concelebrating was Rev. Paul Raaz, Rev. Peter Yeboah-Amanfo, and other Priests of the Diocese of Victoria. Burial followed at St. Mary’s Cemetery.


Memorial donations in memory of Edward Korenek may be made to St. Mary’s Nada Community Center or the Diocese of Victoria Seminarian Education Fund.

Education of Seminarian Fund

The Education of Seminarian Fund is a fund in which all of the monies donated to this fund, as well as the earnings, are available to cover the cost of educating seminarians. The proceeds of the special collection on Holy Thursday are deposited into the Education of Seminarian Fund. Publication of this fund will appear when new contributions are received.

Donation categories: Lector – $.01 - $99.99; Acolyte – $100 - $499.99; Candidate – $500 - $1,499.99; Transitional Deacon – $1,500 - $2,499.99; Priest – $2,500 >.

Lector

M/M Paz Morales
in Memory of Father Dan Morales

Deacon Mike & Bonnie Vieira
in Memory of Edward Korenek

Hardy & JoAnn McCullough
in Memory of Edward Korenek

M/M Jerry Uptmor
in Memory of Edward Korenek

Acolyte

Knights of St. Gregory
in Memory of Edward Korenek

J.A. Markovsky
in Memory of Edward Korenek

Monroe & Mary Reiger
in Memory of Edward Korenek

To contribute to the Education of Seminarian Fund, send contributions to:

Diocese Of Victoria
Education of Seminarian Fund
P. O. Box 4070
Victoria, TX 77903
THANKFUL FOR OUR BLESSINGS!—St. Rose of Lima Catholic School in Schulenburg, held its annual Thanksgiving Mass. At the beginning of Mass students brought forward canned foods to be donated to the Schulenburg Food Pantry. Donations were placed in baskets that will be distributed to families in need. This is a beautiful reminder that we are called by God to be his hands and feet.

“Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.”

1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

CELEBRATING 100 YEARS—Sacred Heart School, Hallettsville, alumni, Magdalene Steffek celebrated her 100th birthday with some of her great grandchildren who are currently attending Sacred Heart School: Amanda J., Brady H., Carley H., Cade S., Ryan M., Derrick J., Blake R., Josh S., and Andrew S. Current students not pictured are: Ryan J., Clayton H., Briana H., Landyn M., and Kinley M. What a blessing to celebrate her birthday in Mass surrounded by her family.

PRAYING UP FOR LIFE—Representatives from the Diocese of Victoria joined together in front of the Houston Planned Parenthood for a morning of prayer. Bishop Cahill and Father Jasper Liggio, Director of Pro-life concerns joined the group for this annual day of prayer.
Children (of All Ages) and Christmas

Someone told me that they were too old to celebrate Christmas; that Christmas was for children. Just think how sad someone would be as they grow older if they followed this advice. Imagine yourself not believing in Christmas and its celebration.

Now we all know children love Christmas which is considered the “bestest” (according to a certain kindergarten student) holiday of the year. In fact, their enthusiasm is contagious if we allow ourselves to be influenced by them. So what can we do as adults to share their eagerness in preparing for Christmas?

We can repeatedly remind ourselves of God’s great love for us and participate in religious Advent services. If we have children or grandchildren, we can repeatedly tell them the Christmas story and have them help prepare for Jesus’ birthday.

Many families put a little nativity set under the tree or in some dominant place in the house. Some put out a little empty manger at the beginning of Advent. The children place a piece of straw in it each time they perform a good deed. Others take one of the kings and place the figure far away from the empty manger and then move it a bit closer each day. Some families use an Advent calendar to count the days until Jesus’ birthday. Making a birthday cake for Jesus will really bring the message home for children and grandchildren. Many of our “older folks” enjoy lighting candles each week on an Advent Wreath as they prepare for Christmas. Drawing names for secret “Advent Angels” can get families or other groups into the Christmas spirit as the “angels” perform kind deeds and surprises.

Also, we can honor Jesus, the Son of God who became human to redeem us, by touching Him through the homeless, and the lonely. Making plans to invite a lonely person to celebrate Christmas dinner with us or taking dinner to someone who is housebound will bring Jesus into our Christmas celebration. Donating time, materials, and funding to agencies that serve those in need, the lonely, and the homeless will help those whom we may not be able to touch individually. These practices to touch the human face of Jesus will prepare us for the celebration of His birthday this Christmas in a very special way. Christmas is for everyone! May you have a Blessed Christmas.

KJZT DONATES TO IWBS SISTERS—St. Anne’s KJZT Society #4 Praha donated $1,153 to the Sisters of the Incarnate Word and Blessed Sacrament. The money donated to the Sisters was raised through a bake sale held on September 2, and from matching funds received from the State KJZT Office in Austin, as a community fundraiser under the Fraternal Program. Those present at the donation included: (left-right) Sister Mary Virginia Sheblak, Sister Mildred Truchard, Sister Mary Beth Cernoch, Sister Alberta Novosad, Sister Stephana Marbach, KJZT President Georgia Cerny, KJZT Vice President Ellene Vrazel, Sister Geraldine Pavlik, and Sister Emiliana Grafe. Not present were Sister Andrea Hubnik, KJZT Secretary Nancy Jasek and KJZT Treasurer Patricia Masek.
The Diocese of Victoria
30th Annual Catholic Conference

Putting Faith Into Action: Catholic Social Teaching

Saturday, January 27, 2018

Round A
11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

A-1 The Old Testament Roots of the Church’s Call to Compassion
Jack Jezreel

A-2 Care of God’s Creation: Creation as Divine Revelation
Sr. Linda Gibbler, PhD

A-3 Encountering Christ in the Stranger
Valentin Ekiaka Nzai, PhD

A-4 Making It Real: What CST, “Option For The Poor” Means in South Texas
Helen Osman

A-5 The Death Penalty: A Difficult Issue
To Oppose
David Anwood

A-6 The Church’s Social Mission: Our Spirit, Our Story, Our Structure
Rev. Gary Janak

A-7 Teach the Rosary in Your Classroom and Make It Dynamic!
Kathy O’Neil

A-8 Then & Now: A Short History of CST and It’s Challenges Today
Deacon Eugene Festa

A-9 CST and Liturgical Music: Profound Text and the Paradox
Dolores Martinez, PhD

A-10 ‘Laudato Sí´ ecología católica; métodos y modelos para hispanos
Gerardo Salazar

A-11 Don Y Tarea: Siguiendo las huellas de Jesús
Hermana Miriam Perez, MCHS

Round B
1:45-2:45 p.m.

B-12 The New Testament Roots of the Church’s Call to Compassion
Jack Jezreel

B-13 Call to Family, Community and Participation
Rev. Gary Janak

B-14 Nullity of Marriage: Some of the Basics
Rev. Greg Korenek

B-15 When Did We See You….?
Anne Comeaux

B-16 Repeat See A-2
B-17 Repeat See A-5
B-18 Repeat See A-8

B-19 CST: Not One More Thing To Teach But Part of the Fabric of Confirmation
Adriana Guzman

B-20 Faith That Does Justice Nourished By Word and Sacrament
Dolores Martinez, PhD

B-21 "La misión social de la iglesia: nuestra espiritu, nuestra historia, nuestra estructura"
Anna Chavez

B-22 Encontrando Cristo en el extranjero
Valentin Ekiaka Nzai, PhD

Round C
3:15-4:15 p.m.

C-23 Moving Faith Into Action From Different Faith Perspectives
Bishop Brendan Cahill, Rev. Barbara Beale, Imam Osama Salah Hassan, and Rabbi Seth Stander

C-24 Repeat See B-14
C-25 Repeat See B-13
C-26 From Charity to Advocacy
Debbie Vanelli

C-27 Repeat See A-4
C-28 Repeat See B-19
C-29 How do we respond to tough questions about world issues in the context of Catholic faith?
Sr. Clare Underbrink, IWBS, PhD

C-30 Reliable and Dependable in the Name of Jesus: Spirituality for Volunteers in the Ministry of Catechesis
Bonnie Abadie

C-31 Repeat See A-7
CS-32 Repetir Ve AS-10

Mid-Coast Charity Drive

In conjunction with the conference theme - Catholic Social Teaching, and one of the principles in particular, the Call to Family, Community, and Participation, we are inviting conference participants to bring any of the following items: shampoo, conditioner, deodorant, toothpaste, diapers (all sizes), bath towels, sheets, blankets, dishes, paper towels, socks, toys, etc. to the conference. For a complete list visit www.victoriadiocese.org or call (361) 573-0828.

These items will be donated to Mid-Coast Family Services, which provides assistance to many women and children in our area.

Deadline for Registration: Thursday, January 18
Cost: $35 (includes lunch)
Accepting Online Payments

www.victoriadiocese.org/annualconference

Holy Family Church • 2011 Briar Lane
Wharton, Texas 77488

Deadline for Registration: Thursday, January 18
Cost: $35 (includes lunch)
Accepting Online Payments

www.victoriadiocese.org/annualconference

Holy Family Church • 2011 Briar Lane
Wharton, Texas 77488
HALLETTSVILLE—The feast of Our Lady of the Holy Rosary is on October 7 and October is celebrated as the Month of the Rosary. The Rosary devotion has been treasured in the Church for many centuries. It is a summary of the Christian faith in language and prayers inspired by the Bible. For centuries, the Church reflected on 15 events in the life of Jesus, beginning with Angel Gabriel’s visit to Mary and the incarnation of the Word, Lk 1:26-38. Students and faculty at Sacred Heart Catholic School spent a few minutes in every class, during the month of October, reflecting on a different aspect of the life of Jesus. By the end of each day they covered a period of His life. After four days, they reflected on all the major events in the life of Jesus in the Gospels. While doing this, they also honor His Mother, Mary, and ask her to intercede for them as she did for the newlyweds at Cana, Jn 2:1-11. The Hail Mary, prayed 53 times during the rosary, is like a mantra as they reflected on Scripture. The Lord’s Prayer and the Doxology, a prayer of praise of the Trinity, mark the beginning and end of each reflection. Pope John Paul II, now a canonized Saint, gave the world five more events, which cover the major part of the Gospels, beginning with the baptism of Jesus, Lk 3:21-22, His miracles, Jn 2:1-11, His teaching, Mk 1:38-39, etc., the Transfiguration, Lk 9:28-29, and the institution of the Eucharist at the Last Supper, Mt 26:26-28. This daily practice in October is not only a marvelous learning experience, but as they become more familiar with the life of Jesus, it is an opportunity to deepen their relationship with Him and conform their lives more closely to His.

ST. PAUL SHINER SENIORS SERVE AT CHRIST’S KITCHEN—St. Paul Catholic High School seniors served food, cleaned shelves, pantries, and served complete strangers at Christ’s Kitchen in Victoria. Sr. Maria Raphael, the students’ religion teacher wanted the students to connect the principles of social justice with scripture, and to reflect on the first-hand experience of serving the less fortunate.

LEARN AND LUNCH 2 WITH BISHOP CAHILL

“Let the children come to me & do not hinder them for to such belongs the kingdom of God”

Luke 18:16

PENNIES FOR PATIENTS—The Student Council of Sacred Heart Catholic School presents a check for $2,088.50 to the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society. Accepting the donation is Roxanne Vilanova, Campaign Manager for the South Central Texas Chapter of LLS. The “Pennies for Patients” drive was organized by the student council. Pictured are the Student Council officers, Erica P., Maddie B., Corrina L., Audrey R. and Ella H., Principal Kevin Haas and LLS representative Roxanne Vilanova.
CATHOLIC SCHOOLS

WEIMAR—During the week of October 23 - 27, the students of St. Michael School in Weimar celebrated the mission of the school: to be friendly, respectful, responsible, and Christ-like. Each day had a special theme with the students participating in various events. Monday was America Day! Students were able to dress in red, white, and blue to show their love and respect for their country. On Tuesday, students were friendly and responsible with Twin/Team Tuesday and dressed alike. Wednesday, students participated in the Box of Joy program and learned how their small donations could bring joy to children around the world. On Thursday, students were challenged to think about their future plans and wore the colors of possible future schools. Friday, we were reminded to Keep Christ in All We Do! Students in Grades 5-8 hosted a carnival for the early childhood and elementary students.

VOCATION DAYS—The Sisters of the Incarnate Word and Blessed Sacrament, Victoria, hosted the 5th graders of all the Catholic Schools in the Diocese of Victoria for Vocation Days. Bishop Emeritus David E. Fellhauer shared the following with the students: “You will be happiest in your vocation when serving others.”

St. Michael, Weimar, students celebrated the mission of their school with a week full of activities. Top photo Waylon S., Clara S., Dillon S., Paige P., Hudson E., and Brett S. were challenged to think about their future plans by wearing higher education t-shirts; left, Emma K., Madelyn R., and Brinsson H. dressed alike for being friendly day; right, 8th Graders Austin S., Zoe U., Skylar H., Michael K. Jr., and Sydney P. prepared to ship off Boxes of Joy through the organization, Cross Catholic Outreach. They will be sent to impoverished children in developing nations throughout the world.

Students of St. Michael Weimar Celebrate School Mission

Incarnate Word & Blessed Sacrament Gift Shop

(361) 575-7111
1101 NE Water St. (in Old Victoria)
Victoria, TX 77901
M-F 8:30-4:30 Sat. 9:30-3:30
Bibles, Books, Rosaries, Medals
Statues, Baptism & Wedding Items
Inspirational Gifts
Wreath-Laying Ceremony to Honor Veterans at St. John’s Cemetery

HUNGERFORD—In December fresh green pine wreaths with bright red ribbons will be placed on 75 veterans’ graves at St. John’s Cemetery in Hungerford, Texas. The effort is part of Wreaths Across America, a national program that has a mission to remember, honor and teach about the service and sacrifices of veterans, active military and their families.

The wreath-laying ceremony will be held at noon on Saturday, December 16, at the cemetery. If those who purchase a wreath are unable to be present to do so, volunteers will be available to lay the wreaths on the veterans’ graves.

“When we lay the wreaths, we encourage each person to say the name of the veteran and thank them for their service to our country. Although it is a small act, it goes a long way toward keeping their memory alive,” said Dorothy Viktorin, who is coordinating the ceremony at St. John’s, with Sarah Hudgins.

The event will also include the presentation of flags, a speaker and the laying of seven commemorative wreaths for each branch of the military and POW/MIA.

The remembrance wreaths, each with a red ribbon, may be ordered through November 18, for $15 each. Interested parties can contact Viktorin at (979) 532-2146. Wreaths may also be purchased for pick-up and delivery to veterans at other cemeteries.

Similar ceremonies will be held on December 16, at Holy Cross Cemetery in East Bernard at 11:00 a.m. and the Wharton County Veterans Memorial on the Courthouse Square in Wharton at 1 p.m.

“Every donation and wreath sponsorship is a meaningful gift from a supporter who knows what it means to serve and sacrifice for the freedoms we all enjoy,” added Viktorin.

In 2016, over 1,200,000 wreaths were placed at 1,226 locations nationwide, including Arlington National Cemetery pictured above.

Veterans Day Memorial Service in Praha

PRAHA—The Knights of Columbus, 4th Degree served as Honor Guard for Rev. Anthony Pesek. All were in attendance at Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary Church (St. Mary) in Praha, to honor all veterans and especially the nine young men from Praha who gave their lives in World War II.


In the span of 12 months and nine days, Praha gave up most of its youth — and nearly all of its future — to confront unimaginable forms of evil on faraway continents.

The KC 4th Degree also participated in the Veterans Day Services at St. Mary Cemetery after Mass. Attending Sir Knights were from St. Michael Assembly #1527 of Flatonia, Schulenburg, Weimar, and Bishop Odin Assembly #1095 of Cistern, Fayetteville, and LaGrange.


Can you answer this question?

In baptism the Christian receives the anointing to be Priest, King and ______?

a. Shepherd   c. Prophet
b. Lamb        d. Sower

Answer on pg. 12
FIRE PREVENTION STATE WINNER—St. Philip Catholic School 3rd grade student, Presley H., placed first at the state level on her 2016-17 fire prevention poster. The contest was held this past summer at the State Firefighters Convention. Her winning poster placed first locally, first at District, and first at State. Presenting her award is El Campo Volunteer Fire Department representative, Frank Olsovsky.

Veterans Day 2017

Journeys of Faith with Ceci

2017 and 2018 Trips to Holy Land and More!
Begin Advent in the Holy Land • November 28 - December 7, 2017
Four seats left on the Houston flight! $2,995 includes airfare, hotels, etc.
Spiritual Director: Father Peter Jankowski
You have the option of singing with the Sing for Him Choir at the Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony in Bethlehem and Nazareth with Anna Nuzzo, Christian recording artist and TV host on Shalom World.

Faith of the Irish Pilgrimage with Rev. Bob Knippenberg
May 1 - 11, 2018 ~Space is limited!
Visit the Shrine of Our Lady of Knock, the Lourdes of Ireland, St. Patrick’s Mountain, Dublin, Connemara, Galway, Cliffs of Moher, Cashel, Kilkenny, and more! $3,895 includes airfare, hotels, Irish meals, etc.

Holy Land & Jordan with Rev. Michael Rother
June 6 - 16, 2018 ~Experience the land of Our Lord and see the Gospels come to life! Then...stay for the Jordan extension and visit Mt. Nebo, Madaba, and the beautiful ancient city of Petra! $3,595 for Holy Land only.....plus $795 for Jordan extension! includes airfare, hotels, etc.

2018 Fall Trips in the Works!
Watch for a Spain Pilgrimage and a Danube River Cruise Pilgrimage!

Ceci Triska • (979) 543-8575 (leave message)
ceci.triska@gmail.com • www.selectinternationaltours.com
You can follow Journeys of Faith with Ceci on Facebook!
Sunday Readings from December 3 - January 14

December 3 – First Sunday of Advent
Isaiah 63:16B-17, 19B; 64:2-7
Psalms 80:2-3, 15-16, 18-19
1 Corinthians 1:3-9
Mark 13:33-37

December 10 – Second Sunday of Advent
Isaiah 40:1-5, 9-11
Psalms 85:9-10:11-12, 13-14
2 Peter 3:8-14
Mark 1:1-8

December 17 – Third Sunday of Advent
Isaiah 63:16B-17, 19B; 64:2-7
Psalms 96: 1-2, 2-3, 11-12, 13
Psalms 85:9-10-11, 12-13
Psalms 80:2-3, 15-16, 18-19

December 31 – The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph
Sirach 3:2-6, 12-14
Psalms 128:1-2, 3, 4-5
Colossians 3:12-21
Luke 2:22-40

January 1 – The Octave Day of Christmas ~ Solemnity of the Blessed Virgin Mary, the Mother of God
Numbers 6:22-27
Psalms 67:2-3, 5, 6, 8
Galatians 4:4-7
Luke 2:16-21

January 7 – The Epiphany of the Lord
Isaiah 60:1-6
Psalms 72:1-2, 7-8, 10-11, 12-13
Ephesians 3:2-3A, 5-6
Matthew 2:1-12

January 8 – The Baptism of the Lord
Isaiah 42:1-4, 6-7
Psalms 29:1-2, 3-4, 3, 9-10
Mark 1:7-11

January 14 – Second Sunday of Ordinary Time
1 Samuel 3:3B-10, 19
Psalms 40:2, 4, 7-8, 8-9, 10
1 Corinthians 6:13C-15A, 17-20
John 1:35-42

For daily and Sunday readings, as well as a daily reflection video, visit www.usccb.org/bible/readings.
Brought to you by: Catholic Communications Campaign

Youth urged to remember they’re ‘beloved children of God, called by name’

By Natalie Hoefer
Catholic News Service

INDIANAPOLIS (CNS) — The sound of more than 20,000 teens screaming and singing along with rauccous music of Christian hip-hop band TobyMac was loud.

The sound of the same number of youths in silent prayer was deafening.

These external and internal forms of praise formed bookends to the opening general session of the National Catholic Youth Conference Nov. 16 at Lucas Oil Stadium in Indianapolis.

After two hours of music, entertainment -- including cultural dancing by the Vietnamese Eucharistic Youth Movement -- and an entrance procession of banners from each diocese present, the participants were greeted by Indianapolis Archbishop Charles C. Thompson.

Although each person came “from many dioceses, many states … and with many titles,” he said, “we are first and foremost children of God. And that God who knows us desires to be known by us. … God wanted us to know him … through a personal relationship with a human being, our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

“We are beloved children of God, called by name, claimed by Christ,” he continued, referring to the conference theme of “Called.” “We begin this NCYC weekend by embracing that reality of who we are.

Chris Stefanick, an internationally acclaimed author, speaker and founder of Real Life Catholic, used humor and life experience to speak about the reality of who we are and of God’s love for each person.

He spoke of the “love story” upon which the Catholic faith is founded.

“When you remove the love story, what are you left with?” he asked. “Rules that we have to follow. Rituals that we’re not sure why we keep them alive but they take a lot of time. Doctrines that have nothing to do with your life. That’s how the world has come to see Catholicism. … The world has forgotten the love story, and so often we’ve forgotten the love story.”

That story, he said, “begins very simply with the words ‘I believe in one God.’”

So many youths today chose not to believe, he said, including an atheist who once told him that belief that God created the universe “is as stupid as a kid coming down on Christmas morning and seeing presents under the tree. There are presents, therefore there must be a Santa.”

“You say there’s no God?” Stefanick asked. “That’s like a flea not believing in the dog. That’s like a kid coming down on Christmas morning and seeing presents under the tree and saying, ‘Oh look! Presents! They must have exploded themselves here!’ … Just so, the universe did not put itself here, and the more we learn about the universe, the more it shouts to us about the existence of God.”

And because God’s love created us, he said, no other form of love will satisfy.

“We feel so small in this world,” he told the crowd that came from as far away as Hawaii and Alaska. “We feel so insignificant in this universe.

‘I think God looks down from heaven and says, ‘You are huge next to all this.’ As big as a mountain is, can it know someone? … And says, ‘You are huge next to all this.’ As big as an ocean is, can it choose to love? … And says, ‘You are huge next to all this.’ As big as the universe is, the more it shouts to us about the existence of God.”

Confidential and caring assistance available for the following needs:
- emotional
- material
- spiritual
- educational

Providing immediate and practical help.

We have a special concern for you and your unborn child.

Gabriel Project
Toll Free 1-866-MARY AID
1-866-867-9243

Unborn child.

We have a special concern for you and your unborn child.

• emotional • material • spiritual • educational • educational • educational •

Confidential and caring assistance available for

Unborn child.

We have a special concern for you and your unborn child.

• emotional • material • spiritual • educational •

Confidential and caring assistance available for

Unborn child.

We have a special concern for you and your unborn child.

• emotional • material • spiritual • educational • educational • educational •

Confidential and caring assistance available for
The Annual Meeting and Investiture of the Southwestern Lieutenancy of the Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre of Jerusalem was held this year at the Renaissance Hotel, Cox Convention Center and churches in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma from October 20-23, 2017.

Attending from the Diocese of Victoria were Sir Richard Allen Evans, KHS, Lady Karen Elizabeth Evens, LHS, Sir Joseph J. Morris, Sr., KGCHS, and Lady Joyce B. Morris, LGCHS. The Diocese of Victoria is a part of the Southwestern Lieutenancy, which is made up of Texas, Oklahoma, Arkansas, and New Mexico. There are 38 representatives in the Diocese of Victoria. Sir Joseph J. Morris and Lady Joyce B. Morris have been in the Order of the Holy Sepulchre for 24 years and currently serve as Section Representatives. Sir Richard Allen Evans and Lady Karen Elizabeth Evens are newer members with 3 years of service and time to the Order.

The three days of this Annual meeting and Investiture were, as usual filled with many events. The meeting began with a Traveler’s Mass on Friday; the Principal Celebrant was the Most Reverend Eusebius J. Beltran, KC*HS, Archbishop Emeritus of Oklahoma City. Other events included a Memorial Mass held at St. John Nepomuk Catholic Church in Yukon, Oklahoma, Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, evening prayer and all-night Adoration in the Convention Center. A Mass and Ceremony of Solemn Investiture was also held Sunday afternoon, October 22, at St. John the Baptist Catholic Church, Edmond, Oklahoma. The Principal Celebrant and Homilist was the Grand Prior, Southwestern Lieutenancy, His Eminence Daniel Cardinal DiNardo, KGCHS, Archbishop of Galveston-Houston.

While they were in Oklahoma those attending the Annual Meeting were able to attend a special presentation on Blessed Stanley Rother, who was Beatified on September 23, 2017, in Oklahoma. This special presentation on Blessed Stanley Rother was presented by Bishop Anthony Taylor, KC*HS. He told the amazing story of the life, martyrdom and the effects of the death of Blessed Stanley Rother. An Oklahoman, Blessed Rother, is the first United States Martyr. A book, “The Shepherd Who didn’t Run”, that told about his life and martyrdom, written by Maria Ruiz Scaquerlana was being sold. She was also present at the meeting to sign her book for those attending.

THE HISTORY OF THE ORDER

The history of The Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre of Jerusalem goes back over nine hundred years. The First Crusade ended with the fall of Jerusalem to the crusaders in 1099 and the establishment of the Latin Kingdom of Jerusalem. At this time, Sir Godfrey de Bouillon, the military leader of the combined forces of the crusaders, called for volunteers from among his knights to spend their lives guarding the newly liberated tomb of Christ. This new Order of the Knights of the Holy Sepulchre quickly won papal approbation being formally approved as an order by Pope Paschal II in 1113.

The Latin Kingdom of Jerusalem lasted a little less than a hundred years during which time the crusaders built many great churches, forts, castles and cities. The Church of the Holy Sepulchre, which they built covering both the sites of the crucifixion and the tomb of Christ, still stands. This magnificent old church, which is the spiritual heart of the Equestrian Order, has recently been restored to preserve it for generations of pilgrims to come.

THE ORDER TODAY

The Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre of Jerusalem is the only lay institution of the Vatican State charged with the task of providing for the needs of the Latin Patriarchate of Jerusalem and of all the activities and initiatives to support the Christian presence in the Holy Land. The contributions made by its members are therefore the Patriarchal institutions’ main source of funding.

The Order is represented in almost every country in the world where there is a large Catholic community and appropriate conditions for activities that will allow it to achieve its objectives. Together, and individually, each Lieutenancy, Section and Delegation draws up a yearly program of meetings and events aimed at strengthening the spiritual growth of the Members as well as events to raise awareness of the Order’s role and activities in their respective local communities.

The donations raised for the Holy Land are administered by the Lieutenancies in accordance with the administrative and fiscal legislation of their country of operation and each Lieutenancy maintains relevant accounts, which are reported to the Grand Magisterium.

GOALS OF THE ORDER

· To strengthen in its members the practice of Christian life, in absolute fidelity to the Supreme Pontiff and according to the teachings of the Catholic Church, observing as its foundation the principles of charity, which make the Order a fundamental means of assistance to the Holy Land.

· To sustain and aid the charitable, cultural and social works and institutions of the Catholic Church in the Holy Land, particularly those of and in the Latin Patriarchate of Jerusalem, with which the Order maintains traditional ties.

· To support the preservation and propagation of the Faith in those lands, and promote interest in this work not only among Catholics scattered throughout the world, who are united in charity by the symbol of the Order, but also among all other Christians.

· To uphold the rights of the Catholic Church in the Holy Land.

HIERARCHY OF THE ORDER

The Order has a definite hierarchy. At the top is the Cardinal Grand Master who is appointed directly by the Holy Father, to lead and govern the Order. The Grand Master is assisted by a consultative body, the Grand Magisterium, whose task is to identify and agree with the Latin Patriarchate of Jerusalem the programs and action to be undertaken each year to provide for the Christian institutions and communities in the Holy Land, including the operating methods.

The Order is subdivided into Lieutenancies, which in turn are divided into Sections. The Order currently has 52 Lieutenancies: 24 in Europe, 15 in North America and Canada, 5 in Latin America and 6 in Australia and the Far East. At present, the number of active Members is around 23,000.

HOW TO JOIN

Joining the Order means taking on a commitment for life. The commitment to be a witness to the faith, to lead an exemplary Christian life of continuing charity in support of the Christian communities in the Holy Land, to practice the true charitable commitment of a Christian.

The purpose of joining the Order is to serve the Catholic Church and to carry out acts of charity to make the operations to maintain the Christian presence in the Holy Land possible.

LOCAL ORDER (SOUTHWESTERN LIEUTENANCY)

At the Southwestern Lieutenancy annual meeting held in October of 2017 it was reported that the local Lieutenancy has sent $1,000,000 or more to the Holy Land for more than ten consecutive years. The contribution helps to support schools, day cares, churches, hospitals, seminars and universities to preserve Christianity in the Holy Land.

For anyone seeking more information about the Order contact Sir Joseph J. Morris and Lady Joyce B. Morris at (361) 575-5817 or joemor@suddenlink.net.
NEW PUZZLE BOOK – Elie Corpus Mejia presented a copy of her latest book, Liturgical Calendar Celebrations, to Bishop Brendan Cahill. Bishop Cahill appreciates the work she is doing to spread God’s Word through her puzzles and books.

NATIONAL WINNER – Catholic Daughters of the Americas Court St. Ann #369, Regent Donna Moeller is pictured with Logan R. receiving his National Catholic Daughter of the Americas certificate. He won first place in the National Education Contest for photography. Logan is a Senior at St. Joseph High School.

IF YOU HAVE A MUSICAL GIFT ON YOUR WISH LIST, LET US HELP

TEE’S MUSIC HOUSE

Beeville 361-362-0828
Kenedy 830-583-9786
Victoria 361-575-0204

Child’s Guitar 30” - Assorted Colors $49.99
Youth Guitar 34” - Assorted Colors $64.99
Snare Drum w/stand & sticks $129.95
Artist Concert Guitar - Assorted Colors $99.95
Electric Guitar - Assorted Colors $149.95
Acoustic Dreadnought Guitar Pkg $149.95
Electric Guitar Combo $199.95
Bongos - Assorted Colors $69.99
5 pc. Drum Set w/Cymbals $499.95
Violin Outfit Complete $129.95
Tubular Guitar Stands $14.95
Electric Guitar Tuners $14.95
Harmonicas $6.99
Instructional Videos & Method Books $9.95
Music Stands - Assorted Colors $16.95
Button Accordions - 3 Row - GCF & FBE $449.95

Layaways Welcome!
Prices subject to change.

Wishing everyone a blessed Christmas and a healthy New Year.

Many more holiday specials throughout the store.

No city traffic problems. Friendly and knowledgeable sales staff.

Come see us for your holiday gift needs. All major credit cards accepted.

A reading from the first Letter of Saint Paul to the Thessalonians: Brothers and sisters: / Rejoice always. Pray without ceasing. In all circumstances give thanks. For this is the will of God for you in Christ Jesus. Do not quench the Spirit. Do not despise prophetic utterances. Test everything. Retain what is good. Refrain from every kind of evil. May the God of peace make you perfectly holy and make you entirely, spirit, soul, and body, be preserved blameless for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. / The one who calls you is faithful, and he will also accomplish it.

RCHGU SPIRITZDQETM EESLONHBRTHERSHU FAIELDISCENOROETRSLTFANAORVGILSKS AIPTSISHMUTEFYIBSPINMEKNIFTESTPHELQNGORZNATIURSSSLWURYBCLGIEIHOETEIDAEUCCRTQNTDYMLSSPAKTAWADWVOALKGDTD


Name: __________________________
Address: __________________________
Phone number: __________________________
Parish: __________________________
Age, if 18 or under: __________

Although the above material is copyrighted and copying of it is prohibited by law, the author does offer use of the material for educational purposes under an Educators Program. If you are interested in using this puzzle or book for educational use or for more information, contact Elie’s Spiritual Treasures at (361) 894-7274, elies_spiritual_treasures@yahoo.com or visit www.searching-for-jesus.com.

There will be a drawing from those who send the above entry form with crossword puzzle to The Catholic Lighthouse, P.O. Box 4070, Victoria, TX 77903 for a chance to win an Elie’s Spiritual Treasures Bible Word Search book.

We will be publishing a puzzle quarterly in English and Spanish.
All Saints' Day was remembered throughout the Diocese of Victoria by parishes and schools. This Holy Day of Obligation is dedicated to the saints of the Church. Catholic school students dressed as saints for Masses held that day and the Ballet Folklorico from Our Lady of Sorrows, Victoria performed at a Mass held at Resurrection Cemetery in Victoria. The cemetery Mass was celebrated by Bishop Cahill.

Amor Meus Spirituality Center

**INVITATIONS TO PRAYER**

**Advent Vespers: December 3, 10, 17, 2017**
Vespers is the Liturgical Evening Prayer of the Church. It consists of praying the psalms, giving thanks for the day, and offering praise to God. Vespers concludes with Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament. 5:00 pm—5:45 pm in Convent Chapel.

**Silent Guided Day Retreat: Saturday, December 9, 2017**
Theme: “Silence: The Christmas Noise” Sister Rose Miriam Gansle, IWBS
One-Day Retreats include at least two presentations, Liturgy or prayer service with ample time for personal prayer, walking and reflecting. 9:30 am—3:30 pm in Auditorium.

**Taizé Prayer: Tuesday, January 16, 2018**
Taizé prayer is a meditative Christian experience of prayer that includes sung and chanted prayers, meditation, and periods of silent, reflection and liturgical readings. 7:00 pm—8:00 pm in Amor Meus Prayer Room.

**Private/Directed Overnight Retreat**
Private or Directed offer an opportunity to spend quiet time in prayer and reflection. A spiritual director or guide is available. It is requested that arrangements be made a week in advance.

**Spiritual Direction**
On-Going opportunity for guidance and discussion on one’s spiritual journey with experienced spiritual directors.

---

Incarnate Word Convent
1101 N.E. WATER ST. VICTORIA, TEXAS 77901

Sisters of the Incarnate Word and Blessed Sacrament

361-575-7111
Sisters@IWBSVICTORIA.ORG
Por Rhina Guidos
Catholic News Service

BALTIMORE (CNS) — El arzobispo de Panamá dijo que la próxima Jornada Mundial de la Juventud, en 2019 en su país, invitará a jóvenes de otras religiones.

“Queremos que sea ecuménico”, dijo el arzobispo José Domingo Ulloa Mendiesta de Panamá en una entrevista el 13 de noviembre con Catholic News Service. “Estamos trabajando para incluir a jóvenes de otras comunidades de fe para que participen”.

El arzobispo Ulloa estuvo en Baltimore para la reunión de la Conferencia de Obispos Católicos de los Estados Unidos el 13 y 14 de noviembre, donde dio a los obispos una descripción general de los preparativos para la Jornada Mundial de la Juventud.

El evento internacional, fundado por San Juan Pablo II en 1985, es una celebración religiosa para jóvenes católicos de todo el mundo que se organiza cada tres años y dura varios días en un país elegido.

El arzobispo Ulloa dijo que el papa Francisco le dijo que no se fijara en jornadas anteriores, y le dijo que hiciera “algo de vuestra realidad”. Le dijo que le dé a la próxima jornada un sabor de las realidades de América Latina y ponía en práctica este año.

Por la naturaleza de América Latina, donde hay una variedad de culturas étnicas, la celebración será intercultural, dijo el arzobispo Ulloa. También se observará el aspecto “martirial” de la iglesia y el sufrimiento de su gente.

“El papa ha pensado en quién?” dijo el arzobispo. “En los jóvenes centroamericanos, de sus realidades como migrantes, que incluyen los que son llevados a la delincuencia, o la trata de personas, de la realidad de la marginalidad en la que viven”.

El papa también pidió que se le diera un lugar especial a María y las mujeres. “No se puede concebir la realidad Latinoamericana sin la presencia de María”, dijo el arzobispo Ulloa.
that God will guide her. Pam shared, “It is a very sacred time for me; my soul’s purpose is to listen to people, to establish rapport and to encourage them. I hope I bring them joy and a sense of being loved, valued, and understood for where they are in their season of life.”

I also visited with a few other homebound ministers from the Diocese of Victoria. Cindy Dubose, a parishioner of Holy Cross in Yorktown began 20 years ago when Father Frank Lenz asked her if she would take the Eucharist to some homebound parishioners. She shared, “Some of the visits were very far in the country and hard to find. It wasn’t always convenient especially when I had to take my young sons, but once I left I felt so good!”

The purpose of this ministry is to bring church and fellowship to the people so that they can feel like they are a part of the community. Cindy also shared, “They want to feel a part of the church. I tell them what the sermon was about and share the readings for the gospel of the weekend.” Her time as minister to the homebound has been rewarding as she has been inspired by the faith of those she visits. It has also allowed her children to see an example of how to live by service to others. Over the years she has had a few unforgettable visits even one that included arriving to find a bull on the front steps of a home!

Joe Gajdos a parishioner of Sacred Heart Church in Flatonia was asked by Father Gabriel Mason 25 years ago to organize the Homebound Ministry for their church. He has been doing it ever since. He shared, “We are a liaison between the church and the homebound. It gives me joy to bring the church and the gospel to them.” He explained that each minister takes a prayer sheet, reads the gospel, recites an Our Father and administers the Eucharist. They usually visit with them for a while asking them about life and their families. Joe shared, “When we visit we are sometimes the only contact that person will have with the outside world that week. So many of them have been life long parishioners and can no longer get around due to age or physical disabilities.”

Another minister, Georgia Cerny has had a life long ministry of over 30 years with the homebound. She began her ministry in Houston when Father Sean who was at Our Lady of Mount Carmel posted in the church bulletin, a need for homebound ministers. I did it when I lived in Houston and have been serving in Praha at Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary for 20 years. She shared, “Those who we visit are grateful; it helps them to receive Jesus every week. It brings me peace. I am so happy we have this ministry.” One experience she recalled was in Houston when she took the Eucharist to someone who knew she would be dying soon. Georgia shared, “She would tell me each time, ‘Georgia, this may be the last time’, knowing that one day it would be the last time she received Jesus.

It was amazing to me to see how the Homebound Ministry in Victoria is thriving. I had no idea so many people are quietly and humbly serving in this capacity. Every minister I had the privilege of visiting with had their unique stories of how their lives have been enriched. The challenges they have faced were outweighed in every case by the blessings received. Each of the heartfelt stories were a local parishioner serving other parishioners, each experiencing God’s goodness through the kindness of others.

We ask you, the faithful of the Diocese of Victoria to pray for each one of those men and women in the diocese who humbly serve in the Homebound Ministry. We ask that God give them the graces they need to listen, to comfort, to share and to bring Christ’s love to each person they visit.

*If you are feeling called to serve the homebound at your parish please speak with your pastor.*
### Child and Vulnerable Adult Abuse Reporting Procedures

If you witness, suspect, or know of child and/or vulnerable adult abuse, you must file a report within 48 hours by contacting the Civil Authorities: Department of Family and Protective Services at 1-800-252-5400 or www.txabusehotline.org. If the person is in immediate danger, call 911.

#### If Church Personnel Is Involved In Alleged Abuse:

**Step One:** Contact Civil Authorities, if individual is a minor.

**Step Two:** Contact one of the following:
- Call Bishop or Chancellor of the Diocese of Victoria at (361) 573-0828.
- Written Allegations Should Be Sent To: Office of the Bishop, P. O. Box 4070, Victoria, TX 77903, Mark as “Personal and Confidential”
- Call Vicki L. Pyatt, LMSW, Pastoral Care and Outreach, at (361) 827-7186 or email: pastoralcare@victoriadiocese.org

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. For further assistance please contact Vicki L. Pyatt.

---

### FAMILY ADVENT CALENDAR 2017

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SUNDAY</th>
<th>MONDAY</th>
<th>TUESDAY</th>
<th>WEDNESDAY</th>
<th>THURSDAY</th>
<th>FRIDAY</th>
<th>SATURDAY</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>December 3</strong></td>
<td><strong>December 4</strong></td>
<td><strong>December 5</strong></td>
<td><strong>December 6</strong></td>
<td><strong>December 7</strong></td>
<td><strong>December 8</strong></td>
<td><strong>December 9</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bless your Advent wreath today! Light one of the violet candles marking the season’s first week as you sing a verse of “O Come, O Come, Emmanuel.”</td>
<td>Have fun making a Jesse tree today! You can add to it every day until Christmas and learn about Jesus’s heritage.</td>
<td>Have you started Christmas shopping yet? Consider buying your gifts Fair Trade this year.</td>
<td>Today is the Feast of St. Nicholas, a saint known for giving gifts to the poor. How will you help the poor this Advent season?</td>
<td>“We have to reach out to others and seek their good” (Pope Francis, Evangelii Gaudium, no. 8). Make a list of where you see good in others.</td>
<td>Today we honor Mary, the mother of Jesus, who was born without sin. Take time to pray to her today.</td>
<td>St. Juan Diego welcomed Our Lady of Guadalupe and did her bidding. Remember him today by praying for immigrants and newcomers to your parish or community.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Light the second violet candle on your Advent wreath and shift our reflection from “the Lord is coming” to “the Lord is near.”</td>
<td>“If we say that we have not sinned, we make (God) a liar, and his word is not in us” (1 Jn 1:10). Have you gone to confession this Advent?</td>
<td>Pray to Our Lady of Guadalupe today that she may help us in “bringing the light and the saving truth of the Gospel to every corner of society.”</td>
<td>Today’s feast of St. Lucy is marked by pageants and festivals in Scandinavia &amp; Italy. Research an Advent or Christmas custom of your own family’s ethnic heritage and try it this year!</td>
<td>St. John of the Cross, whom we honor today, was known for his deep spirituality and compassion. Make a list of how you help others in your community.</td>
<td>Make it a family movie night tonight! Pick out your favorite Christmas movie and watch it together.</td>
<td>On this day, Latin Americans begin the Posadas—reenactments of the Holy Family’s journey to Bethlehem. Pray for the difficult journeys of migrants and refugees.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>On Gaudete Sunday, we light the rose (pink) candle on the Advent wreath and shift our reflection from “the Lord is coming” to “the Lord is near.”</td>
<td>Start adding the “O Antiphons” into your mealtime or bedtime prayer. Only one more week until Christmas!</td>
<td>Take time today to bless the family crèche. Based on your family’s tradition, you may hide the baby Jesus until Christmas morning.</td>
<td>As Christmas draws nearer and we wrap presents, remember the words of St. Teresa of Calcutta: “It’s not how much we give but how much love we put into giving.”</td>
<td>As we draw nearer to Christmas, take a moment to lift up in prayer the struggles faced by neighbors in your community and around the world.</td>
<td>Bless your Christmas tree tonight and sing “Silent Night” as a family.</td>
<td>Practice sharing your faith with others by carrying the spirit of evangelization with you into the Christmas season and beyond.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Read the Christmas story (Luke 2:1-4) together as a family and reflect on the gift of Christ’s life.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

---

**Keep Christ in Christmas**

Be His Hands This Season

Join Us!

www.tkofc.org
Retrouvaille, meaning rediscovery, is a marriage-healing ministry offered in the diocese to couples suffering a loss of a baby due to miscarriage, stillbirth, infant death, or abortion. For more information, contact Sharon at (361) 578-7572 before attending.

Engaged Encounter—An on-going Grief Group meets at Holy Family Church, Victoria in the Conference Room, 7:00 p.m., on the 1st and 3rd Thursday of every month. Every adult, who has experienced the death of a loved one, may attend (after three months has passed). Please call Sharon at (361) 578-7572 before attending.

Incarncate 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.

Grief Ministry—An on-going Grief Group meets at Holy Family Church, Victoria in the Conference Room, 7:00 p.m., on the 1st and 3rd Thursday of every month. Every adult, who has experienced the death of a loved one, may attend (after three months has passed). Please call Sharon at (361) 578-7572 before attending.

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 Meyersville, meetings are the 3rd Tuesday of each month at 6:30 p.m. at 101 W. Convent. For more information, 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 (979) 532-3593, M-F, 9:00 a.m.-4:30 p.m.

Grief Ministry—An on-going Grief Group meets at Holy Family Church, Victoria in the Conference Room, 7:00 p.m., on the 1st and 3rd Thursday of every month. Every adult, who has experienced the death of a loved one, may attend (after three months has passed). Please call Sharon at (361) 578-7572 before attending.

Incarncate 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.

Mothers of Grace—A new mothers’ group at the Cathedral of Our Lady of Victory. They meet every Tuesday at 6:30 p.m. in the Early Childhood Center. For more information contact Jennifer Ruiz at jenniferschoobey@yahoo.com.

Catholic Family Services—To find Catholic organizations which focus on family, visit the Catholic Association of Catholic Family Life Ministers at www.nacflm.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.encouragerc.net.

Emmaus Center—Offers individual, couple, 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 Appointments may be made by calling (361) 212-0830.

Advent Solemn Vespers: December 3, December 10, December 17. Solemn Vespers is the Liturgical Evening Prayer of the Church. It consists of praying the psalms, giving thanks for the day, and offering praise to God. Vespers concludes with Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament. Incarnate Word Convent 1101 NE Water Street, Victoria; 5:00-5:45 p.m. in the Convent Chapel. For more information contact Sr. Emilie Eilers at (361) 575-7111. Open to the public.

On-going opportunities: Guidance and discussion on one’s spiritual journey are available 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 Lighthouse
The Catholic Lighthouse
Subscriptions and more...
The Catholic Lighthouse
The Catholic Lighthouse
Chancery Staff of the Diocese of Victoria

Bishop Brendan Cahill
Bishop Emeritus David Fellhauer
Rev. Matthew Huehlefeld
Mike Brown ~ Tony Martinez
Melissa Salinas
Jeri Joseph
Zoila Shoemake
Rene Garcia
Sherry Kainer
Sr. Rosario Resendez, IWBS
Chris Alvarez
Brunilda Ortiz
Sr. Marian Sturm, IWBS
Angela Martinez
Brenda Morales
Wendy Eggert
Ryan Leos
Sarita Richmond
Regina Janak
Dr. John Quary
Janie Carrales
Gary Rangnow
Alice Capeo
Melissa Perales
Vicki Pyatt
Pauline Castaneda

We Wish each and every one a very
Blessed Christmas and A Happy New Year