Award Winning Ballet Folklórico Keeps the Culture Alive

By Sarita Villafranca Richmond, Editor

Chances are that most people have seen or heard of Ballet Folklórico. It is widely recognized around the world for its bright costuming and fast foot movements called “zapateados”; but what is it really about?

Baile folklórico, literally “folkloric dance,” in Spanish, is a collective term for traditional Mexican dances that emphasize Mexican folk culture with highly choreographed movements. Musical selections and the dance routines performed reflect the costumes of the various regions of Mexico, such as Veracruz, Jalisco, Oaxaca, Yucatan, and many others.

Fifty-eight years ago, in 1960, a very small group of dancers started a Ballet Folklórico group at Our Lady of Sorrows Catholic Church in Victoria. Some of the original team included: Liz and Pete Sepulveda, Tony Ray Castillo, Beatrice Flores, Minnie Hernandez, Gloria Sepulveda, Cecilia Torres, and Frances Aguayo. By 1963, this small group had grown to 45 members. Today, “The Award-Winning Our Lady of Sorrows (OLS) Ballet Folklórico” has 60 dancers that range in age from 2 to 52 years old.

Participating in the Ballet Folklórico is a family tradition for many families, who have had up to 3 generations dance with the OLS Ballet Folklórico. Current Directors, Janie Rubio and Beatriz Gonzalez, became involved with the ballet in the 80’s, when their daughters began dancing with the Our Lady of Sorrows Junior Catholic Youth Organization (CYO) group. At that time, they were involved parents, but 35 years later, they are continuing the legacy as they serve as adult leaders to the group.

Janie and Beatriz attribute the support of the church and pastors, love of the Mexican culture, and a passion for folklórico dancing to the many successful years the OLS Ballet Folklórico group has been performing. Janie shared, “I feel that the strong ties and support of the church has played a major role in the legacy that has been passed on from generation to generation.” The OLS Ballet group keeps their faith as a priority. Together, they pray at the end of each practice and attend Mass as a group once a month.

Some of the dances involve spiritual praise such as, “Danza de Matachines,” which is a tribute to the Virgen de Guadalupe on December 12th, and the performance on Dia de los Muertos at Resurrection Cemetery. Janie shared, “I think this is a beautiful way to praise and worship God through this ministry. The students learn that they can worship through their dancing.”

Diane DeLeon, Janie’s granddaughter, and Jordan Garcia are the current dance instructors of the OLS Ballet Folklórico. Diane started dancing with the OLS Ballet Folklórico when she was 4 years old. She was a student instructor for ten years and has been the main dance instructor for the past three years. Diane explained that she and Jordan research the various regions and choose dances to teach each year. They choreograph the dances themselves and begin the year teaching footwork to

See Award Winning Ballet, pg. 16
Dear Brothers and Sisters,

On the Feast of Pentecost, May 24, 2015 Pope Francis published his teaching Laudato Si – On Care for Our Common Home. The themes our Holy Father addressed three years ago continue to be a challenge and also give great hope to our daily lives. Among the themes he developed was the Scriptural understanding that as human beings we are all connected through the order of Creation. The care that we offer to Creation reflects the care that we offer to one another.

In a powerful turn of phrase Pope Francis challenges our “throwaway culture” - since it seems the carelessness with which we throw away food sheds light on the carelessness with which we consider other people and the effect our choices have on them. Similarly, the respect and appreciation we have for the food we receive sheds light on the respect and appreciation we show for one another. At one point he commends the practice of saying the blessing before meals as a powerful sign of this appreciation.

Upholding the value of work, Pope Francis wrote:

127. We are convinced that “man is the source, the focus and the aim of all economic and social life”.[100] Nonetheless, once our human capacity for contemplation and reverence is impaired, it becomes easy for the meaning of work to be misunderstood.[101] We need to remember that men and women have “the capacity to improve their lot, to further their moral growth and to develop their spiritual endowments”. [102]

The footnotes of this paragraph refer to the Second Vatican Council Gaudium et spes, Pope Paul VI Populorum Progressio and St. John Paul II Centesimus Annus. All of these teachings highlight the promotion of the dignity and worth of the human person as “particularly urgent” for today’s world. This is what we do! In our daily tasks, strengthened by the Holy Spirit in prayer we make sure that the human person is the source, focus and aim of all that we do.

One of my hopes as you read the Lighthouse each month is that you can read stories and see pictures that give examples of the many ways that men and women across the diocese are living out this call. For example you will be able to read on page 14 about the V Encuentro. Eight-hundred delegates from around the states of Texas, Oklahoma and Arkansas joined my brother bishops in discussing ways we can promote evangelization in our area. I discovered a particular appreciation for the energy and new ideas that arose from this process. You will also be able to read another article about the Ballet Folklorico. This is a cultural treasure among many cultural treasures in our diocese. Through the richness of our culture we encounter the presence of Jesus in one another and become channels of love in our world.

Pope Francis concluded Laudato Si with a couple of prayers, some words from his final prayer may be fitting for us as we continue to pray for an outpouring of the Holy Spirit upon our diocese:

God of love, show us our place in this world as channels of your love for all the creatures of this earth, for not one of them is forgotten in your sight. Enlighten those who possess power and money that they may avoid the sin of indifference, that they may love the common good, advance the weak, and care for this world in which we live. The poor and the earth are crying out. O Lord, seize us with your power and light, help us to protect all life, to prepare for a better future, for the coming of your Kingdom of justice, peace, love and beauty. Praise be to you!

Amen.

+Brendan

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Queridos Hermanos y Hermanas,

En la fiesta de Pentecostés 24 de mayo, el año 2015 Francisco publicó su enseñanza Laudato Si - En el Cuidado de Nuestro Hogar Común. Los temas de nuestro Santo Padre se dirigió hace tres años siguen siendo un desafío y también dar una gran esperanza para nuestra vida diaria. Entre los temas que desarrolló fue la comprensión de las Escrituras que como seres humanos todos estamos conectados a través de la orden de la Creación. La atención que ofrecemos a la Creación refleja el cuidado que ofrecemos el uno al otro.

En un poderoso giro de la frase Francisco desafía nuestra “cultura de usar y tirar” - ya que parece que la falta de cuidado con el que tiramos cobertizos comida ligera en la falta de cuidado con el que tenemos en cuenta a otras personas y el efecto que nuestras decisiones tienen sobre ellos. Del mismo modo, el respeto y el aprecio que tenemos por la comida que recibimos arroja luz sobre el respeto y la valoración mostramos uno por el otro. En un momento se elogia la práctica de decir la bendición antes de las comidas como una poderosa señal de esta apreciación.

Manteniendo el valor del trabajo, Francisco escribió:

127. Decimos que «el hombre es el autor, el centro y el fin de toda la vida económica-social»[100]. No obstante, cuando en el ser humano se daña la capacidad de contemplar y de respetar, se crean las condiciones para que el sentido del trabajo se desfigure[101]. Conviene recordar siempre que el ser humano es «capaz de ser por sí mismo agente responsable de su mejora material, de su progreso moral y de su desarrollo espiritual»[102]. El trabajo debería ser el ámbito de este múltiple desarrollo personal, donde se ponen en juego muchas dimensiones de la vida: la creatividad, la proyección del futuro, el desarrollo de capacidades, el ejercicio de los valores, la comunicación con los demás, una actitud de adoración. Por eso, en la actual realidad social mundial, más allá de los intereses limitados de las empresas y de una cuestionable racionalidad económica, es necesario que «se siga buscando como prioridad el objetivo del acceso al trabajo por parte de todos»[103].

Las notas al pie de este párrafo se refieren al Concilio Vaticano II Gaudium et spes, el Papa Pablo VI Populorum Progressio y San Juan Pablo II Centesimus Annus. Todas estas enseñanzas destacan la promoción de la dignidad y el valor de la persona humana como “particularmente urgente” para el mundo de hoy. ¡Esto es lo que hacemos! En nuestras tareas diarias, fortalecidos por el Espíritu Santo en la oración nos aseguramos de que la persona humana es la fuente, el enfoque y objetivo de todo lo que hacemos.

Una de mis esperanzas es que cuando lee el Lighthouse de cada mes puede leer historias y ver las fotos que dan ejemplos de las muchas maneras en que los hijos y mujeres a través de la diócesis están viviendo esta llamada. Por ejemplo, podrás leer en página 14 sobre el V Encuentro. Ochocientos delegados de los estados de Texas, Oklahoma y Arkansas se unieron a mis hermanos obispos para discutir formas en que podemos promover la evangelización en nuestra área. Descubrí una apreciación particular por la energía y las nuevas ideas que surgieron de este proceso. También podrás leer otro artículo sobre el Ballet Folklorico. Este es un tesoro cultural entre muchos tesoros culturales en nuestra diócesis. A través de la riqueza de nuestra cultura encontramos la presencia de Jesús en los demás y nos convertimos en canales de amor en nuestro mundo.

Francisco concluyó Laudato Si con un par de oraciones, algunas palabras de su oración final puede ser apropiado para nosotros mientras continuamos a orar por un derramamiento el Espíritu Santo sobre nuestra diócesis:

Dios de amor, muestranos nuestro lugar en este mundo como instrumentos de tu cariño por todos los seres de esta tierra, porque ninguno de ellos está olvidado ante ti. Ilumina a los dueños del poder y del dinero para que se guarden del pecado de la indiferencia, amen el bien común, promuevan a los débiles, y cuiden este mundo que habitamos.

Los pobres y la tierra están clamando: Señor, tómanos a nosotros con tu poder y tu luz, para proteger toda vida, para preparar un futuro mejor, para que venga tu Reino de justicia, de paz, de amor y de hermosura. Alabado seas.

Amen.

+Brendan
Bishop Cahill’s Schedule

May
5 6:00 p.m. Confirmation Mass at Ascension of Our Lord, Moravia
6 10:30 a.m. Confirmation Mass at St. Agnes, Edna
6 6:00 p.m. Confirmation Mass at Holy Cross, Bay City
9 10:00 a.m. Presbytery Council
1:30 p.m. Pension Board Meeting
7:00 p.m. Confirmation Mass at Parish of the Nativity, Eagle Lake
11 Bishop David Fellhauer Invitational Golf Tournament, Colony Creek
12 Emmaus Center: Roast and Toast honoring Father Gary Janak
13 9:00 a.m. Mass at the Cathedral of Our Lady of Victory, Victoria
4:00 p.m. Confirmation Mass at Our Lady of Sorrows, Victoria
14 Noon Mass with Missionary Catechists
2:00 p.m. Communities of Faith Meeting
5:00 p.m. Liturgical Commission Meeting
15 10:00 a.m. Kenedy Memorial Foundation Meeting, Corpus Christi
6:00 p.m. Adult Confirmation Mass at the Cathedral of Our Lady of Victory, Victoria
16 5:30 p.m. CCD Visit at Immaculate Conception, Goliad
18-22 Apostleship of the Sea Ministries, Baltimore and Washington, DC
26 10:30 a.m. Priestly Anniversary of Rev. Joseph Le-Minh Pham and Msgr. Joseph Van Nguyen at Holy Vietnamese Martyr Church, Austin
27 5:00 p.m. Confirmation Mass at St. Mary, Victoria
7:00 p.m. Confirmation Mass at Our Lady of the Gulf, Port Lavaca
30-31 Catholic Rural Life Board Meeting, Minnesota

June
2 10:00 a.m. Father Greg Korenek’s anniversary celebration at Holy Cross, Bay City
3 10:00 a.m. Confirmation Mass at St. Patrick’s, Bloomington
7 3:00 p.m. World Day of Prayer for Sanctification of Priests at Holy Family, Victoria

Pope Francis: A Man of His Word

Pope Francis: A Man of His Word is coming to theaters May 18, 2018. Ask your local theaters if they will be showing the movie.

“The film masterfully shares the tenderness, humanity, and revolutionary thinking of Pope Francis, and shows that he is a man who practices what he preaches,” says the Vatican.

Bishop Fellhauer’s Schedule

May
6 10:00 a.m. Confirmation Mass at St. Philip, El Campo
12 6:30 p.m. Confirmation Mass at St. Peter, Blessing
19 6:00 p.m. Confirmation Mass at Immaculate Conception, Goliad
20 9:30 a.m. Confirmation Mass at Holy Cross, Yorktown
3:00 p.m. Confirmation Mass at Our Lady of the Gulf, Port Lavaca

June
3 10:00 a.m. Confirmation Mass at Our Lady of Lourdes, Victoria

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

Rev. Gary W. Janak 05/14/1988 The Cathedral of Our Lady of Victory, Victoria
Rev. Michael W. Petering 05/15/1999 St. Agnes Church, Edna
Rev. Greg E. Korenek 05/15/1993 Holy Cross Church, Bay City
Rev. Edward J. Winkler 05/17/1986 Sacred Heart Church, Flatonia
Bishop Brendan J. Cahill 05/19/1990 Ordination to the Priesthood
Rev. Stephen Vacek 05/20/2017 St. Mary Church, Victoria
Rev. Jacob Mendoza 05/20/2017 St. Michael Church, Cuero
Rev. Robert F. Guerra 05/20/2000 Parish of the Nativity Church, Eagle Lake
Rev. P. Nguyen 05/20/2000 Incarnate Word Convent, Victoria
Rev. Philip L. Brune 05/24/2014 St. Robert Bellarmine Church, El Campo
Rev. Jasper L. Liggio 05/24/2014 St. Michael Church, Cuero
Rev. Msgr. John C. Bily 05/24/1958 Retired
Rev. Msgr. Joseph M. Hynbner 05/25/1963 Retired
Rev. Patrick S. Knippenberg 05/26/2012 Holy Family of Joseph, Mary and Jesus Church, Victoria
Rev. Msgr. Casimir Jarzombek 05/26/1960 Retired
Rev. Msgr. Arnold Anders 05/27/1950 Retired
Rev. Daniel P. Kahlich 05/28/1966 Holy Rosary Church, Hostyn
Rev. Msgr. Gerard Cernoch 05/28/1964 Sts. Peter & Paul Church, Plum
Rev. Bryan O. Heyer 05/29/2004 Our Lady of Guadalupe Church, Bay City
Rev. Kirby F. Hlavaty 05/29/1999 Sts. Cyril and Methodius Church, Shiner
Most Rev. David E. Fellhauer 05/29/1965 Ordination to the Priesthood
Bishop Emeritus 05/28/1990 Ordination as Bishop

The film masterfully shares the tenderness, humanity, and revolutionary thinking of Pope Francis, and shows that he is a man who practices what he preaches,” says the Vatican.

LORD of the Harvest,
BLESS young people with the gift of courage to respond to your call.
Open their hearts to great ideals, to great things. INSPIRE all of your disciples to mutual love and giving—for vocations blossom in the good soil of faithful people. INSTILL those in love and giving—for vocations blossom in the good soil of faithful people. OPEN their hearts to great ideals, to great things. INSPIRE all of your disciples to mutual love and giving—for vocations blossom in the good soil of faithful people. INSTILL those in love and giving—for vocations blossom in the good soil of faithful people.
Open their hearts to great ideals, to great things. INSPIRE all of your disciples to mutual love and giving—for vocations blossom in the good soil of faithful people. INSTILL those in love and giving—for vocations blossom in the good soil of faithful people. INSPIRE all of your disciples to mutual love and giving—for vocations blossom in the good soil of faithful people.

~ Pope Francis

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

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

Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear not evil, for you are with me; your rod and your staff comfort me. (Psalms 23:4)
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 layperson, living or deceased. Publication of the burses will appear periodically when new contributions are received.

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

April 23, 2018

• Rev. Msgr. Edward C. Bartsch Seminary Burse #2
  Lector
  In honor of Stazy Hajek’s 105th birthday by Midge Elam
  Acolyte
  In honor of Stazy Hajek’s 105th birthday by Gary and Denise Greive

• Most Rev. Brendan J. Cahill, Bishop of the Diocese of Victoria Seminary Burse
  Lector
  In memory of Joseph Cahill by: M/M Victor Dvorak, Jr.
  In memory of Joseph Cahill by: John McQuilen
  In memory of Joseph Cahill by: Knights of Saint Gregory
  Monroe and Mary Margaret Rieger

• Rev. Wayne Flagg and Rev. Philip Brune Seminary Burse
  Lector
  In memory of Sanford Q. Schmid by: Darryl and Barbara Meyer
  M/M Victor Dvorak, Jr.
  In memory of Henry John Guthmann by Carolyn and William Schuette
  In honor of James Dvorak’s birthday by Robert and Carol Schertz

• Josephat R. Janak Seminary Burse #2
  Lector
  In honor of Rev. Gary Janak’s 30th ordination anniversary to the priesthood on May 14, 1988 by Rose Marie Janak and Family
  Candidate
  Donation by Marvin and Mary Wagner

• Knights of Columbus Victoria Council #1329 Seminary Burse #4
  Acolyte
  In memory of Albert Gregurek by K of C Victoria Council #1329
  In memory of Richard Jordan by K of C Victoria Council #1329

• Rev. Msgr. John C. Peters Seminary Burse #7
  Lector
  Donation in thanksgiving
  In memory of Deacon Alvin Gerbermann by Daniel and Mathilda Melnar
  Donation by Soila Sanchez
  In memory of Bill Bludau by Soila Sanchez
  In memory of Michael Chovanetz by Deacon Joey and Mary Targac
  In memory of Michael Chovanetz by Gilbert and Mary Rose Schindler

• Rev. Theophil Okruhlik and Rev. Vincent Verderame Seminary Burse
  Acolyte
  Donation by Catholic Life Ins. Port Lavaca Branch #55

• Rev. Scott Hill Seminary Burse
  Lector
  In memory of Barbara Chesser McDaniel by Darryl and Joan Hill

• Rev. Charles Sonnier Seminary Burse
  Lector
  In memory of Jo Ann Berger by Mary Rainosek

• Rev. Kristopher L. Fuchs Seminary Burse
  Acolyte
  In honor of Rev. Kristopher Fuchs’ birthday May 13 and 3 year ordination anniversary to the priesthood June 6 by his Grandparents, Paul and Helen Flessner

• Rev. Jerome J. Stryk Seminary Burse #2
  Lector
  In memory of Helen Styk Muras by: Daniel Styk
  In memory of Helen Styk Muras by: Stazy Hajek and Georgia Cerny
  M/M Edward and Cynthia Koncaba
  Acolyte
  In memory of Helen Styk Muras by: M/M Andrew Styk
  The Helen Styk Muras Family

• St. John the Baptist Church, St. John
  In Memory of Rev. Brian Crookes

• Rev. Dan Morales Seminary Burse in Honor of his Work for Vocations
  Acolyte
  Donation by Court Daughters of the Holy Family #2665, Victoria

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

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

Education of Seminarian Fund

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

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

Lector

Paz & Andrea Morales
In Memory of Father Dan Morales

Candidate

Catholic Daughters of the Americas

TX State Court

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
**Seminarians Graduate / Summer Assignments**

St. Benedict, LA—Congratulations to two of the young men studying for the priesthood from the Diocese of Victoria, Ryan Kapavik and Adam Shimek.

These young men will be graduating in May from St. Joseph Seminary in St. Benedict, Louisiana. Following their summer assignments, they will begin their fall studies at St. Mary’s Seminary in Houston.

Adam is assigned to Holy Family Parish in Wharton and Ryan is assigned Diocesan Missionary work for the summer.

Washington, Apostleship of the Sea, National Office—The National Day of Prayer and Remembrance for Mariners and People of the Sea will be celebrated on May 22. The day is observed in conjunction with National Maritime Day in the United States of America, which has been celebrated since 1933 to honor those who serve as merchant mariners and to recognize the benefits of the maritime industry.

Most Reverend Brendan J. Cahill, S.T.D., Bishop of the Diocese of Victoria in Texas and Apostleship of the Sea (AOS) promoter, is encouraging dioceses to mark the national day by remembering the men and women of the sea in homilies and by including special petitions during Mass. Bishop Cahill will celebrate a Mass in observance of Maritime Day on Saturday, May 19, at 12:10 p.m., in the Crypt Church at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington DC. The Mass is sponsored by the AOS national office and the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops’ (USCCB) Secretariat of Cultural Diversity in the Church.

Apostleship of the Sea (AOS), is a worldwide Catholic maritime ministry that engages with seafarers, fishers, their families, port personnel and all who work or travel on the high seas, regardless of race, color or creed. The maritime ministry shows the Church’s care and concern to seafarers who are often away from home for many months because of the nature of their work and lifestyle. A network of AOS port offices and Catholic chaplains provides spiritual and practical assistance that accommodate a seafarer’s unique lifestyle and needs.

**DSA update**

2018 Diocesan Services Appeal
Diocesan Goal: $2,054,129.00
Parish Pledge Totals: $530,184.64
Parish Contribution Totals: $408,112.64
Number of Parish Families Participating: 1,901

Updated April 24, 2018

--- DINNER ---
10:30 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.
Air Conditioned Dining Room
Plate Includes THREE MEATS –
•Shiner Picnic Stew • Fried Chicken • Country Sausage
• Trimmings
•
•
•
**Drive thru “Plates to Go” from 10:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. or until sold out at the KASPAR PAVISION IN GREEN-DICKSON PARK ALL PLATES $10.00**

--- COUNTRY STORE ---
Canned and Baked Goods
• Kolaches • Pigs-in-Blanket
8:00 a.m. until

MEMORIAL TRIBUTE at 11:45 a.m.
BIG COUNTRY AUCTION: 12:00 p.m.
Cattle Auction: 3:00 p.m.

--- BINGO ---
Bingo – 1:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.
Grocery Wheel - 5:00 p.m. - until
Drawing for Prizes at 10:00 p.m.

PETTING ZOO – 2:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.

• Pinko, Ring Toss, Ball Throw, Wheel of Fortune, Moon Walk, and other games

• Plenty of Famous Picnic Hamburgers in the evening

--- ARTS & CR PITS ---
Booth Spaces: $50
Call (361) 648-7434

Fun for the Whole Family!!!
The Power of a Mother

We have a special place in our hearts for our moms; and moms all over the world have special places in their hearts for their children. We all have childhood memories of our moms. Often the faith and the family’s values are passed on during the most formative years of our lives through our early contacts with our moms. Moms were the “go to” persons whenever something scared or hurt us. Remember that skinny knee that felt so much better after Mom put something on it; or the monsters under the bed that flew when mom chased them away. Remember how loved and secure we felt listening to mom reading a bedtime story, or how one learned to pray at Mom’s side or on Mom’s lap. As we grew older, Mom was always there to listen to us as we practiced our reading lesson and to help us understand how to do our math work-sheets. When we were in trouble or wanted something special, we would always go to her first. We knew that she would intercede with our dad for us. We fondly look back on these “good old days” during our childhood.

As a very small child, I remember my dad telling us to talk to Mother Mary; he had great faith in the efficacy of our prayers when we asked Mother Mary to talk to Jesus about what we needed or even about what we wanted. (Many of our informal childhood prayers could have been classified as petitions.) The good news is that no matter how old we are, we always have Mother Mary to turn to when we are discouraged, sad, frightened or in need. We all know that she is the “go to” intercessor, the one in the Marian ceremonies, let us all express our devotion to Mary and recognize her role as Jesus’ mom and our mom, our special intercessor with God. Finally, Happy Mothers’ Day to all our moms, our grandmothers, and may God bless all our Mother Mary devotees.

Bishop Brendan Cahill is pictured with Father Charles Bouchard, OP, S.T.D.; Nathaniel Blanton Hibner, MTS, Ph.D(c); and Deacon David Garvis, Ph.D, who presented a workshop on Morality, Spirituality and the Happy Death: Understanding and Preaching on End of Life Issues.

Catholic Health Presents Workshop

On April 18, 2018 The Catholic Health Association of the United States presented a workshop, Morality, Spirituality and the Happy Death: Understanding and Preaching on End of Life Issues, to the priests, deacons and seminarians of The Diocese of Victoria. Father Charles Bouchard, OP, S.T.D., Nathaniel Blanton Hibner, MTS, Ph.D(c) and Deacon David Garvis, PH.D, presented the workshop.

Father Bouchard shared, “Our main purpose is to help priests and deacons have a better idea of what the Church teaches on end-of-life care and decisions.” In the morning session, Nathaniel reviewed and discussed the Ethical and Religious Directives for Catholic Health Care (ERDs) with the group. This included not only knowledge of the Catholic moral and spiritual tradition regarding end-of-life issues, but also the medical information needed for sick persons and their family to make informed decisions regarding appropriate end-of-life care. During the afternoon, Father Bouchard led the session, which was devoted to showing preachers how to preach from the readings, while also addressing a specific moral issue such as end of life care.

Respect for human life and dignity was discussed throughout the workshop. The workshop was educational and offered resources for priests and deacons to use to assist their parishioners when having to make end-of-life decisions.
ST. ROSE SCHOOL RECEIVES GRANT — The KJT Home Office awarded a Catholic Education Grant to St. Rose Catholic School in Schulenburg. The KJT, St. Augustine Society #129 representatives made the presentation. Left to right are, Patrick Prihoda, vice president of KJT #129; Rosanne Gallia, principal of St. Rose Catholic School; and James Prihoda, treasurer of KJT #129.

CDA EDUCATION CONTEST WINNERS—St. Rose Catholic Daughters of the Americas (CDA) #1597 recently held their annual Education Contest which is open to students in grades 4-12, as well as a division for CDA members. There were 187 entries this year. A special thank-you to the judges, who are retired art and language arts teachers, who volunteered their time. The winners and their families were invited to a reception on April 2, at the St. Rose Family Life Center. Certificates and prizes were awarded to the winners. All first-place entries were forwarded to the State Education Contest, and the first-place from those entries will advance to the National Contest. Pictured are (left to right) Grace S., Peggy K., Ty L., Myrannda S., Mariah R., Tyson W., Selah W., Presley S., Meredith M., Jamison B., Madison K., Claire O., Zoe N., Phyllis Venghaus, (CDA Education Chairperson), and Rosa Galipp, (CDA Regent).

FAMILIES TO RECEIVE A HOME— Knights of Columbus Council #9088 is a regular supporter of Habitat for Humanity of the Golden Crescent. Construction on two new homes is currently underway on Myra Lane in Victoria. Shown in the photo, David Heyer, Gene Polasck, and Bill Spellacy work on framing the house at 106 Myra Lane. Habitat for Humanity is a great way to help others. The Knights invite anyone interested in helping to come out and join them on Saturday mornings for some good “hands on” outdoor work.

FAT TUESDAY MEAL BENEFITS OLV SCHOOL—Holy Family Knights of Columbus (KC) Council #9088 donated $7,650 to Our Lady of Victory School, Victoria. The proceeds will go to replace the lights in their gymnasium. The funds were raised through their Mardi Gras Fat Tuesday Dinner held February 13. Pictured left to right are, Manuel Gonzales, III, KC #9088 Deputy Grand Knight; Sr. Laura Toman, I.W.B.S., Our Lady of Victory School Principal; and Robert Sobczak, KC #9088 Grand Knight.

Prayers and Blessings for a Safe Summer!

Sacred Heart Parish Spring 2018 Picnic
Sunday, May 27, 2018
Halletsville
At the K.C. Hall in Halletsville, Texas

DINNER: SERVING FROM 10:30 a.m. ~ 1:30 p.m.
Drive thru Plates-to-Go: 10:30 a.m. ~ 1:00 p.m.
Dining in the KC Hall
Country Fried Chicken, Stew, Homemade Cornbread Dressing with all the trimmings!
Adults: $10 Children (10 & under) $5

Weather Permitting Tournament Begins at 5:00 p.m.
Delicious Hamburgers, French Fries, Nachos, Popcorn, Funnel Cakes, Snow Cones, Lemonade & Softdrinks All Afternoon!!

AUCTION SALE AT 1:00 PM
Cattle, Quilts, Antiques, Homemade Canned Goods, Produce, Vegetables, Outdoor Furniture & more

2018 POLARIS RANGER RAFFLE
w/12 ft. Load Trail Landscape Trailer

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

Registration deadline is Friday, May 25, 2018, although this retreat typically fills up before the deadline date. For more information contact: The Office of Youth Ministry, weggert@victoriadiocese.org; (361) 573-0828 ext. 2232.

Rocky Mountain High Retreat
in Pagosa Springs, CO
July 7-15, 2018

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

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Elementary Camp ~ June 13, 2018

Camp David is a fun-filled retreat for students entering third grade to students entering fifth grade. A trained staff of high school and college youth, supervised by qualified adults from throughout the diocese, staffs the retreat. A permission form and a medical release form is required of everyone attending the retreat.

The cost per person is $25, which includes food and all craft supplies. Pre-ordered T-shirts are available for $10. Space is limited and will close when spots are filled. Visit www.victoriadiocese.org/camp-david or call (361) 573-0828 to register.

The Emmaus Center

The Emmaus Center provides individual, marital, and family counseling services from a Catholic perspective, as well as spiritual direction.

Grief Groups will be offered soon in Victoria and Hallettsville. The groups will meet weekly and run for approximately 8 weeks.

For more information or to schedule an appointment please call (361) 212-0830.
Renowned Speaker Coming to Diocese of Victoria

The teachers and staff of the Catholic schools welcome Dr. Robert Wicks this summer. He will be the speaker for the Catholic School Seminar held in August.

Dr. Wicks has helped people take measure of their lives for more than 30 years. Together, he and his clients have taken the perspective that “difficult times can offer graced moments in a more striking way than the good times can.”

Dr. Wicks’ major area of expertise is the prevention of secondary stress which encompasses the pressures encountered in reaching out to others.

“In the end, it is not how much darkness there is in the world, your country, church, family or even in yourself that really matters. It is how you stand in that darkness that is the real issue.”

—Robert J. Wicks

Words from the Superintendent of Catholic Schools

Another year is in the books…

Graduation, galas, grade reports, and abounding green hues are all indicators of spring, as well as heralding the approaching end of another school year in the Diocese of Victoria. The Class of 2018 is preparing for its farewell while other classes are looking forward to taking their new places on the fifteen campuses of our diocese.

As the closing weeks begin to unfold, we extend a hearty thanks and a warm appreciation for another successful year in the Catholic schools. Catholic education is a necessary and vibrant thread in the fabric of our society.

As Pope Benedict XVI, in a 2008 Address to Catholic educators, declared, “[E]verything possible must be done, in cooperation with the wider community, to ensure that [Catholic schools] are accessible to people of all social and economic strata. No child should be denied his or her right to an education in faith, which in turn nurtures the soul of a nation.”

Therefore, as we nurture that thought, in the coming days and weeks, we will be honoring our graduates, thanking our parents and guardians, appreciating our teachers, and reflecting on our memories of another school year. Here are just a few of the upcoming events and celebrations that will punctuate this school year:

• dozens of 8th graders will be receiving the coveted Bishop’s Award for religious knowledge, deportment, and service;
• scores of teachers and school staff members will be recognized for their outstanding service;
• top academic students on our campuses will be lauded for their hard work and achievements;
• graduates of our school campuses will be applauded and accolades will be awarded to many as they prepare for the next phase of their educational journeys;
• preparations will begin for our Catholic School Seminar on August 10, as we welcome the renowned and international speaker, Dr. Robert Wicks, to the Cathedral Center; and
• plans will be made for Teaching Minds and Touching Hearts of the next flock of students who will join us in August.

Thank you for entrusting your students to our Catholic school system and know that your support and steadfast generosity allows us to continue nurturing His children and building up His kingdom, as we spread the Good News to present and future generations!
CONFIRM YOUR FAITH—Confirmation candidates from Queen of Peace Parish in Sweet Home received the Sacrament of Confirmation Saturday, April 21, 2018. They were confirmed by Bishop Brendan Cahill. Pictured (left to right): Sebastian P., Colby B., Austin P., Sarah T., and Jessica T.

EDUCATION CONTEST WINNERS—Holy Family Catholic Daughters of the Americas (CDA) #2665 recently held their annual Education Contest. The winners and their families were invited to a reception on April 23. Certificates and prizes were awarded to the winners. All first-place entries were forwarded to the State Education Contest, and the first-place from those entries will advance to the National Contest. Pictured (left to right front row): Pia B., Kaelyn F., Olivia A., Lauren T., Hailey P., Lauren M.; (left to right middle row): Avery H., Whitten B., Esperanza E., Wyatt Z., Abby F., Catherine A., Joaquin C., Tristan S.; (left to right back row): Ava H., Ethan G., Amber B., Zachary Z., Maanvi A., Lisa D., Abby B., Andrew B., Sam H., Xavier R., and JoAnn Bleier, (CDA Regent).

FILLED WITH THE SPIRIT—Confirmation candidates from St. Joseph Parish, in Yoakum, received the Sacrament of Confirmation Saturday, April 21, 2018. They were confirmed by Bishop Brendan Cahill. Those confirmed: Elisa A., Conner B., Cutter B., Ryan B., Bryce B., Gabriel C., Jorge C., Sheyla D., Penelope Del C., Noelia D., Joey D., Matthew E., Kaleb F., Pedro G., Jr., Angel G., Juliebeth G., Johan H., Noelia H., Carly H., Holden L., Kenna L., Nathan M., David O., Byran P., Payton Q., Cecilia R., Esmeralda R., Shelby S., Krystal T., Jorge T., and Aaron V.

St. Mary’s Parish Picnic
1836-2018 ~ 182 years
Sunday, June 10
St. Mary’s Parish Hall
Hallettsville, Texas

Food:
Beer • Popcorn • Soda
Snow cones • Hamburgers
Ice Cream • Kolaches
and more!

Games:
Bingo • Ball Throw
Ring Toss
Toy Spin Wheel • Cake &
Plant Walk • Train Ride
Fish Pond • Country Store
w/Arts & Crafts,
Canned Goods, etc.

Music: 10:30 a.m.-9:00 p.m.
Texas Sound Czech (10:30 a.m.-2:00 p.m.)
J & S Playboys (2:00-5:30 p.m.)
Red Ravens (5:30-9:00 p.m.)

Mass 9:15 a.m.
Meal begins at 10:30 a.m.
Featuring special St. Mary’s Stew &
Sausage & all the trimmings
Plates: $10 p/p
Dine-in or drive-thru.

Auction @ 1:00 p.m.

HOLY WEEK OBSERVED—On Holy Thursday, students in 2nd and 8th grades at St. Michael Catholic School, Weimar, presented the Living Stations. Mary (Skylar H.) and Veronica (Abigail P.) followed Jesus (Michael K.) as he carried his cross. A soldier (Austin S.) walked alongside of Jesus.
Dear Editor,

On behalf of the staff of Father Charles Kram Project, which is a non-profit corporation devoted to preserving the memory of Father Charles Kram, Jr. and encouraging the promotion of his cause for sainthood, I turn to you for help.

The bishop of the Diocese of Victoria in Texas, the Most Reverend Brendan J. Cahill, has initiated an investigation of Father Kram’s life to ascertain his worthiness for sainthood. The process is normally a long and complicated procedure requiring much research and communication with the Vatican; however the process can be helped greatly by the support and prayers of the faithful.

If you have read the story of his life, Gladly Will I Glory In My Infirmities, you already share in the love of God and neighbor displayed in his life. If you have not read Gladly Will I Glory In My Infirmities, we urge you to secure a copy of the book and read it. You will be moved just as we were by this remarkable story. A copy of the book can be obtained from the publisher, Leonine Publishers, at www.leoninepublishers.com or from the book stores at www.amazon.com and www.barnesandnoble.com or at Sts. Cyril and Methodius Church at 306 S. Avenue F, Shiner, Texas 77984.

Prayers for the success of this project will be greatly appreciated and will be most helpful in calling the Holy Spirit’s attention to the efforts to praise and glorify the holy life Father Kram and his caregivers lived. Perhaps we can get the whole world to pray for his cause.

Your successful support of this project can be reported to us at our email address fathercharleskram@gmail.com or at my address dalmatic2001@aol.com.

May God bless you in your efforts to live your life in accordance with His Will.

Peace and Blessings and Love,
Deacon Tony Warzecha
ROME (CNS) — After circling a massive, crumbling public housing complex on the outskirts of Rome, Pope Francis had an emotional encounter with the neighborhood’s children.

Question-and-answer sessions with youngsters are a standard part of Pope Francis’ parish visits. And, at St. Paul of the Cross parish April 15, there were the usual questions like, “How did you feel when you were elected pope?”

But then it was Emanuele’s turn. The young boy smiled at the pope as he approached the microphone. But then froze. “I can’t do it,” Emanuele said.

“Come, come to me, Emanuele,” the pope said. “Come and whisper it in my ear.”

Msgr. Leonardo Sapienza, a papal aide, encouraged the boy, but he kept saying, “I can’t.”

“Come, come to me, Emanuele,” the pope said. “Come and whisper it in my ear.”

Msgr. Sapienza helped the boy up to the platform where the pope was seated. Emanuele was sobbing by that point, and Pope Francis enveloped him in a big embrace, patting his head and speaking softly to him.

With their heads touching, the pope and the boy spoke privately to each other before Emanuele returned to his seat.

“If only we could all cry like Emanuele when we have an ache in our hearts like he has,” the pope told the children. “He was crying for his father and had the courage to do it in front of us because in his heart there is love for his father.”

Pope Francis said he had asked Emanuele if he could share the boy’s question and the boy agreed. “A little while ago my father passed away. He was a nonbeliever, but he had all four of his children baptized. He was a good man. Is dad in heaven?”

“How beautiful to hear a son say of his father, ‘He was good,’” the pope told the children. “And what a beautiful witness of a son who inherited the strength of his father, who had the courage to cry in front of all of us. If that man was able to make his children like that, then it’s true, he was a good man. He was a good man.

“There, Emanuele, that is the answer,” the pope explained.

The next step in answering Emanuele’s question, he said, would be to think about what God is like and, especially, what kind of heart God has. “What do you think? A father’s heart. God has a dad’s heart. And with a dad who was not a believer, but who baptized his children and gave them the gift of faith, if that man was able to leave him far from himself?”

Pope Francis encouraged Emanuele to “talk to your dad; pray to your dad.”

Earlier, a young girl named Carlotta also asked the pope a delicate question: “When we are baptized, we become children of God. People who aren’t baptized, are they not children of God?”

“What does your heart tell you?” the pope asked Carlotta. She said, “They are, too.”

“Right, and I’ll explain,” the pope told her. “We are all children of God. Everyone. Everyone.”

The nonbaptized, members of other religions, those who worship idols, “even the mafiosi,” who terrorize the neighborhood around the parish, are children of God, though “they prefer to behave like children of the devil,” he said.

“God created everyone, loves everyone and put in everyone’s heart a conscience so they would recognize what is good and distinguish it from what is bad,” the pope said.

The difference, he said, is that “when you were baptized, the Holy Spirit entered into that conscience and reinforced your belonging to God and, in that sense, you became more of a daughter of God because you’re a child of God like everyone, but with the strength of the Holy Spirit.”

Pray.com offers social network for prayer, community-building

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Convinced that faith communities would want to share prayer requests, announcements and service opportunities without going to multiple platforms and without being awash in advertising, a group of friends created an app just for that. With $2 million in seed money, Pray.com was beta tested with 100 churches in 2016. Today, 6,000 faith communities and thousands of other groups use the app to host their members’ need for prayer and offers of support, as well as to recruit volunteers for local service projects and to collect donations, said two of the co-founders.

The faith-social app Pray 2.0 is designed specifically not to “gamify” the experience of the parishes, mosques, synagogues, churches and temples that use it, Matthew Potter, one of the app’s co-founders, told Catholic News Service April 23. “What big social media does is gamified to get more eyes on more ads,” he said. People become obsessed, consciously or not, with attracting followers and likes, which in turn gives the advertising a wider market.

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STANDING UP FOR LIFE—The March for Life Rally held in Columbus, Texas on March 3, 2018, was attended by several members of the Knights of Columbus (KC) to show support for the unborn child. KC members (left to right): Deacon Charlie Novosad, (principle organizer of the march), Father Augustine Asante, (Pastor of St. Anthony Church, Columbus), James Simons, Craig Potter, Bill Heffley, Charles Barrett, Larry Kana, John Glueck, and John Barta.

COLOMBIAN BISHOP VISITS DIOCESE—Monseñor José Libardo García Monsalve, Bishop of Málaga-Soatá, Colombia, was in Victoria visiting Padre Eliecer Patiño, a priest from his diocese, who is currently serving the Our Lady of Sorrows Parish, Victoria. Also pictured are Bishop Brendan Cahill and Padre Néstor Iván Valbuena Jaimes from Colombia. Thank you to Bishop Monsalve for his support and for allowing Father Patiño to serve the people of the Diocese of Victoria. (Gracias a Obispo Monsalve por su apoyo y permitiendo que Padre Patiño sirve a la gente de la Diócesis de Victoria.)

Catholic Bishop Pays Tribute to Barbara Bush at Houston Memorial

HOUSTON (CNS)— Retired Archbishop Joseph A. Fiorenza of the Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston joined other religious leaders in paying tribute to Barbara Bush April 19, during a ceremony described as a Celebration of Life in front of Houston City Hall April 19. He described the former first lady as a “faithful citizen besides being an outstanding wife and mother.” The archbishop focused on her life of service that continued long after she left the White House when her husband George H.W. Bush served as the 41st President of the United States from 1989 to 1993. Barbara Bush, the wife of the nation’s 41st president and mother of the 43rd president, died at her home in Houston April 17, at the age of 92. “We’ve been blessed in this city to have Barbara Bush as an outstanding example of a person who is truly involved in the city. You know, she could have set back and enjoyed life for 10, 15, 20 more years. But she got involved. She got involved in education. She got involved with children who needed to learn how to read and write,” the archbishop said. He said she visited Inner-City Catholic Schools, a program in the Galveston-Houston Archdiocese to share her love for literacy and education. “Her life has been an outstanding example of what it means to be a devoted wife, a devoted mother and a very involved citizen - a very, very faithful citizen of Houston. We were so blessed to have her with us and to have the type of example that the Bush family offers the nation,” he said.

Pregnant? Need Help?

Confidential and caring assistance available for the following needs: • emotional • material • spiritual • educational • Providing immediate and practical help.

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

Victoria Gabriel Project
Toll Free 1-886-MARY AID
1-888-627-9243
www.victoriagabrielproject.org

RETOUVAILLE
A LIFELINE FOR MARRIED COUPLES
August 3-5, 2018
Diocese of Victoria Spiritual Renewal Center

FOR MARRIED COUPLES WHO ARE:
• Anxious about their marriage relationship
• Alone or distant from their spouse
• Dissillusioned or bored in their marriage.
• Without the time or desire to communicate
• Experiencing coldness or conflict
• Frustrated, hurt or angry with their spouse
• Unable to see how to change their situation

For confidential inquiries call: (800) 470-2230 or visit our website at HelpOurMarriage.com

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Obispos en Ambos Lados de la Frontera Critican Despliegue de Soldados

Por David Agren
Catholic News Service

CIUDAD DE MÉXICO (CNS) — La Conferencia del Episcopado Mexicano criticó el plan del presidente estadounidense Donald Trump de enviar soldados de la Guardia Nacional a la frontera entre Estados Unidos y México y emitió una fuerte defensa de los migrantes diciendo que la Iglesia Católica no podía “pasar de largo ante el sufrimiento de nuestros hermanos migrantes que buscan mejores condiciones de vida al cruzar la frontera para trabajar y contribuir al bien común”.

La carta del 7 de abril, dirigida al pueblo de México y de Estados Unidos y a los presidentes de ambos países, repitió el mensaje de los obispos estadounidenses de la frontera diciendo que la frontera entre los dos países “no es una zona de guerra”, sino una zona “llamada a ser ejemplo de vinculación y corresponsabilidad”.

“El único futuro posible para nuestra región es el futuro edificado con puentes de confianza y desarrollo compartido, no con muros de indignidad y de violencia”, decía la declaración firmada por los obispos de 16 diócesis del norte de México y por los seis miembros del consejo presidencial de la conferencia.

La declaración de los obispos mexicanos, “Por la dignidad de los migrantes”, vino después del anuncio de Trump el 4 de abril del despliegue de soldados hacia la frontera para frustrar la entrada de migrantes no autorizados.

“El día antes de la declaración de los obispos mexicanos ocho obispos católicos de cuatro estados fronterizos de Estados Unidos emitieron un comunicado juntos expresando su preocupación por la colocación de soldados en la frontera.

“Esta no es una zona de guerra, sino que está compuesta por muchas comunidades pacíficas que cumplen con la ley y también son generosas en su respuesta al sufrimiento humano”, dijeron los obispos.

El comunicado de los obispos dice que el gobierno mexicano por “no haber creado las oportunidades suficientes de desarrollo para nuestro pueblo pobre y marginado”, aunque la migración mexicana ha disminuido durante la última década. Pero su declaración también defendió el país contra los comentarios peyorativos por parte de Trump.

“Las carencias que tenemos los mexicanos no pueden ser justificación para promover el antagonismo entre pueblos que están llamados a ser amigos y hermanos”, dijeron los obispos. “No es conforme a la dignidad humana ... edificar barreras que nos dividan o implementar acciones que nos violenten”.

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“Esta no es una zona de guerra, sino que está compuesta por muchas comunidades pacíficas que cumplen con la ley y también son generosas en su respuesta al sufrimiento humano”, dijeron los obispos. El comunicado de los obispos dice que ellos reconocen el derecho de las naciones de controlar y asegurar sus fronteras y a respetar el imperio de la ley, pero también señaló que las leyes estadounidenses actuales le permiten a los que llegan a este país huyendo de la persecución el “debidamente procesados”.

Buscar refugio contra la persecución y la violencia en busca de una vida pacífica “no es un delito”, dijeron los obispos.

ESPAÑOL
Victoria—Holy Family Festival May 6, at the Community Center. BBQ brisket dinner will be served beginning at 10:30 a.m. Dine-in or take-out is available at $10 adults/$6 children. Live auction begins at 1:00 p.m. There will be games, silent auction, and country store.

Victoria—Bishop David Fellhauer Invitational Golf Tournament, May 11. For more information contact the Office of Youth and Young Adult Ministry at (361) 573-0828.

Victoria—Emmaus Center Roast and Toast, May 12. For more information call (361) 212-0830.

Beasley—Wenceslaus Bazaar will be serving BBQ beef, chicken, and sausage dinner plates at $10 p/p, on May 20. Dine-in or plates to go available 10:30 a.m.-1:00 p.m. A live auction at 12:00 p.m. There will be games, music by Czech Mates (12:00-4:00 p.m.), and entertainment for everyone.

Hallettsville—Sacred Heart Parish Picnic, May 27 at the KC Hall. For more information, see ad on pg. 7.

Shiner—Sts. Cyril and Methodius Picnic, May 27 at the KC Hall. For more information, see ad on pg. 5.

East Bernard—Annual Czech Kolache Klobase Festival June 9, from 10:30 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. at Riverside Hall sponsored by KJT Society No. 40. Admission is $8 p/p and children 12 and under free. Entertainment indoors and under pavilion with water fan cooled comfort. Sausage/bbq chicken plate lunches available for purchase beginning 11:00 a.m. Hamburgers and sausage sandwiches available in the afternoon. For more information, go to www.kkfest.com or call (979) 335-9707.

Bay City—Our Lady of Guadalupe BBQ and live auction, June 10, at the parish gym. A beef brisket dinner served from 11:00 a.m.-1:30 p.m. at $10 p/p. Dine-in, carry out, or drive-thru available. Auction begins at 11:30 a.m.

Port Lavaca—Catholic Daughters Court #2267 of Our Lady of the Gulf Annual Games Party on June 10. From 1:00-5:00 p.m. at St. Jude’s Hall. For more information and/or table reservations, please call Margaret (361) 552-3233; Doris (361) 987-2387, or Georgia (361) 552-6844.

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

Schulenburg—St. Rose of Lima Annual Parish Picnic June 10, at the KC Hall. A fried-chicken and sausage dinner will be served starting at 11:00 a.m. Games, music and more throughout the day.

Ammansville—St. John the Baptist (FM 1383) Fathers Day Picnic June 17. A fried-chicken and sausage dinner served. Entertainment throughout the day.

Plum—Sts. Peter and Paul Plum Feast, June 24, serving sausage and fried-chicken from 11:00 a.m.-1:30 p.m., auction at 1:30 p.m., music during the day by Ken Brothers. There will be a free dance from 6:00-9:30 p.m. with music by Johnnie Holub Polka Band.

St. Mary of Lourdes holds Healing Mass and Prayer the 1st Saturday of each month at 10:00 a.m. at 501 W. Lavaca St., Father Paul Panakal. For more information, call (361) 237-3634.

Sts. Cyril and Methodius Picnic, May 27 at the Sacred Heart Parish Hall. For more information, see ad on pg. 7.

Sacred Heart Parish Picnic, May 27 at the KC Hall. For more information, see ad on pg. 7.

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. Appointments may be made by calling (361) 212-0830. See ad on pg. 8.

Engaged Encounter—2018 Dates: 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 or visit www.victoriadiocese.org.

Gabriel Project—Helps women experiencing a crisis pregnancy- an alternative to abortion. Victoria: Meets 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 barbaramccain85@yahoo.com; Meyersville: Sts. Peter and Paul, meets the 3rd Tuesday of each month at 6:00 p.m. (during the school year) at 11220 FM 237 (77974), the coordinators for De Witt Chapter are Wayne and Margie Smith (361) 564-3742; Lavaca County: Meets 6:00 p.m. (during the school year), contact Julie Kubena Lavaca County Coordinator at (361) 798-3579 for dates and location. See ad on pg. 13.

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. Adults who have experienced the death of a loved one, may attend (after three months have passed). Please call Sharon at (361) 578-7572 before attending.

i.d.9:16 Ministry—For adults in their 20s-30s, single or married. 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. Childcare 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. For more information contact Jennifer Ruiz at jenniferschoey.ruiz@yahoo.com.

Natural Family Planning—NFP is the only church-approved form of family planning. For the CREIGHTON MODEL Fertility Care System (CrMS) featuring NaPro TECHNOLOGY™ contact Susanne Koch in Wharton at (505) 710-0903 or susannekoch61@gmail.com.

Raphael’s Refuge—RR’s mission is to build and maintain a memorial in honor of babies, born and unborn. It is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization located in Flatonia. Peer counseling and spiritual direction are available for those suffering a loss of a baby due to miscarriage, stillbirth, infant death, or abortion. For more information, contact Midge Elam at (361) 865-3021, (361) 258-1514, or visit www.raphaelrefuge.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 jbjovj@sbcglobal.net or (361) 580-2770; call (800) 470-2200; or visit www.helpourmarriage.org or www.retrouvaille.org. See ad on pg. 13.

Amor Meus

Contact: Sr. Emilie Eilers at (361) 575-7111
e-mail: amormeus@yahoo.com
website: www.amormeuspiritualitycenter.org
IWBS Convent • 1101 NE Water St. • Victoria
On-going opportunities: Guidance and discussion on one’s spiritual journey are available with experienced spiritual directors. Call for appointment.
the students. She shared, “I am currently teaching the intermediate class La Bamba from the Region of Veracruz. In this dance, a male and female dancer tie a bow with feet movements. The bow is referred to as “the love knot”. When they got it for the first time, they were so excited and wanted to do it again and again.” Diane recalled the many lessons she has learned from being a part of the OLS Ballet Folklórico since she was young. She has learned to find balance and structure in her life amidst busy schedules; she has grown in her faith and has learned leadership skills. Ultimately, it has given her clarity with her decision to pursue a degree in elementary education. She shared, “I am most happy when I am teaching the kids. I want to be in the classroom, where I can inspire children to be their best.”

Co-instructors are Angela Martinez, and Ernest Adame. Angela, danced with the OLS Ballet from 2nd to 12th grades. She now works at the Diocese of Victoria as a receptionist, and re-joined the OLS Ballet two years ago. She always wanted her children to be a part of the Ballet Folklórico, where they could experience the love of “the dance” that she learned as a child. She shared, “I want them to really know our Mexican heritage. I am so happy to be dancing again and so proud to be sharing the experience with my 11 year-old son, Ale.”

The OLS Ballet Folklórico practices on Tuesdays from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. and Thursdays from 6 to 8 p.m. Adults practice on Sundays from 3 to 5 p.m. When they are competing, the entire group practices more than four days a week.

Some of the students also participate in workshops through the Asociación Nacional de Grupos Folklóricos (ANGF). When they attend the workshops, maestros and maestras teach in Spanish. Beatriz noticed, “A lot of them (the dance students) can’t speak Spanish, but they have learned to respond to the music even though they may not know the translation of the music.” Once the students learn the dance choreography, the group faces a different challenge — getting the young children to participate, as they are afraid to be in front of an audience. Janie shared, “The stage itself is intimidating. Once they get past their fear, they develop a wonderful self esteem and a great sense of self confidence and pride in themselves and their culture.”

The Ballet Folklórico welcomes new dancers. Registration is in July and practice will begin in August. Their first performance is usually in November. Diane extends a welcome to anyone who would like to join the OLS Ballet. She shared, “It doesn’t matter how old you are; take a chance and try dancing; you could fall in love with it!”

The Award-Winning Our Lady of Sorrows Ballet Folklórico Group of Victoria

Terms Commonly Used in Folkloric Dance

- **Zapateado** (sah-pay-tay-ah-doh) refers to a combination of swift dance steps. Each of the 31 Mexican states has its zapateados. For example, in Jalisco, the zapateado is danced to a three-beat rhythm.
- **Picoteado** (pee-co-tay-ah-doh) is an alternating foot movement in which the dancer’s toe, then heel, touch the floor.
- **Maestro/a** (ma-e-stro) is the dance teacher.
- **Faldeo** (fahl-day-o) refers to a movement of the skirt which the female dancer creates with her hand/hands.
- **Lazado** (lah-sah-do) refers to a circular inward motion of the leg.
- **Remate** (ray-mah-tay) is a sequence of steps that punctuates a phrasing of steps. The remate is characterized by a stomping-like quality.