On January 22, 1973, the Roe vs. Wade court decision was made by the United States Supreme Court, in a 7-2 decision, declaring the legality of a woman’s right to have an abortion under the Fourteenth Amendment to the Constitution.

Eight years later in 1981 a group of pro-life supporters in the Victoria area, feeling the need to “do something” to offer pro-life options, opened a facility that would help women facing crisis pregnancies.

The Crisis Pregnancy Center (CPC) of Victoria opened its doors on December 21, 1981 with a specific purpose: to support the life of the unborn by offering choices, to the mother, that supported life. The idea to open a CPC in Victoria came about when three women attended the Human Life International Conference in Kansas. It was there that they were inspired by a pro-life speaker, Robert Pearson. His approach was different; his idea was to have a neutral image, yet share pro-life options and give hope to the women in crisis.

One of those three women, Judy Gillespie was very instrumental in getting the center up and running in Victoria and recalls the early days of the Crisis Pregnancy Center. Judy explained, “We rented a former barbershop at the corner of Main and Red River Streets and opened the first day with two volunteers and a sign outside that read, ‘free pregnancy test’. Five women walked in that day, two contemplating abortion. From that point on we had an average of four to nine women coming in per day.”

Judy describes her work at the CPC over all of those years as “God’s Work”. She explained that she and many of the volunteers have had to patiently deal with hurt, scared, and angry people. She shared, “I will never forget one time while shopping with my youngest daughter, who was about 7 at the time. A lady came up to us and asked me if I remembered her. I did.

I remember her screaming in my face and demanding an abortion. She went on to explain that despite her anger everyone at the center had been so kind to her. She told me to hold on and came back with a 6 year old child. She introduced me to her son, who she said was the light of their lives. She gave me a hug and told me, ‘you’ll never know the impact that place had on me’.”

The Victoria Crisis Pregnancy Center has served 13,603 clients since 1981. Some of the center’s principles include informing the client of all existing resources that would aid her in choosing life for her baby, educating the client in person, offering all services free of charge, and maintaining a Christ-like attitude at all times.

Connie Strauss, the president of the board, and current director of the center has worked at the Crisis Pregnancy Center for 26 years. Her passion for her job is helping the women that are in a situation where they feel hopeless. She shared, “We feel like we are saving the mother and the baby. Over the years I have seen that the mothers who have chosen abortion never really get over it.” She recalls an instance where they helped a girl from another country who felt isolated and didn’t have a work visa. She felt hopeless, but when she realized there was support she knew she could do it. The Crisis Pregnancy Center put her in touch with the Gabriel Project who assisted and supported her through her pregnancy. Connie shared, “She was so in love with that baby once it was born! We still keep in touch through email. Everything has

See Where Two or Three are Gathered, pg. 16
Dear Brothers and Sisters,

This month I’ll be joining over 90 young people from our diocese and thousands from around the country in Washington, DC for our annual March for Life. The March for Life is an opportunity for a massive non-violent protest of an unjust law – in this case a law that denies the right to life of an unborn child. Non-violent protests like this have a great history in our nation, and have affected many changes of unjust laws. I believe we are steadily making progress in this battle as more and more people see the truth of the life of the unborn child, and realize the need to protect the most vulnerable in our society. This issue of the Lighthouse will highlight some ways in which women and men of our area are serving the most in need.

In promoting the right of each child to be born we also promote the God-given value of each human person. Thinking of this my mind turns once again to Father Charles Kram, Jr. I hope we can continue to promote his cause to be recognized as a saint, trusting in the prayers and hard work of so many people who remember him well. We have produced many prayer cards in English and Spanish with his picture and a special prayer for his intercession – they are available in my office at the Chancery. In January 2016 I wrote the following:

“Since I’ve been in the Diocese of Victoria I’ve met many people who personally knew Father Kram and his family, and it seems to me thousands who may have been at that Ordination Mass! The testimony to his holiness and the holiness of his family, friends and home communities of Shiner and Yoakum have been beautifully recorded in a book, Gladly Will I Glory in My Infirmities by Deacon Anthony Warzecha. Having read the book and listened to many stories of his ministry I felt called to encourage devotion and prayer to him as part of our diocesan celebration of the Jubilee Year of Mercy. Let me share with you this month a couple of the reasons that I think his witness continues to be so timely for us today.

First, Father Kram conscientiously chose to radiate the love and joy of Jesus each day. As a person begins to read and listen to his story this simple fact takes on heroic proportions. As a young man in the 1950’s Charles Kram suffered a serious form of polio. When he suffered this he was in the final stages of his preparation to become a priest for the Archdiocese of San Antonio. Because he suffered this he spent over a year in intensive physical therapy and rehabilitation, with his parents faithfully by his side. After the year he was physically limited, so he wasn’t able to be ordained to the priesthood. In the midst of what could have been devastating circumstances he and his parents maintained their love for one another and became strong witnesses of the power of faith, hope and love.

Second, Father Kram helped others grow in holiness each day. After this initial setback, his friends and family continued to keep in touch and care for him. Many of his friends from the seminary kept a hope alive that one day he may be ordained to the priesthood. They commented on his joyful witness in the midst of his suffering, and thought that this could be such a powerful witness in a priest. For over twenty years they faithfully kept in touch and I’m sure that each person who visited the Kram household in those years would share how they felt uplifted by the Holy Spirit in the presence of the Kram family. Eventually the day would come when he would be ordained to the priesthood, and that must have been one of the most joyous, holy days in the history of this area!”

From conception to natural death the Catholic Church promotes and defends the dignity of every human person, and there are many powerful examples of men and women who are doing that in our area right now. As we work and pray together, may God bless you and your families in this Christmas season with a personal knowledge of the love and mercy of Jesus. Let’s entrust our hearts to Mary in the Rosary and let’s keep one another in prayer.

+Brendan

Queridos Hermanos y Hermanas,

Este mes acompañaré a más de 90 jóvenes de nuestra diócesis y miles de personas de todo el país en Washington, DC para nuestra Marcha por la Vida anual. La marcha por la vida es una oportunidad para una protesta masiva no violenta de una ley injusta – en este caso una ley que niega el derecho a la vida de un niño nacido. Protests no violentas como esta tienen una gran historia en nuestra nación, y han afectado muchos cambios de leyes injustas. Creo que estamos progresando constantemente en esta batalla a medida que más y más personas ven la verdad de la vida del niño no nacido y realizan la necesidad de proteger el más vulnerable en nuestra sociedad. El

**Faro de enero destacará algunas formas en que las mujeres y los hombres de nuestra área están sirviendo a los más necesitados. Al promover el derecho de cada niño a nacer, también promovemos el valor dado por Dios de cada persona humana. Pensando en esto me viene a la mente un incidente de un año más tarde a Padre Charles Kram, Jr. Espero que podamos seguir promoviendo su causa para ser reconocido como un Santo, confiando en las oraciones y el arduo trabajo de tantas personas que lo recuerdan bien. Hemos producido muchas tarjetas de oración en inglés y español con su foto y una oración especial por su intercesión - están disponibles en mi oficina en la Cancillería. En enero de 2016 escribí el siguiente:**

“Ya que he estado en la diócesis de Victoria he conocido a mucha gente que conocía personalmente a Padre Kram y su familia. ¡Me parece que miles de personas habrían estado en esa misa de ordenación!

El testimonio de su santidad y la santidad de la familia, los amigos y las comunidades de origen de Shiner y Yoakum han sido bellamente grabado en un libro, *Gladly Will I Glory in My Infirmities* por Deacon Anthony Warzecha. Después de leer el libro, y escuchar muchas historias de su ministerio, me sentí llamado a fomentar la devoción a él, como parte de nuestra celebración diocesana del Año Jubileo de la Misericordia. Permitanme compartir con ustedes este mes unas de las razones que creo que su testimonio sigue siendo tan oportuna para nosotros hoy.

En primer lugar, Padre Kram intencionalmente eligió irradiar el amor y la alegría de Jesús cada día. Como un hombre joven en la década de 1950 Charles Kram sufrió una forma grave de polio. Cuando sufrió esto en las fases finales de su preparación para hacerse un sacerdote para la Archidiócesis de San Antonio. Pasó más de un año de intensa terapia física y rehabilitación, con sus padres fielmente a su lado, así que no fue capaz de ser ordenado al sacerdocio. Él y sus padres mantuvieron amor el uno por el otro y creció la fe, la esperanza y el amor entre ellos.

En segundo lugar, Padre Kram ayudó a otros a creer en la santidad cada día. Después de este retraso inicial, sus amigos y la familia siguió manteniéndose en contacto y sintiendo cariño por él. Muchos de sus amigos del seminario mantuvieron viva una esperanza que un día él podría ser ordenado al sacerdocio.

Durante más de veinte años se que daron en contacto el y sus amigos del seminario. Finalmente llegaría el día en que sería ordenado sacerdote! Debe haber sido uno de los más alegres, santo días en la historia de este área!”

Desde la concepción hasta la muerte natural, la iglesia católica promueve y defiende la dignidad de cada persona humana, y hay muchos ejemplos poderosos de hombres y mujeres que están haciendo eso en nuestra área en este momento. Mientras trabajamos y oramos juntos, que Dios los bendiga a ustedes y a sus familias en esta temporada navideña con un conocimiento personal del amor y la misericordia de Jesús. Confiamos nuestros corazones a María en el rosario, y vamos a mantener uno al otro en la oración.

+Brendan
Dear Lighthouse Advertisers,

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

Thank you!
Lighthouse Staff

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Bishop Brendan’s Schedule

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<tr>
<th>January</th>
<th>24</th>
<th>10:00 a.m. Presbyteral Council, Chancery Office</th>
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<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>4:00 p.m. CCD visit at Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Ganado</td>
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<td>5</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>9:00 a.m. RCIA Scrutinies</td>
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<td>6</td>
<td>30th Annual Catholic Conference at Holy Family, Wharton</td>
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| 8-12      | 28 |  9:00 a.m. Catholic School Week Mass at the Cathedral of Our Lady of Victory, Victoria |
| 14        | 29 |  Noon Mass with Missionary Catechists |
| 16-20     |    | Strategy Session for Education, Washington, DC |
| 19        | 31 |  6:00 p.m. CCD visit at St. Michael, Weimar |
| 20-21     |    | KC’s Texas State Commission Meeting, Austin |

| February  | 2-3 | Men’s Conference, Little Rock, Arkansas |
| 22        | 4   |  8:30 a.m. World Day for Consecrated Life Mass at IWBS Convent, Victoria |
| 23        | 7   |  8:30 a.m. School Mass & visit at Holy Cross, Bay City |
|           |     |  6:30 p.m. CCD visit at Holy Cross Church, Yorktown |

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Schulenburg Knights of Columbus Council 2902 donated $5,200, the proceeds of a recent fund raiser, to the St. Rose School Bus Fund. This is an annual donation that the Schulenburg Knights of Columbus makes to the St. Rose School Bus Fund. Pictured are front row l-r: Father Tim Kosler, Pastor of St. Rose of Lima Church; Rosanne Gallia, Principal of St. Rose; Ken Berger, Grand Knight of Council 2902; middle row, Yves Corriveau, Kenneth Miksch, Paul Veselka, Leonard Korenek, David Kalms; back row l-r: Harvey Schindler, and Barry Demel.

**The Catholic Lighthouse**

Publisher: The Most Rev. Brendan J. Cahill
Editor: Sarita Villafranca Richmond
Staff: Regina Matus-Janak

**DIOCESE**

**The Catholic Lighthouse**

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**For if we live, we live for the Lord, and if we die, we die for the Lord: so then, whether we live or die, we are the Lord’s.**

Romans 14:8
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 - $0.01 - $99.99; Acolyte – $100 - $499.99; Candidate – $500 - $1,499.99; Transitional Deacon – $1,500 - $2,499.99; Priest – $2,500 +.

December 14, 2017

• General Seminary Burse
  Lector
  In memory of Alphalea Walkup Lenz by:
  Preston, Corinne and Thomas Copeland
  Julia Cano and Touch of Gold Band
  Dr. and Mrs. Sean O’Sullivan
  Nancy Carrier
  Arnold and Rosemary Riske
  Murlene Enke
  Arnold and Rosemary Riske
  Nancy Carrier
  Dr. and Mrs. Sean O’Sullivan
  Julius Cano and Touch of Gold Band

• Rev. Dan Kahlich Seminary Burse
  Acolyte
  In honor of Rev. Dan Kahlich by
  Murlene Enke
  Arnold and Rosemary Riske
  Nancy Carrier
  Dr. and Mrs. Sean O’Sullivan
  Julius Cano and Touch of Gold Band

• Rev. Scott Hill Seminary Burse
  Acolyte
  In memory of Rick Brown by
  The Chessher Family

• Rev. Wayne Flagg and Rev. Philip Brune Seminary Burse
  Lector
  In memory of Maribel Anders by:
  M/M Elbert Brune and Family
  Carolyn Bruening
  Robert and Carol Schertz

• Rev. Msgr. John C. Peters Seminary Burse #7
  Lector
  Donation by Soila Sanchez

Anonymous Donation

Happy Birthday to Our Seminarian

Adam Shimek is in his IV year of college at St. Joseph Seminary College. His birthday is January 26. Adam is from St. Mary’s Parish in Nada. Write to Adam at: St. Joseph Seminary College, 75376 River Rd., St. Benedict LA 70457.

“Follow me and I will make you fishers of men.”
Matthew 4:18-22

Heavenly Helpers
Christian Store
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1063 N Mechanic
El Campo, TX 77437
M-F 9:30 - 5:30  Sat. 9:30 - 3:00
Bibles, Books, Rosaries, Medals
Statues, Baptism & Wedding Items
Inspirational Gifts

DSA update

2017 Diocesan Services Appeal
Diocesan Goal: $ 1,994,298.00
Parish Pledge Totals: $ 999,297.33
Parish Contribution Totals: $ 958,564.28
Number of Parish Families Participating: 3,032

Updated December 20, 2017

Abbey Youth Festival Approaches

The Abbey Youth Festival is an apostolic service of Saint Joseph Abbey and Seminary College in St. Benedict, LA. It is designed to provide young people with an opportunity to experience a day of prayer and faith formation with an exposure to the Benedictine tradition. Its focus is evangelization and vocational discernment by means of Liturgy, prayer, worship, music and education appropriate for Catholic young people.

The Diocese of Victoria Youth & Young Adult office is very excited to offer 40 teens the opportunity to attend Abbey Youth Festival at St. Joseph Seminary, where some of our diocesan seminarians are currently studying. They will leave on Friday, March 16 at 10:00 p.m. and will return on Sunday, March 18. Due to a very generous benefactor, the cost is very reasonable.

Spots are going fast! To register visit https://www.victoriadiocese.org/abbey-youth-fest or call (361) 573-0828.

Education of Seminarian Fund

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

Donation categories: Lector – $0.01 - $99.99; Acolyte – $100 - $499.99; Candidate – $500 - $1,499.99; Transitional Deacon – $1,500 - $2,499.99; Priest – $2,500 +.

Lector
Mr. & Mrs. Bennie Hundl
James & Leona Brzozowski
Frances Lesak
Joe & Judy Janecka
Richard & Caroline Ottis
Mr. & Mrs. Robert Meltar
Gladys McMasters
Murlene Enke

Candidate
Paz & Andrea Morales
in Memory of Fr. Dan Morales

All above in Memory of Edward Korenek

To contribute to the Education of Seminarian Fund, send contributions to:
Diocese Of Victoria
Education of Seminarian Fund
P. O. Box 4070
Victoria, TX 77903

Janice Kallina Marek
in Memory of Edward Korenek

Richard & Alice Cernosek
in Honor of Bishop Cahill and Bishop Emeritus Fellhauer

St. John’s Altar Society, New Taiton
Stars Among Us

Many of the Christmas festivities are over; visitors have left and decorations are being packed away for next Christmas. We may even have begun to weary in the carrying out our New Year’s resolutions. We may think that all we have are memories of the beauty of the season. Wait a minute! Remember the brilliant star which topped your carefully decorated tree? Think of how it reminds us of that Christmas Star which served as a beacon to guide the Magi to find the Infant Jesus. Now let us think of ourselves as a star which leads those who are searching to find Jesus.

Now you may wonder, “How can I be a star leading others to Jesus, I lead such an ordinary life?” Precisely, it is because you are so faithful to the duties of your faith and your lifestyle that others are attracted to your fidelity and authenticity. We can mutually illuminate the path for one another by our actions. As a former teacher, I can remember many times when I was inspired by students who displayed their eagerness to learn.

We may not realize it when we are guiding others through our example and encouragement. However, we can mitigate the consequences of bad influences by continually modeling goodness. We can continue to be stars and to recognize stars in a troubled world.

Recently a group of us were returning to Victoria from a meeting in San Antonio. We decided to stop by the Church in Southerland Springs in which so many worshipers had been shot during Sunday services. Afterward the Church had been prepared as a monument honoring those who had died there. The entire church including the ceiling and floor had been painted white. At each place where someone had died stood a white chair with a rose. The person’s first name was painted in gold on the back of the chair. I was impressed by the love and faith of those who had prepared the monument. However, I was even more impressed by the people who were welcoming us to the site. Among them was a couple from Houston who said that they had come to relieve the local Church members. A lady from New York was also a part of the welcoming committee. In my eyes, these folks who had left their homes to support suffering members of a small Baptist church in a small Texas town were stars! I was reminded of a quote by Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI:

“Life is like a voyage on the sea of history, often dark and stormy, a voyage in which we watch for the stars that indicate the route. The true stars of our life are the people who have lived good lives. They are lights of hope. Certainly, Jesus Christ is the true light, the sun that has risen above all the shadows of history. But to reach him we also need lights close by—people who shine with his light and so guide us along our way.” —Benedict XVI, Spe Salvi, 49.

Let us continue to be stars and to recognize the stars among us.

On Sunday, November 5, 2017, four Incarnate Word and Blessed Sacrament Associates made their Perpetual Commitment while many others renewed their commitments for one or five years. Pictured are: Evangeline Flores from Holy Family, Victoria; Mary McQuillen from St. Joseph, Yoakum; Doris Doehrman from St. Peter and Paul, Meyersville, and Lilia Vianes from St. Mary’s, Victoria. They are pictured with Sister Emiliana Grafe, IWBS, Bishop Emeritus David Fellhauer, and Sister Stephana Marbach, IWBS, General Superior.
After four months of online course instruction during her junior year at Sacred Heart Catholic School in Hallettsville, Grace R. was selected to participate in the On-site Experience at the NASA Johnson Space Center in Houston over the summer. The High School Aerospace Scholars program, which counts as an extra high school credit for some schools, is an all-expense-paid learning endeavor. At NASA, Grace participated in various projects with a team of other achieving students. They designed rockets, rovers, and planned for their assigned portion of the mission to Mars! While attending the program, Grace experienced true joy in discovering her own leadership qualities and also very much enjoyed working with individuals who all have the same passion and motivation to triumph over challenges placed before them!

Is there anything more beautiful than children adoring our beloved God? Students from St. Rose of Lima School, Schulenburg, celebrated the sacrament of reconciliation and had time in adoration of the Blessed Sacrament. Father Tim Kosler, pastor, is pictured with the Blessed Sacrament. It was a peaceful time to focus on the God of the universe who took on flesh and made himself small - so that we could have greatness in heaven.

St. Joseph High School, Victoria, Student Ambassadors visited their partner schools, Our Lady of Victory, Nazareth Academy, Trinity and Our Lady of the Gulf during Advent. They spent the morning reading “Twas the Night Before Christmas,” to the students.

Eighth graders from Our Lady of Victory School, Victoria, delivered scarves to Twin Pines Nursing and Rehabilitation Center residents for Christmas. The students sat in a knitting circle and chatted about their schoolwork while they knitted two frilly-scarves each for the residents. The group taught by Teresa Childress, an Our Lady of Victory English teacher, always ends the year with a community project.

Bishop Brendan Cahill made a trip to St. Philip School, El Campo, on December 15. He celebrated Mass and visited classrooms.

Students and faculty at Our Lady of the Gulf School, Port Lavaca, received a special visit from St. Nicholas.
DIOCESE

Diocese of Victoria
30th Annual Catholic Conference

Hurricane Harvey has given us the opportunity to begin 2018 reflecting on how we might apply the Catholic social teachings. These teachings have developed concretely over the centuries as a result of Jesus’ command to not only love God but to love our neighbor as we love ourselves. These concrete teachings are often referred to as the Catholic Church’s “best kept secret”. Therefore, all adult Catholics are invited to join the Most Reverend Brendan J. Cahill at Holy Family Church in Wharton, Texas on Saturday, January 27, 2018 and discover the central and essential elements of our faith through the principles of Catholic Social Teaching.

The two keynote speakers, Mr. Jack Jezreel and Sr. Miriam Perez, MCSH (Spanish) will reflect on them in general. Bishop Cahill will respond to Jezreel’s presentation by focusing on some of the social concerns in the Diocese of Victoria.

Twenty-two other speakers will focus more specifically on one or more of the seven themes of these social teachings.

All conference participants are encouraged to bring new items to the conference which will be donated to Mid-Coast Family Services. These items will assist many women and children in our area. See a complete list at www.victoriadiocese.org.

The conference doors open at 8:00 a.m.; breakfast foods will be available for purchase by the Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Los Carmelitos dance group; keynotes begin at 9:45 a.m. Lunch will be catered by Mikeska’s BBQ for all participants. Students attending the Holy Family parish catechetical program will provide desserts. The conference will conclude at 4:30 p.m. with Liturgy, Bishop Brendan Cahill presiding.

Register online at www.victoriadiocese.org. Deadline for registration is January 18, 2018.

The KJT Society #40, East Bernard, hosted a pastry raffle benefiting Texas Neurofibromatosis Foundation (NF). They raised $1,470 plus the State KJT home office matched $250 in funds. Society President Edwin C. Marik presented the check to Marty Dunn, NF representative. At the presentation were, left to right, Society member Father Stephen Vacek, Jenny Marik, Edwin Marik, Marty Dunn, Jake Marik NF patient, society vice president Sandy Hogan, society treasurer Dennis Viktorin, and Kim Tielke. The donation will also benefit the NF clinics at the University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center and Texas Children Hospital.

The first of the major social encyclicals, by Pope Leo XIII, “On the Condition of the Working Person,” is ________________.

a. Reconstruction of the Social Order  c. Hundredth Anniversary/Call to Action

b. Rerum Novarum  d. Octogesima Adveniens

Answer on pg. 13

Our Lady of Victory Catholic School
National Blue Ribbon School of Excellence 2008

Open House
Prospective Parents & Students
Pre-K3 through 8th
Tuesday, January 16, 2018
6:30 p.m. • OLV Cafeteria

Come & Go Open House
Prospective Parents & Students
Pre-K3 through 8th
Wednesday, January 24, 2018
9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. • School Library

Shadow Day
Prospective Students 5th-8th
Wednesday, January 24, 2018
9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

For more information call the school office at 575-5391.

Educating Hearts, Minds & Souls for Eternity
On the Feast of the Immaculate Conception Snow Covered the Diocese of Victoria

Father Kirby December 8, 2017
KJZT Society #101 made a donation of $500 to the Cathedral of Our Lady of Victory for their TV Mass Ministry. They also made a donation to the Our Lady of Victory cafeteria. Presenting the donations to Father Kristopher Fuchs, parochial vicar, are Evelyn Dierlam, left, and Irene Brosch, right.

St. Mary’s Annual Parish Festival
Sunday – February 11, 2018
Victoria Community Center

ROAST BEEF MEAL
Roast Beef, Gravy, Country Potatoes, Green Beans, Squash Casserole, Roll, Dessert & Drink
Served 11:00 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. • $9.00 PER PLATE
Plates to Go @ 10:30 a.m.

LIVE AUCTION at 12:30 p.m.
Antiques – Collectibles – Crafts – Jewelry – Quilts
Antique Booth, Games, Other Booths, Silent Auction – Family Entertainment
Concessions Proceeds Benefit
Our Lady Of Sorrows in Unified Support for Jamaica Festival

Thank you to the generosity of Malteser International who donated $7,500 for the Diocese of Victoria Harvey Relief Effort fund. The funds will be used for relief efforts associated with children and families throughout the Diocese of Victoria. Pictured left to right are Mike Brown, Very Reverend Gary Janak, Colleen Akers, Bishop Emeritus David Fellhauer, and Tony Martinez.
Dalton Ervin, a seminarian for the Diocese of Victoria, followed God’s call to enter the seminary and shares, “The last four and a half years spent as a seminarian have been some of the most joyful years of my life, which is really a paradox considering the great trials that have accompanied them.”

His parents, Ryder (Jason) and Lisa Ervin moved from Austin to Weimar to raise their family shortly after they married. In August of 1991 they welcomed their first child, Dalton, into the world. He is the oldest of five children. He has two sisters, Peyton, who lives in Weimar and is engaged to be married in March, and Hunter, who attends Sam Houston State University and plays on the softball team. He also has two brothers, Holt who is a senior at Weimar High School, and Hudson who is in the seventh grade at St. Michael Catholic School. The Ervin family home is around the corner from St. Michael Church. Dalton shared, “So many nights were spent playing hide-and-seek, using the parish grounds as prime hiding territory.”

Growing up in Weimar they were surrounded by family and as Dalton says, “life was far from boring.” Dalton’s father works for Lower Colorado River Authority (LCRA) and his mom works for Southwest Rail Industries in Weimar. Dalton’s mother’s family lives in Weimar, his father’s maternal family lives in Schulenburg and Flatonia, and his paternal family is from Lynchburg, Tennessee. His extended family has always played a major role in his life. Dalton enjoys spending time outside with his family and fishing. Trips home are always highlighted by time on the patio, cooking, swimming, and the gathering of family. Dalton shares, “In addition to the many examples of faithfully living out the vocation to marriage, I was blessed with an aunt, Sister M. Valerie Janecka, who is a Sister of the Incarnate Word and Blessed Sacrament in Victoria.

Dalton attended St. Michael Catholic School in Weimar through the eighth grade then moved on to Weimar High School. He was active in athletics, UIL, and many other school activities, but his primary focus was in Future Farmers of America (FFA). He raised lambs, but was also involved in leadership roles at the Chapter, District, and Area level. Dalton competed in leadership development competitions at the national level as well as career development contests through the FFA. After high school, he attended Texas A&M University in College Station and received a degree in Agriculture Economics. During his college years he attended both St. Mary’s Catholic Church in College Station and St. Anthony Catholic Church in Bryan. He explained that his time in College Station deepened his conviction to always live in and around the area where he grew up. During his senior year he worked at a Law Office in downtown Bryan, as he was considering a career as a lawyer. He shared, “Working at the law office inspired in me a great desire to serve people, especially when they were in most need and had nowhere else to turn. The morning of my LSAT is when I finally decided to pursue seminary instead of law school. I was accepted to seminary five days after graduation.”

The priesthood and the mystery that surrounded it always intrigued Dalton. He shared, “The first time I seriously considered the priesthood as a possible calling in my own life was while on the Rocky Mountain High Retreat in Colorado with the diocesan Office of Youth & Young Adult Ministry. Spending that week in prayer, fun, and fellowship and seeing the examples of Father Dan Morales and Father Kirby Hlavaty opened my eyes to the possibility of that life for me.” Looking back, he can see many times in his life where the Lord was preparing him for a priestly lifestyle. Dalton recalls, “In 2000, my brother Holt was diagnosed with cancer at two weeks old. The response of our family, friends, community, and church left me marked by a desire to be of service to others.” This experience helped him develop an understanding of journeying with people through all of stages and situations of life as a constant reminder of God’s presence and His love.

Coming from a large family, there were many reactions to his interest in discerning a call to the priesthood. Dalton’s family has always supported one another in pursuing whatever would give them a happy and fulfilling life. He shared, “The past four and a half years have revealed to all of us what a joy and grace filled life God gives to those who answer His call to their proper vocation.” The dedication and constant presence of his childhood pastor Msgr. John Bily remains a primary inspiration to his willingness to answer his vocation. Dalton shared, “I can recall discussing my intention to apply to seminary on one of my visits home from college. He told me that after fifty-five years of ordained ministry, he would not trade his life for anything. This gave me great joy and confidence, knowing that even after so many years, and so many experiences the Lord’s call, that is discerned so young, remains true.”

Another great mentor was Father Dan Morales who was a shining example of joy and fidelity to the Gospel. He always provided words of wisdom, and when needed, strong words of reprimand. A man afflicted with so much pain and uncertainty in his health was always seeking to take care of others first. Dalton explained, “When I was discerning, I actually got very upset with Fr. Dan. I was ready to fill out the application, but he never offered it to me until I asked. I wanted him to give me the push to finally start the process, but he wanted me to take the next step on my own.”

He began his seminary studies at Holy Trinity Seminary in Dallas on August 25, 2013, fifty years to the day from when his aunt, Sr. Valerie moved into the Motherhouse in Victoria. There he studied philosophy for two years. After completing philosophy, he moved to the Pontifical College Josephinum in Columbus, Ohio to

See Meet a Seminarian, pg. 14
En diciembre de 2017, la celebración del Día de Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe se realizó en todo el territorio de la Diócesis de Victoria. Los bailarines de matachines procesaron adentro de la iglesia San Patricio en Bloomington y un grupo recreó la aparición de nuestra Señora de Guadalupe a San Juan Diego en Santísima Trinidad en Victoria.

Reseña de la película “Coco”

Por Catholic News Service
NUEVA YORK (CNS) -- Puede que te guste la película “Coco”, pero esto depende en gran medida de lo preparado que estés para interpretar esta presentación de fantasía de la vida después de la muerte, que, aunque visualmente rica y animada, debe poco al cristianismo y mucho a las creencias precolombinas asociadas con el día de los muertos en México.

La película lleva a la audiencia en un viaje al otro mundo en compañía de Miguel (voz de Anthony González), un entrañable preadolescente de México. Miguel anda buscando seguir los pasos del hijo más famoso de su ciudad, Ernesto de la Cruz (voz de Benjamin Bratt), quien se convirtió en un músico de renombre mundial. Pero ha encontrado obstáculos en el camino a sus aspiraciones por el hecho de que su familia tiene una aversión a todo lo musical. Esta aversión surgió cuando uno de los antepasados de Miguel abandonó a su esposa e hijo en favor de una carrera cantando y tocando la guitarra, lo cual tuvo consecuencias emocionales. La hija abandonada ahora es Mamá Coco (voz de Ana Ofelia Murguía), la bisabuela muy querida de Miguel.

Miguel está desesperado por participar por primera vez en un concurso de talentos que se realiza durante la noche en el día de muertos, pero no tiene guitarra. Se mete en el mausoleo del cantante famoso, donde encuentra su guitarra. Las pistas han convencido a Miguel de que el cantante era, de hecho, el padre de Coco, por lo que se siente justificado de prestar la guitarra.

Cuando entra a la tumba, Miguel es misteriosamente transportado a la Tierra de los Muertos. Allí encuentra un guía, el esqueleto Héctor Rivera (voz de Gael García Bernal), un timador, pero un personaje de buen corazón. Miguel y Héctor hacen un trato: si Héctor ayuda al niño a encontrar a Cruz, el cantante, (Miguel necesita la bendición de un pariente para regresar al mundo normal), Miguel colocará la fotografía de Héctor en el altar de su casa donde se honran a los difuntos. Eso le permitirá a Héctor visitar la tierra de los vivos cada año. También le permitirá posponer la “segunda muerte”, la desintegración final que le espera a cada persona una vez que no quede nadie vivo que le recuerde.

La clasificación de Catholic News Service es A-II -- para adultos y adolescentes. Clasificación de Motion Picture Association of America, PG -- supervisión de padres es sugerida. Algún material puede no ser adecuado para niños.
Sunday Readings from January 7 - February 11

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

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

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

January 21 – Third Sunday in Ordinary Time
John 3:1-5, 10
Psalms 25:4-5, 6-7, 6-7
1 Corinthians 7:29-31
Mark 1:40-45

January 28 – Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time
Deuteronomy 18:15-20
Psalms 95:1-2, 6-7, 7-9
1 Corinthians 7:32-35
Mark 1:21-28

February 4 – Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time
Job 7:1-4, 6-7
Psalms 147:1-2, 3-4, 5-6
1 Corinthians 9:16-19, 22-23
Mark 1:29-39

February 11 – Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time
Leviticus 13:1-2, 44-46
Psalms 95:1-2, 6-7, 7-9
1 Corinthians 10:31—11:1
Mark 1:40-45

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

Disciples on the Journey e-Book Available

New this year is the Disciples on the Journey e-book! The Sisters of the Incarnate Word are excited to introduce that Disciples on the Journey Lent 2018 is now available in an e-book on Apple iTunes, Amazon, Barnes & Noble, and Google Play and Kobo. The direct link to these distributors is http://www.pagepublishing.com/books/?book=disciples-on-the-journey. Disciples on the Journey is a Catholic bilingual (English and Spanish) lectionary-based book using the Cycle B Sunday readings as well as Cycle A weeks 3-5 scrutiny readings for faith sharing in small groups and/or for individual personal reflection and prayer. Each week there are opening and closing prayers, a commentary on the Sunday readings, faith sharing questions for reflection, suggestions for living as a disciple, and a brief life of a saint for inspiration.

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1-866-827-8243

Kenneth J. French, Sr.
1501 E Mockingbird, Ste 102
Victoria, TX 77901

Edward Jones
(361) 576-0178
kenny.french@edwardjones.com

CKB Answer

Answer – B: Rerum Novarum “The first of the major social encyclicals, (Rerum Novarum) sought to apply traditional Catholic teaching to the new conditions created by the Industrial Revolution. The pope’s deep concern over the growing alienation of workers from the Church and the widening and increasingly bitter division between the classes added urgency to his message.” Rerum Novarum; The Harpercollins Encyclopedia of Catholicism, p. 1106

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NAZARETH ACADEMY
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6:30 PM
January 23, 2018
206 W. Convent – 361.573.6651
www.nazarethacademy.org

DES MOINES, Iowa (CNS) -- Bishop Richard E. Pates of Des Moines passed through security and walked down a long hallway escorted by guards, the door mechanically closing behind him. On a chilly morning Dec. 7, he was heading to the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement detention center, a section within the Polk County Jail, where about 30 people were held. The section holds ICE detainees and some inmates from the jail’s general population. He brought Our Lady of Guadalupe prayer cards and a desire to pray with and hear the stories of the men in the detention center as part of Pope Francis’ two-year effort to raise awareness and compassion toward immigrants and migrants, called “Share the Journey.” “As many of us prepare for the Christmas season and spending time with our families, I wanted to come and spend time with people who are separated from their families at the immigration detention center,” he said in prepared remarks.
Meet a Seminarian

Dalton Ervin

Continued from pg. 11

Dalton Ervin

Dalton Ervin, associate director for the Office of Youth & Young Adult Ministry, was surprised with a baby shower at the Chancery, prior to the birth of his son Daniel Scott Leos who was born November 17, 2017. Congratulations!

begin theology. He has learned a lot about his own journey to the priesthood from the experience of living in community with over 200 other men, as brothers, discerning the Lord’s will for their life. Dalton said, “This time has taught me the value each and every person and their unique backgrounds. While the classes and summer assignments have taught me many things, it is the dignity and worth of each person I have encountered that continues to inspire me.”

Other inspiring moments have been in community with the people of the Diocese of Victoria and beyond. Some of these times include his first summer studying Spanish and living in an orphanage/hospital in Antigua, Guatemala, studying Spanish with the Missionary Catechists in Victoria, traveling the Diocese of Victoria and visiting vacation bible schools and youth retreats, and serving this past summer as a chaplain at Children’s Medical Center in Dallas. Between now and ordination to the priesthood, he will complete this pastoral year in Port Lavaca and her three missions in Point Comfort, Port O’Connor, and Seadrift. He will then return to the Josephinium in Ohio to complete his final two years of formal seminary studies before the bishop will call him to be ordained a deacon in 2019 and a priest in 2020.

As the last four and a half years spent as a seminarian have been some of the most joyful years of his life, great trials have accompanied them. Dalton shared, “There have been some difficult times to work through, like the deaths of family members and Fr. Dan, and seeing friends leave seminary formation.” These he explains have made him stronger and more prepared to support others, as life will challenge them.

His advice for anyone considering a vocation to the priesthood comes from the words of Pope Francis. “Ask Jesus what He wants from you and be brave.” Dalton shared, “If you are considering the priesthood, you have to be spending time with Jesus and talking it over, and in today’s society that finds this lifestyle so strange, you must be brave! Nothing goes as expected, but God will provide for His work.” One of Dalton’s favorite bible quotes comes from Luke 12:49, “I have come to set the world on fire, and how I wish it were already blazing.” We pray for Dalton and all the seminarians who have chosen to be brave and set the world on fire with their love for the church and others.

Pathways with Patti

Brochures for 2018 are available!

~ Branson ~
April 5-10, 2018

~ Peru ~
May 12-21

~ Hawaii ~
June 16-23

Travel Meeting Jan. 25, 2018
Call for information.

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Child and Vulnerable Adult Abuse

Reporting Procedures

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

If Church Personnel Is Involved In Alleged Abuse:
Step One: Contact Civil Authorities, if individual is a minor.
Step Two: Contact one of the following:
  • Call Bishop or Chancellor of the Diocese of Victoria at (361) 573-0828.
  Written Allegations Should Be Sent To: Office of the Bishop, P. O. Box 4070, Victoria, TX 77903, Mark as “Personal and Confidential”
  • Call Vicki L. Pyatt, LMSW, Pastoral Care and Outreach, at (361) 827-7186 or email: pastoralcare@victoriadiocese.org

We will also help you bring your concerns to Church officials outside the diocese if the abuse occurred elsewhere and you now reside in the Diocese of Victoria.
For further assistance please contact Vicki L. Pyatt.

John J. and Hazel L. (Doerich) Kobersky of Holman recently celebrated their 75th wedding anniversary. They were married at 8:30 a.m. on Monday, November 9, 1942, at St. Rose of Lima Catholic Church in Schulenburg by Father Leo Goertz. Two weeks later, John left his bride to serve in the U.S. Army during World War II for three years, one month and six days. The Koberskys still reside on the Holman farm where John grew up and where he and Hazel raised their four children: John E., Donald, Barbara and Marilyn. John and Hazel’s 75th wedding anniversary was celebrated with a Mass and special blessing in their honor on Sunday, November 12, at St. Wenceslaus Catholic Church in Holman. The family later gathered for lunch at the Holman Valley Steakhouse.

On Sunday, November 5, after more than a year of prayer, study, and discernment, one gentleman and twelve women, came before the Sisters and ninety Associates, to make their consecration as Associates of the Incarnate Word. Those making consecration were: Linda C. Alvarez, Alice Jo Summers, and Tibo Robles. They are pictured with Sister Emiliana Grafe, Sharon Bludau, Brigid Sonntag, Christine Robinson, Carmen Aguilar, Joyce Strauss, Roberta Alvarez, Alice Jo Summers, and Tibo Robles. They are pictured with Sister Emiliana Grafe, Father Gabriel Bentil, Bishop Emeritus David Fellhauer, and Sister Stephana Marbach.
East Bernard—Catholic Daughters of the Americas, Court St. Bernadette #1108, Chicken Noodle Soup and Sandwich Supper, Raffle, and Silent Auction, Wednesday, January 31, American Legion Hall. Starting at 5:00 p.m. till sold out. Soup is $3 a bowl and a chicken salad sandwich is $3. Eat in or bring your own containers and enjoy at home.

Victoria—Candlelight March will be on Thursday, Jan. 25. They will gather at 6:30 p.m. at DeLeon Plaza and march at 7:00 p.m. to Our Lady of Sorrows, where the featured speaker will be Brooke Jemelka, M.D., FACOG.

Hallettsville—Sacred Heart Extravaganza, Feb. 3. For ticket information, call (361) 798-5888 or (361) 798-4251. See ad on pg. 6.

Victoria—St. Mary Parish Festival, Feb. 11, at the Community Center. A roast beef dinner will be served. For more information see ad on pg. 10.

Edna—St. Agnes will sponsor a “Celebration of Life” program for all denominations, youth, parents, ministers, and the general public of Jackson and surrounding counties on Wednesday, January 24, 2018. It will be held at the Jackson County Services Building Auditorium (411 N. Wells St.) from 7:00-8:00 p.m. The program will show the need to safeguard the dignity and sanctity of every human person, the need for respect and justice for the unborn and all life, and the value of faith in today’s families. Refreshments will be served and admission is free.

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 Phi Nguyen, chaplain of IWBS Convent. For more information, contact Sr. Louise Marie Jones at iwbvoc2@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.

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

Engaged Encounter—2018 Dates: January 26-28, April 13-15, June 1-3, September 21-23, and November 16-18, 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 barbara@mclean85@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) 532-5393, 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 i916victoria@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.

Engaged Encounter—2018 Dates: January 26-28, April 13-15, June 1-3, September 21-23, and November 16-18, 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.

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.raphaelrefuge.org.

Submit Calendar Events to lighthouse@victoriadiocese.org
“Where Two or Three are Gathered in My Name, There I am in Their Midst”

Continued from pg. 1

turned out so beautifully for her.”

This past year the CPC received a blessing; an ultrasound machine to aid in their ministry. This ultrasound machine was a prayer answered by the St. Gianna Beretta Molla Pro-life Ministry of Holy Family Catholic Church in Victoria. The thought for the ultrasound machine was born through a participating Knight of Columbus, Robert Seale. He read in the Columbia Magazine that if half of the money for an ultrasound machine was raised, the Supreme Knights of Columbus would match the other half. In a joint effort of the Knights of Columbus councils in the Diocese of Victoria and other contributors, they began to raise their half of $60,000. After about a year and a half they had raised their portion and the Supreme Knights matched it. There was only one problem! They needed a medical director to proceed and didn’t have one. Bernie Seale, one of the St. Gianna members explained, “One afternoon during a regularly scheduled St. Gianna meeting, a newcomer walked in the door asking to join the group. Then and there, our prayers were answered!” Dr. Sidney Ontai, a Family Medicine Doctor, agreed to be the medical director they had been praying for.

February 2017 the ultrasound machine, which they named Grace was delivered to the CPC. They use it specifically as a tool to show the mother that the baby has a heartbeat and is a living being. It is very important for all to understand that the ultrasounds are non diagnostic. Connie explained, “We are not offering the free ultrasound as a medical diagnosis. We want them to go to a doctor and have medical care.” The hope of all volunteers who have served at the Crisis Pregnancy Center is to encourage expectant mothers who find themselves in a crisis pregnancy to choose life. A crisis pregnancy can take many faces that may include: domestic abuse, family issues, no job, single moms without work and families going through a difficult time due to illness, and many others. They offer free pregnancy tests, ultrasounds and can connect them with the resources they need.

Many members of the St. Gianna Pro-life Ministry volunteer at the Crisis Pregnancy Center and with the Gabriel Project. The collaboration between the Crisis Pregnancy Center and the Gabriel Project is very intertwined as they work together to help women in need.

The pro-life ministry is one where Catholics and non-Catholics work together. It is so rewarding as a Christian. It is phenomenal.” Each and every volunteer whether they are aware or not has made a difference to the pro-life ministry in the Victoria area. The power of prayer and respect for life are at the core of their service. As Matthew 18:20 reads, “For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them.”

Both the Crisis Pregnancy Center and the Gabriel Project are 510 C3, ecumenical nonprofit organizations funded 100% by grants and donations. The services of both are available for any woman who may find herself in a crisis. Barbara shared, “If others would like to help, not only are you giving, but you are getting something back. You don’t realize, but you are making a difference. It is so rewarding as a Christian. It is phenomenal.” Each and every volunteer whether they are aware or not has made a difference to the pro-life ministry in the Victoria area. The power of prayer and respect for life are at the core of their service. As Matthew 18:20 reads, “For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them.”

Local Pro-life Events

Pro-life events occur locally throughout the year. They include: National Life Chain Sunday, the Candlelight March for Life and a day of prayer in front of the Houston Planned Parenthood. In addition, a local group will be attending the 2018 National March for Life in Washington, D.C.

For more information Contact:

- Crisis Pregnancy Center of Victoria • (361) 575-6171
  http://crisispregnancycenter-victoriatx.com
- Gabriel Project • (866) 627-9243
  http://www.victoriagabrielproject.org/assistance.html
- Emmaus Center: Counseling in the Catholic Tradition • (361) 212-0830
  http://www.emmauscounselingcenter.com

Models are shown at 26, 22, 16 and 12 weeks. The actual size and weight of the models are like a baby in the womb.

The Gabriel Project today has a presence in 8 of the 10 counties in the Diocese of Victoria and has 85 volunteers. In 2002 Barbara McCain Williams and Emily Yeary worked to bring a local Gabriel Project to the Diocese of Victoria. Barbara shared, “We are very blessed that we work closely with the Crisis Pregnancy Center. We communicate the needs of each woman, we walk the walk with them, and get them the assistance they need.” The Gabriel Project trains their volunteers to fill different roles that may include: answering the 24 hour hotline, being an “angel” or collecting items for those in need. An angel is a volunteer who has decided that her role in Gabriel Project is to work individually with a mom. The local Gabriel Project currently has 12 angels. Stefani Spears who has been a part of the Gabriel Project for 16 years shared, “When the moms share with their angels how we have helped them, you just know that you have made a difference. This is such a beautiful ministry.”

The pro-life ministry is one where Catholics and non-Catholics work together.

Carlos Gonzales, Robert Seale, Connie Strauss, and Dr. Sidney Ontai are pictured with the ultrasound machine that is being used by the Crisis Pregnancy Center in Victoria.