Every August, 175 young Catholics 18-28 years old leave behind their jobs, school, family, and friends to devote nine months to serving with the National Evangelization Teams (NET). Divided into 16 teams, they travel across the U.S. for nine months to share the gospel with young people around the country, through retreats, parish, and school ministry. This August, a young woman from the Diocese of Victoria will leave for Minnesota, for a three-week training, with one suitcase and one backpack to serve on NET.

Monica Brown, a recent graduate from St. Joseph High School, in Victoria, Texas felt the nudge throughout her high school years to apply to NET. She describes herself as a cradle Catholic. Monica, like a lot of kids her age, struggled with her faith since she was about 14 years old. Having attended Catholic school from pre-k to 12th grade, church was just a part of her life. She shared, “We go to church every Sunday and we go to church on every holy day of obligation. I have been raised in a household full of love and rooted in God’s teachings. However, for a majority of my life I have always felt as if I was just going through the motions. I would get incredibly frustrated

See YLT Staffer, pg. 20
Dear Brothers and Sisters,

A few years ago some friends and I traveled to the Rocky Mountains for vacation. I grew up along the Texas Gulf Coast, in an area where “The Heights” is about 50 feet above sea level! One of the memories that remain with me to this day from hiking in the Rocky Mountains is the sight of many small flowers. Not just in the middle of green fields of grass, but even in a very challenging environment little flowers would be visible. I remember seeing little flowers that would bloom in the cracks of the rocks thousands of feet above sea level. The beautiful colors of these little flowers – purple, yellow and other bright colors – still sit in my mind and spirit.

One thought that amazes me is the plan of God in designing this beautiful creation. Even that tiny little flower in the heights of the Rockies is lovingly, purposefully planned by the Creator of all. Is it designed to give joy to us who view it, or to be a part of the natural eco-system of Rocky Mountain National Park, or for some other, greater purpose? Only God ultimately knows the answer, and God has given us the capacity to appreciate the beauty and speculate about the greater purpose and plan.

Another thought that comes to mind is the strength and power of these little flowers. They remind me of the deeper resiliency of the human spirit. Earlier this year I was speaking with a woman who was working with a Native American group. She mentioned that they were concerned about the protection of their land and as she spoke I felt overwhelmed by the challenges facing the people. I mentioned something about the struggling of the people, and she replied to me that what she noticed was strength and resiliency. She saw the power and beauty of the human person. What a great lesson in an ordinary conversation – the human spirit is strong and resilient and beautiful especially in challenging environments.

A third thought from that experience is the value of vacation. Sometimes a human person needs to get out of the ordinary environment to be able to re-adjust the vision. Whether in the mountains or the beach, in the city or the country, a good vacation can be a healthy time to see things in a new light. My prayer for you is that there may be some time in the summer to receive some rest or renewal of spirit for you and your family.

I know from my experience of the time I’ve spent with you that the people of the Diocese of Victoria, see the beauty and resiliency of the human spirit every day. May the friendships you form and the service you give help you to sharpen the vision and to see the little flowers every day. May God bless you and your families throughout this season; let’s keep each other in prayer.

+Brendan

I remember seeing little flowers that would bloom in the cracks of the rocks thousands of feet above sea level. The beautiful colors of these little flowers – purple, yellow and other bright colors – still sit in my mind and spirit.

Otro pensamiento de esa experiencia es el valor de las vacaciones. A veces, una persona humana necesita salir del entorno ordinario para poder reajustar la visión. Ya sea en la montaña o en la playa, en la ciudad o en el campo, unas buenas vacaciones pueden ser un momento saludable para ver las cosas bajo una nueva perspectiva. Mi oración por ti es que pueda haber algún tiempo en el verano para recibir un descanso o renovación de espíritu para ti y tu familia.

Sé por mi experiencia del tiempo que pasé con ustedes que la gente de la Diócesis de Victoria ven la belleza y la capacidad de recuperación del espíritu humano todos los días. Que las amistades que formen y el servicio que brinden les ayuden a mejorar la visión y ver las pequeñas flores todos los días. Que Dios los bendiga a ustedes y a sus familias durante esta temporada; nos mantengamos unos a otros en oración,

+Brendan
**Bishop Cahill’s Schedule**

**July**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Noon Mass for Missionary Catechists</td>
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<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>IWBS Jubilee Celebrations, Incarnate Word Convent</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>4:00 p.m. Mass honoring Missionary Catechists at Our Lady of Lourdes, Victoria</td>
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<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>IWBS Jubilee Celebrations, Incarnate Word Convent</td>
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<tr>
<td>8-12</td>
<td>Vacation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>2:00 p.m. 100th Anniversary Mass for Catholic Daughters Court St. Ann, The Cathedral of Our Lady of Victory, Victoria</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16</td>
<td>6:30 a.m. Relevant Radio Morning Air Show</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>23</td>
<td>6:30 p.m. Kickoff Jamboree Celebration in the Moulton community, Zion Lutheran Church, Moulton</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25</td>
<td>6:30 p.m. Knights of St. Gregory Charity Banquet, Victoria Country Club</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>27</td>
<td>Mass for the Carmelites, Meyersville</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>28</td>
<td>10:00 a.m. Confirmation Sts. Peter and Paul, Meyersville</td>
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**August**

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>1:30 p.m. Pension Board Meeting, Chancery</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>6:00 p.m. Mass and Serran dinner for seminarians, The Cathedral of Our Lady of Victory, Victoria</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2-3</td>
<td>Nazareth Fishing Tournament, Port O’Connor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>150th Anniversary Mass for the parish of St. Joseph, Yoakum</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3-9</td>
<td>Trip to Colombia to visit Bishop José Libardo Garcés Monsalve of Malaga - Soata</td>
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</tbody>
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**BLESSING OF THE FLEET**—Bishop Cahill and Father Dominic Nguyen, pastor of St. Anthony, in Palacios blessed the boats for the Blessing of the Fleet.

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**FOUR YEARS AS BISHOP**—On June 29, 2015 Daniel Cardinal DiNardo ordained Bishop Brendan Cahill as the third bishop of The Diocese of Victoria. Bishop David Fellhauer and Archbishop Fiorenza were co-consecrators at the ordination, which took place at the Cathedral of Our Lady of Victory, in Victoria.

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

- Rev. Gabriel Maison 07/01/1978 St. Joseph Church, Moulton
- Rev. Charles E. Otsiwh 07/07/1985 Holy Cross Church, East Bernard
- Rev. Peter Ydboah-Amanfo 07/10/1983 Nativity of the BVM Church, Nada
- Rev. Dominic Amtwi-Boasiako 07/11/1981 Queen of Peace Church, Sweet Home
- Rev. Gabriel Bentil 07/14/1984 Holy Family Church, Victoria
- Rev. Gabriel J. Mensah 07/15/1990 St. Peter Church, Blessing
- Rev. Samuel Appiasi 07/17/1983 St. Patrick’s Church, Bloomington
- Rev. Clement Quainoo 07/17/1982 St. Andrew Church, Hillje
- Rev. Felix Twumasi 07/17/2004 St. Rose of Lima Church, Schenclenburg
- Rev. Augustine Nsiah Asante 07/18/1998 St. Anthony Church, Columbus
- Rev. Charles Owusu Dwomoh 07/19/1986 St. John the Baptist Church, Hungerford
- Rev. Albert Yankey 07/20/1980 Our Lady of Lourdes Church, Victoria
- Rev. Johnson Owusu-Boateng 07/27/1985 St. John Bosco Church, Vanderbilt

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

- Rev. Alfred Hoenig, OSB 07/12/1994

Jesus said to her, “I am the resurrection and the life; whoever believes in me, even if he dies, will live, and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?” (John 11:25-26)
Catholic Schools
Welcome New Leaders

Three Catholic Schools in the diocese were in search of principal or president candidates for the 2019-2020 school year. The Office of Catholic Schools and the Diocese of Victoria welcome the following who have been selected to serve as principal or president of their new school.

John Gilley, IV, new President of St. Joseph Catholic High School, Victoria

Angela Kupcho, new Principal of Holy Cross Catholic School, Bay City

Justin Matias, new Principal of Our Lady of Victory Catholic School, Victoria

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 >.

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

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 >.

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Pray for Vocations

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Listen to Bishop Cahill Monthly on Radio Show

Once a month Bishop Brendan Cahill joins radio show host John Harper and co-host Glen Lewerenz on the Morning Air Show, on Relevant Radio. Bishop Cahill’s next time on-air will be July 16, at 6:30 a.m. Be sure to listen in or catch the recorded podcast later in the day.

Seeking Incoming College Freshman to A&M and Blinn College

Howdy! Will you or someone you know be a freshman at Texas A&M University or Blinn College this fall? If so, St. Mary’s Catholic Center invites you to attend our Connect Retreat! Connect is a retreat held just for incoming freshmen before school starts in August. It is a great way to meet other Catholic freshmen and to learn about growing in your faith while in college. For more information and to register, please visit www.stmarysconnect.com. Gig’em and God Bless!
STATE WINNERS—On April 27, at Texas Christian University in Ft. Worth, approximately 2,500 students from across Texas participated in the Private Schools Interscholastic Academic (PSIA) State Meet. State qualifiers placed first or second in one or more contests at the PSIA District Meet held at 22 area tournaments across Texas. St. Rose of Lima School in Schulenburg was represented by 7 contestants. At the state level, they had two winners (l-r) Madison K.- 5th in Calculator Applications 6-8 and Mackenzie K.- 4th in Calculator Applications 6-8.

ST. ROSE STUDENTS PLACE IN TRICOUNTY CONTEST—The Navidad Valley Cattlewomen recently held a Father’s Day essay contest, in which 6th graders from Fayette, Lavaca, and Colorado counties could enter. St. Rose of Lima Catholic School, Schulenburg, won first and second place. Earning first place was Madison K. and second place was Avery H.. Their essays highlighted what their fathers mean to them and celebrated them as their role models. Pictured above (l-r) are Madison and her father David, Avery with her father Chad, Lila Garlin of Navidad Valley Cattlewomen and Wendy Becka, teacher.

OLV STUDENTS MEDAL AT PSIA STATE COMPETITION—Our Lady of Victory Catholic School recently competed at the 2019 Private Schools Interscholastic Academic (PSIA) State Meet held at Texas Christian University. State Medal winners were (l-r): 1st grader Bodie M.-1st place Storytelling; 8th grader Hailey U.-3rd place Ready Writing; 8th grader Benji C.-1st place Listening, 3rd place Dictionary Skills, 3rd place T-Shirt Design, 5th place Maps, Graphs & Charts, and 6th place On-Site Drawing; 7th grader Emmett L.-1st place Science and 10th place Number Sense; and, 4th grader Oliver J.-4th place Prose. Earning Honorable Mentions, not pictured, were: 4th grader Mandeep J.-7th place Music Memory, 4th grader Trisha P.-10th place Number Sense and 5th grader Luke S.-7th place Vocabulary.

Catholic School Seminar ~ August 9

Featuring
Jonathan Doyle
Australia Native, Author, Speaker, Educator

Each year, as the new school year begins, Superintendent Dr. John Quary and the Office of Catholic Schools organize a workshop for the teachers of the Diocese of Victoria. This year, Jonathan Doyle a native of Australia will be the speaker for the 2019-2020 Catholic School Seminar. The seminar will be held at the Cathedral Center, in Victoria.

Jonathan Doyle is an author, speaker, educator and founder of the Going Deeper program which is now used in over 400 Catholic schools around the world. Over the last decade he has spoken around the world to over 300,000 people on topics related to leadership, education and peak-performance.

Going Deeper is a weekly online staff formation program in Catholic identity and Catholic teaching on education. It inspires, educates and challenges every Catholic teacher to deepen in their personal faith and knowledge of Catholic teaching so they can fulfill their noble vocation within the great mission of Catholic education.

He has a deep passion for affirming, inspiring and encouraging Catholic educators to realize the nobility and importance of the vocation at an important moment in world history. He has also worked closely with senior executives and elite sporting teams.

Doyle holds a Master’s Degree in Leadership & Management in Education and is currently completing further postgraduate work at the Pontifical Institute for Studies in Marriage and the Family. He is a husband and father to three young children.

To listen to Jonathan Doyle’s podcasts visit https://jonathandoyle.co/podcasts/.

Presidio LaBahia
“Wayback Wednesdays”

The history of Presidio La Bahia is brought to life every Wednesday in July from 9:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.

Visit with living historians as they bring the past to life and explore little known stories from the Presidio’s early days. Learn about the daily life of a presidial trooper stationed on the frontier of Spanish Texas. Explore the stone walls and battlements of the old presidio and when you’re done there, duck inside for a look at our museum and the wonderful collection of artifacts from the 1700 and 1800s. It’s fun for the whole family so come on out and spend the day at Texas’s only fully restored Spanish Presidio!

Admission is $5 for adults, $4.50 for seniors, $2 for children 6-11, and under 6 are free. For more information, call (361) 645-3752.

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Let Freedom Ring

From the sounds and sights about us, we are reminded of who we are, as we celebrate a nation founded on the God-given principle of freedom and on the sweat and blood of those who struggled to achieve and maintain the blessings that we enjoy today.

Now the freedom that we experience today was not easily won. Many of the signers of the Declaration of Independence were God-fearing men who suffered dearly in their quest to attain freedom for all of us. Sometimes you may want to read the biographies of these men and discover how much they sacrificed for the fulfillment of their dream. Most of them lost loved ones, properties, and personal benefits as a consequence of their struggles in the birthing of our nation.

Then, throughout its history, its principles of freedom and the dignity of each of its citizens has been threatened. However, among its citizens there have always been those who were willing to step up and meet and overcome the challenges that had arisen. One of these events was during the War of 1812 with England when our country’s independence was threatened. Our national anthem “O say can you see” was penned after this historic incident. If you have access to a computer, you may want to watch a version of this event- https://www.youtube.com/embed/YaxGNOEZ4L4.

Who are all these valiant citizens that have made The United States of America the great nation that we enjoy today and a beacon of hope to peoples all over the globe? Why, they are our ancestors!

Just think of our immigrant ancestors who had been victims of various types of oppression or of starvation in their native lands and were lured to our country by dreams of religious and political freedom and the opportunity for better lives for their children. Filled with faith and trust in God, they left loved ones and the life that they knew and ventured forth to an unknown future. Fortunately they were allowed to enter and rebuild their lives, overcoming challenges of adapting to radically new ways of living, languages, cultures, and very lean economic means. They were and are the ones who have made and continue to make our nation what it is.

So together, let us continue to make the United States of America a nation under God with liberty and justice for all. While it has its short-comings, may it continue to be a beacon of hope to people throughout the world. Let us show gratitude to all those who continue to preserve our legacy through prayer, military service, volunteerism, generosity, civic activity, and wise use of the ballot box. Let freedom continue to ring!
We offer to you, Loving God, the gifts and needs of youth. Bless them with your guiding grace as they face the challenges and opportunities in their lives. Touch their hearts with the gentleness of your love, that they may know they are valued and valuable beings. Send your spirit of hope to their lives, that they may believe in themselves and know they are needed in this world. Grace them with the gift of joy that they may celebrate life through laughter and tears alike. Guide us, as we continue to grow in appreciation of the many gifts of young people, in the ministry opportunities we offer to them, in the journey of faith we walk with them, in our shared mission as a community called to discipleship in the world. We ask this in Jesus' name. Amen.
BISHOP CAHILL NAMED NEW PRESIDENT—Bishop Brendan Cahill became the President of Catholic Rural Life, headquartered in St. Paul, Minnesota, on June 5, 2019. The statue, in the picture, is St. Isidore, the patron saint of Catholic Rural Life and of farmers. Bishop Cahill is succeeding Most Rev. Edward Weisenburger, bishop of Tucson (pictured left). James Ennis, the Executive Director of Catholic Rural Life is pictured on the right of Bishop Cahill. The Diocese of Victoria (DOV) has a local chapter of Catholic Rural Life called, Catholic Rural Life (CRL)-Victoria. Prayers and blessings for farmers can be found on the DOV website at: www.victoriadiocese.org/catholic-rural-life-victoria.

A VISIT FROM GHANA—Bishop Matthew Kwasi Gyampfi, from the Catholic Diocese of Sunyani, located in the city of Sunyani, in the Ecclesiastical Province of Kumasi in Ghana was at the chancery in May to visit Bishop Brendan Cahill. Father Gabriel Odoro Tawiah, Pastor of St. John Nepomucene, in New Taïton, who is also from Ghana was also present for the visit.

VISITING PRIEST—A warm Texas welcome to Father Christopher J. Kwame who is visiting from Ghana. He will be helping out at Sacred Heart, in Flatonia.

CELEBRATING FIVE YEARS AS A PRIEST—St. Robert Bellarmine parishioners honored their pastor, Father Philip Brune, on his fifth anniversary of ordination to the priesthood. Father Philip’s journey began at Sts. Peter and Paul, in Frelsburg. He knew in his heart he was called to serve God by the time he was eight. He was ordained a deacon on May 11, 2013, and served under the leadership of Msgr. Lawrence Matula, pastor, at St. Robert Bellarmine. One year later he was ordained to the priesthood, by Bishop David Fellhauer, at The Cathedral of Our Lady of Victory, in Victoria, on May 24, 2014. After ordination, he was assigned to Our Lady of Sorrows, in Victoria then two and a half years later was reassigned to St. Robert Bellarmine with Msgr. Lawrence Matula. When Msgr. Matula passed away he became the pastor of St. Robert Parish. Special guests attending were his parents Elbert and Joan Brune (pictured above with Father Philip); his uncle and aunt Lambert and Carol Brune, Leigh Ann Brune, Rachel Klingenberg and Barbara Meyer all from Frelsburg, and Deacon Mike and Bonnie Viera from Palacios. Father Philip expressed his profound gratitude to all who made the celebration possible.

PILGRIMAGE TO THE HOLY LAND—Reverend Charles E. Otsiwah, pastor of Holy Cross, in East Bernard, led a pilgrimage to the Holy Land from April 29 – May 8, 2019. The group is shown here at the Jordan River where they renewed their baptismal promises.
July ~ The Blessing of Silence and Rest

Summer is a time of vacations and visitors, when people travel to see relatives and friends. Hospitality is a cornerstone of rural life, a trademark of these summer days. This hospitality can become a cornerstone of rural spiritualty as well.

This blessing prompts us to greet God in the people who come to see us, to proclaim their visits a blessing to us, and to recognize that our homes and farms are indeed holy places where God can be encountered.

This blessing works well when visitors are preparing to depart. Everyone gathers in the yard or a large room. The visitors are asked to stand together, and the family host encircles them for the blessing rite.

O God, you have made us your guests in this world, the earth you created for all. We remember how you sent your angels to Abraham and Sarah to be received as guests. By their hospitality, Abraham and Sarah received a message of hope and life.

Bless us and our hospitality. May our guests be a blessing to us and reveal your presence to us. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Emmaus Counselor Earns Play Therapy Credential

CLOVIS, CA—Ashley Silvas, MEd, LPC, of Port Lavaca, Texas, earned the prestigious Registered Play Therapist (RPT) credential conferred by the Association for Play Therapy (APT), according to its CEO Kathryn Lebby. Ashley is a Licensed Professional Counselor.

To become a Registered Play Therapist, applicants must have earned a traditional master’s or higher mental health degree from an institution of higher education, 150 clock hours of play therapy training, two years and 2,000 hours of clinical experience, 500 hours of supervised play therapy experience, and be licensed or certified by their state boards of practice.

Play therapy continues to gain popularity as an effective modality by which licensed mental health professionals, school counselors, and school psychologists use play therapy theories and techniques in developmentally appropriate ways to better communicate with and help clients, especially children.

APT is a national professional society formed in 1982 to advance the field of play therapy. It sponsors research, training, and credentialing programs to assist the professional development of its nearly 6,000 member psychologists, social workers, counselors, and marriage and family therapists in more than 25 nations. Additional information is available at www.a4pt.org.

- Play Therapy is a mental health modality used by licensed mental health professionals, when developmentally appropriate, to better communicate with and help clients achieve optimal mental health. It is particularly effective with children because, just as adults use words to communicate ideas and feelings, children use play. Visit the Why Play Therapy section of the APT website.
- The Association for Play Therapy (APT) is a national professional society formed in 1982 to advance the play therapy modality and serve the research, training, and credentialing needs of its members. Visit the APT website.

- Difficulty setting boundaries and saying "no". Lack of self-care.
- Marital problems / problems with children... and more.
- How much does a session cost? The Emmaus Center does not accept third-party insurance. Each session costs $35.00; a price substantially lower than other counseling centers or individual therapists.
- How do I contact you? For information and appointments call (361) 212-0830 or emmausreceptionist@victoriadiocese.org.

At the Emmaus Center, our Catholic professionals invite God to be part of the healing process by praying for their client’s well-being all the time. It is our desire to listen attentively to your story, to understand your concerns, your sadness, your fears, and above all for you to know that you are not alone.

The Emmaus Center - 1508 E. Airline Rd. Victoria, Texas 77901 - Phone: (361) 212-0830

Sts. Peter & Paul Catholic Church
FRELSPURG, TEXAS
COUNTRY FESTIVAL

Sunday August 4, 2019
Holy Mass 8:45AM
Traditional Latin Mass 12:30 PM
* Silent Auction * Raffle
* Country Store * Ice Cream
* Religious Articles * Ring Toss
* Gift Card Walk * Bake Sale
* Kid’s Games

FRELSPURG'S DELICIOUS FRIED FISH
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The Catholic Lighthouse
Queen of Peace, Sweet Home Celebrates 100 Years

Queen of Peace Catholic Church in Sweet Home celebrated 100 years on June 2, 2019. Bishop Brendan Cahill celebrated Mass. Concelebrants were Father Dominic, pastor of Sweet Home and Monsignor John Peters, pastor of Hallettsville.

Also on the day of the special centennial celebration, six young adults from Koerth and Sweet Home were confirmed. After Mass Father Dominic led the singing of the song A já sám, in Czech, which means, I by myself.

History

The very first church in Sweet Home was a wooden church built from an old dance hall. The first pastor was Rev. Methodius Vaculik (1895-1900), who came from Yoakum once or twice a month to celebrate Mass. In March of 1918 work began on a new larger brick church next to the old church. On June 3, 1919, Bishop Arthur J. Drossaerts blessed the church under the name of Blessed Virgin Mary, Queen of Peace. The stained glass window above and behind the main altar reads in Czech “Kralovno, Miru-Oroduj za nás! ----“Queen of Peace intercede for us”. It was donated by Rev. G. Kuratko, pastor of the church in 1919. Rev. Kuratko served in Sweet Home until he retired in 1966. The current pastor is Rev. Dominic Antwi-Boasiako.

Centennial chairperson, Lynnette Havel and direct descendant of original parishioners shows her homemade kolaches.

Elaine Berkovsky welcomes guests from Sweet Home and surrounding areas.

Bishop Brendan Cahill is pictured with Msgr. John Peters and Rev. Dominic Antwi-Boasiako at the Queen of Peace parish centennial celebration.

Queen of Peace Church in 1919 as construction was completed. (inset) The same church 100 years later.

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Shiner
Patrick Klozik, FIC (361) 594-8160

Schuleburg
Royce Shimek, FIC (979) 743-4313

El Campo/Nada
Dianne Shimek Cerny (979) 541-6346

East Bernard
Albert Smaistrla, FIC (979) 335-4473

Hallettesville
Charles Leopold, FIC (361) 798-4311

Weimar
Karen Kutac, FIC (979) 725-8919

Weimar
Case Hollub (979) 725-1111

Hallettesville
Jennifer Kraatz (361) 798-9181

Nada/Garwood
Chris Merta, FIC (979) 543-1059

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Faith in God Gives us a Direction in Life

The following sermon was written by Father Kram from the Nineteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time, Cycle C.

In eastern countries many people believe that the stars govern their lives and that the position of the planets decides their future and that there is nothing they can do about it. In western countries like ours some people also live by horoscopes but we westerners are not so fatalistic. In this part of the world we work around fate. We simply do not go on a trip or make a business deal or get married when the signs are against us.

One day a man stepped up to the ticket counter at an airport and told the girl that he wanted a round trip ticket. When she asked him, “To where?”, he said, “Back here, of course”-no destination. It is true that sometimes life feels like a merry-go-round. We seem to be going in circles that simply keep bringing us back to the starting point.

Of course, no one knows, except in general, what the future holds, but if God is all knowing and all wise, and if he loves us, and if his Providence governs all things, then there is a purpose for everything, and we can say with certainty that for each of us life is always headed in a definite direction.

An outlook like that requires faith. It does not answer all our questions but it does give us enough answers to keep us going and to reassure us that someone who loves us is taking care of us. We are children who feel safe with our Father even though we do not know just where he is leading us.

Jesus told his disciples, “Do not live in fear, little flock. It has pleased your Father to give you the Kingdom.” Another thing that Jesus said was, “That servant is fortunate whom his master finds busy when he returns.” We owe it to God, not to be afraid, not to doubt and never to give up.

What then, in view of what Jesus has taught, are we Christians to do when faced with fear and uncertainty and the temptation to quit.

First, we must reaffirm our faith in our Father’s loving plan for us. Say it in your own words, “Father, I know you care; I love you; I give myself into your hands; do with me what you will.” We forsake our fear, we stop worrying about tomorrow, we let God have his way. Abandoning ourselves to God’s Providence, in one way leaves us wide open to anything, but at the same time brings us into the security of our Father’s arms. Nothing could be more secure than that.

Secondly, we must resolve never to waste time in self pity, complaining about how many pills we take and how frail we are and how we can be of no help because we are under a doctor’s care. When others ask, “How are you?”, and we say, “My leg hurts and I am so weak and I can’t sleep,” they are likely to say, “Fine, I hope you keep doing well.” The question “How are you?” is so routine that no one listens to the answer. So we try to keep BUSY; we make the most of what we have, and we depend on others only for the things we cannot do for ourselves.

Thirdly, we must strive to be outgoing, looking for opportunities to help others find meaning in their lives. But we must be wise in this. Many a good-hearted person has been victimized by the schemes of those who wish to take advantage. Following the strategy of Alanon, the support group for families of alcoholics, we should avoid giving the kind of help that only enables the recipient to stay in his rut. Just as God helps those who help themselves, we should be eager to give a hand UP rather than a handout. To keep paying bills or making excuses for those who could do for themselves, is not a work of love at all.

So, we do not live by the stars or by a merry-go-round of aimless chance, but by faith in the Providence of God, who gives us all a variety of ways to be part of his loving plan for the good of the whole world.

Lord Jesus, thank you for teaching us about the Father and his loving care for us. Help us not to live in fear and worry, but in ever growing trust in his Providence. Grant that with his help we may find our way safely through the uncertainty and confusion of live, to the peace and security of our heavenly home.

Amen.
Faith

Diocese to Host Rosary Congress

Bishop Brendan Cahill has announced a Diocesan Rosary Congress throughout the Diocese of Victoria, October 6-13, 2019. The theme of the Diocesan Rosary Congress is To Contemplate the Face of Christ with Mary (Pope St. John Paul II).

The Diocesan Rosary Congress will begin with an opening Mass celebrated by Bishop Cahill, at the Cathedral Our Lady of Victory, in Victoria, at 6:00 p.m., on Sunday, October 6, 2019. The Liturgy of the Vigil of the Solemnity of Our Lady of the Most Holy Rosary will also be celebrated. For more information about the Diocesan Rosary Congress visit https://www.victoriadiocese.org/roary-congress.

Sunday Readings from July 14 - August 4

July 14 ~ Fifteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time
Deuteronomy 30:10-14
Psalms 69:14, 17, 30-31, 33-34, 36, 37
Colossians 1:15-20
Luke 10:25-37

July 21 ~ Sixteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time
Genesis 18:1-10A
Psalms 15:2-3, 3-4, 5
Colossians 1:24-28
Luke 10:38-42

July 28 ~ Seventeenth Sunday in Ordinary Time
Genesis 18:20-32
Psalms 138:1-2, 2-3, 6-7, 7-8
Colossians 2:12-14

August 4 ~ Eighteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time
Ecclesiastes 1:2; 2:21-23
Psalms 90:3-4, 5-6, 12-13, 14, 17
Colossians 3:1-5, 9-11
Luke 12-13-21

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

Introduction to the New Testament and the Synoptic Gospels

September 3 - October 8, 2019
(Tuesdays: 9:15 – 11:30 a.m.)
September 5 - October 10, 2019
(Thursdays: 7:00 – 9:15 p.m.)
Chancery, Victoria

Why are the Gospels different? Or, are they the same? What's the message in the Gospels? In this course, Sr. Digna Vela, IWBS, will offer a thorough explanation according to the Church’s teachings (using basic tools of interpretation) on the history, structure, and message of the Gospels according to Matthew, Mark, and Luke.

This course will be offered on Tuesday mornings and Thursday evenings at the Chancery in Victoria. Cost is $30 per person for the six-week course. Register online at www.victoriadiocese.org or by calling Christella Alvarez or Brunilda Ortiz at (361) 573-0828.

Offices of Catechetical Ministry

Pastoral Institute

Presentation of the New Testament and the Synoptic Gospels

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Office of Catechetical Ministry

Presentation/Travel Meeting - Sept. 26, 2019
Presentation/Travel Meeting - July 25, 2019

2020 Trips
Ireland - July 22 - August 1
LaBelle Seine River Cruise
Paris to Normandy
Starting at $3,099 including air
October 29 - November 6

Mount Rushmore/Yellowstone
September 4-12

LaBelle Seine River Cruise
Paris to Normandy
Starting at $3,099 including air
October 29 - November 6

Hudson River Fall Foliage Cruise
October 17 - 23

334 Jurek Road
Port Lavaca, TX 77979
(361) 552.2695 or (361) 920.3216
email: zmnt@tisd.net
www.pathwayswithpatti.com

For 27 years Sister Miriam Pérez, MCHS has served the people of the Diocese of Victoria. She will be leaving Victoria soon to care for her mother. She shared, “At this time, God calls me to serve in caring for my mother who is on hospice and lives in New Jersey.”

In 1992 her congregation, the Missionary Catechists of the Sacred Hearts of Jesus and Mary, established a Provincial House, in Victoria. They have served in the United States since 1943.

She has held various leadership positions in her congregation over the years including: council member, provincial secretary, provincial superior, provincial vicar and treasurer (some multiple times).

Sister Miriam worked at many different parishes throughout the diocese, from 1994-now. Some parishes include: Our Lady of Guadalupe Parish as DRE etc., Our Lady of Sorrows as CRE etc., Our Lady of Lourdes with the RCIA program etc., Our Lady of the Gulf as Spiritual Director of Acts Retreats in Spanish, and confirmation and adult retreats throughout the diocese.

She served one year in Prison Ministry, has offered numerous workshops in English and Spanish throughout the years. In 2015, she also agreed to facilitate Catolicismo, a 10-week Spanish course, from the Catholicism series by Rev. Robert E. Barron, at the Chancery. Sr. Miriam led numerous retreats for catechists and parish catechetical leaders, and was very helpful in translating letters, flyers, and articles into Spanish, when asked. Most importantly, many of us have learned a bit more what it means to be missionary disciples of Jesus, by the way Sr. Miriam has accepted, guided, and loved God’s people along the way. She will be missed but not forgotten.”

Words of Gratitude to Sister Miriam:
• Bishop Brendan Cahill, “Sister Miriam’s energy, enthusiasm, and faith have inspired me ever since I arrived in Victoria. She’s very close to all of us, but especially those who are suffering and feel abandoned. It always seems to me that she brings out the potential in each person she encounters. I pray for a blessed time with her mother. She must be a great woman to have produced such a daughter.”

• Christella Alvarez, as an active committee member of the Annual Catholic Conference. She was the Spanish keynote presenter and offered numerous workshop presentations in Spanish, when asked. Most importantly, many of us have learned a bit more what it means to be missionary disciples of Jesus, by the way Sr. Miriam has accepted, guided, and loved God’s people along the way. She will be missed but not forgotten.”

Community Bids Farewell to Sister Miriam Pérez, MCHS

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She served one year in Prison Ministry, has offered different workshops in English and in Spanish at the Annual Catholic Conference hosted by the Office of Catechetical Ministry, was a delegate then the Director of the V Encuentro, a delegate to the Liturgical Diocesan Committee and much more.

Sister Miriam has also assisted with many Spanish translations including the Disciples on a Journey for the diocese and the IWBS Sisters, the Annual Catholic Conference materials, and more. She will be missed by those who were privileged to work with her and has been a blessing to the people of the Diocese of Victoria.
KNIGHTS AWARD SCHOLARSHIPS — The Blessing Knights of Columbus (KC) Council #4307 presented their annual scholarships and Knights of Columbus bibles to three recipients for the academic year of 2018-2019. Pictured are the three seniors with their scholarship certificates and bibles along with council chaplain Rev. Gabriel J. Mensah and KC members. This year’s recipients were (l-r) Anisa C., Destiny M., and Desirae M.

CUERO STUDENT RECEIVES CDA SCHOLARSHIP — Isabelle N., a recent graduate of Cuero High School, has been awarded a $500 Memorial Scholarship from the Texas State Court of the Catholic Daughters of the Americas (CDA). She was sponsored by Court St. Michael #347. Presenting the certificate were Father Jasper Liggio, pastor of St. Michael Church, and Mary McCurdy, Education Chair of Court St. Michael #347.

STATE WINNERS — Catholic Daughters of the Americas (CDA) State Memorial Scholarship Fund winners for the CDA Court Holy Family #2665, Victoria were recognized at the court’s regular April Meeting. Pictured are Regent Rosalie Phillips, winners Joseph A., Kagan M., and Scholarship Chairperson, Debbie Michalski.

SCHOLARSHIPS PRESENTED BY HOLY FAMILY KNIGHTS — Knights of Columbus Council #9088, Holy Family, Victoria, presented four $1,000 scholarships to graduating students on May 18, after Mass. Pictured (l-r) Wayne LaCroix, Scholarship Chair; receiving scholarships Kendall K. and Bailey R.; and Manuel Gonzales, Grand Knight. Also receiving scholarships but not pictured were Monica B. and Vivianne N.
THE CATHOLIC LIGHTHOUSE
Page 14 — July 2019

DIOCESE

Gabriel Project Begins New Journey

The Gabriel Project of the Crossroads has been Offering Hope, Help & Healing for 17 years to women in a crisis pregnancy. They are about to begin a new journey and open a maternity home. The home will be named “Bethlehem Maternity Home”. The mission of the “Bethlehem Maternity Home” is to serve women 18 years up to 30 years of age (case by case scenario) in crisis pregnancies by providing safe and stable housing and life-affirming services in a Christian environment.

The Gabriel Project of the Crossroads served 160 moms and their babies in the eight-county service area in 2018, including three homeless mothers. There is a definite need for a maternity home in the area. Before opening the home they must raise $160,000, which is the operating budget. For more information on how to contribute or volunteer visit: https://victoriagabrielproject.org/maternity-home.

CONGRATULATIONS CONFIRMATION CLASS OF 2019—Students from St. Agnes, in Edna were honored with cookies and punch after they were confirmed on May 26, 2019. Refreshments were served by KJZT Society #111. The KJZT society also provided each recipient with a stole.

CONFIRMATION HELD AT ST. PETER—A confirmation ceremony for the ten students of St. Peter’s, in Blessing was held on June 8, 2019. Thank you Bishop Brendan Cahill for conferring this beautiful sacrament during the Mass. Father Gabriel J. Mensah, pastor of St. Peter’s was the celebrant. The El Campo 4th Degree Assembly and the Knights of St. Gregory were also in attendance. Thank you to the teachers, parents, and sponsors for making this day possible.

FEAST OF CORPUS CHRISTI—On Sunday, June 23, Our Lady of the Gulf Parish, in Port Lavaca held their first Feast of Corpus Christi Eucharistic Procession led by Father Max Landman. Parishioners gather in the evening to participate in the procession down the streets of Port Lavaca and around the church.

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“Embracing God’s Family” is the theme of the 32nd Annual Catholic Conference. We are Family – God’s Family – One Family. On Saturday, October 19, 2019, at the 32nd Annual Catholic Conference, we will join as family for a day filled with opportunity to meet more family, to learn and grow as family, and continue on the journey of faith with joy and love, seizing the moment, because we are God’s family.

Mrs. Lucia Baez Luzondo, J.D., is a licensed attorney and co-founder of Family Renewal Ministries, Inc., (Renovación Familiar) a ministry dedicated to proclaiming and defending God’s plan for marriage and family. She has presented extensively in the United States, Latin America and Europe. Mrs. Luzondo will offer the keynote address: The Joy of Family: A Way to Holiness in English then, in Spanish later in the day, for those who wish to hear the presentation in Spanish.

This year, as in years past, the conference will offer many workshops by national, state and local presenters. The wide scope of presentations gives opportunity for any adult Catholic to attend. Some workshops will focus on topics, which sometimes affect our families, i.e., relationship, marriage, forgiveness, cremation, ethics of life, and more. Other workshops will be aimed for those involved in catechetical and liturgical ministry.

For the first time ever, the conference will be held at St. Joseph High School, in Victoria. The campus is spacious and very accommodating for this diocesan event. Additional information can be found on the diocesan website: www.victoriadiocese.org or by contacting Christella Alvarez or Brunilda Ortiz at (361) 573-0828. Registration for this event will begin in September 2019.

If you plan to attend:
Event: Catholic Conference 2019
Keynote Speaker: Lucia Luzondo
Theme: Embracing God’s Family / Abrazando la Familia de Dios
When: Saturday, October 19, 2019
Where: St. Joseph High School, 110 E Red River, Victoria, TX 77901

St. Joseph traces its origins to 1868, when Father Augustine Gardet, Pastor of St. Mary’s organized St. Joseph Institute for Boys. Today, it is a co-educational high school that, inspired by the life of St. Joseph, protector and nurturer of the Holy Family, continues to educate and instill faith and service to each student and family.

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CATHOLIC DAUGHTERS OF THE AMERICAS (CDA) COURT HOLY FAMILY #2665, VICTORIA, HOSTED THEIR ANNUAL SHOWER FOR GABRIEL PROJECT AT THEIR MAY CDA MEETING. PICTURED ABOVE WITH THE MANY ITEMS DONATED (L-R) ARE FATHER PAT KNIPPENBERG, HOLY FAMILY CHURCH PAROCHIAL VICAR; BARBARA WILLIAMS, VICTORIA GABRIEL PROJECT BOARD SECRETARY; NANCY FRAZER, CDA FINANCIAL SECRETARY, AND STACY ONTAI.

GUADALUPANA SOCIETY HELPS GABRIEL PROJECT — The Ganado Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary Guadalupana Society held a Mother’s Day baby shower drive in May to benefit the Gabriel Project of the Crossroads. In the photo are Guadalupana Society members with Father Kirby Hlavaty, pastor of Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary Church. Members (l-r) are Jerri Lara, Veronica Rohrman, Barbara Falcon and Mary Rosalez.

SERVING OTHERS — Join Hands Day was held recently at Twin Pines Nursing and Rehab in Victoria. KJT #115 and KJZT #101 participated by playing games with residents, presenting prizes, and furnishing cake and punch. Members participating were (front l-r) Irene Brosch, Barbara Yanta, Lorna Dusek, Rosie Olsovsky; (back l-r) Donald Dusek, Joe Pustka, Carolyn Nevlud, Donald Olsovsky, and Lawrence Yanta.

GUADALUPANA SOCIETY HELPS GABRIEL PROJECT — The Ganado Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary Guadalupana Society held a Mother’s Day baby shower drive in May to benefit the Gabriel Project of the Crossroads. In the photo are Guadalupana Society members with Father Kirby Hlavaty, pastor of Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary Church. Members (l-r) are Jerri Lara, Veronica Rohrman, Barbara Falcon and Mary Rosalez.

EDNA KJZT SUPPORTS COMMUNITY PROJECT — KJZT Society #111 of St Agnes in Edna donated $100 to help repair the arbor that was vandalized at the Memory Gardens Cemetery in Edna. Pictured from (l-r) are John Jarratt, Brenda Novosad, James Lewis, Mindy Yendrey, Steve Minch, and Mary Ann Latimer. Presenting the check was Georgie Templin to Memory Gardens council president, JoAnn Blanar.

KJZT DONATES TO MATTHEW 25 MINISTRY — Ganado KJZT Society #43 presented $100 Fraternal 100 Project award to Assumption BVM Matthew 25 Ministry. KJZT Family has adopted a statewide Fraternal 100 Project to recognize each society who reaches status quota. Pictured (l-r) are Frances Toman, Mary Ann Peters, Helen Andel, Cecilia French, KJZT President; Steve Labay and Georgie Kruse, officers of Matthew 25 Ministry; Frances Vesely, KJZT Treasurer, and Alice Wright, KJZT Secretary.

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AIR CONDITIONED Yoakum Community Center Picnic Stew, Sausage & Trimmings TICKETS: $10.00 Drive-Thru or Dine-In AUCTION 12:30 P.M. Pyramid of Cream Cheese and Poppysed Rolls • Arts & Crafts • Antique Furniture • and Many More Items •

Register for 25 Raffle Prizes! Total Value: $20,500 Top Prize $10,000 Value

Stew will also be for sale. Soft drinks & refreshments available.

COUNTRY STORE • KIDS’ KORNER GAMES • CAKE WALK • PANTRY WHEEL

St. Joseph Parish Yoakum, Texas Picnic Sunday, August 4, 2019

CDA HOSTS SHOWER — Catholic Daughters of the Americas (CDA) Court Holy Family #2665, Victoria, hosted their annual Shower for Gabriel Project at their May CDA meeting. Pictured above with the many items donated (l-r) are Father Pat Knippenberg, Holy Family Church parochial vicar; Barbara Williams, Victoria Gabriel Project Board Secretary; Nancy Frazer, CDA Financial Secretary, and Stacy Ontai.
Centro Emmaus en Tres Sitios

¿Qué es el Centro Emmaus? El Centro Emmaus ofrece servicios de consejería individual, matrimonial y familiar en la tradición católica.

¿Dónde está ubicado? La oficina central está ubicada en 1508 E. Airline Rd. -Victoria, Texas pero también ofrecemos servicios en Bay City y en Cuero, Texas.

¿Es un servicio solo para católicos? No. -Si bien nuestros servicios están basados en la tradición católica, están disponibles para todos.

¿Ofrecen servicios en español? Sí, en nuestra oficina de Victoria y Bay City (Parroquia Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe). Valeria es una profesional hispana que no solo habla el idioma, sino que entiende la cultura.

¿Cuándo es recomendable ver a un consejero? A continuación, le comparto algunas razones:
- Ansiedad, preocupación constante al punto de afectar sus relaciones o tareas cotidianas.
- Duelos no resueltos (muerte de un ser querido/ pérdida de una relación/ pérdida de trabajo).
- Situaciones traumáticas que lo perturban.
- Situaciones emocionales que alteran su sueño y/o apetito.
- Cuando está consumiendo drogas o alcohol para hacer frente a los problemas.
- Cuando está experimentando un alto grado de irritación y enojo, afectando sus relaciones con los demás.
- Llanto incontrolable y otros signos de depresión.
- Cuando ha perdido la alegría de vivir; cuando existen pensamientos suicidas.
- Ataques de pánico, fobias, miedos excesivos.
- Cuando se siente solo, aislado, perdido.
- Problemas graves de autoestima o de confianza en sí mismo; cupula intensa, dificultad para establecer límites y decir “no”.
- Problemas matrimoniales / problemas con los hijos…y más.

¿Dónde tengo que comunicarme? Por información y citas comunicarse al (361) 212-0830 / emmausreceptionist@victoria-diocese.org

En el Centro Emmaus, contamos con profesionales católicos que invitan a Dios a ser parte del proceso de sanación orando por su bienestar todo el tiempo. Recuerde que Jesús desea plenitud para usted. Es nuestro deseo escucharlo atentamente sin juzgar su historia, deseando entender su preocupación, su tristeza, sus necesidades, sus miedos, y sobre todo trasmitirle que no está solo.

Conferencia Católica de 2019 - Abrazando a la Familia de Dios

“Abrazando a la familia de Dios” es el tema de la 32a Conferencia Católica Anual. Somos Familia – La Familia de Dios – Una Familia. El sábado 19 de octubre de 2019, en la 32a Conferencia Católica Anual, nos unimos como familia por un día lleno de oportunidades para conocer a más familia, aprender y crecer en familia, y continuar el camino de la fe con alegría y amor, aprovechando el momento, porque somos la familia de Dios.

La Sra. Lucy Baez Luzondo, J.D., es una abogada con licencia y cofundadora de Family Renewal Ministries, Inc., (Renovación Familiar) un ministerio dedicado a proclamar y defender el plan de Dios para el matrimonio y la familia. Ella ha presentado extensamente en los Estados Unidos, América Latina y Europa. La Sra. Luzondo ofrecerá el discurso principal: La alegría de la familia: Un camino a la santidad en inglés y luego, en español más tarde en el día, para aquellos que desean escuchar la presentación en español.

Este año, como en años anteriores, la conferencia ofrecerá muchos talleres de presentadores nacionales, estatales y locales. El amplio alcance de las presentaciones da la oportunidad de que cualquier católico adultos asista. Algunos talleres se centrarán en temas que en algún momento afectan a nuestras familias, por ejemplo, el matrimonio, el perdón, la creación, la ética de la vida y más. Otros talleres estarán dirigidos a los que participan en el ministerio catequético e litúrgico.


Comunidad se Despede a la Hermana Miriam Pérez, MCSH

Por 27 años, la Hermana Miriam Pérez, MCSH ha servido a la gente de la Diócesis de Victoria. Se mudará de Victoria en julio de 2019 para cuidar a su mamá. Ella compartió: “En este momento, Dios me llama a servir en el cuidado de mi madre que está en el hospicio y vive en Nueva Jersey”. En 1992 su congresión, los Catequistas Misioneros de los Sagrados Corazones de Jesús y María, estableció una Casa Provincial, en Victoria. Han servido en los Estados Unidos desde 1943. Por los años, ella ha ocupado diversos cargos de liderazgo en su congresión, ha trabajado en muchas parroquias diferentes en todas partes de la diócesis, sirvió un año en el Ministerio de la Carcel, ha ofrecido diferentes talleres en inglés y en español en la Conferencia Católica Anual, y ha ayudado con muchas traducciones al español, incluyendo a los Discípulos en un Viaje. Ella será extrañada por todos que trabajaron con ella y ha sido una bendición para la gente de la Diócesis de Victoria.

Palabras de gratitud a la Hermana Miriam Pérez:
- Obispo Brendan Cahill, “La energía, el entusiasmo y la fe de la hermana Miriam me han inspirado desde que llegué a Victoria. Está muy cerca de todos nosotros, pero especialmente de aquellos que están sufriendo y se sienten abandonados. Siempre me parece que saca el potencial en cada persona que encuentra. Rezo que ella tenga un momento bendito con su madre. Ella debe ser una gran mujer para haber producido una hija así.”
- Christella Alvarez, Directora de la Oficina del Ministerio Catequético compartió: “Al largo de los años, ha sido una bendición tener a la hermana Miriam Pérez como miembro activa del comité de la Conferencia Católica Anual. Más importante, muchos de nosotros hemos aprendido un poco más de lo que significa ser discípulos misioneros de Jesús, por la manera en que la hermana Miriam ha aceptado, guiado y amado a la gente de Dios en el camino. Ella será extrañada pero no olvidada”.

Reporting Procedures for Suspected or Known Sexual Abuse of a Minor (person under 18 years of age) or Vulnerable Adult by a Member of the Clergy

Contact:
- Los Estados Departamento of Family and Protective Services, within 48 hours, at (800) 252-5400, www.txabusehotline.org. o local police department. If person is in immediate danger call 911.
- ó
- Vicki Pyatt, LMSW, Coordinator of Pastoral Care and Outreach, Diocese of Victoria, (361) 827-7186, pastoralcare@victoria-diocese.org.
- ó
- Bishop or Chancellor of the Diocese of Victoria, (361) 573-0828.
- Written allegations can be mailed to Office of the Bishop, P.O. Box 4070, Victoria, TX 77903 marked “Personal and Confidential”.

If sexual abuse by a member of clergy has occurred in another diocese, the Diocese of Victoria will help bring your concerns to church officials. For assistance contact Vicki Pyatt at (361) 827-7186 or pastoralcare@victoria-diocese.org.
U.S. Bishops take Action to Respond to Church Abuse Crisis

By Carol Zimmermann

Catholic News Service

BALTIMORE (CNS) — During the June 11-13 spring assembly of the U.S. bishops in Baltimore, it was clear the bishops had to respond to the sexual abuse crisis in the church — and on the last day of their gathering they approved a series of procedures to begin this process.

On June 13, they voted to implement the document “Vos Estis Lux Mundi” (“You are the light of the world”), issued by Pope Francis in May to help the Catholic Church safeguard its members from abuse and hold its leaders accountable.

The bishops also approved the document “Affirming Our Episcopal Commitments” and promised to hold themselves accountable to the commitments of the charter, including a zero-tolerance policy for abuse.

The document says any codes of conduct in their respective dioceses regarding clergy apply to bishop as well.

They voted in favor of the item “protocol regarding available nonpenal restrictions on bishops,” which outlines what canonical options are available to bishops when a retired bishop resigns or is removed “due to sexual misconduct with adults or grave negligence of office, or where subsequent to his resignation he was found to have so acted or failed to act.”

Their first action was a vote June 12 to authorize the implementation of a third-party system that would allow people to make confidential reports of abuse complaints against bishops through a toll-free telephone number and online. The system, which would be operated by an outside vendor contracted by the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, should be in place no later than May 31, 2020.

During the first day of the assembly, several speakers discussed the challenge ahead and the need for the bishops to be both transparent and reliant upon lay leadership.

The bishops also examined their plans to vote on procedures and policies in response to the abuse crisis, including some they had put aside during their fall general assembly in November at the Vatican’s request.

The bishops’ postponement of voting on these procedures was addressed from the meeting’s onset June 11 in a message from Archbishop Christophe Pierre, the Vatican’s nuncio to the United States.

He noted that there were “some expressions of dissent” by some U.S. bishops at the previous assembly about postponing votes on items related to the reemergent clergy sexual abuse crisis, but he also stressed that “unity prevails over conflict.”

“Working together provides us with the opportunity to speak and listen,” said Archbishop Pierre.

Bishops use electronic voting devices during the spring general assembly of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops in Baltimore June 12, 2019. (CNS photo/Bob Roller)

“Working together provides us with the opportunity to speak and to listen,” said the message from Archbishop Pierre, read by Msgr. Walter Erbi, charge d’affaires at the Vatican’s nunciature in Washington. Archbishop Pierre was at the Vatican for a nuncio meeting.

Archbishop Pierre’s message said that despite the desire among U.S. bishops in November to act quickly to address new crises on clergy sex abuse, the postponement of the votes on the issue allowed the U.S. church to participate more fully at the Vatican’s February summit on the protection of minors.

“One of the reasons the Holy Father asked for a delay was that the whole church needed to walk together, to work in a synodal way,” Archbishop Pierre said, “with the guidance of the Holy Spirit to make the path forward clearer.”

Moving forward was certainly a theme of the assembly, echoed by National Review Board chairman Francesco Cesareo June 11, who called for a greater role for laity in investigating allegations of abuse or reaction to reports of abuse against bishops.

Cesareo also said National Review Board members recommend a thorough review of the “Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People” and a revision in the audit process regarding diocesan implementation of the charter, which governs the church’s response to clergy abuse allegations.

“A strengthened audit would provide a means for improving your dioceses’ existing methods to protect and heal,” Cesareo said. “Virtually all your dioceses, including those where problems came to light under the microscope of the media and attorney generals, have easily passed the audit for years, since the bar currently is so low. Now is the time to raise the bar on compliance to ensure the mistakes of the past are not repeated.”

Cesareo also recommended that the charter “should be revised immediately to explicitly include bishops and demand for greater accountability.”

“You have a great opportunity,” he said, “to lead by example and help show dioceses and episcopal conferences around the world not only how important it is for lay involvement to ensure greater accountability and transparency, but also how laity and the episcopacy can be co-responsible for the church’s well-being.”

Both the National Review Board and the National Advisory Council pressed the bishops to encourage Vatican officials to release documents regarding the investigation of misconduct by Theodore E. McCarrick, the former cardinal who was laicized earlier this year. The allegations against him were made public nearly a year ago on June 20, 2018.

The bishops also discussed the upcoming election, the crisis at the border and the issue of young adults leaving the church.

They were urged to do more to support the suffering of immigrant families, to be with them spiritually as pastors and to voice support for legal measures to help them.

“It’s so important that our works match our words on this issue,” said Bishop Jaime Soto of Sacramento, California, June 11 after a presentation by the working group on immigration issues for the USCCB.

Two bishop members of the group, Archbishop Jose H. Gomez of Los Angeles and Bishop Joe S. Vasquez of Austin, Texas, gave an update of what the U.S. church is doing at the national level and in certain regions of the country on immigration issues.

Bishop Vasquez urged the group to “re-double efforts to offer spiritual support and access to legal and social services to affected families,” saying it is “vital that they feel supported by the church during this time of uncertainty.”

Auxiliary Bishop Robert E. Barron of Los Angeles, chairman of the bishops’ Committee on Evangelization and Catechesis, spoke about an upcoming presentation at the fall meeting on how to respond to the growing number of young people leaving the church.

He said getting the religiously unaffiliated, or “nones,” particularly young people, back to the Catholic Church, should be a top priority for the church, noting that 50% of Catholics age 30 and younger have left the church.

“Half the kids that we baptized and confirmed in the last 30 years are now ex-Catholics or unaffiliated,” he said, “one out of six millennials in the U.S. is now a former Catholic.”

On the meeting’s final day, the bishops also approved wording to keep treatment of the death penalty in the U.S. Catechism the same as in the revised universal catechism.
Catholic Family Services—To find Catholic organizations which focus on family, visit the Catholic Association of Catholic Family Life Ministers at www.naclfilm.org.

Crisis Pregnancy Center of Victoria—An organization staffed by volunteers that offers help to girls and women who find themselves in a difficult situation due to an unplanned pregnancy. Office located at 1501 E. Red River, is open 1:00-4:00 p.m. on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday. A free pregnancy test is offered and medical referrals are made for prenatal care. They are a sister organization to the Gabriel Project. New volunteers are welcome. For more information call (361) 575-6171.

Emmanuel Center—Offers individual, couple, family, adolescent and children’s counseling as well as specialized support groups. Spiritual direction is also available on request. Appointments may be made by calling (361) 212-0830. For more information see pg. 9.

Engaged Encounter—2019 Dates: Sept. 20-22, and Nov. 15-17, 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 Lisa Kainer (361) 676-3264 or lisa_heysquierdo@yahoo.com; or at www.rrs.org. For more information, contact Susanne Koch in Wharton at (501) 261-1024.

Grief Ministry—An on-going Grief Group meets at Holy Spirit 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.

Id.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.

Incarcerate Word Prayer Group—Praise and worship on Mondays 7:30-9:00 p.m. in the auditorium at Incarrate Word Convent, 1101 N.E. Water Street. For more information, contact Sr. Louise Marie Jones at (361) 575-7111 or amormeus@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 (501) 710-0903 or susanmekoch614@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.raphaelsrefuge.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 jbvjoj@sbglobal.net or (361) 580-2770; call (800) 470-2230; or visit www.helpourmarriage.org or www.retrouvaille.org. See ad on pg. 11.
YLT Staffer Takes a Leap of Faith

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because I would attend various retreats and conferences hoping for a “God Moment”. I would pray for something tangible from God, for him to speak to me, to show me a sign, anything. I always knew he was there, but it has always been a struggle for me to clear my mind. I am constantly thinking, so when it is time for me to pray I get frustrated because it is hard for me to hear God past my own thoughts.”

Monica joined an organization called YLT (Youth Leadership Training), through the Youth and Young Adult Ministry Office, at the Diocese of Victoria, after her freshman year in high school. A lot changed for her when she joined YLT. She recalls, “Throughout this organization I met some truly devoted individuals. Their love for God oozed from their finger-tips and I almost looked at them in a state of jealousy because I wanted the joy that they had. In this organization I was able to staff a retreat each summer of high school called Camp David. I fell in love. Being able to administer to youth and find God’s love in the innocence of the children made me happy. I felt at home being able to teach these children and help them feel, at least for three days, that they were God’s children who He handcrafted with not a single individual being like them. Through YLT I was also able to attend multiple NET Retreats.”

Throughout her high school years, Monica struggled with confidence. She shared, “I would look at myself and only see things that could be improved. At a retreat in 2017, I went to confession face to face for the first time since second grade. I hesitated in going, but I explained my situation to the priest. He was saddened by what I said to him and for my penance he asked me to repeat, “You are my wonderful daughter with whom I am well pleased.” I did not expect to get anything out of this penance, but I prayed it over and over and I was filled with an overwhelming sense of peace. I came to the realization that it is not about being the best in worldly things, but it is about being a good person. It is about being kind, loving, and joyful. It is about spreading the love of God to all people.” Having come to this realization, Monica decided it was time to follow through with her desire to share her faith with others and help ignite a flame within the youth… and that is where NET came in.

Monica attended many different retreats during her high school years including nine NET led retreats. Her junior year, NET was in Victoria conducting a retreat for the youth of the Cathedral of Our Lady of Victory. During this visit the YLT group and the NET staffers had a unique opportunity to staff part of the retreat together. It was during this time that Monica experienced her “God moment” through two different occurrences. She explained, “A short brunette NET member got up in front of us and gave her testimony. She described how she found her love for God in the act of bringing joy to other people. She was very silly and made jokes, but in the end her testimony was absolutely profound because she talked about the importance of showing your love for God and being yourself despite what other people may think of you. As I was listening to her speak, I was thinking wow… If only that could be me. As I thought this, my youth director, Wendy said, “Monica, who does she remind you of?” I was silent. I didn’t know. Wendy responded with, “Well… in my eyes, she reminds me of you.” And when she said this, I felt overwhelmed with God’s call. At the same retreat, in the middle of Adoration, a stranger (a NET leader) came up to me and told me that he felt God was calling me to be on team. I barely said anything. I was shocked, but I felt as if God sent this NET member to our parish to show me that I am capable of being his messenger. I knew I was meant to finally apply to join NET.”

She took a leap of faith and applied to NET in the fall of 2018, as well as various colleges. She was accepted to nine colleges, but still had what she called a “God-shaped hole” that needed to be filled. In the spring of 2019 she was called to interview in San Antonio with other prospective NET members from around Texas. She learned what a day in the life of NET would be like and was introduced to charismatic prayer.

Then came the two-week wait to receive notice if she had been chosen. Monica explained, “That was the longest two-weeks of my life! I prayed and prayed for God’s will to be done. Then I got the call. She asked me if I needed some time to think about it. I said, no! I want to do this!”

Monica is most excited to be able to give others what NET has given to her. She wants to help young people realize that they have purpose. Monica said, “Retreats are a place where youth can share what they’re feeling or struggling with knowing that the person they are talking to will not say anything. In my heart I have always felt God calling me to take this path, but I was and kind of still am fearful because upon meeting the team members I never felt worthy to spread God’s word. I was looking for something tangible but it’s how you treat people. That’s the tangible part. Faith is the intangible part, to be bold, kind, strong and courageous.”

If anyone is considering serving in this capacity, Monica would say, “Don’t be scared to go out of your comfort zone. Listen to the Lord. Take the initiative.”

“Trust in the LORD with all your heart, and do not rely on your own insight. In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths.”

-Proverbs 3:5-6

*Over the years many people from Diocese of Victoria have been a part of the NET Ministries. Matthew Schafer, a current deacon candidate, and his wife Lupe both served on NET from 1989-1990. As youth ministers in their parishes, they have encouraged many young adults over the years to join NET Ministries. Their oldest three children have also served or are currently serving on NET in the USA, Ireland or Australia. Lupe shared, “NET has given Matthew and I the foundation for our entire marriage vocation. From the moment God brought us together Matthew and I knew that our marriage was to be one of evangelization.”