Ordonation 2020
Diocese blessed with three new priests, adding to a growing number of young clergymen.
See story, more photos on Page 20.
Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Many families have been sharing stories with me about what it has meant for their children to receive Holy Communion for the first time this year. In the midst of so many challenges to our normal routine our young brothers and sisters have desired deeply in their hearts to receive Jesus in the most Blessed Sacrament. Parents and catechists alike have told me that these children know Who they are receiving, and they know what it means to receive Him.

St. Pope Pius X taught the Church back in 1908 that a young person of seven years of age may be able to know with reason the truth of the Real Presence of Jesus in the Eucharist. Three years earlier, the saintly pope had encouraged people to regularly receive Communion:

“6. But since it is plain that by the frequent or daily reception of the Holy Eucharist union with Christ is strengthened, the spiritual life more abundantly sustained, the soul more richly endowed with virtues, and the pledge of everlasting happiness more securely bestowed on the recipient, therefore, parish priests, confessors and preachers, according to the approved teaching of the Roman Catechism should exhort the faithful frequently and with great zeal to this devout and salutary practice.” (Sacra Tridentina, Dec. 20, 1905 – translation on EWTN website)

The past few months, as in previous times of disease or war this past century, have seen times where it has not been possible for the faithful to receive Communion daily. In the case of our diocese, I made the judgment to temporarily not allow public participation in the Sacrifice of the Mass based on information from a variety of sources. That particular decision was challenging and ultimately need to accept responsibility before God for it.

Now we are looking at the possibility once again for frequent reception of the Holy Eucharist. My hope is that we can receive it each time with the same appreciation as the children who are receiving so joyfully for the first time. Our priests are available to meet with parishioners and celebrate the sacrament of reconciliation in order to prepare our hearts and souls to receive the beautiful gift.

As I’m writing this letter, our world is suffering through the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic and our nation is suffering through the effects of the killing of unarmed African-American men. I conclude here with a prayer that my brother bishops shared at the end of our recent pastoral letter “Open Wide Our Hearts.”

We pray that the reader will join us in

See The Many Blessings, pg. 3

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Las Muchas Bendiciones de las Primeras Comuniones

Queridos Hermanos y Hermanas,

Muchas familias han estado compartiendo historias contigo sobre lo que ha significado para sus hijos recibir la Sagrada Comunión por primera vez este año. En medio de tantos desafíos a nuestra rutina normal, nuestros hermanos y hermanas jóvenes han deseado profundamente en sus corazones recibir a Jesús en el Santísimo Sacramento. Tanto los padres como los catequistas me han dicho que estos niños saben a quién reciben y saben lo que significa recibirlo.

San Papa Pío X enseñó a la Iglesia en 1908 que un joven de siete años de edad puede saber con razón la verdad de la Presencia Real de Jesús en la Eucaristía. Tres años antes, el santo Papa había alentado a las personas a recibir regularmente la Comunión:

“6. Pero dado que es evidente que con la recepción frecuente o diaria de la unión de la Sagrada Eucaristía con Cristo se fortalece, la vida espiritual se sustenta más abundantemente, el alma está más dotada de virtudes y la promesa de felicidad eterna se otorga con mayor seguridad a la Los destinatarios, por lo tanto, los párrafos, los confesores y los predicadores, de acuerdo con la enseñanza aprobada del Catecismo romano, deben exhortar a los fieles con frecuencia y con gran celo a esta práctica devota y saludable.” (Sacra Tridentina, 20 de diciembre de 1905 - traducción en el sitio web de EWTN)

En los últimos meses, como en épocas anteriores de enfermedad o guerra en el siglo pasado, se han visto momentos en que los fieles no han podido recibir la Comunión diariamente. En el caso de nuestra diócesis, decidí no permitir temporalmente la participación pública en el Sacrificio de la Misa en base a información de una variedad de fuentes. Esa decisión en particular fue desafiante y finalmente necesito aceptar la responsabilidad ante Dios por ello.

Ahora estamos viendo la posibilidad una vez más de la recepción frecuente de la Sagrada Eucaristía. Espero que podamos recibirlo cada vez con el mismo aprecio que los niños que reciben tan alegremente por primera vez. Nuestros sacerdotes están disponibles para reunirse con los feligreses y celebrar el sacramento de la reconciliación para preparar nuestros corazones y almas para recibir el hermoso regalo.

Mientras escribo esta carta, nuestro mundo está sufriendo los efectos de la pandemia de COVID-19 y nuestra nación está sufriendo los efectos del asesinato de hombres afroamericanos desarmados. Concluyo aquí con una oración que mis hermanos obispos compartieron al final de nuestra reciente carta pastoral “Abran nuestros corazones”.

Oramos para que el lector se una a nosotros en la lucha por el fin del racismo en todas sus formas, para que podamos caminar juntos humildemente con Dios y con todos nuestros hermanos y hermanas en una unidad renovada. Porque no hay lugar para el racismo en los corazones de ninguna persona; Es una perversion de la voluntad del Señor para hombres y mujeres, todos los cuales fueron creados a imagen y semejanza de Dios. Terminamos adoptando las palabras de San Pablo: Hermanos y hermanas, “estén en guardia, manténganse firmes en la fe, sean valientes, sean fuertes. Todos tus actos deben hacerse con amor” (1 Corintios 16: 13-14)

Como en todas las cosas, recurrimos a la oración, pidiéndole a Nuestra Santísima Madre que interceda en nuestro nombre:

María, amiga y madre de todos, a través de tu Hijo, Dios ha encontrado un camino para unirse a cada ser humano, llamado a ser un pueblo, hermanos y hermanos el uno al otro.

Le pedimos su ayuda para llamar a su Hijo. Buscando el perdón para los tiempos en que hemos fallado en amarnos y respetarnos unos a otros.

Le pedimos su ayuda para obtener de su Hijo. La gracia que necesitamos para vencer el mal del racismo y para construir una sociedad justa.

Le pedimos su ayuda para seguir a su Hijo. Para que el prejuicio y la animosidad ya no infectará nuestras mentes o corazones pero será reemplazado por un amor que respeta La dignidad de cada persona.

Madre de la iglesia, el espíritu de tu hijo Jesús calienta nuestros corazones: Oren por nosotros.

Que Dios los bendiga a ustedes y a sus familias con su paz, esperanza y perseverancia. Mantengamos el uno al otro en oración,

+ Brendan
Reminder on current COVID-19 directives
May 29, 2020

The following information has been given to our parishes over the last few months, but to make sure everyone is clear on current directives, here is a roundup:

- **In-person ministry and events, including overnight retreats**, may resume at the pastor’s discretion, and as long as guidelines set forth by local, state, and national entities can be followed, as well as published directives by the Diocese of Victoria.
- **At the discretion of the pastor, parish events and meetings are permitted**, but only within the parameters of the 50% building capacity mandated by the State of Texas and only if utilizing established social distancing restrictions.
- **At the discretion of the pastor, Holy Communion** can be brought to the homebound. Pastors are asked to check with the administrators of the hospitals and nursing homes in their particular parishes, regarding the permissibility of pastoral visitations.
- **Church buildings are now at 50% capacity**, as per Governor Abbott’s statement on Monday, May 18, 2020, regarding Phase Two of state-mandated restrictions. With the continuation of social distancing restrictions, this has only a minimal impact on our churches, but has a greater impact on other parish buildings, such as parish halls, meeting rooms, etc.
- **The Diocese of Victoria continues to encourage** those entering our churches to keep each other in prayer, striving for the end of racism in all its forms, that we may walk together humbly with God and with all of our brothers and sisters in a renewed unity. For there is no place for racism in the hearts of any person; it is a perversion of the Lord’s will for men and women, all of whom were made in God’s image and likeness. We end by adopting the words of St. Paul: Brothers and sisters, “be on your guard, stand firm in the faith, be courageous, be strong. Your every act should be done with love” (1 Corinthians 16:13-14).

As in all things, we turn to prayer, asking Our Blessed Mother to intercede on our behalf:

Mary, friend and mother to all, through your Son, God has found a way to unite every human being, called to be one people, sisters and brothers to each other.

We ask for your help in calling on your Son, seeking forgiveness for the times when we have failed to love and respect one another.

We ask for your help in obtaining from your Son the grace we need to overcome the evil of racism and to build a just society.

We ask for your help in following your Son so that prejudice and animosity will no longer infect our minds or hearts but will be replaced with a love that respects the dignity of each person.

Mother of the Church, the Spirit of your Son Jesus warms our hearts: pray for us.

We ask for your help in calling on your Son Jesus warms our hearts: pray for us.

May God bless you and your families with His peace, hope and perseverance. Let’s keep each other in prayer,

+Brendan

Official Announcements

**EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2020:**

Reverend James Dvorak is assigned as parochial vicar of Our Lady of the Gulf Catholic Church and the missions of St. Ann Catholic Church in Point Comfort, Texas; St. Joseph Catholic Church in Port O’Connor; and St. Patrick Catholic Church in Seadrift, Texas.

Reverend Dalton Ervin is assigned as parochial vicar of the Cathedral of Our Lady of Victory in Victoria, Texas.

Reverend Chase Goodman is assigned as parochial vicar of St. Philip the Apostle Catholic Church in El Campo, Texas.

“**You are a priest forever according to the order of Melchizedek.”**

Hebrews 7:17

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Priest Name</th>
<th>Ordination Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Rev. Ty J. Bazar</td>
<td>06/01/2002</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rev. Matthew H. Huehlefeld</td>
<td>06/01/1996</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rev. Roger R. Hawes</td>
<td>06/02/2001</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rev. Peter Oscar Kofi-Amo</td>
<td>06/04/2016</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rev. Max A. Lanning</td>
<td>06/04/2016</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rev. Kristopher L. Fuchs</td>
<td>06/05/2015</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rev. Scott J. Hill</td>
<td>06/06/2015</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rev. Jacob A. Koether</td>
<td>06/06/2015</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rev. Francis T. Nguyen III</td>
<td>06/06/2015</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rev. Michael J. Lyons</td>
<td>06/08/1996</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rev. George Henninger</td>
<td>06/08/1985</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rev. Michael J. Rother</td>
<td>06/09/2007</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rev. Robert E. Knippenberg</td>
<td>06/10/2000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rev. Gabriel D. Espinosa</td>
<td>06/16/2007</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rev. Tommy Chen</td>
<td>06/21/2008</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Most Rev. Brendan J. Cahill</td>
<td>06/29/2015</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Please remember in prayer the priests who served in the Diocese of Victoria and died during the month of June:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Priest Name</th>
<th>Death Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Rev. Sean Donohue</td>
<td>06/03/1989</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rev. Msgr. James C. Brunner</td>
<td>06/04/2010</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rev. William Halata</td>
<td>06/11/2000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

May their souls and the souls of all the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace, Amen.
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 >

May 20, 2020

- Josephat R. Janak Seminary Burse #2
  In honor of Very Rev. Gary Janak’s 32nd Priestly Ordination anniversary on May 14, 2020 by Rose Marie Janak and Family

- Rev. Msgr. John C. Peters Seminary Burse #8
  In honor of Rev. Msgr. John Peters’ ordination to the Priesthood by Mary Ann Henneke

- In memory of our Son, Chris J. Janak by Victor and Doris Janak

- In memory of Lillian Besetzny by Stephen and Carol Besetzny

- In memory of Annie Dolezal by Bridgette Barnett

Lector

- In memory of Doris Kubicek by Elbert and Joan Brune

- In memory of Doris Kubicek by Elbert and Joan Brune

- In memory of Lillian Besetzny by Karen and John Sliker

- In memory of Rev. Msgr. Edward C. Bartsch by Mrs. Mildred C. Elam

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

Acolyte

- Knights of Columbus #1329, Victoria
  In Memory of Henry Schroeder
  Charles Kutchka, Sr.
  Charles Kutchka, Sr.
  Clarence Archenhofer

Candidate

- Vincent & Barbara Warzecha
  in Memory of

Incarnate Word & Blessed Sacrament Gift Shop

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

Reminder on current COVID-19 directives

Continued from pg. 3

- Priests, deacons and Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion are required to wear facial coverings/masks when distributing Holy Communion, as per diocesan directives. The CDC continues to emphasize that facial coverings/masks and social distancing are effective in controlling the spread of COVID-19.
- Until further notice, parishes must practice social distancing protocols in churches and in parish buildings.
- Regarding Confirmations: Bishop Cahill has delegated all priests canonically assigned in the Diocese of Victoria to administer the Sacrament of Confirmation. This delegation ends at 11:59 p.m. on June 30, 2020.
- Dispensation of the obligation to attend Mass has been extended through June 30.

Happy Birthday to Our Seminarians

Philippe Dubourdieu

finished college at Holy Trinity Seminary in Dallas. This fall he will be at St. Mary’s Seminary in Houston. Philippe’s hometown is Bay City. His birthday is June 2. Write to Philippe at: Sacred Heart Church, PO Box 8, Hallettsville TX 77964

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

Tran Dinh

finished his Pastoral Year at St. Philip in El Campo. This fall he will be at St. Mary’s Seminary in Houston. Tran’s hometown is Palacios. His birthday is June 10. Write to Tran at: St. Philip Church, 304 West Church St, El Campo TX 77437.

Seminarian Summer Assignments 2020:

- Tran Dinh - St. Philip, El Campo
- Richard Barfield - Our Lady of the Gulf, Port Lavaca
- Ryan Kapavik - St. Mary, Victoria
- Luke Prihoda - St. Michael, Cuero
- Joseph Blackburn - Our Lady of the Gulf, Port Lavaca
- Shane Black - Diocesan Youth Office and residing at Holy Family Church, Victoria
- Philippe Dubourdieu - Sacred Heart, Hallettsville
- Caleb Krischke - Our Lady of Sorrows, Victoria
Sisterly Thoughts

By Sister Mildred Truchard, IWBS

We look around and see precautions that many of us are taking to protect ourselves physically. We take any guidelines and suggestions recommended by our leaders seriously. We eat balanced meals to keep ourselves healthy, wear our masks, and are careful about keeping our distance in crowds; we avoid unnecessary contacts and we stay safely at home as much as possible. At this point we do not know how long we will be concerned about danger from COVID-19.

Because many places of worship may still have some restrictions, and because many of us may have concerns about mixing with congregational crowds, I often hear people, especially the elderly, expressing concern about not being able to be nourished by Masses and the sacraments. May I reassure you that God is always with us. It is in times such as these that we are reminded of all those of good will who may be deprived of spiritual support. Just think of all who are politically persecuted for practicing their faith. Let us pray especially for them.

And then let us remember and pray for all those in mission or isolated areas who have limited access to the Mass and sacraments. I often think of an experience I had, during which I developed a more profound appreciation for the spiritual bounty which we often have here.

Years ago, I spent a summer at an Incarnate Word Mission base down in Oaxaca in southern Mexico. Teen-aged girls would spend two years at the Mission learning Spanish and basic catechetical skills, after which they would go back to their mountain villages where they would catechize in their indigenous languages. During the summer, the Sisters and a native priest would travel to these villages to check on them.

Two of us U.S. Sisters joined them on one of these visiting trips. Talk about isolation! No wonder there were so many indigenous languages. There seemed to be little connection between the villages in the mountains. It was too far or too difficult to walk, and roads and modes of transportation for the villagers were very rare. Sometimes we could see the next village in the distance as we were traveling, but it would take all day to wind down the mountain on rough dirt roads and up the next mountain to get to the village.

I was so amazed at the depth of the faith of the people. They would walk long distances to spiritual activities or opportunities to learn. I remember seeing them sit on a log for six hours straight for a lesson on the role of the laity in the Church. They took care of the evangelization in the Church; they only saw a priest a few times a year -- if that often.

So let us thank God for the opportunities that we DO have as we continually strive to deepen our love and relationship with God and with one another. And may God bless all our physical and spiritual Dads.

Happy Fathers’ Day!
Cathedral’s music director completes doctorate

By JANET JONES
The Catholic Lighthouse

Unless you are in the choir loft you might not see Glenn Hunter, the man behind the music at Our Lady of Victory. But his gifts fill the cathedral during Mass and even further into the lives of the faithful.

Hunter, who has enriched the parish as director of music at the Cathedral for nearly four years now, has just completed a personal milestone, earning his PhD in organ music performance through the University of Texas-Austin.

Originally from Toronto, Canada, he comes from a family of musical talent and scholarship. “Mom’s mom was an opera singer in Germany,” he said. And his mother is a musician as well. In fact, she began teaching him the organ. “She did my first year of organ, which she said was excruciating. I have no memory of it.”

At age 12 he continued lessons with another teacher until he started college. Hunter also played trombone before college. He had to consider which instrument he would continue with in his music studies. “My trombone teacher helped me out. He said, ‘Frankly, you’re just not a very good trombonist,’ ” Hunter said.

That being settled, he attended Oberlin College and Conservatory in Ohio for undergraduate studies and continued with the organ. Afterward he wanted to pursue his masters and looked for the best organ program, which he found at University of Texas-Austin.

While working on his master’s degree he met his wife, Ashley, who studied voice there. They married in 2012 and started a family and he took a job in Victoria at First United Methodist Church. He became acquainted with OLV after meeting Father Kristopher Fuchs, who also plays the organ. Father Fuchs talked him into playing at one of the weekend Masses. When it came time to leave the Methodist church, OLV decided bring him on as the first full-time music director.

The job led to another milestone in his family’s life when he and Ashley went through the RCIA program to become Catholic. It was a whirlwind of events as they convalidated their marriage on Holy Thursday, entered the church during the Easter Vigil Mass and had their new baby baptized on Easter Sunday.

Even though his life was busy, he decided to go back and get his doctorate. UT’s master’s program was structured to make it easy to transition to the doctorate program. “It was frustrating to let that go to waste,” he said.

Dr. Hunter has broadened his mark on the music ministry in the midst of the pandemic when there were no public Masses and he had more time on his hands.

For example, he worked with Father Stephen Vacek, parochial vicar at OLV, to video the Stations of the Cross to give parishioners – and anyone who wanted to watch online – a chance to participate from home.

More recently he began coordinating a series of reflections with Father Gary Janak, pastor/rector at OLV, and Clay Crockett, musician, singer and worship leader.

“This was a chance for people to recognize how much potential there is for music,” he said. “It’s been a lot of fun. That’s something that I hope doesn’t stop.”

And while he explores the potential for the music ministry, he said he hopes to continue exposing younger people to the traditional organ music and exploring the “largest and oldest repertoire of music” that the Catholic church offers.

The organ is the chosen instrument for churches, he said, because the earliest church

See Cathedral’s music director, pg. 12

In Memoriam

Deacon Jarrel J. Nohavitza

EL CAMPO — Deacon Jarrel J. Nohavitza of El Campo died May 14, 2020, at the age of 87. He was born on Feb. 28, 1933, in El Campo to the late John and Katherine Wendel Nohavitza. He was a U.S. Army veteran, past president of Brothers Well Service, and a retired deacon at St. Philip the Apostle Catholic Church.

He was a member of Knights of Columbus 4th Degree, Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulcre of Jerusalem, Rotary International, past president of El Campo Little League, El Campo Booster Club, St. Philip Church Administrative Board and St. Philip School Endowment Fund Committee and other civic organizations in the community.

He is survived by his wife of 65 years, Irene Yockey Nohavitza; sons, Darrell Nohavitza and wife Bridget of Hillje, Glenn Nohavitza and wife Susan of Richmond, and Kyle Nohavitza and wife Jennifer of Portland; daughter, Debbie Sulak and husband Chris of Frisco; sisters and brother, Dorothy Kubala, Kathryn Sellers and Donald Nohavitza; 13 grandchildren and nine great-grandchildren. Infant daughter, Ann, and infant granddaughter, Nancy Ann Nohavitza, preceded him in death.

Mass of Christian burial was held on Tuesday, May 19, at St. Philip Catholic Church, followed by interment at Holy Cross Memorial Park.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to St. Philip the Apostle School Endowment Fund or St. Philip School.

NOTE: On May 21, 2020, Deacon Jarrel’s brother Donald passed away.

EL CAMPO — Knights of Columbus Council 2490 from El Campo named the family of Lynn and Janice Cox the Family of the Month for May 2020. Pictured is Michael Bolcik, Family Program Director for the Knights of Columbus (left), Lynn and son Aaron (right). Family of the month for April went to the Bruce and Sharon Korenek Family; March went to the John and Kathy Tumlinson Family; and February went to the Daniel and Camie Berglund Family.
Bishop Brendan Cahill, left, celebrated 30 years as a priest on May 19 and will celebrate five years as bishop on June 29. Bishop Emeritus David Fellhauer also had two significant anniversaries this year. He celebrated 30 years as a bishop on May 28 and 55 years as a priest on May 29.

PALACIOS – Construction to expand St. Anthony of Padua Catholic Church began Thursday, May 28. The church is adding space for a foyer, new bathrooms and a cry room, according to Sylvia Alanis, church secretary.

She posted the beginnings of the work on Facebook. “At this point it should be called ‘destruction.’ It will be hard to see our beloved church in this state,” she wrote. “The construction will begin on the outside and later the inside will be done. On the outside, the bell tower, the cover sitting area, and the sidewalks will be busted up and new sidewalks and foundation will be put in. The statue of St. Anthony has been moved to the front of the Religious Education Building, so St. Anthony will be watching over the renovation from the outside … and our Lord from the inside!”

She asked people to heed caution signs as some of the parking areas will be reserved for construction.

Currently they have a small attendance at daily Mass, still being held inside at 7 a.m. said Alanis. Weekend Masses, for the few weeks we have been back, have been outdoors under the covered area, she said, and that will continue as well. If bad weather is a factor they can move inside to the parish hall.

Alanis said that now was a good time to start the construction because of the limited number of attendees.

The present church was dedicated in February 1960 and between 1983 and 1986 an expansion of a covered porch and bell tower was added to the front façade of the church.

The church will keep its parish updated on their construction project through their Facebook page, Saint Anthony Of Padua Catholic Church.

LYNN Construction will complete the job.

St. Anthony of Padua in Palacios undergoing renovations and expansion. (Contributed Photo)

Palacios church expanding to add new foyer, cry room

Congratulations!

Bishop Brendan Cahill, left, celebrated 30 years as a priest on May 19 and will celebrate five years as bishop on June 29. Bishop Emeritus David Fellhauer also had two significant anniversaries this year. He celebrated 30 years as a bishop on May 28 and 55 years as a priest on May 29.

Office of Youth & Young Adult Ministry

Save the Date: September 18
Bishop Fellhauer Invitational Golf Tournament

For hole sponsorships and more information call (361) 573-0828

DIocese of Victoria in Texas

Find Us On facebook

New Date for DC, NYC and NIAGARA
September 18-26, 2020
Visit Ireland July 19-29 2021

Philadelphia, Amish Country & Fall Foliage in the Brandywine Valley October 4-9

~ Germany & Austria ~
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email: zkmnt@tisd.net
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Congratulations!

Bishop Brendan Cahill, left, celebrated 30 years as a priest on May 19 and will celebrate five years as bishop on June 29. Bishop Emeritus David Fellhauer also had two significant anniversaries this year. He celebrated 30 years as a bishop on May 28 and 55 years as a priest on May 29.
SCHULENBURG — Shane Hollas, center, is the St. Rose of Lima Catholic School 2020 Mother Elizabeth Ann Seton Award recipient. SRLCS chose Hollas for his numerous years of service and support to Catholic education. He and his wife, Tonia, sent both of their children, Jase (2014) and Brynlee (2016) to St. Rose School. His volunteerism included coaching several athletic teams over the years since 1993, including football, boys’ and girls’ basketball, and he assisted with softball and track. He continues to be a faithful St. Rose School supporter. Pictured with Hollas are Roseanne Gallia, principal, and the Rev. Timothy Kosler, pastor.

WEIMAR — St. Michael Catholic School of Weimar has announced that Judy Roeder has been selected as principal for the 2020-21 school year.

She starts July 1 and said she is excited to be taking on this new challenge.

“I have taught at the school for the past five years and have gotten to know the school family and the parish community. I look forward to stepping into this position as principal and maintaining the academic excellence and spiritual development that have been a tradition of St. Michael Catholic School from its very beginning,” Roeder said. “I appreciate the advancements and guidance Mrs. Carolanne McAfee, the current principal, has instilled throughout her administration. The traditions of the past will guide us to a new reality, the opening of the school year in the uncertainty of the COVID-19 pandemic. With ample planning and preparation, along with our unwavering trust in God, St. Michael Catholic school will be ready to continue to offer the academic excellence and spiritual development that it has always provided. I look forward to the challenges of this new reality.”

McAfee served as principal for the last seven years at St. Michael. Under her leadership, the school increased its enrollment, improved its use of technology for students, and maintained the tradition of academic excellence and unfailing service to its community, according to Dr. John Quary, superintendent of Catholic schools in the diocese.

HALLETTSVILLE -- Seniors Brett Hermes and Dalton Grahmann participated in the traditional May Crowning ceremony on May 1 at Sacred Heart Catholic Church. May is the month devoted to Mary, the Queen of Heaven and Earth, and the tradition of bringing flowers goes back a long way in the history of the church. Many students and their families brought flowers in honor of Mary to the grotto outside the church.
John Cesarz, 2020 valedictorian of Sacred Heart High School in Hallettsville plans to pursue a computer science degree at Rice University in Houston. While at Sacred Heart he was active in band, golf and the National Honor Society. He was a Welch Summer Scholar at the University of Texas-Austin, participated in TAPPS academics, was part of the University of Houston-Victoria high school robotics team and participated in computer competitions such as the Battle of the Brains and HP Code Wars.

Ella Harper, salutatorian of Sacred Heart High School in Hallettsville plans to attend the University of Texas-Austin. Daughter of Thomas and Angela Harper.

Dalton Grahmann, 2020 historian of Sacred Heart High School in Hallettsville plans to attend Texas A&M University-Victoria. Son of Matt and Elaine Cesarz.

Grace Hammack, salutatorian of the St. Joseph High School, Victoria, Class of 2020 will be attending Texas A&M University-College Station to pursue a chemical engineering degree and plans to attend law school afterward. While in high school, she served on student council all four years and was president her senior year. She was a member of National Honor Society and a student ambassador. She also participated in volleyball, basketball, track and was a cheerleader.

Macy Grabarkievitz, salutatorian of the 2020 senior class at St. Paul High School will be going to Texas A&M University to study psychology in the hopes of becoming a mental health counselor. While at St. Paul, she played volleyball and softball and volunteered many hours of service at local church and school events. She was class secretary all four years, and president of the National Honor Society in her senior year and a member of Club Med.

Hayley Fleener, historian of the 2020 St. Joseph High School graduating class plans to attend Texas A&M University in College Station to major in English with a specialization in creative writing. She plans to pursue a master’s degree wants to eventually teach English and publish young adult fiction novels. While at STJ, she held numerous leadership positions, including student council representative, sophomore class president, and NHS vice president. She was chosen as Trustee of the Crown by my class for the May Crowning service, which she considers a great honor.

Andrew Jaeger is St. Paul High School’s Class of 2020 historian. He plans to attend the University of Houston-Victoria to pursue a bachelor’s degree in computer science. He plans to use that for future studies. He is a member of the National Honor Society was also a member of the SCS Band and named Band Beau in his senior year. Andrew regularly volunteers at the Shiner Public Library. He has also volunteered at the Wolters Museum and helped with many fundraisers for Shiner Catholic School and Shiner Catholic Church.
Practical ways to support our priests

Over May and June two very important days take place: Father’s Day and ordination. Both of these can make us think of the priests in our lives and the great gift they are to our families. What are some practical ways in which we can support them?

No. 1: Prayer. Until recently, I was guilty of not regularly praying for our clergy, who we look to for leadership in our faith. It wasn’t until my family started praying together every evening that we began this habit of praying for our clergy. How can you and your family take time every day to pray for the pope, our bishop, and the priests at your local parish?

No. 2: Tell them we appreciate them. Just like everyone else in our lives, priests need our words of encouragement. What are some small ways your family can show appreciation to your local priest? Maybe a simple e-mail or dropping off a note at the parish office? Perhaps your children can create a piece of art for them? Or simply tell them “thank you” after Mass. Priests may not have a “family” like ours, but we are their spiritual family. A small gift from their spiritual children can mean a lot.

No. 3: Offer to help. Instead of telling Father what you need, ask him what he needs. It may be as simple as one meal each week, so he doesn’t have to worry about cooking.

No. 4: Bring them a gift. Like all of us, they have a “love language” and it might be gift giving. Do you have a priest who seems to always be doing something special for the parish? Or offering something new to parishioners? His language may be gift giving. So drop something off – big or small – at the rectory to put a smile on his face.

No. 5: Food. As a wise person once said, “Cooking is love made visible.” Show your priest love by bringing him one of your favorite dishes, or maybe his personal favorite that you saw him enjoying at the last church picnic. And never forget, a well-fed priest has the energy and stamina to shepherd his people. I hope you can implement at least one of these ideas to show your priest how much you care about and appreciate them. As the Catechism states, “Through the ordained ministry, especially that of bishops and priests, the presence of Christ as head of the Church is made visible in the midst of the community of believers.” (CCC 1549) Without our priests, we wouldn’t have Christ’s presence so clearly among us.

Until next time, I hope you can discuss this topic at your own table with family and friends. And if you ever want to chat with me about what I’ve written, or anything else, please call me at 361-573-0828, Ext. 2265. God bless!

Justin Reyes is the Director of Family Evangelization for the Diocese of Victoria in Texas. E-mail Justin at: jreyes@victoriadiocese.org.
The Church is the same regardless of changes

EDITOR’S NOTE: The following sermon was written for the fifth Sunday of Easter, Cycle B, some 25 years ago. Father Kram titled it, “We’re All in it Together,” bringing to mind our current situation and the battle cry many have adopted to show a sense of community.

Recently, the news carried reports about children whose parents were homeless. The families lived on the street or in shelters; the children were shifted around from one school to another. They did not know where they belonged.

And we have also heard of how, in the cities, gangs dominate whole neighborhoods and make life miserable for those who live there.

And another big fact of life is the need we feel for the approval of others. All these things go to show us how dependent we are on one another; how we feel the need to belong.

In addition to these unofficial relationships, there are clubs and unions and associations of every kind, including marriage and the family. Our local community, our country, our alliances with other nations — everywhere there are relationships that make life on earth bearable and purposeful.

And, for the good of our souls, God has given us the spiritual Kingdom of his Son, which is the Church — the Church, whose life and direction and purpose flow into every part of us from Jesus our head.

Now let’s discuss the changes in the Church that took place during the Second Vatican Council under Pope John XXIII.

I find the Church, I still find my Savior, just as I did in the Church of my baptism as a little boy. The Church has merely gotten its branches trimmed and its twigs replaced.

What if now only a few old people still genuflect devoutly? What if many, especially the young, rush out of church before the Mass is over? It seems safe to predict that just a few generations from now, the Church will spring back to life and become immensely popular, with all the vocations the Lord can use.

The changes that disturb us today will bear fruit tomorrow.

Life is short and uncertain and is filled with many problems. We each can get only one chance at it, but this much is certain – that if we truly belong to the Lord Jesus and remain faithful to him, we still succeed in fulfilling the reasons for which we were born.

So today, rather than doing anything spectacular, today is a good day to rejoice in the fact that we can call ourselves Christian.

It is also a fine opportunity to take new courage in the unity that we find among ourselves in so many material and spiritual ways. And a fine day to note that, in spite of ourselves, we can bear much fruit and bring honor and glory to the Father and truly work toward our own mutual well being and happiness in this life and in the next.

Lord, Jesus, thank you for numbering us among your followers. Help us always to remain worthy of the name of Christian. Grant that we might live always in you. For, without you, we can do nothing, Amen.

Pope’s Pentecost message: Church united by Spirit, not personal beliefs

BY JUNNO AROCHO ESTEVES
Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY — Just as the apostles were united once they received the Holy Spirit, the church is united by that same spirit and not by keeping company just with those who agree on a certain interpretation of Christian teaching, Pope Francis said on Pentecost.

Celebrating Mass May 31 in St. Peter’s Basilica, the pope said that those who give in to the temptation to fiercely “defend our ideas, believing them to be good for everybody and agreeing only with those who think as we do,” adhere to a faith created in their own image and “not what the Spirit wants.”

“We might think that what unite us are our beliefs and our morality. But there is much more: Our principle of unity is the Holy Spirit. He reminds us that, first of all, we are God’s beloved children. The Spirit comes to us, in our differences and difficulties, to tell us that we have one Lord – Jesus and one Father, and that for this reason we are brothers and sisters,” he said.

In February, the Vatican had announced that the pope would celebrate Pentecost in Malta. However, the trip was canceled due to the coronavirus, and instead he celebrated the Mass with a limited congregation present at the basilica’s Altar of the Chair.

After celebrating Mass, the pope spoke to the socially distanced faithful gathered in St. Peter’s Square before praying the “Regina Coeli.” It was the first time the pope addressed the faithful from the window of the Apostolic Palace since lockdown measures forced an end to all public gatherings.

“Today, now that the square is open, we can return here. It is a pleasure” to see you, the pope said.

Reflecting on the feast of Pentecost, the pope said the coming of the Holy Spirit turned the lives of the apostles “upside down” and made them “courageous witnesses” to Christ’s death and resurrection. “The feast of Pentecost renewes the awareness that the life-giving presence of the Holy Spirit dwells in us,” he said. “He also gives us the courage to go outside the protective walls of our ’cenacles,’ without resting in the quiet life or locking ourselves up in sterile habits.”

Pope Francis said that the secret to unity is that it is a gift of the Holy Spirit and that it is important to understand that God “acts not by taking away, but by giving.”

“Why is this important?” the pope asked. “Because our way of being believers depends on how we understand God. If we have in mind a God who takes away and imposes himself, we, too, will want to take away and impose ourselves: occupying spaces, demanding recognition, seeking power.”

“But if we have in our hearts a God who is gift, everything changes. If we realize that what we are is his gift, free and unmerited, then we, too, will want to make our lives a gift,” he said.
Sunday Readings from June 14 - July 12

June 14 ~ Solemnity of the Body and Blood of Christ
Deuteronomy 8:2-3, 14B-16A
Psalms 147:12-13, 14-15, 19-20
1 Corinthians 10:16-17
John 6:51-58

June 21 ~ Twelfth Sunday in Ordinary Time
Jeremiah 20:10-13
Psalms 69:8-10, 14, 17, 33-35
Romans 5:12-15
Matthew 10:26-33

June 28 ~ Thirteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time
2 Kings 4:8-11, 14-16A
Psalms 89:2-3, 16-17, 18-19
Romans 6:3-4, 8-11
Matthew 10:37-42

July 5 ~ Fourteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time
Zechariah 9:9-10
Psalms 145:1-2, 8-9, 10-11, 13-14
Romans 8:9, 11-13
Matthew 11:25-30

July 12 ~ Fifteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time
Isaiah 55:10-11
Psalms 65:10, 11, 12-13, 14
Romans 8:18-23
Matthew 13:1-23

Special Days in the Catholic Church
June 29
Solemnity of Sts. Peter and Paul, Apostles
July 3
Feast of Saint Thomas, Apostle

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

Cathedral’s music director completes doctorate
Continued from pg. 6

The organ at OLV, which plays through large pipes adorning the back wall of the loft, does need some attention. “It’s well past its life expectancy,” said Hunter, and they are looking into the best way to repair it. “We need to find the right solution to carry the church into the future.”

BY JANET JONES
The Catholic Lighthouse

Bishop Brendan Cahill and three other U.S. bishops led a national online novena to St. Isidore that began May 7 and ended with a Mass on a farm just outside of Victoria on May 15, the saint’s feast day.

All of the novena prayer services were streamed on the Catholic Rural Life Facebook Page and are still available on the CRL website, www.catholicrurallife.org. Joining Bishop Cahill in leading the prayers were Bishop Robert Gruss of the Diocese of Saginaw, Mich.; Bishop John Folda of the Diocese of Fargo, N.D.; and Bishop Shawn McKnight of the Diocese of Jefferson City, Mo.

The Diocese of Victoria provided Spanish translations of the daily prayers. Furthermore, Bishop Cahill, Father Jacob Koether, Father Eliecer Patino and Father Parmenio Florez led Spanish versions of the novena that were posted on Facebook.

During the live-streamed bilingual Mass that concluded the novena, people were watching from the far northern states to the most southern states.

James Ennis, Executive Director of Catholic Rural Life, recently sent out a letter of gratitude stating:

“In these strange days, what a blessing it was to share together in the novena to St. Isidore and in the celebration of his feast on Friday, May 15. As the patron saint of farmers and of CRL, St. Isidore has heard my voice often – when I faced a difficult decision at work, during times of bad weather and pestilence for our farmers, or when my family was gifted with baby chicks and I had no idea where to start.

“The communion of saints is a powerful and holy tool instituted for our well-being and holiness. As we were led in prayer by the bishops on our board of directors for the novena, it was more poignant than ever! It was not just a private prayer during this time of isolation; it was an assembly of men, women and children across the country uniting their voices, their prayers and their hearts all on behalf of rural communities.

“Thank you again to all who were able to join us! If you missed it, you can still watch all nine days of the novena on our website.”
Safe Environment

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:
- The Texas Department of Family and Protective Services, within 48 hours, at (800) 252-5400, www.txabusehotline.org, or local police department. If person is in immediate danger call 911.

or

- 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@victoriadiocese.org.

BY PAUL BARRETT
Special to the Lighthouse

These past weeks have witnessed a situation never imagined possible; church services without parishioners. This unusual situation brings to mind a similar personal experience with no physical church and a most unusual gathering of unlike and unwashed parishioners.

During the summer of 1959, along with many other Marines, I was participating in a Marine Corps field training exercise in the high desert wilderness of Southern California near 29 Palms. A bright, warm Sunday morning found us operating in a remote, desolate part of the southern Mojave Desert far from any chapel or church.

A Catholic chaplain was helicoptered in from the main base and driven to our location by Jeep. Upon arrival, the chaplain requested a “poncho liner,” a 90-by-80-inch multipurpose, reversible camouflage canvas panel used by Marines for ground cover, sunshade and shelter. This panel was placed upon the hood of the Jeep as the altar cloth for our Mass. The chaplain requested two volunteers for altar servers. With no one else responding, another Marine and I volunteered. Kneeling in the desert sand for Mass that Sunday morning in a “cathedral without walls,” I was reminded of God’s great plan of salvation and its amazing journey across time and generations from Genesis through Deuteronomy.

Still veiled in morning haze, distant mountains brought to mind the story of Abraham and his son, Isaac making their way toward Mt. Moriah for a burnt offering to God. Isaac, carrying the wood for the fire asked his father about the lamb for the sacrifice. “My son, God himself will provide the sacrifice…” (Genesis 22:8). God did provide the sacrifice, “a ram caught by its horns in a bush.”

It was in a high desert wilderness much like this where God first spoke to Moses from a burning bush, setting into motion a series of events that eventually would lead to a stable in Bethlehem and a blood-soaked cross in Jerusalem. God’s great plan of salvation brought heaven to his children on earth so that His children on earth could be brought to heaven. “And the Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us, and we saw his glory, the glory as of the Father’s only Son, full of grace and truth.” (John 1:14)

I am an old man now, full of years and memories. Among my most cherished memories is kneeling in the sand of the high desert in worship of God the Father, as had generations before and after Jesus, the Lamb of God.

• Paul Barrett is the RCIA director for St. Philip the Apostle Church in El Campo and a member of the Catholic Writers Guild.

Bishop Cahill reminds seafarers they are ‘not forgotten,’ even amid pandemic

BY RHINA GUIDOS
Catholic News Service

WASHINGTON — Some of the victims of the coronavirus are an already unseen group that now has a big role to play in the pandemic.

During a May 22 online prayer service via Zoom, those who work with mariners and other maritime workers via the Apostleship of the Sea ministry praised them, their work and their sacrifice as they keep essential goods moving during the pandemic, even as they or their families have been affected.

“As you all know, during this difficult time, seafarers are essential to the movement of goods, including food and medical supplies,” said Sister Joanna Okereke, national director of the Apostleship of the Sea ministry, reminding those gathered of the importance of those they minister.

Along with Bishop Brendan J. Cahill of Victoria, Texas, the ministry’s bishop promoter, Sister Okereke said she believed it was important to continue this year, even in the midst of a pandemic, the tradition of dedicating the National Day of Prayer and Remembrance for Mariners and People of the Sea – this time via Zoom.

With a virtual background that featured water, Sister Okereke, of the Congregation of the Handmaids of the Holy Child Jesus, urged the continued accompaniment of maritime workers.

The bishop, directing his prayer to the maritime workers, urged them to “know that you are not forgotten, know of our love for you each and every day.” Connecting with speakers and others gathered for the prayer from coast to coast and various points around the U.S., he reminded all of God’s accompaniment and healing.

“If we can think of healing in our lives and how we’ve come to experiencing healing … we pray that our hearts may be large in caring for one another,” and that those experiencing loneliness may realize “that they may feel alone but that they are loved and cherished,” he said. “In the midst of the storm, God creates something beautiful.”

• Paul Barrett is the RCIA director for St. Philip the Apostle Church in El Campo and a member of the Catholic Writers Guild.

DIOCESE
Mental health another victim of pandemic

BY JANET JONES
The Catholic Lighthouse

As businesses and churches closed their doors to protect the physical health of the community, the anxiety of the situation caused mental health problems to worsen in some cases. But when the Emmaus Center for counseling and spiritual guidance went to a virtual format, it meant that many clients were missing appointments, because that platform simply doesn’t work for everyone.

Ashley Silvas, director of clinical service of the Emmaus Center, said, “I know for certain it has caused increased substance abuse, child abuse, anxiety and depression.”

The center reopened its office on May 18 to continue face-to-face counseling, but must do so on a more limited basis to keep social distancing and sanitation practices possible.

Silvas said some counselors are dealing with anxiety problems that are directly pandemic-related. “Now we’re coming up on two months of this, and people are just trying to figure out, ‘What’s going to happen on two months of this, and people are just missing appointments, because that platform simply doesn’t work for everyone.

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She and other counselors have continued working from home with the help of a program called TheraNest for hosting virtual therapy. “For myself, I still stay pretty busy every day,” she said. She specializes in counseling small children with play therapy and teenagers. It’s been a new challenge, she said, as she has coached parents through the mechanics of play therapy that she normally does in her office. And she has had to adapt her routines for ones now returning to the office.

The pandemic crisis that caused a slowdown in client appointments also forced the decision to cancel the Emmaus Center’s main fundraiser, the annual Roast and Toast that, last year, raised more than $100,000 for operations. Furthermore, adding TheraNest and supplying masks and additional cleaning products has meant some new expenses.

The Very Rev. Gary Janak, a licensed counselor himself who developed the center and serves as its executive director, said Bishop Brendan Cahill is committed to giving the Emmaus Center the diocesan support it needs to keep operating. The diocese has been blessed so far because its employees have not suffered layoffs or pay cuts – things that are happening in other dioceses.

Father Janak said donations are definitely appreciated at this time, but as a pastor who knows how badly mental health resources are needed, he stressed that the Emmaus Center was never created to be a money-maker. It is to be “a service to God’s people,” he said.

If all goes well, Silvas said, the Roast and Toast will return in 2021 and things will get to some sort of normalcy, even though that may not look like the pre-pandemic normal.

After living in a touchless, socially distant environment, is it going to be difficult for people to stop viewing others as a source of sickness?

Neither Silva nor Father Janak think we have been in this situation long enough to be reprogrammed in how we approach society, but agree that it will take a while to get to the point we no longer are afraid of being part of a physically present community.

“We only have to look at God’s Word,” he said. “We have to see each other always as the Lord sees us,” Father Janak said.

Catholic Partnership on Disability working hard to provide resources

BY MARK PATTISON
Catholic News Service

WASHINGTON — Much has been made of how businesses are grinding to a halt in the wake of the coronavirus pandemic.

Not so with the National Catholic Partnership on Disability, according to its new executive director, Charleen Katra. “If anything, I think it’s busier now,” she told Catholic News Service in an April 7 phone interview.

In contrast to the stilled traffic across much of the nation and world, Internet traffic is up considerably. That is reflected in the NCPD’s website, www.ncpd.org, which offers daily COVID-19 updates and an NCPD statement on the rights of persons with disabilities to medical treatment during the pandemic.

“The last two to three weeks intensified our response to the pandemic, the crisis, under our COVID-19 resource section of our website,” Katra said.

Not everything on the NCPD website is from the organization’s own members and staff. There are lots of links. NCPD “works hard to be a clearinghouse for other good information out there -- on many topics,” Katra said.

One of the newest is educational in scope. “Some of the major publishers have given anything and everything they have for this community of diverse learning. They’re giving it away right now for several months at least,” Katra told CNS. “They’ve said, ‘Here’s the password, use it for free right now.’”

Katra has a focus on autism and mental health issues, saying both have been on the rise. “We almost can’t provide resources and training fast enough for our church,” she said.

The pandemic can provide “teachable moments that highlight in positive ways the gifts of someone with disabilities,” Katra said. “It’s more what are our different gifts ... even right now.”

She added, “Someone with Down syndrome might have something someone needs to make them laugh, and that will help them feel joyful an peaceful in stressful times.”

Katra took over as NCPD’s executive director Dec. 1, following the retirement of Janice Benton. She had spent the previous 20 years working for the Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston as associate director of evangelization and catechesis, with ministry to persons with disabilities being a core part of her responsibilities. “NCPD was a tremendous resource to me at the local level,” Katra recalled.

She figures about 25 percent of the U.S. population “has some diagnosis of disability.” That leaves “the other population, 75 percent. What are we doing to educate them? That’s where we can turn some corners.”

Katra said she takes to heart something St. John Paul II once said that “people with disabilities are prophets of how we will all become if we live a long life.”

Join in listening to Bishop Brendan Cahill every third Tuesday of the month at 6:30 a.m. on Relevant Radio Morning Air with John Harper. Listeners can call in with questions or comments. You can listen to past podcastS online.

Relevant Radio® has been helping people bridge the gap between faith and everyday life through informative, entertaining, and interactive programming twenty-four hours per day, seven days per week. The Relevant Radio network is currently serving the Church with 127 stations reaching 39 states, with a potential listening audience of 133 million people. Programming can be heard worldwide via streaming audio at relevantradio.com and on the mobile app.
Elderly and infirm need to know they still belong

BY LAURIE BAUTISTA
Special to The Lighthouse

Walking down the halls of nursing facilities or going into the homes of shut-ins may not always be pleasant. Among other things, there may be the unsettling moans of pain or cries of loneliness. But mostly I hear positive cries that are like songs that sing out “We STILL belong!”

They come from parishioners in our nursing facilities, hospitals, rehab centers, hospice centers and private homes. They are the faithful who cannot be physically present at Mass or parish functions, but need to be reassured that they are still part of the church, valued, loved and linked to their faith community. They are the ones who see familiar faces, hear encouraging words, and are reassured that they STILL belong.

These cries are sung when a priest comes to anoint them with the oil of the sick, bring them Communion, provide them the opportunity to become reconciled with our merciful God and with themselves – because they know they STILL belong.

They are sung with gratitude when extraordinary ministers of Holy Communion (EMHC) come to visit and bring them Communion, when they are brought the parish bulletin, a prayer card, a special gift or perhaps only the gathering of garden flowers … because they know they STILL belong.

Unfortunately, many of our sick, our elderly, and our dying are out of sight, and out of our consciousness. It’s true that we collectively gather them up in prayerful ways during Sunday Liturgy. And this is good. But it’s also long distance. It doesn’t take the place of a visit from a priest, deacon, or parishioner who can offer a gentle touch or a needed word of prayer and comfort. A visit carries the affirming words: “You STILL belong. You are STILL an important part of our church family.”

In November of 2019, the Diocesan Liturgical Commission established a committee for the Pastoral Care of the Elderly, Sick and Dying. This ad hoc committee includes Dr. Ty Myer, Dr. Jim Neumann, Deacon Steve Borowicz, my husband, Bob, and myself.

The purpose of the committee is to become actively aware of the liturgical (the sacramental) needs of those who are physically separated from the body of the Diocesan Church because of age, illness or active stages of dying. They are called to creatively and compassionately address these needs under the guidance of Bishop Brendan Cahill and the members of the liturgical commission.

Subsequent to the formation of the committee, a Victoria-wide research project was done. In brief, the research (pre-COVID 19) included the following:

1. Five Victoria parishes minister to Catholics in the city’s 12 residential facilities and four hospital and rehabilitation centers.
2. Weekly Mass is celebrated at nursing facilities on a rotating basis by many of our priests. In the absence of a priest, a Communion Service is usually held. The Legion of Mary has taken on the ministry of helping with the weekly Masses and Communion Services, as well as bringing Communion to those unable to leave their rooms.
3. Weekly visits are made by most parishes to the homebound and to those in hospitals, nursing facilities and rehab centers, either by the priests or EMHC.
4. Even with all that is being done, there are many unmet needs. The number of our clergy and laity is limited.

To address the needs of this ministry, the committee is exploring various avenues, which include the following:

1. A full-time chaplain.
2. Increasing the number of volunteers involved in this ministry.
3. Professional and ongoing education and training for those involved in this ministry.
4. Addressing the overlapping pastoral care ministries from our parishes.

The opportunities to be involved in the Pastoral Care to the Sick, Elderly and Dying are many and varied. To minister to those who are hurting, isolated and suffering in one way or another, or to be with someone who is in the active stages of dying, is an education of one’s spirit and heart. It is a calling that many have, but may not be awakened to it yet. Those who are involved in this ministry find great joy because it brings healing, not only to the sick and dying, but to those who serve in this ministry. Those who serve and those being touched the depths of each other and proclaim: “We STILL belong to each other.”

Mother Teresa once said: “I know I am touching the living body of Christ in the broken bodies of the hungry and the suffering.”

Laurie Bautista (laurie.bautista@gmail.com) is a member of St. Mary’s Catholic Church in Victoria and a member of the Diocesan Liturgical Commission.

The quiet pandemic victims: Those grieving death

From Catholic News Service sources

The quiet victims during the worldwide coronavirus pandemic have been those grieving the death of a loved one.

A different aspect of grieving has been introduced to a lot of people due to public health restrictions keeping people from properly sharing their grief when a loved one dies, as social distancing measures mean large-scale celebrations like funerals are forbidden, and the accompanying visitations and other processes surrounding death are just not possible.

A recent COVID-19-related death in the Diocese of Victoria was a spot on example. Gary Rangnow, director of the Victoria Diocese’s Catholic Cemeteries, said he could see how badly the family of the deceased wanted to get out of their car and approach the grave-side. But strict protocols prevented that.

For many, there is no closure. These are integral parts of the grieving process and largely hidden as the world focuses on getting through the current crisis.

“The ritualized grief experience … for the most part has been taken away,” said Deacon Curtis Boone of Toronto, Canada.

As a grief counselor, Deacon Boone sees this on a daily basis. He sees the heartbreak, where even visiting the gravesite of a loved one is forbidden as cemeteries are locked. He shares the pain he has encountered when dealing with the bereaved.

On several occasions, Deacon Boone has said to people how he would love to give them a hug now, but can’t because of social distancing. Often, people just break down and weep in front of him.

“I can see the families that I deal with that their grief is definitely augmented,” said Deacon Boone, director of Side by Side Grief Ministry, which he runs with his wife, Joanne, out of St. Padre Pio Parish in Kleinburg, Ontario, northwest of Toronto. “It’s been derailed, it’s been stopped, it’s been twisted within them.”

It’s an issue Deacon Boone is sure will cause trouble down the road, when restrictions have been lifted.

“We’re going to deal with a lot of fallout,” said Boone. “A lot of trauma is being added to these families because they can’t be with their loved ones in their final days.”

The Emmaus Center

The Emmaus Center provides individual, couple, family, adolescent and children’s counseling as well as specialized support groups from a Catholic perspective. For more information or to schedule an appointment, please call (361) 212-0830.
Founder of KCs a step closer to sainthood

BY KURT JENSEN
Catholic News Service

WASHINGTON — Father Michael McGivney, the founder of the Knights of Columbus, may be an ideal prospective saint for the current age, said Carl L. Anderson, supreme knight of the international fraternal order.

“We’ve been praying for years for this to occur, and finally this day has arrived,” he told Catholic News Service May 27.

First, he’s a pro-life hero. The miracle recognized by the Vatican paving the way for his beatification occurred in 2015 and involved an U.S. baby, still in utero, with a life-threatening condition that, under most circumstances, could have led to an abortion.

He was found to be healed after his family prayed to Father McGivney. “The Vatican likes to be the one to discuss more details than that,” Anderson said.

The Vatican announced early May 27 that Pope Francis, who met with the board of directors of the Knights of Columbus in February, had signed the decree recognizing the miracle through the intercession of Father McGivney. Once he is beatified, he will be given the title “Blessed.”

Father McGivney (1852-1890), ordained a priest for what is now the Archdiocese of Hartford, Conn., founded the Knights of Columbus at St. Mary’s Church in New Haven, Conn., in 1882. The fraternal order for Catholic men has become the largest lay Catholic organization in the world with 2 million members and sponsors a wide range of educational, charitable and religious activities.

The initial work on his sainthood cause began in 1982 on the Knights’ centenary. His cause was formally opened in Hartford in 1997, and he was given the title “servant of God.” In March 2008, the Catholic Church recognized the priest heroically lived the Christian virtues, so he was given the title “venerable.”

His beatification ceremony will be held in Connecticut sometime this fall — like all other events, scheduling is uncertain because of the COVID-19 pandemic — “and sometime after that, we’ll be looking for another miracle,” Anderson said.

Generally, two miracles attributed to the candidate’s intercession are required for sainthood. Father McGivney, who will be the first American parish priest to be beatified and has long been a hero of working-class Catholics, can be viewed as a martyr of a pandemic. When he died from pneumonia complications at age 38 in 1890, it was during an outbreak of influenza known as the Russian flu in Thomaston, Mass. Some recent evidence, according to the Knights, indicates the outbreak may have been the result of a coronavirus.

Editor’s Note: The Knights have set up a new website for Father McGivney’s sainthood cause: www.fathermcs giovney.org.

Help sought for refugees

BOGOTA, Colombia (CNS) – The Vatican’s leading diplomat has warned that Venezuelan migrants and refugees are facing a “humanitarian disaster” as lockdowns in host nations leave them without jobs and force some to return home in grueling conditions.

In an online conference on Venezuelan migration organized May 26 by Spain’s government, Archbishop Paul Gallagher, the Vatican’s foreign minister, urged donors to “act immediately” to fund programs that help vulnerable migrants and refugees from the South American country. “COVID-19 continues to exacerbate the current crisis,” Archbishop Gallagher said. “Already-underfunded organizations and programs are in critical need of increased support to upgrade shelters and services” so that they meet COVID-19 requirements.

Office of Family Evangelization

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ITALIANS DEBATE CONTINUATION OF ONLINE MASSES

BY CINDY WOODEN
Catholic News Service

ROME — As Italian Catholics prepared to celebrate Pentecost, the second Sunday with Masses permitted with a limited number of faithful, bishops and priests were still debating whether to continue livestreaming Masses as well.

After a 10-week ban, Masses with the faithful were allowed again beginning May 18. The number of people permitted to attend is determined by the size of the church building, the possibility of keeping people safely distanced from one another and the enforcement of measures such as everyone wearing masks.

But people who have a fever or have been in contact in the previous 14 days with someone who tested positive for COVID-19 are not allowed to attend. And the national health service still was recommending that elderly people and people with certain ailments stay home as much as possible.

Avvenire, the daily newspaper of the Italian bishops’ conference, noted a debate in Italy about whether livestreamed Masses should be “suspended, like the pope did, to encourage people to return to participating in person at the Eucharist,” or should they be continued with a congregation for those who “cannot leave home or still do not feel it is right for various and respectable reasons.”

Pope Francis’ last livestreamed Mass from the chapel of his residence was May 17, although the next day the Vatican broadcast the Mass he celebrated in St. Peter’s Basilica at the tomb of St. John Paul II to mark the 100th anniversary of the Polish pope’s birth.

Commenting on the decision to stop the live broadcasts, Andrea Tornielli, editorial director for the Dicastery for Communication, noted that many people would miss the morning celebration, “but, as Francis himself said, there is a need to return to the communal familiarity with the Lord in the sacraments (by) participating in the liturgy in person.”

Archbishop Lauro Tisi of Trent said he would continue his livestreamed Masses through June “because we cannot forget that not everyone can come in yet,” particularly the elderly and the sick.

But the livestream also is important for the people who are present in the church for the Mass, he said. Those able to attend “must not forget that a good part of the community is still at home.”
Catholics reminded of Church’s commitment to ecumenism

From the USCCB

WASHINGTON — On May 25, the anniversary of the encyclical on the Catholic Church’s commitment to ecumenism, Bishop Joseph C. Bambera of Scranton and chairman of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops’ Committee on Ecumenical and Interreligious Affairs, reminded Catholics of that commitment.

“May 25, 2020, marks the twenty-fifth anniversary of the promulgation of Pope St. John Paul II’s encyclical on the Catholic Church’s commitment to ecumenism, Ut Unum Sint. This anniversary should serve as a reminder that the way of ecumenism is the way of the Church (7), and that all Catholics are called to espouse a strong commitment to building Christian unity.

“Pope St. John Paul II, who worked tirelessly to build ecumenical relationships, described the impulse of working for unity between Christians as ‘a duty of Christian conscience enlightened by faith and guided by love’ (8). We rejoice that Pope Benedict XVI and Pope Francis have continued to advance this singular mission between the Catholic Church and other Christian communities. We celebrate numerous theological convergences that have been discovered in ecumenical dialogues over the course of the past 25 years as we seek to grow closer together.

“Pope St. John Paul II concluded this European Catholics call for universal minimum wage

OXFORD, England (CNS) — Catholic groups across Europe have echoed Pope Francis’ call for a universal basic wage as part of recovery plans after the coronavirus pandemic.

“No one in the church should be against a decent minimum wage which saves people from poverty; this should be defended by Catholics worldwide,” said Peter Verhaeghe, policy and advocacy officer with Caritas Europa. “Its level would need to be clarified by governments, trade unions and employer organizations. But the idea of paying contributions and building up social rights represents a solidarity system in line with Catholic social teaching.”

Verhaeghe told Catholic News Service poverty among working families had risen sharply in Europe, where not all countries had a legal minimum pay structure. He added that a universal basic wage should be distinguished from the centuries-old ideal of an automatic state income for all citizens, which raised more complex issues.

Pope says wounded world needs Christ’s Gospel

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Christians are called to witness to the Holy Spirit who can renew and heal a world suffering in the aftermath of the coronavirus pandemic, Pope Francis said.

In a May 30 video message to the Catholic Charismatic Renewal International Service, also known as “Charis,” the pope said the world “seeds our witness to the Gospel, the Gospel of Jesus.” “Today the world suffers, it is wounded,” he said. “We live in a very wounded world, which suffers especially in the poorest who are discarded; when all our human securities have disappeared, the world needs us to give it Jesus.”

The pope’s message was broadcast during the movement’s worldwide Pentecost vigil, celebrated online due to restrictive measures to prevent the spread of COVID-19.

As Bethlehem reopens, joy tinged with uncertainty

BETHLEHEM, West Bank (CNS) — Bethlehem residents returned to the Church of the Nativity as the holy site opened to visitors May 26 after being closed since March because of the COVID-19 pandemic. But amid the joy was a feeling of uncertainty about their economic future, as pilgrims and tourists are not yet able to return. In the creche where Christians venerate as the traditional site of Jesus’ birth, local Syriac Catholic tour guide Rizek Nazi was filming a video on his cellphone with his two sons, George, 10, and Aram, 9, to give pilgrims a virtual tour of the place as it opened, and to entice them to plan a visit once international travel reopens.

Grants given to fund biblical literacy projects

From the USCCB

WASHINGTON — This spring, the Confraternity of Christian Doctrine (CCD) awarded grants in the amount of $146,168 for eight projects that support the goals of the CCD to promote Catholic biblical literacy and Catholic biblical interpretation. The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops announced the recipients on May 27.

The CCD works with the Catholic Biblical Association (CBA) to offer these grants, accepting applications only from the CBA, including the organization itself, its designees, and its full and associate members. In fidelity to Dei Verbum, the dogmatic constitution on divine revelation promulgated by Pope Paul VI in 1965, the CBA’s purpose is to promote scholarly study in Scripture and related fields by meetings of the association, publications, and support to those engaged in such studies.

Bishop Felipe J. Estévez of Saint Augustine and a member of the CCD-CBA Liaison Committee, noted that “We are blessed by those scholars who dedicate the best of their talents to unfold the treasures of the Scriptures for God’s people.”

Funding for these grants comes from the royalties received from the publication of the New American Bible and its derivative works, which the CCD develops, publishes, promotes, and distributes.

One of six projects sponsored by the CCD included:

• $25,000 to Todd Hanneken (Saint Mary’s University, San Antonio, Texas) for “La Biblia y su Tradicion; The Bible and its Tradition: Collaboration for Catholic Biblical Literacy in the Southwest”
El diácono Robert Lavanco de la Iglesia Católica Nuestra Señora de la Esperanza reza con Krystyna Kopacki en el distrito de Queens de la ciudad de Nueva York el 24 de mayo de 2020. Varios obispos estadounidenses anunciaron que la decisión de suspender la celebración pública de la Eucaristía, debido a la pandemia por el coronavirus, se determinó “no por miedo, sino por nuestro más profundo respeto a la vida y salud humana”. (Foto CNS-Mike Segar, Reuters)

Evangelista: La pandemia ha cambiado métodos de alcance parroquial

POR PETER FINNEY JR.

Catholic News Service

NUEVA ORLEANS – Durante dos meses de aislamiento social, el trabajo de las empresas estadounidenses ha migrado, estando preparado o no, al hogar.

Si pijamas se han convertido en el nuevo traje de trabajo, y el sofá se ha transformado en el nuevo escritorio, ¿dónde deja eso a la Iglesia Católica de Estados Unidos que anhela mantener contacto con sus feligreses a través de liturgias por Zoom y conversaciones espirituales en Facebook Live transmitidas a sus hogares por medios sociales?

Para Scot Landry, evangelista católico con sede en Boston cuya vocación como uno de los líderes de Dynamic Catholic requiere que él piense a lo grande y de una forma audaz, la iglesia en este momento tiene una oportunidad única para enfrentar los desafíos creados por la pandemia del coronavirus.

“Creo que la Iglesia Católica y cada una de sus parroquias van a ser diferentes a causa del virus y la forma en la que hemos respondido,” comentó Landry, quien respondió tomando en cuenta las incógnitas sobre cuánto tiempo llevará encontrar una vacuna o un medicamento terapéutico para combatir el COVID-19. Pero “las parroquias que han invertido en tecnología y comunicación sólida con sus feligreses han tenido mucho mejor rendimiento durante las últimas ocho semanas”, indicó Landry.

Landry dijo que uno de los principales avances será el número de parroquias que continuarán con planes de ofrecer donaciones en línea para que las personas puedan “apoyar la misión” fácilmente.

“Algunas de las parroquias que han tenido grandes dificultades en las últimas ocho semanas son las que se apoyaron casi exclusivamente en el ofertorio dominical de cada semana”, expresó Landry al Clarion Herald, el periódico de la Arquidiócesis de Nueva Orleans.

“Litúrgicamente, trear las ofrendas es una parte muy importante de la misa, pero está lejos de ser la ‘mejor’ si nuestras parroquias quieren contar con el apoyo constante de sus fieles”.

Las misas transmitidas en vivo están aquí “para siempre”, aseguró Landry.

“La mayoría de las parroquias en rencimiento continuarán transmitiendo muchas de sus liturgias y muchos de sus eventos en el futuro”, expuso. “La pregunta es cuánto las parroquias van a invertir en ello. ¿Se convierte en una parte central del alcance pastoral o se convierte solo en una parte?”

Los cambios masivos en el aprendizaje remoto de las escuelas también han dado paso a un movimiento tecnológico, mencionó Landry.

“Se va a acelerar la idea del ‘aula invertida’, donde la mayoría de la enseñanza se da por video. Luego, cuando las personas se reúnen con el maestro es más para hacer preguntas”, señaló Landry. “El aula invertida podría ser un gran modelo para transmitir nuestra fe católica a las personas, ya que muchas parroquias han tenido un número limitado de catequistas”.

Líderes religiosos: Proteger la vida es prioridad en reapertura de iglesias

Por Catholic News Service

WASHINGTON (CNS) -- Los obispos del estado de Washington anunciaron que la decisión de suspender la celebración pública de la Eucaristía, debido a la pandemia por el coronavirus, se determinó “no por miedo, sino por nuestro más profundo respeto a la vida y salud humana”.

“Como discípulos de Jesús, estamos llamados a ser instrumentos de Dios para proteger a los vulnerables y el bien común”, dijeron los cinco obispos en una declaración emitida el 22 de mayo por la Conferencia Católica del Estado de Washington. “Nuestro amor a Dios y al prójimo es siempre personal y no parcial.”

“Si bien compartimos el deseo de traer a la gente de regreso a misa lo antes posible, esperaremos para programar esta adoración pública cuando sea seguro y estemos preparados para hacerlo”, dijo el comunicado.

El estado de Washington fue el lugar donde se situó el primer brote generalizado del COVID-19, la enfermedad causada por el nuevo coronavirus. El gobernador de Washington, Jay Inslee, y los funcionarios de salud pública promularon rápidamente el cierre masivo del estado, incluyendo las iglesias, para detener la propagación del virus.

El anuncio de los obispos se produjo en respuesta a la declaración que dió el presidente Donald Trump el 22 de mayo, donde manifestó que las iglesias, como otros lugares de adoración, son “esenciales”. El presidente pidió a los gobernadores del país “hacer lo correcto y permitir que estos lugares de fe esenciales e importantes se abran ahora mismo, este fin de semana”.

La apelación del presidente a los gobernadores se realizó cuando sectores de la economía de Estados Unidos comenzaron a reabrir después de que semanas de cierres obligatorios y órdenes de quedarse en casa governaran a la población general.

Trump dijo que iba a “desautorizar a los gobiernos” para garantizar que las iglesias se abrieran para adoración. También señaló que varios gobernadores “han considerado que las licorerías y las clínicas de aborto son esenciales, pero han dejado de lado las iglesias y otras casas de oración. Eso no está bien”.

Mientras que algunos defensores de la libertad religiosa elogian la declaración de Trump, los críticos dijeron que el no puede constitucionalmente “sobrepasar” la autoridad de los gobernadores sobre un asunto que incumbe a sus estados.
“Fully Alive” debuts Friday, June 5:
Hear the conversion story of 5 men from the diocese and share with others at www.victoriadiocese.org/fully-alive

Weekly Wednesday Webchats
Get to know some of the priests and other ministers in our dioceses more personally during these casual conversions. They are available on the Diocese of Victoria Family Evangelization Facebook Page.

Cinco Preguntas
This is a Spanish-language series during which five questions are asked and answered by Bishop Cahill, a parish priest or another minister. Hermes Silva, leader of the Kolbe Prison Ministry, is the interview premiering June 4. You will also find these on the Diocese of Victoria Family Evangelization Facebook page.

ACTS Retreats—Anyone needing any information regarding ACTS Retreats in the diocese should email dovacthschapter@victoriadiocese.org.

Catholic Family Services—To find Catholic organizations that focus on family, visit the Catholic Association of Catholic Family Life Ministers at http://www.nacfml.org.

Courage—Ministers to persons with same-sex attractions and their loved ones. The ministry also has an outreach, EnCourage, which ministers to relatives, spouses, and friends of persons with same-sex attractions. It is a Roman Catholic Apostolate endorsed by the Pontifical Council for the Family. For information, visit http://www.couragecon.org.

Crisis Pregnancy Center of Victoria—A sister organization to the Gabriel Project 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 1-4 p.m. on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays. Free pregnancy tests offered and medical referrals are made for prenatal care. New volunteers are welcome. For information call 361-575-6171.

Emmaus Center—Offers individual, couple, family, adolescent and children’s counseling, as well as specialized support groups. Spiritual direction is also available if requested. To make an appointment, call 361-212-0830.

Engaged Encounter—2020 Dates—Sept. 18-20 and Nov. 13-15. Registration is on a first-come, first-served basis. Fee must accompany registration form. For information, call 361-573-0828 or visit www.victoriadiocese.org.

Gabriel Project—Helps women experiencing a crisis pregnancy as an alternative to abortion. Victoria: Meetings are the second 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_haysquirdo@yahoo.com; DeWitt County: Meetings are the third Monday of each month during the school year at 5:30 p.m. at the Yorktown Public Library, 103 W. Main St. Coordinators for DeWitt Chapter are Wayne and Margie Smith 361-491-0067; Lavaca County: Meets 6 p.m. (during the school year), contact Julie Kubena Lavaca County Coordinator at 361-798-3579 for dates and location.

Grief Ministry—An ongoing Grief Group meets at the Holy Family Church conference room in Victoria at 7 p.m., on the first and third Thursdays each month. Adults who have experienced the death of a loved one may attend (after three months have passed). Call Sharon at 361-578-7572 before attending.

1d9:16 Ministry—For adults in their 20s and 30s, single or married. Held at Holy Family in Victoria every first Thursday of the month. Starts with 6 p.m. Mass followed by dinner and a talk live streamed from the headquarters in Michigan and fellowship. Childcare available to those who RSVP. It is open to all young adults of the diocese. For information, or to RSVP for events, e-mail id916victoria@gmail.com.

Incarnate Word Prayer Group—Praise and worship 7:30-9 p.m. Mondays in the auditorium at Incarnate Word Convent, 1101 N.E. Water St. For information, contact Sr. Louise Marie Jones at 361-575-7111 or amormeaus@yahoo.com.

Mothers of Grace—A new mothers’ group at the Cathedral of Our Lady of Victory. For information, contact Jennifer Ruiz at book.leslie@gmail.com or visit their Facebook page at www.facebook.com/Mothersofgraceolv/.

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 susannekoch614@gmail.com. Also in the Cuero area contact, Ashley Rodriguez at 361-293-0700 or ashleyfay09@gmail.com.

Raphael’s Refuge—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 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. Next weekend in the Diocese of Victoria will be July 31-August 2. Contact John and Jennifer Vincent at jbjov@scbglobal.net or 361-580-2770; or call 800-470-2230; or visit www.helpourmarriage.org or www.retrouvaille.org.

The empty picnic pavilion in Shiner is a reminder that gatherings to raise money for churches are not happening right now. Many spring, summer and fall picnics have been cancelled due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The parishes and schools depend on the events to help many projects they have throughout the year. Please remember to help local parishes and schools with your donations.

The Catholic Lighthouse
www.lighthouse@victoriadiocese.org

Pilgrimages

Do you have any calendar of events for the Lighthouse?

Submit to
lighthouse@victoriadiocese.org
BY JANET JONES
The Catholic Lighthouse

VICTORIA — The Most Rev. Brendan Cahill said he is “blessed with a youth movement,” now having 10 priests under age 35 in the Diocese of Victoria. The average age of priests in Victoria went down following the ordination of Father James Dvorak, 27, Father Dalton Ervin, 28, and Father Chase Goodman, 29, on Saturday, May 30 at the Cathedral of Our Lady of Victory.

It was an historic event for many reasons, not the least of which is the fact that everyone, at some point was wearing a mask and the church was not packed as it would normally be for such a celebration.

Father Goodman said, “Even under the circumstances, it was beautiful.”

He spent a few weeks before his ordination helping at the Cathedral of OLV. “The thing that we really realized is that the church has been through worse, and this is just a blip on the radar. We’re making it through this. God is providing for everything.”

Father Goodman said he had been nervous before his deaconate ordination because, “It didn’t feel real yet.” But the priesthood, it felt natural, he said. “It just came really easy. I just had a real sense of peace. Everything has been such a blessing.”

His first Mass was at 1:30 on Pentecost Sunday at Our Lady of Victory, his home parish. Now he will prepare to move to El Campo and join the staff at St. Philip the Apostle, where Father Michael Rother is pastor.

Father Dvorak celebrated his first Mass at Sts. Peter and Paul in Frelsburg. He has been assigned to Our Lady of the Gulf in Port Lavaca to work with Father Tommy Chen. After a few years in the diocese he will embark on the journey of a Navy Chaplain. While in Port Lavaca he also will be working with seminarian Richard Barfield, who has retired from the military.

Father Ervin celebrated his first Mass on Pentecost Sunday at his home parish of St. Michael in Weimar. He has been assigned to Our Lady of Victory in Victoria as parochial vicar, replacing Father Stephen Vacek who will become pastor of Holy Cross Catholic Church in Bay City on July 1.

“Each has unique gifts and personalities,” Bishop Cahill said. “With the support of the pastors and people of their parishes, they will continue to grow and discover gifts they don’t even realize they have yet.”

Bishop Cahill said the families, particularly the parents, of the three newly ordained priests are in his heart and he prays for them, because he knows their chosen vocation is a sacrifice on the part of the family.

According to Father Tommy Chen, vocations director for the Diocese of Victoria, no priest ordinations are scheduled for next year, but two of the seminarians, Tran Dinh and Richard Barfield, will become transitional deacons and be ordained in 2022. Besides them, there are seven other seminarians in the Diocese of Victoria.