The Blessing of the Fleet

“In This Issue...”

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This space is for post office barcode and addressing.

By Sarita V. Richmond, Editor

PALACIOS—For generations, Texas coastal waters have been the base of the largest shrimping industry in the world. The Gulf of Mexico commercial shrimp season for both Texas and federal waters ends 30 minutes after sunset Monday, May 15. The closure happens every year and typically will go until July 15. Right before the waters open Texas shrimpers are sure not to leave home without the blessing of a priest.

There are ceremonies celebrated all along the coast called the Blessing of the Fleet.

See The Blessing of the Fleet, pg. 20

Father Dominic Nguyen and Father Francis Nguyen celebrated the Blessing of the Fleet on the Solemnity of Saints Peter and Paul at St. Anthony of Padua in Palacios. They are pictured at the port in front of the Fisherman’s Memorial which is a statue of the Sacred Heart of Jesus.

“For He spoke and raised up a stormy wind, which lifted up the waves of the sea.”

Psalm 107: 23-25
The Love of Christ Impels Us

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Last month I wrote about Father Edwin O’Hara and the beginning of an organization called Catholic Rural Life. For me, reading the life stories of people in any age of history offers inspiration and wisdom for the present day. Catholic Rural Life can trace its founding to a conference held in St. Louis in 1923. After this beginning Father O’Hara became a well-known national leader in the 1920’s, 30’s and 40’s. One of the works for which he became famous was his enthusiastic support of the Confraternity of Christian Doctrine (CCD). He eventually earned the nickname “CCD O’Hara” to distinguish him from other “O’Hara’s”!

The reasons which guided Father O’Hara to put so much energy into the development and support of the CCD in the 1920’s seem like good reasons for us today. One of the reasons was the hope that a good system of training teachers in the faith could give confidence for Catholics to evangelize and share with others the beauty and truth of our faith. These teachers, the catechists, became essential to hand on the faith to the younger generation. They also became essential to defend the faith against those who would oppose or try to confuse Catholics. The word “catechist” itself comes from the Greek word used in the early Church to describe the process of handing on the authentic teaching of Jesus and the Apostles. A lot has changed in the world since the 1920’s, at the same time we still need good, trained catechists to hand on and defend the faith.

I thank God for the men and women in our diocese who have said “yes” to be catechists. In July our Office of Catechetical Ministry hosted two “Catechist Rallies” which I thought could be a way to show our appreciation for their hard work. What I received was an overwhelming sense of spiritual vitality and commitment from the catechists. It almost goes back to St. Paul, who wrote: “For the love of Christ impels us, once we have come to the conviction that one died for all; therefore, all have died (2 Cor. 5:14)”. The reason a person commits to be a catechist is because he or she desires to proclaim to others the personal love of Christ who gives us new life each day. As St. Paul knew so well - we are no longer our old selves, we now belong completely to Christ. The more someone works on preparing for classes and studying about the faith, the more this faith grows stronger.

As we’re getting ready to begin a new school year, I ask your prayer for our catechists and prayer for an abundance of men and women to say “yes” to this special call. Here is a prayer that we prayed at our Catechist Rallies:

Doy gracias a Dios por los hombres y mujeres de nuestra diocesis que han dicho “sí” a ser catequistas. En julio, nuestra Oficina de Catequista Ministerio organizó dos “Reuniones del Catequista” que pensé que podrían ser una manera de mostrar nuestro agradecimiento por su arduo trabajo. Lo que recibí fue una inmensa sensación de vitalidad espiritual y de compromiso por parte de los catequistas. Casi vuelve a lo que escribió San Pablo: “Ya que el amor de Cristo nos obliga, una vez que hayamos venido a la convicción que un murió para todos; por lo tanto, todos han muerto (2 Cor. 5:14)”. La razón por la que una persona se compromete a ser catequista es por el amor de Cristo que nos da una nueva vida cada día. Como San Pablo sabía muy bien - ya no somos de nuestra vieja identidad, ahora pertenecemos completamente a Cristo. Cuanto más trabajemos en preparar los materiales para las clases y estudiar la fe, más que esta fe crece fuerte.

Como estamos preparando a comenzar un nuevo año escolar, pido su oración por nuestros catequistas y oración por la abundancia de hombres y mujeres para decir “sí” a esta llamada especial. Aquí está una oración que hemos rezado en nuestras “Reuniones del Catequista”.

Loving God, Creator of all things, you call us to be in relationship with you and others. Thank you for calling me to be a catechist, for the opportunity to share with others what you have given to me. May all those with whom I share the gift of faith discover how you are present in all things. May they come to know you, the one true God, and Jesus Christ, whom you have sent. May the grace of the Holy Spirit guide your heart and lips, so that I may remain constant in loving and praising you. May I be a witness to the Gospel and a minister of your truth. May all my words and actions reflect your love. Amen.

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
Bishop Brendan’s Schedule

August

6  2:00 p.m. First Profession Mass for Sr. Rosario Resendez at IWBS Convent, Victoria

12  10:00 a.m. Dedicate Chapel at St. Anthony, Palacios

13  7:30 a.m. Mass at Sacred Heart Mission Church, Wadsworth

14  2:00 p.m. Communities of Faith Meeting, Victoria

15  10:00 a.m. Mass and Picnic at St. Mary’s Church, Praha

16  4:00 p.m. Building Board Meeting at the Chancery Office, Victoria

18  8:10 a.m. School Mass and visit Sts. Cyril & Methodius, Shiner

19  11:00 a.m. Final Profession Mass for Sr. Patricia Marie Lohre at IWBS Convent, Victoria

20-25  Retreat – St. Mary Seminary, Cleveland

26  9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. Learn and Lunch, Our Lady of Victory School, Victoria

27  8:00 a.m. Mass at St. Procopius, Louise

28  10:00 a.m. Mass at St. John Bosco, Vanderbilt and dedication of the new hall

29  5:00 p.m. St. Michael Church Confirmation Mass, Cuero

30  9:30 Mass at Twin Pines, Victoria

September

3  10:00 a.m. Mass at St. Mary Church, Nada

Holy Day of Obligation

Please be sure to attend Mass on Tuesday, August 15, the Feast of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary. It is a Holy Day of Obligation. The Chancery offices of the Diocese of Victoria will be closed.

The Catholic Lighthouse

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Diocese of Victoria

Hires New CFO

The Diocese of Victoria welcomes Mr. Anthony “Tony” Martinez as the new Chief Financial Officer (CFO), effective January 1, 2018.

He is a parishioner of Sts. Cyril and Methodius Church, Shiner. The September Lighthouse will introduce Mr. Martinez in more detail.

The diocese is sincerely grateful for the years of service that Mr. Mike Brown has given to the diocese. He will continue to serve as the CFO until December 31, 2017.

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

Rev. Msgr. Celestino Say  8/04/2015
Rev. James Kelly  8/20/1986
Rev. Alphonse Padalecki  8/24/1992

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)

DSA update

2017 Diocesan Services Appeal

Diocesan Goal:  $  1,994,298.00
Parish Pledge Totals:  $    755,782.59
Parish Contribution Totals: $  660,759.59
Number of Parish Families Participating: 2,744

Updated July 31, 2017

In Memory of...

The Catholic Lighthouse
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The Knights

In memory of Henry A. Schoenfeld on

Henry A. Schoenfeld Seminary Burse

In honor of Fr. Kristopher Fuchs’ 30th

Rev. Kristopher L. Fuchs Seminary Burse #2

In memory of Ruth Ann Boyd by

CDA Court St. Ann #369

In memory of Anita Schoenfeld by

CDA Court St. Ann #369

In memory of Ruth Ann Boyd by

CDA Court St. Ann #369

Rev. Timothy Kosler Seminary Burse

Acolyte

In memory of Melvin C. Kunz by

K of C Council #2902, Schulenburg

Rev. Dan Morales Seminary Burse in

Honor of his Work for Vocations

Acolyte

Donation by St. Rose of Lima Catholic School, on behalf of Fr. Max Landman

Rev. Msgr. John C. Peters Seminary Burse #7

Lector

In memory of Edwin Ochoa, Jr. by

Soila Sanchez

In thanksgiving by a Friend

Soila Sanchez

In memory of Dorothy Helen Sicko by:

Albert and Dorothy Olsovsky

Pat Mladenka

In memory of Mildred Christ by:

Margie Steffek

Anna Klekar

Acolyte

In memory of Mary Ann LeBlanc by

Charles and Annie Herchek

In memory of Rev. Charles Carolan by

Mrs. Vernon F. Matuszek

Rev. Msgr. Robert Schmidt Seminary Burse #2

Lector

In memory of Annie Schmidt by

Deacon and Mrs. Marian Kram

Sr. Denise Bowers, JWBS Seminary Burse

Lector

In memory of Eda Bowers by

Clem and Shirley Chilek

Nicholas Grahmann Seminary Burse #3

Lector

In memory of Lucille Werner by

Jack and Sandy Zaruba

SOLD—The Cathedral of Our Lady of Victory and The University of Houston Victoria announced the formal purchase of the former Town Plaza Mall, a total of 132,000 square feet. The Town Plaza Mall, built in 1969, was purchased by Our Lady of Victory in 2011. The church is currently renovating the J.C. Penney location that should be completed in late August. Father Gary Janak and Father Kristopher Fuchs representing Our Lady of Victory and UHV officials Vic Morgan, president, right and Wayne Beran, vice president for administration and finance are pictured following the exchanging of keys.

AN EVENING WITH BISHOP—The Knights of St. Gregory and guests celebrated a beautiful evening at the Bishop’s Annual Charity Banquet on Thursday, July 20 at the Victoria Country Club. The funds raised are given to Bishop Brendan Cahill to use for charities of his choice. This year a check in the amount of $14,000 was given to him. Pictured are Bishop Cahill and John Stevenson, Knights of St. Gregory president.

Happy Birthday to Our Seminarians

Luke Prihoda will be in Pre-Theology II this coming Fall at St. Mary’s Seminary, Houston. His birthday is August 10. Write to Luke at: St. Mary’s Seminary, 9845 Memorial Drive, Houston, TX 77024.

Caleb Krischke will be in College I this coming Fall at St. Joseph Seminary College in Louisiana. His birthday is August 30. Write to Caleb at: St. Joseph Seminary College, 75376 River Rd., St. Benedict, LA 70457.

Nick Apparicio will be in Theology I this coming Fall at St. Mary’s Seminary, Houston. His birthday is August 13. Write to Nick at: St. Mary’s Seminary, 9845 Memorial Drive, Houston, TX 77024.

Dalton Ervin will be in his pastoral year this coming Fall at Our Lady of the Gulf, Port Lavaca. His birthday is August 25. Write to Dalton at: Our Lady of the Gulf, 415 W. Austin St., Port Lavaca, TX 77979.

Wisconsin ~ September 10-16

Fall Amish Country
October 8-14

Nashville
Gaylord Christmas
November 30-December 6

Bus Tour includes Noah’s Ark and Graceland

2018

Panama ~ March • Hawaii ~ June

Next Travel Meeting Aug. 24

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Pathways with Patti

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 +.

July 27, 2017

• General Seminary Burse

Lector

In memory of Dalton Thurk by

Rosie Olsovsky

• CDA Court of St. Ann #369 Seminary Burse #2

Lector

In memory of Ruth Ann Boyd by

CDA Court St. Ann #369

In memory of Anita Schoenfeld by

CDA Court St. Ann #369

Acolyte

In memory of Ruth Ann Boyd by

CDA Court St. Ann #369

• Rev. Kristopher L. Fuchs Seminary Burse

Acolyte

In honor of Fr. Kristopher Fuchs’ 30th birthday and 1st. Anniversary of Priestly Ordination by Lynette Butler

• Henry A. Schoenfeld Seminary Burse

Acolyte

In memory of Henry A. Schoenfeld on his birthday by Bernice Schoenfeld

• Rev. Paul P. Kaspar and Parents, John & Frances Babica Kaspar Seminary Burse

Candidate

In memory of Rev. Paul P. Kaspar and Parents, John and Frances Kaspar by the Kaspar Family Reunion

• Rev. Timothy Kosler Seminary Burse

Acolyte

In memory of Melvin C. Kunz by

K of C Council #2902, Schulenburg

• Rev. Dan Morales Seminary Burse in Honor of his Work for Vocations

Acolyte

Donation by St. Rose of Lima Catholic School, on behalf of Fr. Max Landman

• Rev. Msgr. John C. Peters Seminary Burse #7

Lector

In memory of Edwin Ochoa, Jr. by

Soila Sanchez

In memory of Lucille Werner by

Jack and Sandy Zaruba

Follow me and I will make you fishers of men.”
Matthew 4:18-22
The Catholic Lighthouse
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DIOCESE

Czech Heritage Festival Features Czech Polka Bands, Texas Country Music Artist, Accordion Lessons and more!

The 32nd Annual Victoria Czech Heritage Festival plans are for another big celebration on Sunday, September 24, 2017, at the Victoria Community Center, 2905 E. North St. The festival is sponsored by the Victoria County Czech Heritage Society and has drawn about a thousand people consistently for more than three decades.

Beginning at 10:00 a.m. with five musical performances, this year’s festival will include three polka bands plus for those preferring a bit more country music, the festival will also feature Curtis Grimes, Texas Country Music Artist and Semi-Finalist of NBC’s “The Voice” TV show. Curtis is popular with today’s youth and will be performing his five #1 singles/hits on the Texas Music Charts… plus many more great country songs. This is Curtis’ first performance in Victoria and will be from 3:00 – 5:00 p.m. in the annex.

Other events planned include accordion lessons, Czech Sing-Alongs for adults and youth, exhibits, face painting, arts and crafts, pastry wheel, live and silent auction. As always, the festival includes kolaches, homemade chicken noodle soup and sausage wraps and the Czech stew and sausage lunch for $10/plate from 11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. Admission for all this is only $8 per person – under 15 years old – ALWAYS FREE.

For information see: www.victoriaczechs.org or facebook.com/victoriaczechsociety or call Donald Dusek (361) 571-4777 or e-mail: ddusek@suddenlink.net.

SAVE THE DATE!
Sunday, September 24
Victoria County Czech Heritage Festival
10:00 a.m. – 7:30 p.m. • Czech Stew - $10/plate
Admission: All for only $8 per person, under 15 free
Victoria Community Center • 2905 E. North St.

10:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. Shelia Lee, Accordionist
11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. Shiner Hobo Band
1:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m. Majek’s Polka Band
3:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m. Curtis Grimes:
Texas Country Music Artist
4:00 p.m. – 4:30 p.m. Jam Session: Majek’s Polka Band & Red Ravens
4:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m. The Red Ravens Band

3 Polka Bands + Country Music Artist

NATIONAL BLACK CATHOLIC CONGRESS—Bishop Brendan Cahill and Dr. John Quary, Superintendent of Catholic Schools, attended the National Black Catholic Congress in Orlando, Florida July 6-9. More than 2,200 people attended this conference. This was the first time the Diocese of Victoria has attended in many years.

GOLIAD KC’S INSTALL OFFICERS—Knights of Columbus Council #7512, Immaculate Conception Church, Goliad, installed Officers for the 2017-2018 Fraternal Year on July 5, 2017. First row, left-right, William Janecek (Inside Guard), Robert Franke (Outside Guard), Mike Beger (Treasurer), Jim Bluntzer (Trustee-3 Year), Very Reverend Charles E. Otsiwiak, VF (Pastor/Chaplain), William Schaeffer (Trustee-1 Year), Dwayne Machicek (Grand Knight), John Zarbock (Deputy Grand Knight), William Zermeno (Advocate); second row, Jerry Dornak (Recorder), Andy Janca (Lecturer), Adam Lumbrezer (Warden), Brian Yanta (Financial Secretary), William L. Zermeno (Chancellor), Jeremy Martin (District Deputy/Installing Officer). Not shown: Christian Rickman (Trustee-2 Year).

St. Mary • High Hill Parish Picnic

Sunday, September 3
Flag Raising Ceremony at 9:30 a.m. • Polka Mass with Bishop Cahill at 10:00 a.m.
Cakewalk 11:00 a.m. • Toy Walk • Country Store • Duck Pond • Ring Toss • Horseshoe Tournament at 1:00 p.m. • Washer Pitching at 3:00 p.m. • Train Ride • Hamburgers • High Hill Homemade Sausage • Souvenir Booth • Bingo (Lic. #3-00-0620320-9) 2:00 - 6:00 p.m.
Sweepstakes (Over 50 Prizes) Drawing at 9:00 p.m.

Music During the Day by
Texas Sound Czech and Mark Halata/Texavia
Free Dance at Night by Texas Dream

Chicken & Stew Dinner
11:00 a.m. to ?
(German Potatoes, Sauerkraut, Green Beans, Peaches & Tea)
Adults - $10 /Children $5

Auction 1:00 p.m.
Teens Experience
Rocky Mountain High Retreat

PAGOSA SPRINGS, COL.—Teenagers from across the Diocese of Victoria travelled to Pagosa Springs, Colorado in July to attend the Rocky Mountain High Retreat. For many of these youth it was the first time away from family, out of state, and out of their small towns. One retreatant, Ryan Kulcak, shared the following about his experience, “My experience at the Rocky Mountain High retreat was an incredible one. Just being able to go out of state into the mountains was a very enlightening experience. The very spiritual theme of the whole trip, along with being surrounded by many other fun young Catholics was for me, the ultimate way to become closer to God.”

Tanner Coleman, another retreatant excitedly shared, “Rocky Mountain High was an amazing time, a way to open up your faith to God, and such an amazing experience that no one will forget in their lifetime!”

The Rocky Mountain High Retreat is based on the 7 principles of Catholic Social Teaching. They are listed below but the details about each principle can be found at www.usccb.org/beliefs-and-teachings/what-we-believe/catholic-social-teaching/seven-themes-of-catholic-social-teaching.cfm.
- Life and Dignity of the Human Person
- Call to Family, Community and Participation
- Rights and Responsibilities
- Option for the Poor and Vulnerable
- The Dignity of Work and the Rights of Workers
- Solidarity
- Care for God’s Creation

Father Philip Brune, who attended the retreat for the 3rd year shared, “The biggest grace for me is seeing the kids flourish. They arrive timid and by the end are flourishing in the faith and in a relationship with God and one another. They can talk about and deal with issues in their lives while in a safe environment and receive love and mercy instead of judgment.”

Father Philip Brune attended the retreat his first year as a deacon and the last two as a priest. He is currently the parochial vicar at St. Robert Parish, El Campo.

The next retreat will be July 8, 2018. For all of those thinking of attending Rocky Mountain High Retreat next Summer, Father Philip shares, “This is truly an experience to hear the invitation of Jesus to go to the mountain and pray. There you will find God, and in finding God, you will find yourself.”
YC’S #1329 PRESENTS SCHOLARSHIP—Jake Morris was presented a check for $500 by the Knights of Columbus #1329, Victoria for his past service in the Columbian Squires. He was a member of Columbian Squires Victoria #2366 from June 2014 to May 2016. He is currently a First Degree Knight with Council #1329. This was the first college scholarship given to a Squire from Knights of Columbus #1329. He plans to attend Victoria College this fall. Pictured, left-right, Grand Knight Richard Gutierrez, recipient Jake Morris, and Chief Counselor Donald Shellenbarger.

WORKING FOR THE LORD—The St. Joseph the Worker Camp was a three day retreat and work camp held at the Spiritual Renewal Center in July. Highschool students from Our Lady of Guadalupe Parish, Bay City and St. Joseph Catholic High School, Victoria worked together to build a rosary garden and complete other projects.
SISTERLY THOUGHTS

By Sister Mildred Truchard, IWBS

Following A Call

When Patricia Lohre and Rosario Resendez were baptized years ago, I’m sure God the Father could have looked down upon them and could have said of each of them, “This is my beloved daughter in whom I am well pleased.” By their baptisms they were commissioned to proclaim and become instruments in bringing about the Kingdom of God. Now, many of the people of God are called to fulfill this commission as members of the laity – either as dedicated single persons or through the Sacrament of Matrimony as they live lives of love and service with Jesus as their Center and Guide. Then some are called to embrace the consecrated (religious) life. Among these are the two women who are making religious profession with the Incarnate Word and Blessed Sacrament Sisters of Victoria at this time.

After two years of study pertaining to the religious life and some apostolic experience as a Novice, Sister Maria del Rosario Resendez from Bay City is making the vows that will bind her to the service of the Church and to the Incarnate Word for the coming year. She will renew these temporary vows annually until she makes final vows, usually after about five years of temporary-vowed life.

Sister Patricia Marie Lohre of Dallas has completed five years of temporary vows and will be making final (perpetual) vows in which she is making a total commitment of her life. She is fulfilling her life’s dream of unreservedly belonging to God!

The profession ceremonies, at Incarnate Word Convent, are joyful events for the Sisters of the Incarnate Word and Blessed Sacrament as they welcome Sister Patricia Marie and Sister Maria del Rosario into their membership.

Today, many people wonder why anyone would bother to enter religious life. They think that one can serve the Church without belonging to a religious order. It is very true that one need not enter religious life to serve in the Church. Many dedicated lay ministers are doing an excellent job. However, I believe that diversity of life style adds dimension to the tapestry of the Church’s life. Suppose an artist used only one color on a masterpiece; some monochromes are very attractive; however, most of us prefer the richness that a combination of colors provides. The same is true in the Church and I’m happy to be one of the contrasting colors in God’s masterpiece. Apparently, Sister Patricia Marie and Sister Maria del Rosario think so, too!

August will be a time of celebration for the Sisters of Incarnate Word and Blessed Sacrament, for two of their Sisters in their Initial Formation program will be making First and Final Profession.

Sunday, August 6, 2017, Sister Maria del Rosario Resendez, IWBS, will be making First Profession at Incarnate Word Convent Chapel in Victoria.

“Ever since I was a little girl I thought about becoming a religious sister. I believed that there could be nothing more beautiful than devoting my life to Jesus. It took some time before I found out about religious life and I can say that it truly is a beautiful thing. I’m excited to take my first vows, it’s another step on the road the Lord has asked me to walk with Him for the rest of my life. I just pray that my life will reflect as one who is fully living as a Sister of The Incarnate Word and Blessed Sacrament.”

~ Sister Rosario

Saturday, August 19, 2017, Sister Patricia Marie Lohre, IWBS, will be making her Final Profession/Perpetual Profession at Incarnate Word Convent Chapel in Victoria.

“I am so excited for Sister Maria del Rosario! As Formation Director I have had the privilege to walk with her and guide her during this journey as together we delved deeply into prayer, spirituality, history, community, and the vows. She is an awesome woman of faith who embellishes the charism of our Congregation – to extend His love and be the Incarnate Word! What a joy it is to celebrate with her!!

I am overjoyed as our Congregation celebrates the Perpetual Profession of Sister Patricia Marie! When I was named Novice Director for our Congregation, Sister Patricia Marie was the first Novice that I welcomed. Together, we studied and learned the meaning of being an Incarnate Word and Blessed Sacrament Sister! I have watched her grow into the enthusiastic Sister that welcomes and recognizes God in all!!”

~ Sister Kathleen Goike, IWBS (Formation Director)

As I reflect upon the blessings of Sister Maria del Rosario making her First Profession and Sister Patricia Marie making her Perpetual Profession in our Congregation, my grateful heart joyfully sings the words of Mary’s Magnificat: My Soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior for He has looked with favor upon His lowly servants …The Almighty has done great things for ‘them/us’!!

~ Sister Stephana Marbach, IWBS (General Superior)
Climbing temperatures and falling raindrops combine to remind us that school days are fast approaching. While we try to capture the waning moments of fun and frolic in the sun at our favorite water locales, the lazy afternoons will soon give way to the frenetic pace of school bags, school buses, school uniforms, and school rules for the brand new 2017-2018 school term. As we bid a fond farewell to former students, teachers, staff members, and classes, let’s prepare to give a “high-five howdy” to all the new people and experiences that await us.

As our Office of Catholic Schools ushers in its 21st year, and I begin my 10th year as superintendent for the Diocese of Victoria in Texas, I want to wish each of you a special welcome to the “first day of the rest of your school life” experience in our Catholic schools. My prayer is that we will all continue to be open to the many surprises and wonderful moments that God has planned for us during this upcoming school session. Learn as much as you can, be as kind as you can, and share your grateful attitude with as many as you can for the blessings and bounties that come from our Lord and Savior.

Dr. John Quary
Catholic School Superintendent

Dedication of New Hall for Nada Parish

NADA—Father Peter Yeboah-Amanfo and the parishioners of the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary Church in Nada are proud to announce the opening of the new St. Mary’s Nada Community Center facility. A dedication ceremony and blessing was held on July 30, 2017, with Bishop Brendan Cahill, officiating. Family and friends from the Nada, Garwood, and surrounding communities attended and viewed the new facility.

This new facility is replacing the existing community center hall which was constructed in 1928. It has served the community on innumerable special occasions and provided lifelong memories. Although the old hall was a state of the art facility when constructed, its replacement is two and one-half times larger (25,000 square feet vs 10,000 square feet) and is state of the art for 2017. The new hall has larger kitchen facilities, a meeting room with small kitchen, and larger rest rooms with the entire enclosed structure being cooled by 70 tons of air conditioning. To accommodate functions during inclement weather, the drive thru food take out area is covered by a roof structure which also provides protection for the elderly and infirm persons to enter and egress the facility.

The south and east side of the hall has a covered area dedicated to the enjoyment of outdoor functions and has been landscaped with grass, trees, shrubs, and colorful plants. Additionally, a rose garden surrounding a statue of the Blessed Mother is being constructed on the south lawn area. To accommodate visitors’ vehicles, there are two and one-half acres of all-weather parking as well as the use of the old hall facility parking if required.

Father Peter and St. Mary’s parishioners invite everyone to come to Nada on Sunday, September 3, for the annual festival and homecoming. It will be a momentous day for the parish community as the first festival is celebrated in the new hall. Festival details are on page 11.
Deacon Joseph “Joey” Targac

When I received a text message from Deacon Kutka a couple of weeks ago about writing an article in the Catholic Lighthouse about my “journey to deacon”, I gladly accepted. I feel there is not so much to write about myself but I have a lot to say about the nine deacons who were ordained with me almost 30 years ago. On the morning of Saturday, August 15, 1987 the Feast Day of the Immaculate Conception, Bishop Charles Grahmann, laid his hands on the first group of men to be ordained Permanent Deacons in our new diocese. We were originally called in 1982 and out of 36 men, 9 proudly answered the call. We came from all over our diocese; Victoria, Shiner, Edna, Blooming-}

niversary to the Diaconate May 22, 2017 with Bishop Thomas Drury of the Diocese of Corpus Christi.

We met at a different parish every month and occasionally at the Chancery Office in Victoria for our formation. We were the nine pioneers that prayed and through God’s grace kept discerning the role we were to serve in our ministry at our assigned parishes. Our wives took part in every training phase and we all felt their support and inspiration. This support was much needed as we were also raising our children. On the week before our ordination, we freely and passionately consecrated ourselves and our families to Our Blessed Virgin Mother and vowed to pray the “Memorare” at noon and our families to Our Blessed Virgin Mother and vowed to pray the “Memorare” at noon for the rest of our lives.

Now, thirty years later, three of the original nine deacons are deceased and a fourth transferred to the Archdiocese of San Antonio. The Diocese of Victoria has been blessed to ordain 42 men over the past 35 years to the permanent diaconate, which we hold to great esteem. All the deacons serve Sacred Heart and St. Mary’s parish and occasionally at the Chancery Office and parishes. Our wives took part in every training and my schedule as Police Chief would clash from time to time, especially on call 24/7, but through the grace of God and understanding of the citizens of Weimar, it couldn’t have worked out better.

One of my proudest achievements when I served as Police Chief was developing a special patch that was worn on all of our uniforms along with a decal that was placed on the sides of all Weimar police vehicles. The image was of St. Michael the Archangel in mid-flight carrying his sword in his right hand and the scale of justice in his left. I was inspired by Revelation 12:7 “Then war broke out in heaven. Michael and his angels fought against the dragon, and the dragon and his angels fought back.” This scripture reminded me of how those who serve in law enforcement see so much evil that they often become indifferent. I wanted them to have a reminder that like St. Michael and his angels fought that they too could work against the evil forces of the world. St. Michael is known as God’s first police officer and patron saint of all Police Officers and Fire Fighters. This is who I wanted my office and I to stand for on and off duty. To my understanding, it is the only patch like this in the world.

After being ordained as a permanent deacon in 1987 I served the parishioners of St. Michael’s for 9 years and the Colorado County as a Police Officer and Police Chief for 16 years. I feel blessed and am grateful that I had so much support from both priests who served as pastors of St. Michael’s, Father Charles Carolan and Father John Bily. In 1996 my family moved to Hallettsville, where we still reside. I was reunited with Father John Peters, who I grew up with and we both attended St. John’s Seminary in San Antonio. Father John was appointed pastor of Sacred Heart Parish and three mission parishes. I have now served Sacred Heart and St. Mary’s parishioners as well as parishioners of St. John’s and Moravia for approximately twenty-one years. I treasure the support I received from my best friend, my wife Mary, and our two sons Christopher and Matthew, and their families for all these years. I cannot forget...
how much I learned from my Spiritual Director from the Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston, Monsignor James Madden. He taught me to involve real stories when delivering homilies before he left this earth.

Four years ago, my health became an issue and kept me from doing any liturgical service. Due to Spinal Stenosis, disc problems and Neuropathy, I could not stand up for long, climb the steps to the altar, kneeling or genuflecting. Thanks to two successful surgeries, a heart bypass surgery and mostly for the prayers that my family, friends and parishioners have offered up for me, I am nearing the opportunity to be able to be active in liturgical services again.

The ministries that I have been active in for the last few years include Jail Ministry at the Lavaca County Detention Center on Friday’s, distributing the Holy Eucharist to the sick and homebound, performing wake services outside of Mass funerals, teaching CCD/Confirmation at St. Mary’s Parish and teaching Defensive Driving.

I have a particular passion for teaching Defensive Driving. I have been teaching the National Safety Council’s Defensive Driving Course for forty years this October and was truly honored to be chosen as Instructor of the year out of 600 world-wide instructors. As a former Police Chief I have seen too many young people injured and who have died in collisions. It is so ingrained in me that I can’t help but teach some of the Defensive Driving Class highlights to my confirmation students every year. I express to my students the importance of carrying on God’s mission in life and how they can stay safe in today’s fast paced society. My other passions are spending time with my grandkids and taking care of and feeding wildlife and birds.

So important to me is an article written by Father Bob Knippenberg (He was a deacon at the time) for the April 1999 issue of The Catholic Lighthouse.

“…Servant of the Servants of God. No man is worthy to be a deacon…I being the least worthy. But it is the vocation to which God, in His marvelous and mysterious love, has called me. With praise and thanksgiving for that Love, I joyfully embrace the call and, with the prayerful help, support, and encouragement of the People of God in the Diocese of Victoria, look forward to a ministry of loving service as a deacon. The ordination ceremony includes a moment when the Bishop holds out the Book of the Gospels to the deacon who kneels before him and places his hands on it. As he does this the Bishop says, “Believe what you read. Teach what you believe. Practice what you teach.” May God in his mercy always help me, and all His deacons and priests, to be a faithful minister of the good news that Christ has died, Christ is risen, and Christ will come again! Alleluia.”

I especially reflect on it when I feel the need to improve the virtue of humility. It encompasses all that being a deacon has meant to me and I know that I and all my deacon brothers take our responsibility seriously to be the “eyes and the ears of the bishop of the diocese.”
The 30th Annual Catholic Conference will be held at Holy Family Church, in Wharton, Texas on Saturday, September 23, 2017. Everyone is invited to attend and celebrate the Church’s teaching on human life and human dignity.

Catholic social teaching is a central and essential element of the Catholic faith. Its roots are in the Hebrew prophets who announced God’s special love for the poor and called God’s people to a covenant of love and justice. The Church’s social teaching is a rich treasure of wisdom about building a just society and living lives of holiness amidst the challenges of modern society. Various speakers from inside and outside the diocese will put us in touch with the realities of today and how these realities are related to our faith through the different Principles of Catholic Social Teaching. Helen Osman, who provides faith-based communications support for international, national and local entities, including the Texas Catholic Conference of Bishops, will speak on the principle: Option for the poor and vulnerable, in her workshop: Making it Real: What the Church’s Social Teaching, “Option for the Poor” means in South Texas.

Gloria Scoyola, who has served for almost 30 years in various parishes in the Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston, will speak in English and Spanish on the principle: Call to Family, Community, and Participation, in the workshop, Lord, when did we see you…?

Dr. Arturo Chávez, the President of the Mexican American Catholic College (MACC), in San Antonio Texas, will address the principle: Rights and Responsibilities, in his workshops, “Encountering Christ in the Stranger.”

David Atwood, the founder of the Texas Coalition to Abolish the Death Penalty, will address the principle: Life and Dignity of the Human Person. Atwood will share his experience of visiting victims of crime and prisoners on death row and his knowledge of the Texas Criminal Justice System.

Linda Gibler, OP, PhD, who serves as the Associate Academic Dean and Associate Professor of Science and Religion at the Oblate School of Theology in San Antonio, will address the principle: Care for God’s Creation in her workshops. She will speak of creation as the original source of divine revelation and the urgent need to care for, protect, and cherish it for its own sake as well as for what it teaches us about God, ourselves, and our changing world.

Gerardo Salazar, Associate Director of Catechist Formation and Hispanic Catechetical Leaders in the Archdiocese of Galveston/Houston will present two workshops in Spanish addressing the principle: Cuidado por la creación de Dios.

Workshops will also be offered for those in liturgical ministry. Patrick Spedale, the senior choirmaster of the award winning St. Pius X Concert Chorale and Campus Singers, will present a workshop on liturgical music in the Church today, its importance in worship, and how to plan and select music to make the celebration of the liturgy meaningful. He will present a second workshop for Lectors and Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion, giving some basic as well as updated information. Both workshops will also have a focus on the Catholic Social Teaching. Other workshops are aimed at helping catechists in the classroom, the spirituality of the catechist, and teaching the rosary in dynamic ways.

A complete list of presenters and workshops will be available on the diocesan website. Online registration is encouraged. For more information, call (361) 573-0828.
KC FOURTH DEGREE INSTALLATION—Installation of the 2017-2018 Fourth Degree Officers of the Knights of Columbus Assembly #1126, Victoria, was held recently. The installation included attendance by members and family at Mass concelebrated by 4th Degree members, Rev. Patrick Knippenberg and Rev. Frank Lentz followed by the installation conducted by District Marshall Sir Knight Joe Soto assisted by Sir Knight John Leal. Pictured from left to right are: Fred Sanchez, Faithful Admiral; Pete Moya, Trustee; Richard Mayer, Color Corp Commander; Jeremy Martin, Trustee; Stephen Lesak, Faithful Comptroller; John Zarbock, Faithful Scribe; Rudy De Los Santos, Outer Sentinel; Thomas Pribyl, Faithful Captain; Charles Bluntzer, Faithful Navigator; Dwayne Machicke, Inner Sentinel; John Leal, Assistant to District Marshall; Jerry Hajek, Trustee; Joe Soto, District Marshall and Rev. Knippenberg, Faithful Friar.

WEIMAR KC’S INSTALL OFFICERS—The Weimar Knights of Columbus Council #2153 installed new officers at the July meeting. Bottom left are: Lecturer-David Wanjura, Deputy Grand Knight-Tim Leihardt, Grand Knight-Kenneth German, Chaplain-Father Wayne Flagg, Advocate-Harvey Bartosh, Warden-Leo Hoelscher. Top left; Insurance Agent- Lawrence “Bear” Kana, Trustee-Michael Riha, Trustee-Bill Briscoe, Trustee-Charles Herzik, Outside Guard-Kermit Thuemler, Treasurer-Francis Janacek, Financial Secretary-Herbert Ulbrich, Recorder-Jack Muggli, District Deputy-Terry Saulnier and not pictured is Inside Guard-James Zabransky and Chancellor-Lee Adams.

SCHULENBURG—Knights of Columbus Council #2902, Schuleburg, installed the council officers for the 2017-2018 fiscal year on July 11, 2017 with Terry Saulnier, District Deputy installing the new officers for the council. The Officers are Peter Garcia Jr., Inside Guard; Harvey Schindler, Recorder; Leonard Korenek, Chancellor; Dennis Johnson, Deputy Grand Knight; Ken Berger, Grand Knight; Stanley Pesek, Financial Secretary; Andy Bockholt, Outside Guard; Rev. Tim Kosler, Chaplain; Frank Bohllmann, Lecturer; Larry Kana, District Warden; David Kalmus, Advocate; Paul Veselka, Warden; John Schindler, 3 year Trustee; Gene Berger, Treasurer; Edwin Moeller, 1 year Trustee; and Joe Kurtz IV, 2 year Trustee.

In service to One, In service to all
Knights of Columbus Motto
A VISITOR FROM GHANA — The Most Rev. Matthias K. Nketiah, Metropolitan Archbishop of Cape Coast, Ghana visits the Very Rev. Charles E. Otsiwah, VF, Parochial Administrator of Immaculate Conception Church in Goliad. They enjoyed an appreciation dinner.

Sunday Readings from August 6 - September 10

August 6 – Feast of the Transfiguration of the Lord
Daniel 7:9-10, 13-14
Psalms 97:1-2, 5-6, 9
2 Peter 1:16-19
Matthew 17:1-9

August 13 – Nineteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time
1 Kings 19:9A, 11-13A
Psalms 85:9, 10, 11-12, 13-14
Romans 9:1-5
Matthew 14:22-33

Holy Day of Obligation
August 15 – Solemnity of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary
Revelation 11:19A; 12:1-6A, 10AB
Psalms 45:10, 11, 12, 16
1 Corinthians 15:20-27
Luke 1:39-56

August 20 – Twentieth Sunday in Ordinary Time
Isaiah 56:1, 6-7
Psalms 67:2-3, 5, 6, 8
Romans 11:13-15, 29-32
Matthew 15:21-28

August 27 – Twenty-first Sunday in Ordinary Time
Isaiah 22:19-23
Psalms 138:1-2, 2-3, 6, 8
Romans 11:33-36
Matthew 16:13-20

September 3 – Twenty-second Sunday in Ordinary Time
Jeremiah 20:7-9
Psalms 63:2, 3-4, 5-6, 8-9
Romans 12:1-2
Matthew 16:21-27

September 10 – Twenty-third Sunday in Ordinary Time
Ezekiel 33:7-9
Psalms 95:1-2, 6-7, 8-9
Romans 13:8-10
Matthew 18:15-20

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

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL FUN—Seminarians, Philippe Dubourdieu and Jordan Morgan spoke to Vacation Bible School (VBS) campers at St. Mary’s, Victoria, about their call to religious life and the seminary. They are both pictured with a group of VBS students who attended. Sister Mary Beth Cernoch, IWBS, is also pictured speaking to the group of students.

HOly CROSS CHURCH FESTIVAL
September 10, 2017
Yorktown Community Hall
Community Hall Road – Yorktown, TX

CELEBRATING 102 YEARS!

MASS AT 9:30 AM
Father Roger Havas, Celebrant

DINNER STARTS AT 10:30 AM
Barbeque Beef Shoulder Clod & Homemade Polish Sausage w/trimmings
Adult & To-Go Plates - $10/plate
Children under 12 - $5/plate

ENTERTAINMENT STARTS 10:30 AM
DJ Val Mungia

LIVE AUCTION at 1:00 PM
In the Air-Conditioned Dining Hall

ALL DAY LONG
Country Store, Cake Walk, Bounce House, KC Calf Raffle, And More!

HUNDREDS ATTEND FIRST CATECHIST RALLY—The Office of Catechetical Ministry held its first ever Catechetical Rallies, in Hallettsville on July 22 and in Hillje on July 29. These were held in gratitude for those who served their parish catechetical programs during 2016-2017. Bishop Cahill commissioned those present for next year and spent time with all present.
KJZT HOSTS STATE CONVENTION—Catholic Family Fraternal of Texas (K.J.Z.T.) held its XXXV Regular General Convention on July 15 and 16, 2017. As State Chaplain of the organization, Father Gary Janak celebrated Mass for all the delegates present. He also read the Apostolic greeting from Archbishop Christophe Pierre, the Apostolic Nuncio, on behalf of Pope Francis. Father Janak also wrote a letter to Archbishop Pierre, about the K.J.Z.T. Convention. As the personal representative of the Holy Father, Archbishop Pierre offered his Apostolic blessing and prayers. The Fraternal is grateful to have Father Janak as the State Chaplain.

Journeys of Faith with Ceci

It is a Holy Land year!
Here are two more opportunities to visit the beautiful homeland of our Lord!

Join Us as We Walk in the Footsteps of Jesus
November 8 - 17, 2017 $3,295.00
Spiritual Director: Father Marty Goetz
See Nazareth, Mt. Tabor, Sea of Galilee, Bethlehem, Jerusalem
~ Renew your Wedding Vows in Cana ~
~ Renew Baptismal Vows at the River Jordan ~
Experience the Gospel as it comes to life!

Christmas in Holy Land!
Join us for a very unique Holy Land Pilgrimage
November 28 - December 7, 2017 $2,995.00
Spiritual Director: Father Peter Jankowski
Visit all the above mentioned places, plus you have the option of singing with the Sing for Him Choir at the Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony in Bethlehem and in Nazareth with Anna Nuzzo, Christian

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

Name: ____________________________
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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.
Una estatua de la Virgen del Carmen, patrona de los marineros, sale al mar Mediterráneo cerca de Málaga, España, el 16 de julio. (Foto CNS-Jon Nazca, Reuters)

Líderes Católicos Rezan por Víctimas de Tragedia en San Antonio

Por Catholic News Service

SAN ANTONIO (CNS)—Las muertes “totalmente sin sentido” de 10 personas que murieron agotadas por el calor y sofocadas dentro un camión en Texas “es una tragedia incomprensible”, dijo el Arzobispo Gustavo García-Siller de San Antonio.

“No hay palabras para transmitir la tristeza, el desespero y sí, hasta la ira que sentimos hoy”, él dijo en un comunicado emitido el 23 de julio.

Un día antes, oficiales del orden público de San Antonio encontraron ocho cuerpos dentro de un camión en el estacionamiento de un Walmart. Las ocho personas muertas estaban entre las 39 que estaban dentro del tráiler sufriendo de deshidratación extremada y golpe de calor. Por lo menos otros 20 de los rescatados del camión estaban en condición grave y fueron transportados al hospital. Dos murieron más tarde y para el 24 de julio, 10 personas en total habían muerto.

En un comunicado del 24 de julio el presidente del Comité sobre Migración de la Conferencia de Obispos Católicos de Estados Unidos dijo que los obispos del país unieron sus voces en duelo por la pérdida de vida y condenaron el trato hacia los migrantes, muchos de los cuales eran de México y Guatemala, en una sospechada operación de contrabando humano.

Caridades Católicas de la Arquidiócesis de San Antonio ya recurrió a nuestro alcalde y prometió ofrecer cualquier ayuda que sea necesaria. Haremos todo lo posible por estos hermanos y hermanas y sus familias”, él dijo.

El Arzobispo García-Siller dijo que la tragedia fue “un toque de clarín” para que la nación le de prioridad a la reforma migratoria.

“Todos — las iglesias, las agencias del orden público, los funcionarios electos estatales y nacionales, las organizaciones cívicas, los grupos caritativos — tienen que priorizar el asunto de la inmigración y verdaderamente trabajar juntos de maneras nuevas que nos han eludido en el pasado para soluciones que tengan sentido común, ¡No más retrasos! ¡No más víctimas!”, el dijo.

Él recordó que cuando 19 personas murieron bajo circunstancias parecidas en un tráiler cerca del pueblo de Victoria, Texas en el 2003, muchos prometieron trabajar con otros para asegurar que algo igual no sucediera otra vez.

Desafortunadamente, en meses recientes, las agencias del orden público han reportado más operaciones de tráfico y contrabando humano en la frontera, dijo el arzobispo García-Siller.

“Oramos por estas víctimas y todas las víctimas del tráfico y contrabando humano; para que esta monstruosa forma moderna de esclavitud tenga un final pronto y definitivo”, añadió el arzobispo. “Dios llora viendo esta realidad y muchas otras situaciones como estas en todo nuestro país y en todo el mundo”.~ Arzobispo García-Siller

¡No más retrasos! ¡No más víctimas!

~ Arzobispo García-Siller
Eight IWBS Sisters Celebrated Anniversaries of Profession

Between July 15 and July 16, 2017, eight Sisters of the Incarnate Word and Blessed Sacrament celebrated their anniversaries of profession. Those with 70 years, Sister Rosa Sanchez and Sister Claudia Klesel; 60 years, Sister Mildred Truchard, Sister Adele Marie Machala, Sister Agnesine Heinsch, and Sister Rachel Gomez; 50 years was Sister Evelyn Korenek; and Sister Maria Estefana Robles, 20 years.

Together these eight Sisters contributed 450 years of service to the Church in ministries of education, health care, administration and pastoral services.

The Most Reverend Brendan Cahill and Bishop Emeritus David Fellhauer officiated at the 2:00 p.m. Mass each day. Also present were local priests of the Diocese of Victoria and visiting priests. In addition to the local Incarnate Word and Blessed Sacrament Sisters, there were visiting Sisters from other congregations as well as guests from as far away as Washington State, Oregon, California and Florida.

70 Years

Sister Rosa Sanchez, is the daughter of the late Diego and Genevieve (Vargas) Sanchez. She received her elementary education at Adams Public School in El Campo. She graduated from Nazareth Academy and made her First Profession September 2, 1947. Sister Rosa received her BA degree with a major in English and a minor in Spanish from Incarnate Word College in San Antonio and her MA degree with a major in Secondary Education and a minor in Sociology/Psychology from Southwest Texas State University in San Marcos.

During the 70 years as a member of the Congregation, Sister Rosa taught on the elementary and junior high levels. She also served as principal in several of the schools, and served as Director of Religious Education in various parishes. Sister Rosa’s teaching experiences took her to Plum, San Antonio, East Bernard, Bay City, Weimar, Selma, Shiner, La Grange, and Victoria. As Director of Religious Education, Sister Rosa ministered to the people in East Bernard, Nada, Wallis, Angleton, and San Antonio. In 1994 she began ministering as a Pastoral Counselor/Chaplain with Family Hospice, Nurses in Touch Hospice, and Outreach Health Services in San Antonio. She is a certified Chaplain for Pastoral Ministry. In 2016 she moved to the Healthcare Center at Incarnate Word Convent and continues to reach out to others.

Sister Rosa enjoys listening to music, reading and working with arts and crafts.

Sister Claudia Klesel, daughter of the late Edmund and Annie (Till) Klesel, was born in Schulenburg, Texas. She received her elementary education at St. Edward School in Dubina and graduated from Nazareth Academy. She entered Nazareth Convent and made her First Profession a MA degree with a major in Biology and a minor in Education from Incarnate Word College. She earned a Master of Education in Administration from Our Lady of the Lake University and a MA in Pastoral Ministry from Oblate School of Theology.

During her 60 years as a professed member of the congregation, Sister Mil-

60 Years

Sister M. Mildred Truchard, daughter of the late Joe and Lillie (Schneider) Truchard, was born in Sealy. She attended Mentz Public School, and Columbus High School and Nazareth Academy from which she graduated. She entered Nazareth Convent and became a postulant in 1954 and made First Profession of vows on August 6, 1957. She received a BA degree with a major in English and a minor in History and a MA degree as a teacher and/or principal in Weimar, Sealy, San Antonio, Hallettsville, and St. Joseph High School and Nazareth Academy in Victoria. She was instrumental in opening a Multi-Learning Center as an Alternative High School at Blessed Sacrament Academy in 1989. Then she was in parish ministry in San Antonio. She ministered as Local Superior at Incarnate Word Convent and as a General Councilor from 2006-2012. She has served as the Vocation Director for the Congregation since 1998.

Sister Mildred’s hobbies are gardening, painting, arts and crafts, and reading. She uses her computer skills with the formulation and updating of the IWBS web page for the Congregation. Each month she shares her “Sisterly Thoughts” in The Catholic Lighthouse.

Sister Adele Marie Machala, daughter of the late Rudolph and Julia (Kubin) Machala, was born in Schulenburg, Texas. She attended Crosby Public School in Crosby, Parker Public School in Parker, WA, and Yakima Catholic School in Yakima, WA. She attended Crosby High School and graduated from Nazareth Academy. She entered Nazareth Convent and made First Profession of vows on August 6, 1957.

She received a BA degree with a major in Education and a minor in History from Incarnate Word College and a Master of Religious Education from the University of St. Thomas in Houston.

During the 60 years as a professed religious, Sister Adele Marie taught in Nada, La Grange, Weimar, Hallettsville, San Antonio, Sealy, Selma, Crosby, Floresville, Dallas, St. Joseph High School and Our Lady of Victory School in Victoria; she served as principal at St. John’s School in San Antonio. She also ministered in CCD classes in East Bernard and Anglo. In 1989 she moved to Incarnate Word Convent and began assisting in the Incarnate Word Gift Shop. She is now assisting in the Healthcare Center at Incarnate Word Convent.

Sister M. Agnesine Heinsch, daughter of the late Otto and Gertrude (Albrecht) Heinsch, was born in San Antonio, Texas. She attended St. Leo School in San Antonio and Blessed Sacrament Academy from which she graduated. She entered Nazareth Convent in Victoria and made First Profession of vows on August 6, 1957. Sister Agnesine received a BA degree with a major in History and a minor in English from Incarnate Word College.

During her 60 years of profession, Sister Agnesine ministered as a teacher in Victoria, Crosby, San Antonio, and Ganado. She has served at Blessed Sacrament Academy in San Antonio as Academy and/ or convent Treasurer over the last 34 years. Sister Agnesine is a great musician who has used her talents in playing the organ/ piano for Eucharistic celebrations and other events throughout the years. Her hobbies include gardening, especially houseplants, and playing the piano.

Sister M. Rachel Gomez, daughter of the late Cosme and Alejandra (Ayala) Gomez, was born in Selma, Texas. She attended Our Lady of Perpetual Help School in Selma. She entered Nazareth Convent in Victoria where she made First Profession.

See Eight IWBS Sisters, pg. 18

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
God’s Embrace Ministries is focused on renewing our beloved Catholic Church. Our mission is to lead, instruct, mold, and call Catholic faithful into becoming ardent disciples of Jesus Christ. We are dedicated to engaging Catholics in their faith, prayer vocation and service to God, leading them to a deeper, more personal relationship with the blessed Trinity. We carry this mission out using several daily prayer programs intended to meet God’s people where they are on their spiritual journey. Along with the daily prayer programs, we also offer parish missions, weekend retreats, guided retreats and spiritual director formation.

Daily prayer and the understanding of the scriptures that comes along with spending time in the presence has the potential to transform lives. “Because of God’s Embrace, my life journey changed from being just a tragic story to a parable that will end with Jesus Christ!,” proclaims Del (Warren) DelVecchio, a parishioner from Queen of the Holy Rosary Parish, Hostyn. Our very own Bishop Brendan Cahill wrote an endorsement saying, “I am certain that many will be led to the fullness of our faith and the reality of God’s unconditional love for them through God’s Embrace.”

We are offering a Lead Me Weekend Retreat at the Spiritual Renewal Center in Victoria, September 8-10, with Bishop Brendan Cahill as presider. This retreat offers opportunities for Eucharistic adoration, Sacrament of Reconciliation, praise and worship, and concludes with Mass. For more information or to register, please visit us online at godsembrace.org.

**Eight IWBS Sisters Celebrated Anniversaries of Profession**

Continued from pg. 17

**20 Years**

**Sister Maria Estefana Robles**, daughter of the late Antonio Rivera and Guadalupe (Aguirre) Rivera, was born in Victoria, Texas. She received her elementary education at Juan Linn School and graduated from Nazareth Academy in Victoria. She entered Incarnate Word Convent in 1995 and made her First Profession on December 21, 1997.

She loves to work with young children and their families. To further develop her gifts and talents, Sister received Child Development Associate Credentials from Palo Alto College in San Antonio, Training Certification from the Texas Association of Young Children in Dallas, Certification of Training from Texas Early Care and Education Career Development, as well as training at the Parents’ Academy “Precious Minds”, and Child Guidance Certification at St. Philip’s College in San Antonio. Other studies were at The Pastoral Institute in Victoria.

During her 20 years as a professed Sister, her ministries have been at the Child Development Center at Blessed Sacrament Academy in San Antonio and the Nazareth Academy Day Care Center in Victoria. Her present ministries are in the IWC Gift Shop and Healthcare Center.

Among her hobbies are reading and bonding with families.

**50 Years**

**Sister Evelyn Korenek**, daughter of the late Leonard and Evelyn (Canik) Korenek, was born in Garwood, Texas. She received her elementary education at St. Mary’s School in Nada, Texas and graduated from Nazareth Academy. She entered Nazareth Convent in Victoria, Mercy Hospital in Jourdanton, Hallettsville, and Incarnate Word Convent in Victoria where she presently resides. Her hobbies include making rosaries and decorating cakes and cookies.

She enjoys water aerobics and reading.

**God’s Embrace Ministries, Inc.**

Engaging Catholics

by Kristin Barnhill

God’s Embrace Ministries is focused on renewing our beloved Catholic church. Our mission is to lead, instruct, mold, and call Catholic faithful into becoming ardent disciples of Jesus Christ. We are dedicated to engaging Catholics in their faith, prayer vocation and service to God, leading them to a deeper, more personal relationship with the blessed Trinity. We carry this mission out using several daily prayer programs intended to meet God’s people where they are on their spiritual journey. Along with the daily prayer programs, we also offer parish missions, weekend retreats, guided retreats and spiritual director formation.

Daily prayer and the understanding of the scriptures that comes along with spending time in the presence has the potential to transform lives. “Because of God’s Embrace, my life journey changed from being just a tragic story to a parable that will end with Jesus Christ!,” proclaims Del (Warren) DelVecchio, a parishioner from Queen of the Holy Rosary Parish, Hostyn. Our very own Bishop Brendan Cahill wrote an endorsement saying, “I am certain that many will be led to the fullness of our faith and the reality of God’s unconditional love for them through God’s Embrace.”

We are offering a Lead Me Weekend Retreat at the Spiritual Renewal Center in Victoria, September 8-10, with Bishop Brendan Cahill as presider. This retreat offers opportunities for Eucharistic adoration, Sacrament of Reconciliation, praise and worship, and concludes with Mass. For more information or to register, please visit us online at godsembrace.org.

**Lead Me Lord Weekend**
**EVENTS**

**Ministries • Ongoing Activities**

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.couragerc.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). Appointments may be made by calling (361) 212-0830.

Engaged Encounter—2017 dates: 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. 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.

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 6:00 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 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 jenniferschockyruiz@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 victoriannfp@teachersyahoo.com. For the CREIGTON MODEL Fertility Care System (CreMS) featuring NaPro TECHNOLOGY™ contact Susanne Koch in Wharton at (505) 710-0903 or susanekoch614@gmail.com.

Raphael’s Refuge—RR’s mission is to build and maintain a memorial in honor of babies, born and unborn. It is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization located in Patonia. 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.raphaelnsrefuge.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 jbfsvoj@sbchglobal.net or (361) 580-2770; call (800) 470-2230; or visit www.helpourmarriage.org or www.retrouvaille.org.

**Conferences • Masses • Retreats**

Hallettsville—Sacred Heart Parish celebrating each month the 100th anniversary of the appearance of Our Lady of Fatima. A prayer service will be held at 7:00 p.m. on Aug. 13 at the church.

Victoria—Our Lady of Lourdes Parish will host an ecumenical worship service of prayer and song. Aug. 20 at 105 N. William St. All are invited for this ecumenical mission beginning at 6:00 p.m.

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 iwbssvoc2@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.

**Meals • Picnics and More**

**August**

Victoria—KJZT Society 101 Mass for living and deceased members Aug. 13, 7:30 a.m. at The Cathedral of Our Lady of Victory. Breakfast to follow in the cafeteria. Please RSVP by calling (361) 573-2669.

Weimar—St. Michael Harvest Feast Aug. 13 at the Veterans Hall. A fried chicken and stew dinner served starting at 11:00 a.m. Auction, games and music throughout the day and evening.

Praha—161st Prazska PouÃ£/Praha Picnic Aug. 15. A 10:00 a.m. Mass with Bishop Cahill at St. Mary’s Church. From 11:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m. stew and fried chicken dinner at $9 p/p. Music from 11:00 a.m.-10:00 p.m. There will be a cakewalk, games, country store and more throughout the day. Auction at 1:00 p.m. For more information visit stmaryspraha.org.

Hillje—St. Andrew Summer Festival, Aug. 20 at the Parish Hall. A prime beef barbecue and sausage dinner at 11:00 a.m. with drive-thru plates-to-go also available both at $10 p/p. Indoor auction at 12:30 p.m. There will be a country store, bake sale, cakewalk and more along with some music.

Cistern—Sts. Cyril and Methodius Picnic, Aug. 27, see ad on pg. 10.

**September**

Cuero—Our Lady of Guadalupe Jamaica, Sept. 3, see ad on pg. 16.

High Hill—St. Mary’s Parish Picnic, Sept. 3, see ad on pg. 5.

Shiner—Sts. Cyril and Methodius Picnic, Sept. 3, see ad on pg. 13.

Hallettsville—Sacred Heart Parish Picnic, Sept. 3, see ad on pg. 9.

Nada—St. Mary’s Parish Festival & Homecoming, Sept. 3, see ad on pg. 11.

Vanderbilt—St. John Bosco Festival, Sept. 3, see ad on pg. 6.

Blessing—KC’s #4307 Shrimp/Gumbo meal, Sept. 10, see ad on pg. 8.

Inez—St. Joseph Picnic, Sept. 10, see ad on pg. 7.

Yorktown—Holy Cross Festival, Sept. 10, see ad on pg. 14.

Bloomington—St. Patrick’s Fall Festival, Sept. 24 at the parish hall serving turkey and dressing dinner at $10 p/p. Games, live, and silent auctions.

Koerth—St. John the Baptist Picnic, Sept. 24

Meyersville—Sts. Peter and Paul Festival, Sept. 24

**October**

Bay City—Holy Cross Festival, Oct. 1

Hostyn—Holy Rosary Festival, Oct. 1

Hungerford—St. John Bazaar, Oct. 1

Mentz—St. Roch Picnic, Oct. 1

Victoria—Nazareth Academy Festival, Oct. 1

Weimar—St. Michael’s School, Night on the Town Gala Oct. 7 at Veterans Hall. Dinner, dancing and more. Call the school for more details/tickets at (979) 725-8461.

Columbus—St. Anthony Fall Festival, Oct. 8

East Bernard—Holy Cross Bazaar, Oct. 8

Victoria—The Cathedral of Our Lady of Victory Festival, Oct. 8

Goliad—Immaculate Conception Festival, Oct. 15

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DIOCESE

The Blessing of the Fleet

Continued from pg. 1

Fleet. The Blessing of the Fleet is an annual ceremony that blesses shrimpers and their vessels while bidding them a safe and bountiful trip as they leave the docks for the opening of the Shrimp Season in Texas. Father Dominic Nguyen, Pastor of St. Anthony of Padua in Palacios held their Blessing of the Fleet on June 29, 2017, the Solemnity of Saints Peter and Paul. After Mass Father Dominic, Father Francis, captains, fishermen and parishioners headed to the docks. The weather was threatening rain; however, all gathered in front of the statue of the Sacred Heart of Jesus where prayers were read and the blessing proceeded.

For captains Gabriel Lopez, Juan Maldonado and Ubaldo Garcia this is a time when they once again leave behind their families, their friends and all the comforts of home to embark on an unknown journey at sea. Gabriel Lopez, who is from Guanajuato Mexico, has been a captain for 30 years. He shares, “The blessing gives me more peace and confidence for fishing.”

Ubaldo Garcia is another captain who is also from Guanajuato. He has been shrimping for 20 years. His wife, Adriana shared, “It is hard to be alone while he is gone for so long. I have the responsibility of our 4 children and don’t have family here.” Juan Maldonado is from San Luis Potosi, Mexico. He has been a captain for 30 years. The Blessing of the Fleet for him means a lot. He feels that through this blessing God blesses him while on the job and fishing. All three men shared that they work hard to provide for their families. They also shared how they instill this work ethic and the value of having an education in their children.

These men have hot, grueling days at sea. The shrimpers typically fish for at least three weeks in the Gulf before returning to port. Shrimpers must fish at night, since the brown or Brazilian shrimp are nocturnal. The work itself is arduous and, at times, dangerous. Gulf shrimping is accomplished from wooden or steel-hulled trawlers measuring, most commonly, from fifty to eighty feet long. The crew of a shrimp, composed of captain, rigger, and header, employs nets either thirty-six or forty-five feet in length. In the twin-trawl rig, the rig most commonly used, four nets are dragged along the sea bottom. Wooden “doors” keep the mouths of the nets open as the tickler chains at the bottoms of the nets stir up the shrimp and drive them in. A shrimp captain is an experienced fisherman and pilot who is entrusted by a trawler owner with fishing equipment that may be worth more than $300,000.

Blessing of the Fleet has been given and once again it is time for the shrimpers to return to work on the often tremulous waters of the Gulf of Mexico. We keep them in prayer and ask God to bless them with bountiful catches and a safe return.