The Catholic Lighthouse

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MAY 2017

By Sarita Villafranca Richmond, Editor

Towering above the bronze doors of the cathedral of the Diocese of Victoria is an eighteen-foot high figure of Our Lady of Victory. The name of the church was derived from a title attributed to Mary, the Mother of God. Pope Pius V established the feast of Our Lady of Victory also known as the feast of The Most Holy Rosary, in commemoration of the victory won over the Ottoman Turks by a much smaller Christian fleet in the battle of Lepanto on October 7, 1571. That victory was attributed to the help of the Holy Mother of God whose aid was invoked through the praying of the rosary.

Until the mid 1950’s, Victoria had three Catholic churches, St. Mary’s, Our Lady of Sorrows, and Our Lady of Lourdes, that served the Catholics in the area. Victoria was experiencing a lot of growth and the need for another Catholic church was becoming quickly evident. In November 1955, local Catholics joined together in an effort to raise the necessary funds for the acquisition of land for a 4th Catholic church. Twenty acres of land, at the corner of Laurent Street and Mesquite Lane, were donated by the families of Thomas O’Connor Sr. and Martin O’Connor.

A new Catholic church of contemporary design, with its interior and shape reminiscent of Gothic architecture, was completed in the summer of 1958. On October 7, 1958, the Most Reverend Robert E. Lucey, Archbishop of San Antonio, wrote a letter as the day approached for Our Lady of Victory Church to be consecrated. He sincerely thanked and expressed his appreciation to Mr. Thomas O’Connor Jr. and his family for funding the church which was built in loving memory of his wife, Junie B. O’Connor, who died earlier that year. He also shared, “I wish to add that I am not unmindful of the generous gifts to this worthy cause contributed not only by the faithful of this new parish, but particularly by those who are

Pastors Who Have Served Our Lady Of Victory

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<td>Rev. Eustace Hermes</td>
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See A Closer Look, pg. 20

Pictured at the top right is the aerial view of the church in 1958. Above is the 18 foot image of Our Lady of Victory that is on the front of the church. Also above is one of the 18 panels that depict the titles given to Mary.
Celebrating Our Lady of Fátima

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

On May 13, Pope Francis will be in Fatima, celebrating Mass on the 100th Anniversary of the first appearance of Mary to the young shepherd children at that holy place. As part of the celebration of this anniversary, Pope Francis has offered the following opportunity for a special plenary indulgence:

“The faithful, with devotion, can visit a statue of Our Lady of Fatima solemnly exposed for public veneration in any church, oratory, or proper place of prayer during the days of the anniversary of the apparitions, the 13th of each month from May to October 2017, and there devoutly participate in some celebration or prayer in honor of the Virgin Mary. In addition, the faithful must pray the Our Father, recite the Creed and invoke Our Lady of Fatima.

The faithful who, because of age, illness or other serious causes, are unable to get around, may pray in front of a statue of Our Lady of Fatima and must spiritually unite themselves to the jubilee celebrations on the days of the apparitions, the 13th of each month, between May and October 2017. They must also “offer to merciful God with confidence, through Mary, their prayers and sufferings or the sacrifices they make in their own lives.”

With the support of Father Dominic Antwi-Boasiako, St. Mary’s Church in Victoria will have a special statue of Our Lady of Fatima available for veneration on each of the days mentioned above.

The Catechism of the Catholic Church teaches about our beautiful understanding of indulgences in #1471-1479. In this section it places this particular teaching in the context of interior penance, ultimately leading to a conversion of the heart. In the process of obtaining an indulgence the faithful person grows in holiness and the fruits of this holiness radiate outward. A plenary indulgence removes “all of the temporal punishment due to sin”, and it can be applied to oneself or for another. The entire teaching in this section of the Catechism from #1422 – 1498 is a testimony to the power of God’s mercy and our ability to participate in this mercy through our acts of penance and love.

In addition to a particular action such as the example above, there are three conditions that must be fulfilled each time in order to receive an indulgence: go to Confession and Communion, be interiorly detached from sin, and pray for the intentions of the Holy Father. In teaching about indulgences, the Church teaches about the power of the human heart cleansed by God, and this is at the center of the message of Fatima.

On May 13, 2000 then-Cardinal Ratzinger (now-Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI) offered a deep theological commentary on this message. In the last paragraph of his commentary he wrote:

“I would like finally to mention another key expression of the ‘secret’ which has become justly famous: ‘my Immaculate Heart will triumph’. What does this mean? The Heart open to God, purified by contemplation of God, is stronger than guns and weapons of every kind. The fiat of Mary, the word of her heart, has changed the history of the world, because it brought the Saviour into the world – because, thanks to her Yes, God could become man in our world and remains so for all time. The evil one has power in this world, as we see and experience continually; he has power because our freedom continually lets itself be led away from God. Since God himself took a human heart and has thus steered human freedom towards what is good, the freedom to choose evil no longer has the last word. From that time forth, the word that prevails is this: ‘In the world you will have tribulation, but take heart; I have overcome the world’ (Jn. 16:33). The message of Fatima invites us to trust in this promise.”

Once again, I want to particularly thank each of you who has 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! May God bless you and your families, let’s keep each other in prayer.

+ Brendan

Dios, es más fuerte que los fusiles y que cualquier tipo de arma. El fiat de María, la palabra de su corazón, ha cambiado la historia del mundo, porque trajo al mundo al Salvador, porque gracias a ella por decir “sí”, Dios pudo hacerse hombre en nuestro mundo y así permanece ahora y para siempre. El maligno tiene poder en este mundo, lo mismo el buen, hacia Dios, la libertad hacia el mal ya no tiene la última palabra. Desde aquel momento la palabra de Jesús que prevalece es: “En el mundo tendras tribulaciones, pero ten confianza; yo he vencido al mundo" (Jn 16,33). El mensaje de Fátima nos invita a confiar en esta promesa”.

Una vez más, quiero agradecer especialmente a cada uno de ustedes que se ha comprometido a rezar el rosario por el don de la paz en el mundo y para la familia. Como San Juan Pablo II nos invita a orar con fielidad, creo que podemos mantener nuestra confianza en la eficacia de esta oración - más de lo que sabemos! Que Dios los bendiga y sus familias, vamos a mantenerlos el uno al otro en la oración.

+ Brendan

Catequema de la Iglesia Católica enseña acerca de la hermosa comprensión de las indulgencias en el # 1471-1479. En esta sección se coloca esta enseñanza en particular en el contexto de la penitencia interior, en última instancia conduce a una conversión del corazón. En el proceso de obtener una indulgencia la persona fiel crece en santidad y los frutos de esta santidad irradián hacia el exterior. Una indulgencia plenaria elimina “la totalidad de la pena temporal debida por los pecados”, y se puede aplicar a uno mismo o para otro. Todas la enseñanza en esta sección del Catecismo de # 1422 - 1498 es un testimonio del poder de la misericordia de Dios y nuestra capacidad de participar en esta misericordia a través de nuestros actos de penitencia y amor.

Además de una acción determinada, como el ejemplo anterior, hay tres condiciones que se deben cumplir cada vez para recibir una indulgencia: ir a la confesión y la comunión, ser separado interiormente del pecado, y orar por las intenciones del Santo Padre. En la enseñanza de las indulgencias, la Iglesia enseña acerca del poder del corazón humano purificado por Dios, y esto está en el centro del mensaje de Fátima.

El 13 de mayo año 2000 el entonces Cardenal Ratzinger (ahora Papa emérito Benedicto XVI) ofreció un comentario teológico profundo en este mensaje. En el último párrafo de su comentario, escribió: “Quisiera mencionar el secreto, que con razón se ha hecho famoso: “mi Corazón Inmaculado triunfará”. ¿Qué quiere decir esto? Que el corazón abierto a Dios, purificado por la contemplación de
**Bishop Brendan’s Schedule**

May

7 10:00 a.m. Confirmation Mass at Holy Family Church, Wharton  
21 10:00 a.m. Confirmation Mass at Our Lady of Lourdes Church, Victoria  
22 Noon Mass with Missionary Catechists  
23 6:00 p.m. V Encuentro Meeting, Chancery

9 6:00 p.m. Confirmation Mass at St. Andrew Church, Hilje

10 8:00 a.m. Mass and bury time capsule at Our Lady of the Gulf School, Port Lavaca  
27 4:00 p.m. Mass at St. Theresa Mission Church, LaSalle  
28 9:30 a.m. Confirmation Mass at St. Joseph Church, Moulton

17 10:00 a.m. Presbyteral Council Meeting, Chancery Office  
30 6:00 p.m. Confirmation Mass at Holy Cross Church, Yorktown

**Bishop Fellhauer’s Confirmation Schedule**

May

7 4:00 p.m. Confirmation Mass at Our Lady of the Gulf Church, Port Lavaca

21 3:00 p.m. Confirmation Mass at St. Peter’s Church, Blessing

June

4 10:00 a.m. Confirmation Mass at St. John Bosco Church, Vanderbilt

**DSA update**

2017 Diocesan Services Appeal  
Diocesan Goal: $1,994,298.00  
Parish Pledge Totals: $406,630.00  
Parish Contribution Totals: $310,918.50  
Number of Parish Families Participating: 1,427

**Tune to EWTN for Canonization and Special 100th Anniversary Programming from Fatima!**

In the year 1917, in a mountainous region at the center of Portugal, the Mother of God appeared six times to three young children.

Join EWTN in celebrating the 100th Anniversary of Fatima and the canonization of Fatima visionaries Francisco and Jacinta Marto!

For almost one hundred years, the miraculous apparitions of Our Lady at Fatima have been inspiring the faith of millions, and now EWTN is bringing extensive coverage of the celebration of its 100th Anniversary and the historic canonization of Fatima visionaries Francisco and Jacinta Marto by Pope Francis! There will be LIVE coverage of the events from Fatima, Portugal on Friday, May 12 and Saturday, May 13. For a full list of EWTN’s Fatima programming, go to: ewtn.com/fatima/programming.asp. Use EWTN’s Channelfinder at ewtn.com to find the companies that provide EWTN programming in your community.
Seminary Endowment Fund

Seminary Endowment Fund (formerly known as Seminary Burses) is 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 person, living or deceased. Publication of the burses will appear periodically 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+

*April 27, 2017*

- **Rev. Msgr. Edward C. Bartsch Seminary Burse**
  - In memory of Louis Edward Barta by Gary and Denise Greive
  - In memory of Rev. Msgr. Edward C. Bartsch by Gary and Denise Greive
  - In memory of Louis Edward Barta by Allan and Cyndi Stryk
  - In honor of Stazy Hajek’s 104th birthday by Midge Elam

- **Rev. Dan Morales Seminary Burse in Honor of his Work for Vocations**
  - In memory of Rev. Dan Morales by Paz and Andrea Morales

- **Rev. Msgr. John C. Peters Seminary Burse #7**
  - In memory of Marvin Filip by Leo and Joyce Janda
  - In memory of Margaret Dornak by David and Wilma Wagner
  - In memory of Andeline Wenske by David and Wilma Wagner
  - In memory of Emma Bujnoch by David and Wilma Wagner
  - In memory of Leslie Hanzel, Jr. by David and Wilma Wagner
  - In memory of Dorothy Smolik Jansky by Soila Sanchez
  - In memory of Mildred Franta by M/M Michael Jares
  - In memory of the late Kubena Family
  - In memory of the late Andrew and Jane Pesek
  - In memory of Martha Sitko
  - In memory of Frank and Jo Nell Janecek
  - In honor of Rev. Gary Janak’s 29th Ordination Anniversary to the Priesthood by Allan and Cyndi Stryk

- **Cora Wostarek Seminary Burse**
  - Donation by Mike and Lisa Moeller Family

**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 periodically, 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+

May 20th — 10:00 a.m.

Presbyteral Ordination

Deacon Jacob Mendoza
Deacon Stephen Vacek

The Sacrament of Holy Orders will be conferred through the Imposition of Hands and Prayer of Ordination by The Most Reverend Brendan J. Cahill, S.T.D.
Third Bishop of Victoria in Texas
Saturday, the twentieth of May, two thousand and seventeen at ten o'clock in the morning
Cathedral of Our Lady of Victory
1309 E. Mesquite Lane
Victoria, Texas 77901
Reception to follow
Our Lady of Victory School Gym

The Newly-Ordained Priests Wish to Invite You To their First Mass of Thanksgiving:

**Rev. Jacob Aaron Mendoza**
Sunday, May 21, 10:30 a.m.
St. Mary’s Catholic Church
402 S. Main St.
Victoria, Texas 77901
With a reception to follow in the parish hall

**Rev. Stephen Paul Vacek**
Sunday, May 21, 10:00 a.m.
Holy Cross Catholic Church
839 Church St.
East Bernard, Texas 77435
With a reception to follow at Riverside Hall

**Education of Seminarian Fund**

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

**Lector**

Madeline Tyng Dodson
in Memory of Mary Ann LeBlanc

**Acolyte**

Catholic Daughters of the Americas
Court St. Paul #1604, Shiner

**Candidate**

Transitional Deacon

To contribute to an existing Seminary Endowment Fund send contributions with the appropriate fund designation to:

Diocese Of Victoria
Seminary Endowment Fund
P. O. Box 4070
Victoria, TX 77903
Please remember in prayer the priests of the Diocese of Victoria, who were ordained during the month of May:

Rev. Philip L. Brune 05/24/2014 St. Robert Bellarmine, El Campo
Rev. Jasper J. Liggio 05/24/2014 Our Lady of Sorrows, Victoria
Rev. Patrick S. Knippenberg 05/26/2012 Holy Family, Victoria
Rev. Robert F. Guerra 05/20/2000 Parish of the Nativity, Eagle Lake
Rev. Phi Nguyen 05/20/2000 Incarnate Word Convent
Rev. Kirby F. Hlavaty 05/29/1999 Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Ganado
Rev. Michael W. Petering 05/15/1999 St. Agnes, Edna
Rev. Greg E. Korenek 05/15/1993 Holy Rosary, Hostyn
Rev. Gary W. Janak 05/14/1988 The Cathedral of Our Lady of Victory,
Most Rev. Brendan J. Cahill 05/19/1990 Ordination to the Priesthood
Rev. Greg E. Korenek 05/15/1993 Holy Cross, Bay City
Rev. Michael W. Petering 05/15/1993 Holy Rosary, Hostyn
Rev. Gary W. Janak 05/14/1988 Sacred Heart, Flatonia
Rev. Daniel P. Kahlich 05/28/1966 Holy Rosary, Hostyn
Rev. Daniel P. Kahlich 05/28/1966 Sts. Peter & Paul, Plum
Rev. Msgr. Lawrence Matula 05/26/1962 St. Robert Bellarmine, El Campo
Rev. Msgr. Casimir Jarzombek 05/26/1960 Retired
Rev. Msgr. Joseph M. Hybner 05/25/1963 Retired
Most Rev. David E. Fellhauer 05/25/1963 The Cathedral of Our Lady of Victory,
Rev. Msgr. Gerard Cernoch 05/28/1964 Our Lady of Guadalupe, Bay City
Rev. Msgr. Casimir Jarzombek 05/26/1960 Retired
Rev. Msgr. Lawrence Matula 05/26/1962 St. Robert Bellarmine, El Campo
Rev. Msgr. Casimir Jarzombek 05/26/1960 Retired
Rev. Msgr. John C. Bily 05/24/1958 Retired
Rev. Msgr. Lawrence Matula 05/26/1962 St. Robert Bellarmine, El Campo
Rev. Msgr. Casimir Jarzombek 05/26/1960 Retired
Rev. Msgr. John C. Bily 05/24/1958 Retired
Rev. Msgr. Arnold Anders 05/27/1950 Retired

LORD of the Harvest,
BLESS young people with the gift of courage to respond to your call,
Open their hearts to great ideals, to great things. INSPIRE all of your disciples to mutual love and giving—for vocations blossom in the good soil of faithful people. INSTILL those in religious life, parish ministries, and families with the confidence and grace to invite others to embrace the bold and noble path of a life consecrated to you. UNITE us to Jesus through prayer and sacrament, so that we may cooperate with you in building your reign of mercy and truth, of justice and peace. Amen.

— Pope Francis

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

Rev. Guido Quiroz 05/15/2008
Rev. William Doran 05/25/2000
Rev. Patrick Fidgeon 05/14/1994
Rev. Emmett Kolodzie 05/01/1986

Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear not evil, for you are with me; your rod and your staff comfort me. (Psalms 23:4)

May 14
Happy Mother’s Day

Rev. Emmett Kolodzie 05/01/1986
Rev. Patrick Fidgeon 05/14/1994
Rev. William Doran 05/25/2000
Rev. Bryan O. Heyer 05/29/2004
Rev. Robert F. Guerra 05/20/2000
Rev. Phi Nguyen 05/20/2000
Rev. Kirby F. Hlavaty 05/29/1999
Rev. Michael W. Petering 05/15/1999
Rev. Greg E. Korenek 05/15/1993
Most Rev. Brendan J. Cahill 05/19/1990
Rev. Gary W. Janak 05/14/1988
Rev. Edward J. Winkler 05/17/1986
Rev. Daniel P. Kahlich 05/28/1966
Most Rev. David E. Fellhauer 05/29/1965
Rev. Msgr. Gerard Cernoch 05/28/1964
Rev. Msgr. Joseph M. Hybner 05/25/1963
Rev. Msgr. Lawrence Matula 05/26/1962
Rev. Msgr. Casimir Jarzombek 05/26/1960
Rev. Msgr. John C. Bily 05/24/1958
Rev. Msgr. Arnold Anders 05/27/1950

DIOCESAN MEMBERS ATTEND CHARISMATIC CONFERENCE—
The Diocese of Victoria was represented at the San Antonio 50th Jubilee Charismatic Conference, held at the Henry B. Gonzalez Convention Center. Speakers who contributed to the conference were Ralph Martin, Father Mark Goring and Father Bob Hogan. Pictured are attendees from the Victoria Diocese which included: Jan Dornak, Ramona Stepan, Charlene Bradbury, Father Robert Guerra, Mary Ann Wood, Gwen Edwards, and Director of the Charismatic Center in the San Antonio Diocese, Father Bob Hogan.
By Jennifer Vincent, M.A.  
Pastoral Associate  
The Cathedral of Our Lady of Victory

Have you ever driven to your workplace or the kids’ school, and when you got there, you couldn’t remember the drive at all? You are so familiar with the route that you operated on automatic, a kind of mindless motion, while your thoughts are filled with other things. Thank goodness your reflexes are so in-grained that you are confident you would have reacted to an emergency appropriately! Unfortunately, the same could be said about my participation at Mass on more occasions than I wish to admit. I am so familiar with the routine that I operate on automatic, a kind of mindless worship, while my thoughts are on other things. Sound familiar? Before I know it, the Mass is over and I couldn’t tell you what the message was that God was trying to share with me. Shamefully, my Catholic reflexes are so in-grained that I have taken for granted the miracle that occurs before me: the very real presence of my Lord and Savior, in the spoken Word and in the Holy Eucharist. Our God is real and loving, but He never forces Himself on us. He wants our attention, our conscious and mindful worship. He wants us to talk to Him in prayer, to respond to His message of love in the readings, to offer the gift of our very selves with the gifts at the altar, and to receive the gift of His Precious Body and Blood with reverence.

The next time you attend Mass, do more than go through the motions mindlessly. Participate with your whole body, mind, and soul. Make an intention at the beginning of Mass for someone or something (for example: offer the Mass for the healing of a loved one, for the resolution of a struggle you or someone else is experiencing, or for the sanctification of your marriage). Then enter into a conversation with God: listen for His message to you personally; respond with your spoken and sung responses to Him; acknowledge His unwarranted mercy and forgiveness and promise to share that mercy with your family and friends; accept worthily and give thanks for the precious gift of His Very Self in the Sacrifice at the Altar; and finally, take what you received (His message of Love) out into the world to fulfill Christ’s mission.

Sacred Heart Catholic School All Alumni Reunion

HALLETTSVILLE—All Sacred Heart Catholic School Alumni (Classes 1948-2017) and/or former students are invited to the Alumni Reunion to be held on Saturday, July 15, 2017, at the Knights of Columbus Hall in Hallettsville. Registration begins at 3:00 p.m. followed by a Memorial Mass for Deceased Alumni at 4:00 p.m., Social (5:00 p.m.) Dinner (6:30 p.m.), Dance (8:00 p.m.-11:00 p.m.)

Admission will be $20 per person and pre-registration material will be mailed to all Alumni or may be picked up at the school or rectory. For more information, please contact David Smolik at (361) 798-4492 or email davidsmolik@gmail.com.

Victoria Deanery Adult Confirmation

The Cathedral of Our Lady of Victory completed its second deanery-wide adult Confirmation preparation course, The Power of Christian Witness, on Tuesday, February 28, 2017. This course was developed to meet the spiritual needs of Catholics within the Victoria Deanery. Nineteen completed the course and were confirmed on Thursday, February 23, with Bishop Brendan Cahill officiating, Father Gary Janak and Father Christopher Fuchs concelebrating, and Deacon Edward Molina assisting.

The response to this program has been so positive; there is already a waiting list of those who wish to attend the next course. The next course for Adult Confirmation preparation begins on Tuesday, August 29, 2017, and runs weekly through Tuesday, September 26, 2017. The bishop has graciously agreed to set the next Confirmation Mass on Thursday, September 21, 2017. The last class, which occurs after the Confirmation Mass, focuses on encouraging those confirmed to now live as Christian witnesses in their world, especially through active participation in their parishes.
April 30 – Camp David Planning
June 9-16 – Camp David
June 24-July 2 – Rocky Mountain High

This unique, week long retreat, in the heart of the San Juan Mountains in Southern Colorado, is an opportunity for high school age young people to take time away from their daily routine. They will experience the wonder and grandeur of the great outdoors (courtesy of Sonlight Camp), spending time reflecting on important issues of life, faith, family, and friends. A trained staff of qualified adults, from throughout the diocese, offers caring relationships to assist our youth on their journey. Small group discussions, presentations on key topics, unique prayer and liturgical experiences, plus a wild and crazy rafting trip on the Animas River in Durango, help make this an unforgettable week.

Cost $750.00 per person*
Fee Includes:
- Food
- Lodging at Sonlight Camp
- Transportation by chartered bus
- Rafting trip
- Diocesan t-shirt

*A $75.00 non-refundable deposit is required to secure space.

A parent/participant meeting is scheduled for Sunday, June 4, at 2:00 p.m., at the Chancery in Victoria. This meeting allows participants to meet each other, get acquainted with the staff and receive finalized travel information.

Thank you to all who were a part of The Bishop David Fellhauer Invitational Golf Tournament that was held on April 21, at The Club at Colony Creek. Twenty-six teams participated in the tournament. It was hosted by the Knights of Columbus Council #9088 from Holy Family, Victoria. The tournament benefits the seminarians and the Office of Youth and Young Adult Ministry. The funds have allowed scholarships for youth to attend retreats throughout the year and other ministry needs.

Thank you Golf Tournament Supporters
VOLUNTEERS HONORED—The Eighteenth Annual Mother Elizabeth Ann Seton Awards were presented recently in Shiner by the Office of Catholic Schools. A dinner was served, followed by the presentation of the awards. Making the presentations were Bishop Bendan Cahill, Dr. John Quary, Superintendent; and Janie Carrales, Administrative Assistant for Diocesan Catholic Schools. The recipients of the award for the year 2017 were front row (l-r): Jody Brown - St. Joseph Catholic High School, Victoria; Charla Ybarra - Our Lady of Victory Catholic School, Victoria; Stephanie Thurman - Nazareth Academy, Victoria; Jenifer Foegelle - St. Philip Catholic School, El Campo; Janet Purdy - St. Michael Catholic School, Weimar; Debra Roeder - St. Michael Catholic School, Cuero; Patricia Lares - St. Anthony Catholic School, Columbus; standing (l-r): Cheryl Brossmann - St. Rose of Lima, Schulenburg; Raymond Chavez - Holy Cross Catholic School, Bay City; Carrie Renken - St. Joseph Catholic School, Yoakum; Bishop Cahill, Melissa Clampit - Shiner Catholic School, Shiner; and Lisa and Dennis Dworsky - Sacred Heart, Hallettsville. (inset) Minnie and Ralph Cormier - Our Lady of the Gulf, Port Lavaca were unable to attend.

LEARNING MATH IS FUN—Congratulations to St. Philip’s, El Campo, MATHLETICS winners! Students in grades 1-5 have been using a program to help supplement their math curriculum. Learning math is fun, with new exciting technology! The top three students in these grades received a certificate, goodie bag, and were treated to a special lunch at Dairy Queen!

DISCOVERY EXPERIENCE—Sacred Heart School, Hallettsville, 3rd and 4th grade students enjoyed designing and building their own bridges in class. Thanks to the Mobile Museum presented by Mary with The Children’s Discovery Museum of The Golden Crescent.

STUDENTS RECALL THE LAST DAYS OF CHRIST—The students of St. Michael Catholic School, Weimar, commemorated Holy Week by meditating on the Last Supper portrayed by the 2nd and 3rd grade classes. The Stations of the Cross were portrayed by the 7th and 8th grade classes.

Coming Next Month
The top three students from each of the Catholic high schools in the Diocese of Victoria - St. Paul High School, Shiner; Sacred Heart High School, Hallettsville; and St. Joseph High School, Victoria will be featured in the June issue of the Lighthouse.
RETREAT HELD—Conquistando las Naciones para Cristo Retreat was held April 7-9, at the Spiritual Renewal Center in Victoria. The retreat was well attended. Their next retreat will be May 5-7, 2017.

CDA CONTEST—Nazareth Academy students participated in a Catholic Daughters Education Contest held by Court #2665, Holy Family, Victoria. All of the winners were recognized. Pictured above with CDA Regent JoAnn Bleier, CDA contest chairman Theresa French and NA teacher Sister Mary Jean Bludau.

STATE WINNERS—Congratulations to Nazareth Academy students Sam, Taylor, and Cooper who placed 1st in their divisions at the state level. Pictured with Sister Mary Jean Bludau, JoAnn Bleier, and Theresa French.

Sacred Heart Parish Spring Picnic
Sunday, May 28, 2017
Hallettsville
at the K.C. Hall in Hallettsville, Texas
Dinner. Serving from 11:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.
Drive thru Plates-to-Go: 10:30 a.m. – 6:00 p.m.
Dining in the K.C. Hall
Country Fried Chicken, Stew, Homemade Cornbread Dressing with all the trimmings!
Adults $10.00  Children (10 & under) $5.00
Short Memorial at 1:00 p.m. given by Rev. Msgr. John Peters

135 Years

on the Main Pavilion
at 1:00 p.m.
Inside the air-conditioned K.C. Hall,
Bingo (noon to 6:00 p.m.),
Cake Walk, Country Store & Religious Articles Booth.

Free Dance on the Biergarten Polka Pavilion
The Red Ravens & Jodie Mikula Orchestra
1:00 – 9:00 p.m.

Kiddie Games & Rides
all afternoon!!

Cool off in the water slide!

Bring Towels.
Music on the Main Pavilion
J & S Playboys

1:00 A.M. – 1:00 P.M.

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

Join us for a great time at the Sacred Heart Spring Picnic! Fun & Entertainment for all ages

MARTHON SUPPORTS RENOVATIONS—Our Lady of the Gulf Church and School held their 3rd Annual OLG Run for the Son 5K Run/Walk on April 1. Among other things the funds raised will help the church that is currently undergoing a large renovation. Pictured are Father Tommy Chen and Sister Immaculata Nguyen, OP.

Pictured above are all those who attended the Conquistando las Naciones para Cristo Retreat that was held April 7-9.
BISHOP INSTALLS PAROCHIAL ADMINISTRATOR IN GOLIAD—Very Reverend Charles E. Otsiwah, VF was installed as parochial administrator for Immaculate Conception Church in Goliad, by Bishop Brendan Cahill, at Mass on March 26, 2017. Following the Mass a covered-dish reception was held for parishioners and the community. Father Charles also serves as the Vicar Forane for the Cuero Deanery.

CATHOLIC SCHOOL RELIGION AWARDS PRESENTED—The Bishop’s Award is given each year to 8th grade students from each of the Catholic Schools in the Diocese of Victoria. Bishop Cahill shared with the students in his homily, “This award recognizes your excellence in religious knowledge and practice of the faith.” Congratulations to over 150 recipients who received the 2017 Bishop’s Award. Pictured above is the group from St. Anthony School, Columbus.

RECEIVING JESUS—Second graders from Holy Family Parish, Victoria, made their first holy Communion in early April.
THE PASSION OF CHRIST—Hundreds of people gathered on Good Friday to walk the way of the cross at Capilla de La Santísima Trinidad Church, Victoria. They prayed and sang in Spanish as they followed the live re-enactment of the Stations of the Cross. Zabdiel Vallejo portrayed Jesus Christ.

CONFIRMATION—St. Michael Parish, Weimar, congratulates their students who received the sacrament of confirmation on April 26, by Bishop David Fellhauer.

“For I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God that brings salvation to everyone who believes.” Romans 1:16

PROCESSION THROUGH CITY STREETS—On Divine Mercy Sunday, Sacred Heart, Hallettsville, parishioners had a Eucharistic procession for Mercy. They processed around the county courthouse with the Blessed Sacrament while praying the rosary and singing hymns. They returned to church for adoration, sang the chaplet of Divine Mercy and ended with benediction.

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KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS SERVE AS HONOR GUARD—Members of the Knights of Columbus 4th Degree served as Honor Guards for the Most Rev. Brendan Cahill, Bishop of the Diocese of Victoria, during the Confirmation services at St. Rose Church in Schulenburg. The knights were represented from Saint Michael Assembly # 1527 of Flatonia, Schulenburg, and Weimar. Pictured left to right are: Sir Knight’s James Zabransky-Weimar, Delphin Bartek-Weimar, Michael Kiesel-Weimar, Charles Munsch-Weimar, Bishop Cahill, Eugene Berger-Schulenburg, Dennis Olsovsky-Schulenburg, Kenneth Berger-Schulenburg, Charlie Herzik-Weimar, Martin Luchak-Weimar. Also in attendance, not pictured, were the Knights of Saint Gregory.

ST. ROSE SCHOOL CAFETERIA RECEIVES FUNDING—Schulenburg Knights of Columbus Council #2902 donated $3850 to the St. Rose School Cafeteria Fund for the purchase of a new range/oven. Pictured (l-r) are Ken Berger, Grand Knight, Carolyn Osina, St. Rose Cafeteria Business Mgr, Ed Moeller Council #2902 Trustee, Jennifer Moeller, St. Rose Cafeteria Food Mgr., Roseanne Gallia, St. Rose School Principal, and Father Tim Kosler, Pastor of St. Rose of Lima Church.

JUNIOR CATHOLIC DAUGHTERS OF THE AMERICAS RECOGNIZED—JCDA Court St. Paul #1604, Shiner, presented religious recognition medals to the JCDA members who completed their programs. Rev. Bryan Heyer, chaplain, blessed and presented the medals to the following members on National JCDA Day, February 19, 2017, (l-r) Stefany Pokluda, Brooke Cerny and Dallyn Pesek (not pictured is Gracie Machart).

JUNIOR KJZT MEMBERS DO CHARITY WORK—Sweet Home KJZT Society #12 Juniors sponsored a “Cemetery Clean Up Day” for St. John The Baptist Cemetery, Koerth, on Saturday March 25. All the juniors were present along with State Director/Junior Director Joyce Kurtz and the Assistant Junior Director Diane Jurena. The junior’s parents and grandparents also pitched in and helped make the project a great success. When finished the cemetery was nice and clean for the Easter Season. This was a charity/community service for each junior on the Point & Merit Program of the KJZT Junior Division Activities for 2017. Pictured (front, l-r) are Alex Jurena, Madelyn Kurtz, Kayla Kurtz, Kenzie Kurtz, Darren Jurena; (back) State Director/Jr Director Joyce Kurtz, Allie Mican, Assistant Jr Director Diane Jurena.

SOCIETY HELD BAKE SALE—St. Agnes KJZT Society #111 held their yearly bake sale on Palm Sunday in the foyer of St. Agnes Church, Edna. All sorts of goodies were brought to be sold. Pictured are (l-r) Mary Sheblak, vice president, Doris Andel, president, and Georgia Orsak, treasurer.
SAN ANTONIO - Monsignor Thomas哥伦比亚 `Colm' McLaughlin was born in Malin, County Donegal Ireland to Eugene and Ellen McLaughlin on June 10, 1931. He was the youngest of seven children, two girls and five boys.

In 1945, he entered St. Columb's College, in Derry - a combination of high school and minor seminary. He was a boarder there for five years. In 1950, he joined St. John College in Waterford, a major seminary. He studied philosophy and theology there for six years and was ordained to the priesthood on June 17, 1956. In September of 1956, he began his ministry in the Archdiocese of San Antonio. After a brief assignment in Schulenburg, he was appointed an associate pastor of St. Cecilia Parish in San Antonio and an Advocate on the Archdiocesan Tribunal. After eight years at St. Cecilia's, he was transferred to Holy Name Parish in San Antonio, where he served as an associate pastor for five years, until he was appointed Archdiocesan Director of Religious Education. In 1979, he was named a Prelate of Honor, with the title of Monsignor.

After serving as Director of Religious Education for more than 12 years, he was appointed pastor of Sacred Heart Parish in Hallettsville in 1981. Serving for only four months, he was transferred to Victoria in 1982 to prepare for the new Diocese of Victoria. He was named Judicial Vicar and Chancellor for the Diocese of Victoria in 1982 and Vicar General in 1990. In addition to his diocesan appointments, he served at Our Lady of Lourdes Parish in Victoria for five years. Since retiring in 2012, he was in residence at Padua Place in San Antonio.

Monsignor McLaughlin was known for his engaging teaching ability, knowledge of the Catholic faith, keen administrative skills, devotion to the priesthood, as well as for his storytelling and quick wittedness. He is preceded in death by his parents.

Memorials may be made to The Emmaus Center of the Diocese of Victoria or the Monsignor McLaughlin Seminary Burse.

To view funeral services or pictures go to https://www.victoriadiocese.org/farewell-monsignor-mclaughlin.

**Rev. Alberto Perez, O.SS.T.**


Father Alberto was born on April 8, 1950, in Cádiz, Matanzas, Cuba to the late Luis Antonio Rodriguez Hernández and Juana Pérez Hernández. He entered the Novitiate of Order of the Most Holy Trinity and of the Captives on September 8, 1981, made Solemn Profession of Vows on October 4, 1986, and was ordained to the priesthood on August 15, 1987.

Father Alberto served in parish ministry at: Christ the King Parish in Corpus Christi, Texas; Estrella del Mar y Jesus Salvador in Campero, Guatemala; Our Lady of Sorrows and Holy Trinity Chapel in Victoria, Texas; Holy Name of Jesus in West Palm Beach, Florida; St. Maximilian Kolbe in Pembroke Pines, Florida and Our Lady of the Holy Rosary-Saint Richard in Palmetto Bay, Florida. Father Alberto also spent time assisting at the Order’s missions in India.

Father Alberto will be remembered for his ministry to Spanish speaking immigrants in Texas and Florida, his concern for persecuted Christians and his quick wit and sense of humor. He was a capable translator, using his talents to assist in the preparation of Spanish language prayers.

Father Alberto is survived by the brothers and priests of the Order of the Most Holy Trinity and of the Captives; a brother, nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by his parents.

Funeral services were at Our Lady of the Holy Rosary-Saint Richard Church Palmetto Bay, Florida. His body was transferred to Holy Trinity Monastery in Pikesville, Maryland where the Syro-Malabar Office for the Dead was chanted in the monastery chapel on Friday, April 21, 2017. Interment followed at the monastery cemetery.

**Sister M. Lucilla Donnelly, IWBS**

Sister Lucilla, 89, passed away April 2, 2017. She was born November 15, 1927, in Yoakum, Texas to the late Joseph Ernest and Mary Edith Mudd Donnelly. She was a Sister of the Incarnate Word and Blessed Sacrament.

Sister Lucilla attended grammar school and high school at Sweet Home Public School, as well as attending high school at St. Joseph High School in Yoakum and graduated from Nazareth Academy in Victoria.

In 1945 she entered Nazareth Convent in Victoria and made her first profession in 1947. Sister Lucilla received her education from Incarnate Word College (now University of the Incarnate Word) and Trinity University in San Antonio and St. Louis University.

During Sister Lucilla’s active ministry, she taught on the elementary level at St. Leo’s School, San Antonio; St. Michael School, Cuero; and Nazareth Academy, Victoria. She served as principal at St. Michael School in Cuero. Sister ministered in the health care area at Mercy Hospital in Jourdanton, and in Cuero, ministered at Burns Hospital and then at Cuero Community Hospital. She also served as administrator for Mercy Hospital and for Burns Hospital and Cuero Community Hospital. Sister Lucilla served as treasurer at Nazareth Convent for several years. Her hobbies included painting, gardening and counted cross stitching.

In 1997 Sister Lucilla moved to Incarnate Word Convent and generously continued sharing her many gifts and in her later years she entered into her Apostolate of Prayer and Suffering. She was preparing to celebrate her 70th year of profession.

She is preceded in death by her parents; sisters, Mary Alice Donnelly and JoAnn Brehm; sister-in-law, Imogene Donnelly; brothers-in-law, Hugo Brehm, Carl Schindler, William Culak.

She is survived by her brother, Lavern Donnelly; sisters, Margie Schindler, Erma Mae (John) Braden, Mertes Culak, Theresa (Charles) Bohne, Etta (Paul) Nugent; nieces, nephews, grandnephews and -nephews.

The Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated April 7, followed by burial at Catholic Cemetery No. 3.

Donations in her memory may be mailed to Sisters of the Incarnate Word and Blessed Sacrament, 1101 N. E. Water St., Victoria, TX 77901.

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**Barbecue & Auction**

Barbacoa y Subasta

Barbecue brisket served with rice, pinto beans, bread, and condiments.

Desserts sold separately. Iced Tea served with eat

Special cash drawings every 30min. (must be present to win)

**Ours Lady of Guadalupe Church Annual**

**Sunday, June 11, 2017**

Domingo, 11 de Junio 2017

Parish Gym - 1412 12th Street, Bay City

11:00 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.

Dine in, carry out or drive-thru

$8.00 per plate

Live auction begins at 11:30 a.m.

Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them. May the souls of the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace. Amen.

**Sister Lucilla's active ministry**

- Taught on the elementary level at St. Leo’s School, San Antonio;
- St. Michael School, Cuero;
- Nazareth Academy, Victoria;
- Served as principal at St. Michael School in Cuero;
- Ministered in the health care area at Mercy Hospital in Jourdanton;
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Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them. May the souls of the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace. Amen.
Catholic chaplain accompanies anguished circus workers on final tour

WORCESTER, Mass. (CNS) — The congregation, numbering about 50, gathered for their last Easter Mass together on the DCU Center’s arena floor. The chaplain, Father George “Jerry” Hogan, borrowed one of their colorful boxes to use as an altar. The altar cloths and his chasuble sported circus images. Costume designers had sewn pieces of old elephant blankets together to make his stole. The backdrop suggested the reason for such an unusual liturgical environment: The Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey Circus had come to town to offer shows on Good Friday, Holy Saturday and Easter Sunday. But it isn’t all “fun and games” for performers and other circus workers, some of whom attended the Mass before the Easter shows. While “they’ve always performed during Holy Week,” they are now going through the paschal mystery themselves, Father Hogan told “They’ve always performed during Holy Week,” they are now going through the paschal mystery themselves, Father Hogan told The Catholic Free Press, newspaper of the Diocese of Worcester. The Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey Circus had come to town to offer shows on Good Friday, Holy Saturday and Easter Sunday. But it isn’t all “fun and games” for performers and other circus workers, some of whom attended the Mass before the Easter shows. While “they’ve always performed during Holy Week,” they are now going through the paschal mystery themselves, Father Hogan told "They've always performed during Holy Week," they are now going through the paschal mystery themselves, Father Hogan told the Mass before the Easter shows. While “they’ve always performed during Holy Week,” they are now going through the paschal mystery themselves, Father Hogan told the Mass before the Easter shows. While “they’ve always performed during Holy Week,” they are now going through the paschal mystery themselves, Father Hogan told the Mass before the Easter shows. While “they’ve always performed during Holy Week,” they are now going through the paschal mystery themselves, Father Hogan told the Mass before the Easter shows.

The 30th Annual Catholic Conference, which is for all adults in the Diocese of Victoria, will focus on the social teachings of the Catholic Church. Mr. Jack Jezreel, founder of JustFaith Ministries, will deliver the English keynote address and Sister Miriam Perez, MCMH, of Victoria, Texas, will deliver the Spanish keynote address, speaking about the Catholic social teachings as a blueprint for how we are to respond to the invitation to be a vessel of God’s love in the world. Their presentations will highlight doctrine developed by the Catholic Church on matters involving issues of poverty and wealth, care for the poor and the environment, the dignity of the human person, solidarity and the rights and responsibilities of all. The Most Reverend Brendan Cahill will follow the English presentation, and speak specifically about some of the social issues, which are affecting people in our area.

This theme offers all Catholics insight into what it means to be disciples having a mission encompassing the 7 principles of the Catholic Social Teachings, which are actually contained in the Beatitudes. The keynote presenters will also provide some time-tested ways to walk in the footsteps of Jesus as a 21st century messenger of God’s mercy and healing.

The first principle calls all Catholics to respect the life and dignity of all human persons. How we organize our society in economics, politics, law and public policy directly affects human dignity and our capacity to grow and flourish in our families and communities. Marriage and family are central social institutions that must be supported and strengthened. People have a right and duty to participate in society for the common good of all, especially putting the needs of the poor, vulnerable and marginalized first. The fundamental right to life and a right to those things required for human decency must be protected while duties and responsibilities to one another, family, children and the larger society must be met. Since the economy must serve people, and work is a form of continuing participation in God’s work/creation, the dignity of work and the rights of workers must be respected and protected.

Regardless of our racial, ethnic, economic and ideological differences, we belong to one human family, and must pursue justice and peace in solidarity with all God’s people. Caring for the earth so as to protect people and the planet is a part of our stewardship of creation and our faith. The workshops, which will be offered at the conference, will incorporate the content of these principles.

Other workshops will be offered on liturgical music, liturgical ministry for Lectors and Extraordinary Ministers of the Eucharist, catechesis, marriage, annulments and a panel on the beliefs of different faith traditions. Catholic vendors will be present with religious articles, books on the topic of the Catholic Social Teachings, and an assortment of resources for catechetical teaching for purchase.

The conference will be held at Holy Family Parish, 2011 Briar Lane, Wharton, Texas on Saturday, September 23, 2017 and will conclude with the Bishop Cahill celebrating the Sunday Eucharistic Liturgy at 4:30 p.m.

For more information go to www.victoriadiocese.org or call the catechetical office at (361) 573-0828.

The Office of Catechetical Ministry for the Diocese of Victoria is very happy to announce that 27 adults from 11 parishes have met the requirements necessary in order to receive the Pastoral Institute Extended Program Certificate. The three-year program consists of 12 six-week courses, which were presented on Tuesday mornings and evenings at the Chancery in Victoria and broadcast to Sacred Heart, Hallettsville, Parish of the Nativity, Eagle Lake and St. Roch, Mentz. Holy Family, Wharton and Sts. Cyril & Methodius, Shiner also joined the distance learning sites in 2016.

Sr. Digna Vela, IWBS, taught the Scripture courses (36 weeks), Father Bob Knippenberg taught two Sacrament courses (12 weeks) and Liturgy (6 weeks), Sr. Marian Sturm, IWBS, taught Morality and Trinity (6 weeks each). The participants were especially privileged to have Bishop Brendan Cahill teach the final course on Church (6 weeks). He focused on the historical background of Vatican II, making that event come alive for our living as Church today.

The following are to be admired and congratulated for their consistent presence in these classes and for the efforts they made to continue learning more about their faith, while growing more deeply in their faith: Joe and Suzie Ryan, Our Lady of Lourdes, Victoria; Mary Jane Cortines, Ovelia Rivera, Mary Ann Postel-Rodriguez, Minnie Villa, Our Lady of Sorrows, Victoria; Antoinette Garcia, Martha Hernandez, Natalie G. Novian, Margaret Pruett, Heather Taylor, Cathedral of Our Lady of Victory; Dr. Gloria A. Gonzalez, Holy Family, Victoria; Mary Hogan, Anne Marie Martin, St. Mary, Victoria; Jo Anne Verver-Blanton, Sharon Zimberg, St. Agnes, Edna; Wanda Zabransky, St. Joseph, Yoakum, Don and Gloria Demny, Holy Cross, East Bernard; Bill and Dolores Wilkes, Todd Brolsch, St. Rose of Lima, Schulenburg; Barbara Jasek, St. Mary, St. Mary; Sheila Klimitchek, Angela McConnell, Pat Mladenka, Gayle Wesson, Sacred Heart, Hallettsville.

A special thank you to all the pastors who were supportive of the people in their parishes, and to the parish catechetical leaders and volunteers at the various sites, who unselshingly gave of their time to make sure the program could be available to the people in their areas.

An added course of 8 hours will be presented this summer on Spirituality and Prayer, which is a required course for Catholic school religion teachers. Credit given will be based on the number of hours attended. Parish catechetical leaders, catechists and youth ministers are encouraged to attend this class. It will be broadcast from the Chancery from 9:15 – 11:30 a.m. on Tuesday mornings, July 25 and August 1 and Thursday mornings, July 27 and August 3 to the sites in Shiner and Wharton. Evening classes (7:00 – 9:15 p.m.) are dependent on having 15 participants registered and present. Online registration can be found at www.victoriadiocese.org under “Pastoral Institute Extended Program”.

For more information, go to www.victoriadiocese.org or call (361) 573-0828 ext. 2227 or 2223 or call the catechetical office at (361) 573-0828 ext. 2223 for more information.

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For more information go to www.victoriadiocese.org or call the catechetical office at (361) 573-0828.
The bishops of Texas gathered on the front steps of the Capitol of Texas for Catholic Advocacy Day 2017.

Bishops disappointed by House passage of SB 4, “anti-sanctuary cities” legislation

Law will have negative impact on migrants in Texas

AUSTIN — The Texas Catholic Conference of Bishops (TCCB) is disappointed by the Texas House’s vote to pass SB 4, which will punish local police officers if they do not fully cooperate with detainer requests issued by Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE). SB 4 would also allow local peace officers to inquire into the legal status of people who are arrested or detained.

The bishops commented on the last-minute amendment which allows police to inquire into the status of detained persons, in addition to those who are arrested: “We are deeply disappointed that the House revised SB 4 to include people who have committed no crime that merits arrest or citation,” said Bishop Joe Vásquez of Austin, who also serves as chair of the US Conference of Catholic Bishops’ Committee on Migration and Refugee Services. “This will not help our communities safe.”

The bishops expressed gratitude for the legislators who lead the opposition to the bill, as well as Catholics and others from throughout the state who opposed it. “Thousands of Catholics joined with fellow Texans to testify, rally and encourage their representatives to stop this legislation,” explained Jennifer Carr Allmon, executive director of the TCCB. “We thank those who have taken a principled stance in solidarity with immigrants, and who have worked so hard in this cause.”

By Jennifer Allmon, Executive Director
Texas Catholic Conference

AUSTIN—The Texas Catholic Conference of Bishops support HB 1134. We would like to thank Representative Craddick for filing this important bill to provide uniform statewide regulation for payday and auto-title lenders.

Frustrated with the lack of meaningful regulation by the state, cities throughout Texas have taken steps to pass a unified ordinance that puts in place basic protections such as principal pay down, assessment of the borrower’s ability to repay, and limits on refinace and referral. These cities have acted within their local authority, preserving the authority and right of the state to enact further reform to address the excessive fees.

Unfortunately, there are many unincorporated areas of Texas that lack the ability to pass this ordinance. In some parts of the state, lenders have sought to evade the local ordinances by transferring loans to stores outside of the city limits. This evasion could be minimized by passing statewide reform.

We urge the state to follow the lead set by 42 Texas cities and adopt the unified ordinance that these cities have passed, with a modification that addresses some limitation on the rate of growth in fees. Only the Texas Legislature or Congress can enact a fee limitation to make a meaningful difference in the lives of consumers.

Our parishes, Catholic Charities, and St. Vincent de Paul Society volunteers witness the high costs of these loan products every day as we assist families in alarmingy high debt when they take out a payday or auto title loan to cover an unexpected expense. Over the last four years, we have hosted listening sessions throughout the state to better understand and address the cycle of debt created by these unregulated products of payday and auto title lending. Time and time again we heard the same stories of the cycle of debt these loans create. Due to the frequent fees and short term of the loans, repayment is difficult and a cycle of debt in inevitable. In our view, payday loans are set up so consumers fail. In the end, payday loans create greater financial burdens and hurt rather than help consumers.

We believe that the approach in HB 1134 is a reasonable model of payday lending reform that brings Texas closer to a short-term lending environment that allows for borrower and lender success. It does so by providing limits on refinances and the total cost of the loans based on borrowing limits. It also prevents the number of new and extended term products. This legislation clarifies refinance definitions and relies on the Office of Consumer Credit Commissioner for enforcement. This bill will accomplish reasonable statewide reform allowing all business and consumers in Texas to operate under the same rules.

In the teachings of our faith we have many warnings about usury and exploitation of people. Lending practices that, intentionally or unintentionally, take unfair advantage of one’s desperate circumstances are unjust. Catholic Social Teaching demands respect for the dignity of persons, preferential concern for the poor and vulnerable, and the pursuit of the common good. These principles coupled with our teaching on economic justice guide the call for reform of the current practices and Representative Craddick’s bill does just that.

45 people saved from tornado’s fury in hallway of Texas church

WASHINGTON (CNS) — In the insurance world, extreme weather events such as tornadoes are often referred to as “acts of God.” But in the small Texas town of Emory, about 50 miles northwest of Tyler and 70 miles east of Dallas, some 45 people are considering it an act of God that they survived a twister that took out all of their church except for the hallway in which they were huddled. The providential event took place the evening of April 29, as severe storms tore through Texas, Oklahoma and Arkansas on a northeasterly path that killed at least 13 people in three states.
Por Junno Arocho Esteves

**Catholic News Service**

**CIUDAD DEL VATICANO** (CNS) -- Aunque la conversión y la oración son el núcleo de los mensajes de María en Fátima, Portugal, los milagros y los fenómenos inexplicables que acompañaron los eventos hace 100 años continúan intrigando igualmente a los creyentes y no creyentes.

Las apariciones de María en Fátima en 1917 no fueron los primeros sucesos sobre-naturales reportados allí.

Dos años antes de que María se le aparezca a los tres niños pastores -- Lucía dos Santos y sus primos, Jacinta y Francisco Marto -- ellos tuvieron una visión extraña mientras rezaban el rosario en el campo, según las memorias de la hermana Lucía, quien se había convertido en monja carmelita.

“Apenas habíamos comenzado cuando, allá ante nuestros ojos, vimos una figura situada en el aire encima de los árboles. Parecía una estatua hecha de nieve, casi transparente por los rayos del sol”, ella escribió detallando lo que vieron en 1915.

El año siguiente, Francisco y Jacinta recibieron permiso para atender los rebaños de su familia y Jacinta decidió unirse a sus primos en un campo propiedad de sus familias.

Era 1916 cuando la misteriosa figura apareció otra vez, esta vez acercándose lo suficiente “para distinguir sus facciones”.

“¡No teman! Soy el Ángel de la Paz. Oren conmigo”, recordó sor Lucía que el ángel les dijo.

Ninguno de los tres le contó a nadie acerca de la visita del ángel y no recibieron otras visitas celestiales hasta el 13 de mayo de 1917. Mientras los niños atendían sus ovejas y jugaban, quedaron sorprendidos por dos destellos relampagueantes.

Mientras bajaban una ladera, los niños vieron “una dama toda vestida de blanco” parada en un árbol pequeño. Esta fue la primera de seis apariciones de María, quien cada vez dijo un mensaje particular:

-- 13 de mayo de 1917. Cuando los niños le preguntaron quién era y de dónde venía, la dama dijo que era “del cielo” y que revelaría su identidad más tarde. Ella les pidió a los niños regresar a la Cova da Iria el día 13 de cada mes durante los próximos seis meses y les pidió que rezaran el rosario todos los días “para obtener paz para el mundo” y el fin de la Primera Guerra Mundial.

-- 13 de junio de 1917. La dama dijo que se llevaría al cielo a Francisco y Jacinta, mientras que Lucía permanecería en la Tierra durante “un tiempo más largo” para establecer devoción al Inmaculado Corazón.

-- 13 julio de 1917. La dama dijo que revelaría su identidad en octubre y “realizaría un milagro para que todos lo vieran y creyeran”. Después de decirles a los niños que hicieran sacrificios por los pecadores, ella reveló tres secretos. Dos de los secretos no fueron compartidos públicamente hasta 1941 y el tercero, escrito por sor Lucía y enviado al Vaticano, no fue emitido hasta el 2000.

El primer secreto consistía en una visión del infierno en el cual los niños vieron “un mar de fuego” con demonios y seres humanos gritando “en dolor y desespero”. Sor Lucía dice en su memoria que la gente de alrededores, que habían comenzado a reunirse entorno a los niños el 13 de cada mes, la oyó “gritar” durante la aterradora revelación.

El segundo secreto fue que, aunque la Primera Guerra Mundial terminaría, “una peor comenzaría” si la gente continuaba ofendiendo a Dios.

A los niños se les dijo que esa calamidad se evitaría si Rusia era consagrada al Inmaculado Corazón. Aunque sor Lucía confirmó que la consagración fue apropiadamente hecha por el papa Pío XII en 1942 y por san Juan Pablo II en 1984, algunos devotos de Fátima continúan argumentando que no fue así.

El tercer último secreto, publicado 83 años después de las apariciones de Fátima, fue la visión de un “obispo vestido de blanco” asesinado entre los escombros de una ciudad en ruinas. La interpretación oficial del Vaticano, según sor Lucía antes de publicarla, fue que esta se refería a la persecución de los cristianos en el siglo 20 y, específicamente, al atentado contra la vida del Cardenal Daniel DiNardo, de la Arquidiócesis de Galveston-Houston, añadió: “La ley de inmigración debe ser aplicada de manera objetiva, proporcional y humana. Este proyecto de ley no cumple con ese estándar”.

“Los inmigrantes que vienen a este país a trabajar o huyendo de la violencia no son una amenaza para nuestra seguridad”, explicó el Arzobispo Gustavo García Siller, MSpS. “Tristemente esta legislación elimina la capacidad de contribuir a nuestra sociedad y economía, y por principio, la unidad de las familias debe ser salvaguardada”.

Los obispos comentaron la enmienda de último hora que permite a la policía investigar el estatus de los detenidos, además de los que han sido arrestados: “Estamos profundamente decepcionados de que la Cámara haya revisado la SB 4 para incluir a personas que no hayan cometido delito alguno que amerite detención o citación”, dijo el obispo Joe Vásquez, de Austin, quien también preside el Comité de Migración y Refugiados de la Conferencia de los Obispos Católicos de Estados Unidos. “Esto no ayudará a los oficiales de paz a generar confianza con la comunidad migrante, lo cual es fundamental para mantener seguras a todas nuestras comunidades”.

La Conferencia de Obispos Católicos de Texas (TCCB, por sus siglas en inglés) es la asociación de los Obispos católicos de Texas. A través de la TCCB, los Obispos ofrecen una voz en materia de moral y políticas públicas sociales, lo cual include el seguimiento de toda la legislación que concierne a la doctrina moral y social católica; acreditan a las escuelas católicas en el estado, y mantienen registros que reflejan el trabajo y la historia de la Iglesia Católica en Texas.

**Obispos decepcionados por la aprobación de la legislación SB 4, ‘anti ciudades santuario’**

AUSTIN — La Conferencia de Obispos Católicos de Texas está decepcionada por el voto de la Cámara de Representantes de Texas para aprobar la iniciativa SB 4, que castiga a los oficiales de policía locales si no cooperan plenamente con las solicitudes de detención emitidas por el Servicio de Inmigración y Aduanas (ICE). La SB 4 también permitiría a los agentes de paz locales aplicar la ley federal de inmigración.

Reconociendo que los gobiernos tienen el derecho y la responsabilidad de cuidar sus fronteras, el Cardenal Daniel DiNardo, de la Arquidiócesis de Galveston-Houston, añadió: “La ley de inmigración debe ser aplicada de manera objetiva, proporcional y humana. Este proyecto de ley no cumple con ese estándar”.

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MEXICO CITY, MEXICO (CNA) — Esmeralda Solís Gonzáles is a young Mexican woman who was crowned last year as a beauty queen in her native town — and now she’s joined the Poor Clare Missionaries of the Blessed Sacrament.

Twenty-year old Gonzáles has watched her story go viral over the last week on social media over a post on the Miss Mexico Facebook page.

Esmeralda was born April 12, 1997 in Valle de Guadalupé, Jalisco State, to a Catholic family. She currently resides at the convent of the Poor Clare Missionaries of the Blessed Sacrament of Cuernavaca in Morelos State, after leaving her career as a nutritionist.

“You really don’t know what religious life is until you’re within it. So far I have been able to see from another perspective what the world is and what it offers you,” Esmeralda told CNA.

“I was very happy with everything I had, but it does not compare with the happiness that God now places in my heart.”

The young postulant met the Poor Clare Missionaries some five years ago at 14, when her concern for a religious vocation “was awakening” through “vocational days, missions and camps.”

In addition, she pointed out how it was hardly a month after this process of discernment concluded when on March 2017 she gave her first yes to her vocation on the Feast of the Annunciation.

“God’s timing is perfect. During this time of (discernment) he allowed me to have some experiences such as being a beauty queen, and other experiences, which forever left their mark and which allowed me to learn a lot for what was to come later.”

The discovery of the vocation to which she had been called was always present in her life like a “little thorn,” Esmeralda said.

“I realized that I had to make room in my life to know what it was that God had planned for me. In the process of discerning my vocation there was also fear and doubts, but the love that Our Lord was present in my life to know what God’s hand, you’ll always be able to take the next step.”

“In religious life every new day is a new beginning and a new opportunity to extend the kingdom of God. This involves making a lot of sacrifices but they are always rewarded with happiness,” she said.

The young novice also said that it is true that “the reality and the supposed happiness that the world sells is very attractive” but “it is necessary to fix your eyes on what lasts.”

“You mustn’t be afraid. If God is calling you, he’ll take care of everything. All you need to do is receive him with a lot of peace, joy and confidence. I believe fear is a big excuse that is responsible for truncating the true happiness that only God can offer,” she said.

The Poor Clare Missionaries of the Blessed Sacrament are a Religious Institute of Pontifical Right founded by Blessed María Inés Teresa Arias in 1945 in Cuernavaca, Mexico.

The spirit of the Institute is Eucharistic, Marian, priestly, missionary, and is centered on Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament.

The missionaries work in clinics, youth groups, preschools and schools, university dorms, centers for the spiritual exercises, missions, among others. They are present in Mexico, Costa Rica, Argentina, the United States, Spain, Italy, Ireland, Russia, Japan, Korea, Indonesia, Sierra Leone, Nigeria, Vietnam and India.

**Pope Francis Appoints EWTN CEO to Vatican Post**

Irondale, AL (EWTN) – Pope Francis has appointed EWTN Chairman and Chief Executive Officer Michael P. Warsaw as a Consultor to the Vatican’s Secretariat for Communications. The appointment was announced at the Vatican on Wednesday, April 12, 2017.

As a consultor, Warsaw will have a role in advising the Pope and the Holy See on matters related to media and communications. The appointment comes as part of a broad restructuring of the media operations of the Vatican.

“I am extremely humbled and honored by the Holy Father’s appointment,” said Warsaw. “This is a tremendous recognition of the role which EWTN plays in the life of the Church throughout the world. I am grateful to Pope Francis for his confidence and look forward to serving the universal Church in this post.”

Warsaw joined EWTN in 1991 and has held senior management positions in the areas of television production, satellite operations and technical services. He became President of EWTN in 2000 and assumed the post of chief executive officer in 2009. Warsaw was named chairman of the board of EWTN in 2013. In that capacity he oversees the Network’s strategic direction and mission around the world. With the Network’s 2011 acquisition of the National Catholic Register, Mr. Warsaw assumed the role of publisher of that newspaper.

Prior to joining EWTN, Mr. Warsaw was employed by the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington, D.C. He currently serves as a member of the Board of Trustees of The Catholic University of America, the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception, and the Catholic Distance University.

The Secretariat for Communications was established by Pope Francis in an apostolic decree on June 25, 2015. Among its responsibilities, it has the task of carrying out the restructuring, reorganization and consolidation of the various communications outlets of the Holy See including the Vatican Television Center, the Vatican Publishing House, L’Osservatore Romano newspaper, Vatican Radio, the Holy See Press Office, Photographic Service and the Vatican Internet Service. The office is headed by Monsignor Dario Vigano, who serves as Prefect.
**EVENTS**

**Meals • Picnics and more**

**May**

**Victoria**—Holy Family Parish Festival, May 7 at the Community Center.

**Cuero**—St. Michael Spring Festival, May 21 on the parish grounds. A roast beef dinner served from 11:00 a.m. until 1:00 p.m. with dine-in or drive-thru plates to go available at $10 p/p. Auction, games, country store and more. Proceeds to benefit the church and school.

**Hallettsville**—Sacred Heart Parish Picnic, May 28 at the KC Hall. A fried chicken and stew dinner with homemade cornbread dressing starting at 10:30 a.m. at $10 p/p dine-in or drive-thru plates-to-go available. Lots of entertainment, see pg. 9 for more information.

**Shiner**—Sts. Cyril and Methodius Picnic, May 28 at the KC Hall. A three meat dinner, stew, fried chicken and sausage, served from 10:30 a.m.-2:00 p.m. at $10 p/p. Plates-to-go available at Kaspar Pavilion at Green-Dixon Park. Games, auction, dance and much more, see ad on pg. 5 for more information.

**June**

**Bay City**—Our Lady of Guadalupe BBQ and live auction. June 11, at the parish gym. A beef brisket dinner served from 11:00 a.m.-1:30 p.m. at $8 p/p. Auction begins at 11:30 a.m. See ad on pg. 13 for more information.

**East Bernard**—A new mothers’ group at the Cathedral of the Incarnation. Tuesdays at 7:30 p.m..getToken().

**St. Mary**—St. Mary’s Picnic June 11, at the parish hall (1648 FM 340 just outside of Hallettsville). Mass will be celebrated at 9:15 a.m. A stew and sausage dinner begins at 10:30 a.m. at $10 p/p. Auction, bingo, cake and plant sale, country store, children’s games and more. Live music from 10:30 a.m.-9:00 p.m. For more information see ad on pg. 18.

**Schulenburg**—St. Rose of Lima Annual Parish Picnic June 11, at the KC Hall. A fried-chicken and sausage dinner will be served starting at 11:00 a.m. Games, music and more throughout the day.

**Ammansville**—St. John the Baptist (FM 1383) Fathers Day Picnic June 18. A fried-chicken and sausage dinner served. Entertainment throughout the day.

**Plum**—Sts. Peter and Paul Feast, June 25, serving sausage and fried-chicken from 11:00 a.m.-1:30 p.m., auction at 1:30 p.m., music during the day by Ken Brothers. A free dance from 7:00-10:00 p.m. with music by the Incredible Music Makers.

**July**

**Dubina**—Sts. Cyril and Methodius Church Feast July 2. Mass at 8:45 a.m. A fried-chicken and sausage dinner begins at 11:00 a.m.

**St. John**—St. John Parish Picnic, Tuesday, July 4, with Mass at 9:00 a.m. followed by a stew and fried-chicken dinner at 10:30 a.m. Auction at 12:30 p.m.

**Moravia**—Ascension Parish Picnic July 16 with a stew and fried-chicken dinner.

**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.courage.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 Emmaus Center is located at 1908 N. Laurent St., Suite #140 (behind the VA Clinic). Apointments may be made by calling (361) 212-0830.

**Engaged Encounter**—2017 dates: May 26-28, Sept. 22-24, Nov. 17-19 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, contact Barbara at (361) 649-1612 or barbarammccain85@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. Each 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.

**i.d.9:16 Ministry**—For adults in their 20s-30s, single or married. Is held at Holy Family in Victoria every first Thursday of the month. Starts with the 6:30 p.m. daily Mass, dinner, a talk live streamed from the headquarters in Michigan followed by fellowship. Child Care is available to those who RSVP. It is open to all young adults of the diocese. For more information or to RSVP for events email id916victoria@gmail.com.

**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 amormenteus@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 jenniferschoberjuyz@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 victorianfiles@earthlink.net. For more information, visit www.reinvention.org.

**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.raphaelsaufuge.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 jbvogv@sbcglobal.net or (361) 580-2770; call (800) 470-2230; or visit www.helppourmarriage.org or www.retrouve.org. Retreat on Aug. 4-6 at the Spiritual Renewal Center. See ad on pg. 3 for more information.


**El Campo**—St. Philip Parish presents Sondra Abrams May 21, at 1:00 p.m. She is from Lake Charles, Louisiana. During a near death experience on the operating table years ago, after being given a drug that stopped her heart, she was given visions of the future. Following her recovery, she shares her experiences with people all over the world. She has been called a mystic and a visionary by priests, and bishops, but the only title she claims is “Warrior for Christ”. For more information, contact St. Philip Church at (979) 543-3770.

**Texas City**—Catholic Men’s Conference Saturday, May 13, at the Doyle Center. Bishop Brendan Cahill and Father Larry Richards will be guest speakers. Cost is $40. For more information, visit www.gc-cmc.org.

**El Campo**—Pentecost Golden Jubilee Holy Spirit Healing Retreat Saturday, June 3 at St. Philip Parish. The retreat begins at 9:00 a.m. concludes with a Mass at 5:00 p.m. followed by a healing prayer. No fee, LOVE offering is welcomed. For more information call Jan Dornak at (979) 541-3609 / email: jan.hair@sbcglobal.net or Gwen Edwards at (979) 637-0277 / email: dennis1e@sbcglobal.net.

**ACTS Retreats**—For information, visit www.actsmissions.org.

**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 Phil Nguyen, chaplain of IWBS Convent. For more information, contact Sr. Louise Marie Jones at iwbsvoc2@yahoo.com.

**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.

Submit Calendar Events to lighthouse@victoriadiocese.org
A Closer Look at The Cathedral of Our Lady of Victory

Continued from pg. 1

living in the vicinity of St. Mary’s Church and Our Lady of Lourdes.”

There are many intricacies to the interior of the church. There are hand-carved wood statues of walnut, imported from Italy. The stained glass windows are represented by 70 panels that contain the gospel stories depicting the life of Jesus, beginning with the Annunciation through the Ascension. The altar is made of marble and the front mosaic inlay depicts the parable of the loaves and fishes. There are many Eucharistic symbols throughout the church, especially in the sanctuary. Symbols of wheat and grapes can be found in the mosaic behind the main altar, the communion rails, the tabernacle, and the secondary altars. The nave clerestory, the high vaulted walls above the center pews, contain eighteen panels depicting the titles given to Mary from the Litany of the Blessed Virgin Mary. Each panel repeats the cross and circle which represents Christ. The lily and crescent moon shown in each are the symbols of Mary’s purity and glory. The church itself seats 654 persons comfortably.

Our Lady of Victory Catholic School was also constructed at the same time as the church and opened with 3 units and an office in 1957. The Sisters of the Incarnate Word and Blessed Sacrament have administered the school since its opening to the present day. As the largest ministry of the church and the only parochial school in Victoria, the school is an integral part of the parish.

A major change would come upon the parish 24 years later, as Our Lady of Victory would become the cathedral church for a future diocese. In 1982, Our Lady of Victory was designated the cathedral church, when the Diocese of Victoria in Texas was established. This was a big moment for Our Lady of Victory, as it became the liturgical center for the diocese. A bishop’s chair was added to signify it becoming a cathedral church. The Latin word for a raised chair or throne, cathedra, is the source of the English word, cathedral. The bishop’s throne is the one physical feature that sets a cathedral apart from all the other churches in the diocese; it is usually set on a raised platform within the sanctuary.

Father Kristopher Fuchs, the current Parish Vicar shared, “Growth comes in many forms; these are all aspects that make a cathedral. The cathedral is the heart of the diocese and branches out to serve the entire diocese.” The Cathedral of Our Lady of Victory has undergone many changes over the years and is committed to serve all who are a part of the Diocese of Victoria, and its future growth and development. The need for more space to serve not only the 2,725 families registered as parishioners, but the entire diocese had to become the focus and priority as there was not a place for conferences, priest and deacon ordinations, and other important events.

In September of 2009, The Cathedral of Our Lady of Victory had their prayers answered, when they were able to purchase the nearby, empty J.C. Penney building and Town Plaza Mall. After nine years of planning and collecting of funds, Phase One of the Cathedral Center is currently under construction, with estimated completion to be in the Summer of 2017. Phase One will include a much needed parish hall, a stage, a kitchen, multiple conference rooms, offices for the diocesan operated counseling center (The Emmaus Center), and a large space for St. Vincent de Paul. So far over $3,250,000 has been raised for the cost of Phase One through a parish capital campaign. When $750,000 more is raised they will be able to add four more meeting rooms, additional restrooms, and a covered drive. There will remain more than 75,000 sq. ft. of usable space that will be renovated in future phases to provide for growth for many years to come. The new Cathedral Center will provide the cathedral the means to serve the 50 parishes, 17 missions and 15 parochial and private schools of the growing diocese.

It is with gratitude and continued prayers that the cathedral of the Diocese of Victoria, through the intercession of Our Lady of Victory, will continue to provide a spiritual home to the more than 103,428 registered Catholics who reside in the vicinity of St. Mary’s Church and Our Lady of Lourdes.”

“I am the vine, you are the branches. Whoever remains in me and I in him will bear much fruit.” (John 15:5)