Unity is needed to fight racism

EDITOR’S NOTE: Bishop Brendan Cahill is one of many leaders in the faith community who gather regularly to discuss issues and ideas. The following is a collective statement that illustrates the common ground on which they stand regarding racism and recent events. The list of signatures shows the diversity of backgrounds of those who want to work together for healing and hope.

In the chilling aftermath of George Floyd’s death, we cannot allow the sorrowful wails of family and friends or the furious voices of legitimate protesters to be silenced by the deafening shrieks of destructive riots and the tragic loss of an additional 17 lives.

The painful images of a man gasping for his final breaths of air while restrained by a police officer’s knee must serve as a heart-wrenching wake-up call for all civilized human beings.

As we reflect upon the gruesome images, what have we learned? If we learned nothing, then the death and destruction were truly in vain. We cannot allow that...
Dear Brothers and Sisters,

On Pentecost Sunday, Bishop Shelton Fabre of Houma-Thibodeaux delivered a homily reflecting on the reality of racism in light of the death of George Floyd. One of the questions he addressed for the listeners was: “¿Qué puedo hacer?”

In speaking to those who were not African-American, he invited us to do one simple thing. That simple thing was to ask an African-American friend: “How did seeing the video of George Floyd’s death make you feel?” In asking the question, he asked us to give space for the person to respond. I remember hearing clearly in the response of one friend an expression of deep pain.

At our meeting of the African-American Affairs Subcommittee of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops on the following day, we realized that many people were asking us similar questions – “¿Qué puedo hacer?” We produced a list of possible actions that parishes or communities could follow to help facilitate a conversation about racism and its impact on our families. I think any one of these possibilities can open a path to greater understanding and true dialogue.

My hope as I share these ideas this month is that as we celebrate the anniversary of the Declaration of Independence, we may be open to realizing the fullness of the words of that foundational document of our nation.

May God bless you and your families with the fullness of His Love in this summer season, may God bless our nation with a time of listening and understanding, and may we always keep one another in prayer, entrusting our hearts to the Sacred Heart of Jesus and Immaculate Heart of Mary.

+Brendan

Reflection Guide
2. Racism is evil because it attacks the inherent dignity of the human person, created in the image and likeness of God.
3. The persistence of racism demands our attention now. Racism emerges in the actions and inactions of individuals; and it is embedded in our institutions and public policies. Our faith calls us both to personal conversion and to transformation of our society.
4. Create various large and small group opportunities for parishioners to process their feelings in the midst of news and commentary about vulnerable populations and law enforcement. Encourage participants to reflect or share their own upbringing regarding comments in the home, from parents and individuals, media and entertainment, even practices of the Church about the merits or demerits of certain groups of people made to be “the other.” Ask, “How have I knowingly or unconsciously made this formation part of my world view?”

See What can I do?, pg. 4
A priest for 70 years

SAN ANTONIO -- The Rev. Monsignor Arnold “Buzz” Anders celebrated the 70th anniversary of his priestly ordination on May 27 at Padua Place in San Antonio, where he has resided since July 2017. He served parishes in both the Archdiocese of San Antonio and the Diocese of Victoria. Monsignor Anders’ family says he has many fond memories of the people and parishes he has served over the many years, and he feels truly blessed to have served and touched many lives. Because of COVID-19 restrictions, he celebrated with the retired priests at Padua and the staff. He was served a catered meal of his favorite food, fried chicken and German chocolate cake for dessert.

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 Yeoobah-Arganofo  07/10/1983  Nativity of the BVM Church, Nada
- Rev. Dominic Antwi-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 Appiasor  07/17/1983  Holy Family Church, Wharton
- Rev. Clement Quainoo  07/17/1982  St. Andrew Church, Hillje
- Rev. Felix Twumasi  07/17/2004  St. Rose of Lima Church, Schulenburg
- 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  IWBS Convent, Victoria
- Rev. Johnson Owusu-Boateng  07/27/1985  St. John Bosco Church, Vanderbilt
- Rev. Samuel Appiasor  07/27/1985  St. John Bosco Church, Vanderbilt
- Rev. Barnabas Kyeha  07/29/1995  St. Joseph Church, Inez

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


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)
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 – $0.01 - $99.99; Acolyte – $100 - $499.99; Candidate – $500 - $1,499.99; Transitional Deacon – $1,500 - $2,499.99; Priest – $2,500 >.

June 23, 2020

• General Seminary Burse
  Acolyte
  In honor of Shirley Kruse’s birthday, June 4 by Richard and Molly Cernosek

• Rev. Msgr. Arnold Anders Seminary Burse
  Acolyte
  In honor of Rev. Msgr. Arnold Anders’ 70th anniversary of ordination as a Priest, May 27 by Ed and Betty Rotter

• Rev. Msgr. Edward C. Bartsch Seminary Burse #2
  Lector
  In memory of Rev. Msgr. Edward C. Bartsch by Mildred C. Elam

• Rev. Msgr. John C. Bily Seminary Burse #2
  Acolyte
  In honor of Rev. Msgr. John C. Bily’s 87th birthday, June 2 by: Kelly and Karen Mudd Jesse and Nancy Lednick

• Rev. Wayne Flagg and Rev. Philip Brune Seminary Burse
  Lector
  In memory of Doris Kubicek by Elbert and Joan Brune In honor of Rev. Philip Brune’s 6th anniversary of ordination as a Priest, May 24 by Lambert and Carol Brune In memory of Anton Halfmann by: Lambert and Carol Brune Elbert and Joan Brune In memory of Pete and Doris Kubicek by Jim and Michelle Kubicek In honor of Father James Dvorak’s ordination as a Priest by Jim and Michelle Kubicek In memory of Jutline Halfmann Huebel by Elbert and Joan Brune

• Rev. Michael Rother Seminary Burse
  Lector
  In memory of Annie Dolezal by Bridgette Barnett In memory of Frank Munoz by M/M Bernard Rother

Education of Seminarian Fund

The Education of Seminarian Fund is a fund in which all of the monies donated to this fund, as well as the earnings, are available to cover the cost of educating seminarians. The proceeds of the special collection on Holy Thursday are deposited into the Education of Seminarian Fund. Publication of this fund will appear when new contributions are received. Donation categories: Lector – $0.01 - $99.99; Acolyte – $100 - $499.99; Candidate – $500 - $1,499.99; Transitional Deacon – $1,500 - $2,499.99; Priest – $2,500 >.

• Rev. Msgr. Joseph Hybner KC #3204 Seminary Burse
  Lector
  In memory of John H. Briones by Arnold and Rosemary Riske In memory of Helen Marie (Smolik) Belcik by Arnold and Rosemary Riske

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

• Rev. Daniel P. Kahlich Seminary Burse
  Acolyte
  In honor of Rev. Dan Kahlich’s retirement by: Hostyn KJT Society #3 Arnold and Helen Janda

• Rev. Timothy Kosler Seminary Burse
  Acolyte
  In memory of Brother Knight Erwin Cernoch by K of C Council #2902, Schulenburg

• Rev. Msgr. John C. Peters Seminary Burse #8
  Lector
  In honor of Rev. Msgr. John Peters’ ordination anniversary to the Priesthood by Mary Ann Heneke In memory of John, Jr. and Tillie Stock Peters Donation by Soila Sanchez In memory of Lillian Besetzny by Georgia Pavliska and Family

• Rev. Chase Goodman Seminary Burse
  Lector
  In honor of Rev. Chase Goodman’s ordination to the Priesthood by Arnold and Rosemary Riske

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

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

What can I do?

Continued from pg. 2

5. Arrange a safe space for young people to reflect and pray about racism and recent events. Listen to the current experiences of young people. Encourage and allow their creative expression. Invite them to generate methodologies that are meaningful to them.

6. Attend and intergenerational, interracial virtual town hall discussion on racism. Respect that for some African Americans, talking about personal racial experiences in a mixed race setting is painful and it is like reopening a wound that hadn’t fully healed.

7. Use a pastoral and non-partisan lens to respond to concerns of parishioners, clergy and staff about racism, policing and public safety. Do not politicize this. Instead, lean on Gospel values.

8. Meet with chaplains and chiefs of police departments to discuss possible actions. Engage the parish pastoral and finance councils in this discussion.

9. Invite a conversation between the bishop or pastor and a group of African American/Latino/Indigenous men an/or young people about their personal experiences with law enforcement.

10. Encourage homilists to preach against racism and for personal responsibility to eradicate it. Explore how anti-racism looks. Continue to study and understand racism as it manifested in the past and does today.

Office of Family Evangelization

Justin Reyes, Director
(361) 573-0838
Ext. 2265
email: jreyes@victoriadiocese.org
website: www.victoriadiocese.org/office-of-family-evangelization

• St. John the Baptist Church, St. John In Memory of Rev. Brian Crookes Seminary Burse #2
  Lector
  In memory of Lillian Besetzny by Milton and Diane Holub

• Rev. Chase Goodman Seminary Burse
  Lector
  In honor of Rev. Chase Goodman’s ordination to the Priesthood by Arnold and Rosemary Riske

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Ancient path to the future
Carmelites hope to grow congregation, stay in Meyersville

By FRED AFFLERBACH
Special to The Lighthouse

MEYERSVILLE — It’s midnight in Meyersville, a tiny community in South Texas about 25 miles northwest of Victoria. Crickets sing a lullaby. Stars sparkle overhead. And two Carmelite nuns rise to pray and worship the Lord.

In February 2018, Sister Maria of Divine Mercy and Sister Mary Ruth of the Eucharist, nuns of the Ancient Observance of Carmel, converted the vacant rectory at Sts. Peter and Paul Church in Meyersville into a temporary “monastery”: Carmelites of Mary Ever Virgin. Sister Mary Ruth is a Kansas native who entered the order in 1999. Sister Maria, born in Corpus Christi, earned two bachelor’s degrees from the University of Texas in Austin. Her father, Charles Afflerbach, is a native of nearby Yoakum. She took her solemn vows in 1992.

With the blessing of the Catholic Church here in the United States and in Rome, the Sisters left their home at the Carmel of Mary Monastery in Wahpeton, N.D., to reconnect with the roots of their 800-year-old order, founded on Mount Carmel in the Holy Land.

Working with family members and volunteers from the Sts. Peter and Paul Parish, the Sisters converted the humble, single-story rectory into a monastery that sleeps four with a parlor and small chapel in the front of the building. The Sisters agree that the rural setting is ideal for a cloistered monastery. Towering oak trees dripping with Spanish moss reach out and embrace the nascent monastery and adjacent 80-year-old church. In springtime, a palette of red, yellow, blue and orange wildflowers covers the landscape. A visitor will likely see more cattle than people.

Sister Maria said founding a monastery closely linked to the Order’s roots was a spiritual yearning that could not be denied. “In our reading and our study, we discovered an aspect of the Carmelite life we wanted to recapture, the treasures of those first centuries that were formative years,” Sister Maria said. “Over the centuries, the Order

See Ancient path to the future, pg. 7
Seek spiritual and political freedom for all

By JANET JONES
The Catholic Lighthouse

About two weeks after having no public Masses, St. Joseph Church in Yoakum started live streaming on Facebook. Father Matthew Huehlefeld, pastor, had an organist, cantor and two parishioners helping with the streaming. But they have had ongoing challenges from signal strength to sound quality.

“It’s like having a kite and a key, praying for a lightning strike,” Father Huehlefeld said.

Instead of a lightning strike, they got a little windfall that will provide the means to have a much more professional production.

“Our problem is where the church is located,” Father Huehlefeld said. The signal was poor, so Father Huehlefeld bought a signal booster and it helped. “But the sound was not the best,” he said.

They have been using a cellphone strapped to an old Vivitar camera tripod with a rubber band and have been moving around the church, opening windows and using antennas, whatever they can do to get the best quality. They even tried going to St. Ann’s in Hochheim to live stream Mass because the church is on a hill, but the sound was not much better.

Regardless of the quality, a good number of people have been logging on to participate in Mass at their home parish from their home computers. So it has continued despite the struggles. “We’ve had to replace the rubber band already,” Father Huehlefeld said with a chuckle.

A parishioner who has benefitted from the virtual format and wants it to continue and offered the money to hardwire the church and purchase a camera that will work with their sound system and cover four angles, so Mass can be seen and heard clearly. In return, the church will commit to regularly broadcasting its 9 a.m. Sunday Mass on the Internet.

Father Michael Rother at St. Philip the Apostle Church in El Campo is doing similar upgrades. He said the idea has been on his heart for a while, even before the COVID-19 crisis, but there had not been a big push for it.

When public Masses were suspended, many ministers were given a hard shove into the “virtual” world, and he knew he had to do something to reach his congregation other than advising them to watch EWTN. He wanted them to continue to experience Mass in the parish they call home.

“I said, ‘How hard is it to get live stream going?’ And it was like, ‘Boom!’ Done!” said Father Rother.

It started with a cellphone, then a camcorder for a better picture, then hooking up to the sound system for a better sound. Now Father Rother is ready to purchase more professional cameras to enhance the experience of those who are continuing to watch online.

His vision is to continue doing a live feed of the 10 a.m. Mass each week and probably streaming or recording special services or events.

Of course both churches are going to have to recruit a dedicated group of people who willing to serve as camera/Internet crew to keep the broadcasts going.

Of course, having the new capacity gives them tools to develop new ideas.

“At first it was just Mass, but more things are kind of coming to mind,” said Father Rother. For example he is considering recording the altar servers to create a learning tool for new servers.

“They sky is the limit,” he said.
Ancient path to the future
Carmelites hope to grow congregation, stay in Meyersville

Continued from pg. 5

of Carmel itself grew and developed and sometimes the older ways were forgotten, or not used. It’s like if you had discovered this old statue in your closet. You pull it out and start cleaning it off and you discover this is really beautiful. So you clean it up and you have this beautiful treasure from the past. You feel a link from those before. It’s not just a nostalgic link; it’s something valuable today. It’s not so much a return to the past; it’s more a path into the future. We’re picking up that path they followed and living it today as women in the 21st century.”

A woman interested in a cloistered monastic vocation is welcome to visit for a few days and gain a firsthand perspective of life devoted to God in a quiet, rural setting. “Our desire is to create a community that will become, in time, a full monastery of Carmelite nuns of the Ancient Observance,” Sister Maria said. “To be in Meyersville, in a rural area, in a largely rural diocese, for our contemplative life, it’s like an oasis. It’s ideal. We’re accessible and we’re remote enough to preserve a contemplative life.”

A day at the monastery is spent mostly in silence, except for the Sisters’ prayers. They sing psalms in the Latin Gregorian chant seven times daily. At the end of each hour of the Liturgy, the Sisters chant an antiphon to honor the Virgin Mary, which reflects the early Carmelite tradition. But one hour each day is reserved in which the Sisters share conversation and take walks. The Sisters also attend Mass daily at Sts. Peter and Paul next door, or another nearby church, until priests can regularly offer Mass at their monastery.

Bishop Brendan J. Cahill (Diocese of Victoria) celebrates Mass two or three Saturdays each month for the nuns at Sts. Peter and Paul Parish. He says the Sisters’ presence is spiritually uplifting and heartwarming. “It’s a tremendous blessing for the people of the whole diocese,” Cahill said. “For the people of Meyersville, in particular, their presence presents a spiritual atmosphere. We believe in the efficacy of their prayer. I think the graces that we receive are beyond what we realize. Imagine the healing that flows from their prayers. I think in the world how we imagine power and we tend to think of military arms or lots of money. I feel these women who have given up their whole lives in prayer, that’s true power, the power of God. For me, going in there, it is a sense of being otherworldly. I have great respect for it. It’s like you’re more deeply into the world, and that’s the beauty of contemplative life. We do get involved in worldly affairs and that’s our call. It’s not negative. But the contemplatives, the ones who used to go out in the desert and now live the contemplative life, in a sense, have a deeper appreciation of reality.”

Back in 2017, Cahill heard about the two Carmelite nuns temporarily living in Dallas who were looking to find a monastery. So he invited them down. The first place he showed them was not a good fit, with an interstate freeway nearby and trains clattering down adjacent railroad tracks blowing their horns at all hours.

“It was too much noise and commotion. They really focus on silence,” Cahill said. “We don’t realize how distracted we are by noise and by busyness. For their spirituality, we had to look for a place that was quiet and peaceful so they could enter more deeply a contemplative life. I remember that struck me, wow, they’re deep. Realizing how serious the contemplative life is, you want a really quiet place for them. Then Meyersville opens up. It’s a very simple house. But for them, it’s fine right now. What they appreciate is the quietness of it.”

The simple house has, in fact, served them well. But with several young women now considering joining them, the Carmelites are not sure how long the rectory will suffice. “Once we have a vocation join us, we’ll have only one room left for someone to discern with us. When two join us, we’ll be bursting at the seams!” Sister Mary Ruth said. But the Sisters are confident that God will provide a way to expand. “Our desire is to remain in the Meyersville area,” Sister Mary Ruth added.

And the parishioners at that church have opened their arms, too, fully embracing their new members. The nuns often find fresh produce from local gardens at their doorstep. One man built them special furniture adapted to a monastic life. And for the past two years on July 16, the Solemn Commemoration of Our Lady of Mount Carmel, a full church has joined the Sisters in celebrating a special Mass, followed by a reception in the parish hall.

“We knew that we were two strangers moving in without a lot of forewarning to the parishioners, so we had no idea what their reaction might be,” Sister Mary Ruth said. “But from day one, their outpouring of love has astounded us, and our amazement and gratitude grow daily as their love seems to be an ever-gushing spring.”

You can find the monastery online here: https://maryevervirgin.org. And you can reach it at this number: 361-277-8972.
Recently, we released a web series entitled “Fully Alive” where five men from the diocese shared their conversion stories on video – how God became real to them and changed their lives.

Each story was unique. Cody’s life was changed by God working through his family. Philip had a St. Paul-like experience through an ACTS retreat. Eamon went from being a “compliant” Catholic to a committed one, and Rick, who never left the faith, grew in it over time.

The last story is mine. I was surprised at the emotions I went through as I recounted my journey and how, 11 years ago, I decided to start following Jesus for the first time since I was a kid who loved singing at Mass. It made me reflect upon how my life is different since then, and how God has continued to work on me to make me – hopefully -- a better man.

Has God been made real in your life? Do you try following Him, or do you see God as more of a policeman who watches what you do, or a sage who is very wise?

I assure you that if you haven’t experienced it already, God is a loving father who wants to know and love you like his own child.

During the series, we explored what might get in the way of us fully embracing life with God – pride (wanting to be the captains of our own ships); distractions (pursuing achievements or money instead of God); and a lack of interest (thinking life is OK as is). But we chose the title of the series for a reason. We don’t truly live until we follow God. Without Him, our life just doesn’t make sense.

There is the famous quote from St. Augustine: “Our hearts are restless until they rest in You (God).” The truth is that we can all benefit from a reminder of how much God loves us, and how we are called to rest in Him. This reminder can come in the form of recounting our own journey with God, or listening to the journey of others.

I encourage you to give the series a listen. You can find it at www.victoriadiocese.org/fully-alive. Each video takes about one hour to listen to, including time to review accompanying questions and resources. I promise it won’t be time wasted.

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.
Where there is life, there is hope

EDITOR’S NOTE: The following is from a sermon written for the 11th Sunday in ordinary time, cycle B.

Life is full of disappointments. So many things can go wrong. We sometimes refer to Murphy’s Law, which states that if anything can go wrong, it will. Or as a poet once said, “The best laid plans of mice and men go oft astray.”

The course of events can disappoint our hopes and so can the weakness and imperfections of others.

In fact, a preacher once asked his congregation, “Is there anyone here who is perfect? Let him stand up.” Everyone looked around, some nudged others, but no one would stand up. Then the preacher pushed his point one step further and asked, “Is there anyone here who has ever even heard of anyone who was perfect?” Immediately a man jumped up and said, “Yeah, my wife’s first husband.”

Actually, no man alive is perfect and our best efforts are flawed, yet in personal relationships and human efforts in general, it can be said that while there is life there is hope.

Hope indeed springs eternal. Farmers plant one seed for the insects, one for the drought and one for the harvest. People in love marry alcoholics, hoping to reform them. Parents make many sacrifices in bearing and bringing up children, hoping one day to be proud of them.

We must all keep up our hopes, but in the face of so many forlorn hopes, our hopes must be realistic. Hoping too much for what cannot be can only lead to disappointment or even despair.

A gambler who loses his shirt on a long shot may end up committing suicide. An individual who insists that a loved one who is terminally ill must recover may lose his mind. A sinner who waits to repent at the hour of his death stands to lose his soul.

Once there was a man whose life was full of interruptions and frustrations. For a long time he struggled to cope with them and try to eliminate them. But it was impossible. He finally came to the conclusion that his life’s work consisted of interruptions and frustrations and his thought restored this hope in the purpose of his life.

In addition to all the reasons to hope that we can find in the natural world, God gives to every soul that achieves the state of grace the supernatural virtue of hope – that virtue which we firmly expect God to give us everything we need to be saved, and in the end salvation itself.

This supernatural hope is strengthened every time we receive the sacraments. For example, Jesus promised to give eternal life to those who would receive Him in Holy Communion. In Confession, the words of absolution, “I absolve you from your sins,” brings peace and reconciliation and hope for a new beginning. The anointing of the sick heals and strengthens both body and soul.

So, indeed, in spite of everything, the material world and the world of the spirit are full of reasons to hope. Lord Jesus, thank you for giving us so many reasons to keep up our hopes. Help us never to abuse hope by laxity or despair. Grant that when we have drawn our last breath, we will find all our cherished (hopes) fulfilled. Amen.

Find a way to create peace and offer peace

When the world shut down and so many were confined to their homes, spending long periods alone, I saw several Facebook posts from people who said they just needed a hug. It made me ache for the people who are worried and lonely. I didn’t care to send a “virtual” hug, because if I said I was starving, I sure would not want to see “virtual” food in the comments.

For the well being of everyone, I pray that the day comes soon when no one is afraid to be any closer than 6 feet away from another human being. I worry less about the virus than I do about the anxiety and fear it causes. And when I looked up hugs, I found that mental health professionals say people really do NEED hugs.

There is evidence that people who give and receive hugs have lower blood pressure and better immune systems. According to Healthline.com, “In a study of over 400 adults, researchers found that hugging may reduce the chance a person will get sick. The participants with a greater support system were less likely to get sick. And those with the greater support system who did get sick had less severe symptoms than those with little or no support system.”

I am still programmed so that, when I meet someone, I put out my hand to shake his or hers. I pull back my hand and apologize when I remember that we are not supposed to do that. Those moments make me sick in spirit; it just feels wrong.

Circumstances being what they are, I think we have to start being intentional about focusing on good things and good thoughts.

There are resources out there for some self-guided therapy. Tell yourself, “No bad days,” and keep a journal, writing down all the good stuff that happens each day. Take your rosary and go for a walk and meditate.

When I get overwhelmed and feel hopeless I have gone outside and looked at the vastness of the sky. I imagine looking down on the earth from somewhere else in the cosmos and seeing that my big problems are really pretty little in the scheme of things. When I looked up ideas for anxiety relief, I found one that said “Look up!” Same idea as what I thought was exclusively my tech.

See Find a way, pg. 10

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Find a way to create peace and offer peace

Continued from pg. 9

A genuine laugh at yourself. I have done this in a group setting and the energy in the room went from awkward to awesome.

And as soon as possible, give them a hug.

EDITOR’S NOTE: The following is a letter from the CRL digital newsletter.

Dear Friends,

Last week I traveled to California to help arrange a funeral for my father who passed away last month. He was 92. While going through my father’s belongings, I came across a Saint Andrew Daily Missal that my mother gave to my father on their wedding day, November 27, 1952. My mother, who passed away six years ago, wrote a sweet personal note expressing her love for my father. They were married for nearly 62 years. My siblings allowed me to take the book with me back to Minnesota and it now sits prominently on my desk in my home.

What I love about the Missal is that the bookmarks are worn and the pages are bent from use. My father kept the Missal at his bedside. I miss both of my parents, but I am grateful to God for their example of love for God and for each other. Their example is one I want to emulate.

Just before my trip to California, I had the privilege of lecturing, via Zoom, to a group of students who are pursuing a Masters in Theology degree at the Saint Paul Seminary School of Divinity based in St. Paul. My topic was “Care of Creation and Catholic Rural Life”. In preparation for the class, I reread Pope Francis’s encyclical, Laudato Si’ - On Care for Our Common Home. This year is the fifth anniversary of the letter’s publication. As I perused the document, I was moved again by our Holy Father’s words of love and concern for all of us and for the planet, our common home. He urged us to bring the whole human family together to seek a sustainable and integral development. Laudato Si’ is truly a gift and treasure to our faith, one that is worth revisiting often and asking the Lord, “what do you want me to do?”

Many blessings,

James Ennis
Executive Director
Catholic Rural Life
The Catholic Lighthouse
Page 11 — July 2020

**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.texabushotline.org, or
  local police department. **If person is in immediate danger call 911.**

- **Vicki Pyatt, LMSW, Coordinator of Pastoral Care and Outreach,**
  Diocese of Victoria, (361) 827-7186, pastoralcare@victoriadiocese.org.

- **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.

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**Presidio La Bahia**

For information, visit their Facebook page at Presidio La Bahia - Goliad, Texas.

Open daily 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Admission is $5 for adults, $4.50 for seniors, $3.50 for military personnel, $2 for children 6-11, and under 6 are free. Group rates available when reservations are made in advance. Guided tours available to large groups and schools. **Please confirm in advance. The fort is handicapped accessible.** For more information, call 361-645-3752.

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**Diocese of Victoria in Texas**

**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.

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**Presidio La Bahia**

For information, visit their Facebook page at Presidio La Bahia - Goliad, Texas.

Open daily 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Admission is $5 for adults, $4.50 for seniors, $3.50 for military personnel, $2 for children 6-11, and under 6 are free. Group rates available when reservations are made in advance. Guided tours available to large groups and schools. **Please confirm in advance. The fort is handicapped accessible.** For more information, call 361-645-3752.

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**GRADUATES—** On Thursday, May 21, St. Rose of Lima Catholic School celebrated their graduates during a private evening liturgy. Those receiving diplomas, left to right, were: Front – Amanda T., Nathan O., Jacob V., Amelie G., Alyssa Z., Bryce S.; Second Row – Graylen A., Blake H., Ethan S., Makena K., Presley S., Creed W., Mariah R., Principal Rosanne Gallia; Back Row – Pastor Rev. Timothy Kosler, Arely M., Natalie O. Meredith M., Nicolas L., and Shelby L.

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**St. Michael Catholic Church**

**Weimar, Texas**

**Harvest Feast**

Sunday, August 9, 2020

**Fried Chicken & Sausage Dinner**

11:00 a.m. - PLATES $10.00

* Veteran’s Memorial Park - Weimar, Texas *

**DRIVE-THRU TAKE-HOME PLATES WILL BE AVAILABLE AT ST. MICHAEL FAMILY CENTER $10.00**

**POLKA MASS**

10:30 a.m.

featuring: The Lost Cause Band

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**Auction**

1:00 p.m.

**BINGO**

2:00 - 6:00 p.m.

**ANTEQUE & CLASSIC CAR SHOW**

**FIREWORKS**

Music By: Shiner Hobo Band, Lost Cause & Black Cat Choir

**Saturday, August 8, 2020**

* B-B-Q COOKOFF
  9:00 a.m.

* BINGO
  4:00 p.m.

* CORN HOLE TOURNAMENT
  4:00 p.m.

**POLKA MASS**

5:30 p.m.

**DANCE**

The Broken Spokes
6:00 - 10:00 pm
Conferencia Católica 2020 será diferente


Arriba está el logotipo de la Conferencia Católica 2020 “Communio: Togeth in Christ”, que tendrá lugar el 17 de octubre. “Communio” es una palabra latina para “en unión”. El formato ha cambiado a la luz de la pandemia, pero el comité de la conferencia decidió aceptar el desafío de asegurarse de que la conferencia continúe por su 33rd año.

Se necesita unidad para combatir el racismo

NOTA DEL EDITOR: El obispo Brendan Cahill es uno de los muchos líderes de la comunidad de fe que se reúne regularmente para discutir temas e ideas. La siguiente es una declaración colectiva que ilustra el terreno común en el que se encuentran con respecto al racismo y los eventos recientes. La lista de firmas muestra la diversidad de antecedentes de aquellos que desean trabajar juntos para la curación y la esperanza.

Tras las escalofriantes secuelas de la muerte de George Floyd, no podemos permitir que los lamentos dolorosos de familiares y amigos o las voces furiosas de los manifestantes legítimos sean silenciados por los gritos ensordecedores de disturbios destructivos y la trágica pérdida de otras 17 vidas.

Las imágenes dolorosas de un hombre jadeando por sus respiraciones finales de aire mientras está retenido por la rodilla de un oficial de policía deben servir como una llamada de atención desgarradora para todos los seres humanos civilizados.

Al reflexionar sobre las imágenes horripilantes, ¿qué hemos aprendido? Si no aprendimos nada, entonces la muerte y la destrucción fueron realmente en vano. No podemos permitir que eso suceda.

Muchos intentos sinceros de expandir el diálogo y buscar soluciones duraderas fueron interrumpidos por comentarios como “Esa no es la discusión que estamos teniendo hoy” o “No es tu turno”.

Cuando la mezquita de Victoria fue incendiada, las imágenes gráficas y las emociones enfurecidas alentaron las conversaciones que incluían no solo actitudes antimusulmanas descaradas, sino que al mismo tiempo abordaban la intolerancia racial y las injusticias sociales para tanto gente de Dios “, dijo Álvarez.

“Por lo tanto, con la gracia de Dios, esperamos que la 33rd Conferencia Católica Anual brinde la oportunidad de recordar quiénes somos como iglesia. Que somos una comunidad de creyentes de todas las razas, edades y géneros. Somos ‘Communio - Junto con Cristo’. Con la oración, nuestro obispo de apoyo y los miembros dinámicos del comité de la conferencia, nos estamos prestando para una conferencia como ninguna otra en el pasado “.

• Para obtener más información, visite el sitio web diocesano y la página de Facebook, o llame a Christella Alvarez o Brunilda Ortiz en la oficina de catequesis al 361-573-0828. Pronto habrá información adicional en el faro católico, los boletines parroquiales y otras comunicaciones en las redes sociales.
Obispos mexicanos se comprometen a ayudar al sur de Oaxaca tras terremoto

CIUDAD DE MÉXICO (CNS) — Los obispos de México se comprometieron a ayudar a las personas afectadas por un terremoto en el estado del sur de Oaxaca que dejó al menos cinco muertos.

“Nos ponemos bajo el manto protector de Nuestra Madre, Santa María de Guadalupe, dejó al menos cinco muertos. El papa Francisco rezó por las víctimas del terremoto.

Recordando la celebración del Día Mundial de los Refugiados durante su discurso del Ángelus el 21 de junio, el papa dijo que la crisis global que surgió de la pandemia de COVID-19 “ha puesto en relieve la necesidad de asegurar la protección necesaria también a las personas refugiadas, para así garantizar su dignidad y seguridad”.

“Os invito a unirnos a mi oración por un empeño renovado y eficaz de todos en favor de la protección efectiva de cada ser humano, en particular los que se han visto obligados a huir debido a situaciones de grave peligro para ellos o sus familias”, dijo.

La ayuda de Dios y sus hermanos les da fuerza y apoyo. Hermanos y hermanas, estoy muy cerca de ustedes”, dijo.

La muerte de George Floyd no es un caso simple de un hombre negro y un oficial de policía blanco. Representa los males del racismo y el abuso del poder. Solo juntos podemos interrumpir el ciclo. ¡Si no es ahora, cuando?

Se necesita unidad para combatir el racismo

Continuado de, pg. 12

Firmado por: miembros de Comunidades de Fe:
Gary Braunmian, President, Temple B’nai Israel
Rev. Fred H. Hobbs, Mount Nebo Missionary Baptist Church
Jim For President, Unitarian Universalist Church of Victoria
Intern Kara Hairell-Speed, Christ in the Country Cooperative
Rev. Willie Mae Ford, Pastor of Salter Chapel AME Church
Imam Osama Hassan, Victoria Islamic Center
Brendan Cahill, Catholic Bishop of Victoria
Danna Cole, Executive Director, Center for Peace Victoria
Stephana Marbach, Catholic Sister at Incarnate Word Convent
Laurel Graham, People of Hope ELCA
Sister Rebecca Janacek, Executive Director of Promise Pointe
Cheryl Kester-Schmidt, Christ the Victor Lutheran Church ELCA
Mildred Truchard, Catholic Sister at Incarnate Word Convent
Rev. Dr. Wm C. “Bill” Hassel, People of Hope, ELCA
Nafees Ali, Victoria Islamic Center
Dr. John Carmona, Jerusalem Family Praise Center
Paul Morrison, People of Hope ELCA

Papa: pandemia destaca la necesidad de proteger refugiados, la creación

CIUDAD DEL VATICANO (CNS) — Entre los tantos desafíos que ha destacado la pandemia de coronavirus está la necesidad de salvaguardar los derechos y la dignidad de los refugiados, dijo el papa Francisco.

“Dios continuará cuidándonos y protegiéndonos”, dijo el arzobispo Pedro Vázquez Villalobos, de Antequera Oaxaca. “Pero aquí también tenemos que aprender muchas cosas. Cuidemos nuestros espacios, nuestros edificios, nuestros hogares. Es importante que los mantengamos para que resistan estos temblores”.

En el Vaticano al día siguiente, el papa Francisco rezó por las víctimas del terremoto. “Que la ayuda de Dios y sus hermanos les dé fuerza y apoyo. Hermanos y hermanas, estoy muy cerca de ustedes”, dijo.

El terremoto de magnitud 7.4 se dio justo antes de las 10:30 a.m. con un epicentro cerca de la ciudad turística de Huatulco en la costa del Pacífico del sur del estado de Oaxaca.

Dos personas murieron en edificios derrumbados, mientras que a otra le cayó un muro, dijo el gobernador Alejandro Murat. Un empleado también murió en una refinería de PEMEX en Salina Cruz, según la compañía.

Cuando discutimos un incidente específico de racismo e intolerancia, es fácil olvidar que todas las razas, religiones, etnias y persuasiones sexuales incluyen víctimas y perpetradores.

Comprensiblemente, muchos de los que respondieron a la tragedia de George Floyd estaban demasiado cerca del bosque para ver los árboles. Este incidente fue la punta del iceberg, no el iceberg en sí.

Cuando atribuimos artificialmente la ira del racismo como si se dirigiera preferentemente a un grupo, estamos amplificando la complejidad del problema. La esclavitud estadounidense de tres millones de afroamericanos representó la encarnación de la intolerancia y el epítrolo de un racismo. Todavía hoy, 40 millones de personas siguen atrapadas en la esclavitud moderna en todo el mundo.

Si bien el incidente de George Floyd no debe vilipendiarse a la gran mayoría de los oficiales respetuosos de la ley que promueven la paz y arriesgan sus vidas todos los días para servirnos y protegernos, debemos cuestionar una cultura que ha permitido que atrocidades similares continúen sin control.

La muerte de George Floyd no es un caso simple de un hombre negro y un oficial de policía blanco. Representa los males del racismo y el abuso del poder. Solo juntos podemos interrumpir el ciclo. ¡Si no es ahora, cuando?

La foto de la derecha es una estatua de San Aloysius Gonzaga llevando a una víctima de la peste que arrasó Roma en el siglo XVI. El Papa Francisco confió a los jóvenes de todo el mundo a su intercesión.
By JANET JONES  
*The Catholic Lighthouse*

HOSTYN — The Rev. Daniel Kahlich has spent nine years as pastor of Queen of the Holy Rosary Church and Sts. Peter and Paul in nearby Plum. He has served the Diocese of Victoria for 28 years and celebrated the 54th anniversary of his ordination on May 28.

Now it’s time for some rest, and his timing is just right. He had an 80th birthday celebration on the eve of his June 30 birthday, spent his actual birthday moving the last of his belongings out of the Hostyn house, and became officially retired on July 1.

He also has just completed his last building project at the church, a covered walkway from the parking lot to the church foyer. He saw the church through other renovations in 2016.

When asked to talk about himself, Father Kahlich shrugged and said, “I’m just an ordinary priest.”

Some may consider his career a little more interesting that that. He became a priest in 1966, incardinated in in the Archdiocese of San Antonio – 19 years before the Diocese of Victoria was formed. He was ordained at St. Rose in Schulenburg, his home parish, by Bishop Stephen A. Leven.

While serving as a parish priest, he volunteered his service as a chaplain at Lackland Air Force Base. Five years into his vocation, he became a U.S. Army Reserve and U.S. Air Force Reserve chaplain.

He ended up serving 29 years of commissioned military service as chaplain, including four years of active duty at the Reserve Air Force Headquarters in Georgia (1988-1992). He retired with the rank of lieutenant colonel on his 60th birthday.

“That was another lifetime,” he said.

He asked to be incardinated into the Diocese of Victoria after he left the military. And, besides Hostyn and Plum, he has pastored St. Anthony in Columbus and Holy Cross in Yorktown.

Katie Janda, one of Father Kahlich’s current parishioners said, “He’s the epitome of what I think a parish priest should be. He’s just full of love, mercy and kindness.”

Janda said he will be greatly missed.

Though retired, he still has things he needs to do. Father Kahlich is part-time caretaker for his oldest brother who lives in Schulenburg. “That’s going to be my continuing ministry,” he said.

He owns a house on Canyon Lake, where he goes on days off, and enjoys feeding the deer, caring for his plants, and keeping up his exercise. He also said he has offered to be available to be a fill in priest if he is able to. “We’ll see how that works.”

While Father Dan enjoys his retirement in Canyon Lake, Father Bob Knippenberg will take his place as pastor at the Hostyn and Plum churches. Father Knippenberg comes to Hostyn from Holy Family Catholic Church in Wharton.

Following is a list of all other clergy moves effective July 1:

Father Samuel Appiasi will succeed Father Bob Knippenberg as pastor of Holy Family Catholic Church in Wharton.

Father Oscar Kofi-Amo will succeed Father Appiasi as pastor of St. Patrick in Bloomington.

Father Chase Goodman, ordained May 30, will succeed Father Kofi-Amo as parochial vicar at St. Philip the Apostle in El Campo.

Father Greg Korenek will become the pastor of Our Lady of Lourdes in Victoria.

Father Stephen Vasek will succeed Father Korenek as pastor of Holy Cross in Bay City and its mission, Sacred Heart in Wadsworth.

Father Dalton Ervin, ordained May 30, will succeed Father Vasek as parochial vicar at Our Lady of Victory Cathedral in Victoria.

Father Francis Tam Nguyen III has been appointed parochial vicar of Holy Cross Catholic Church in Yorktown and its mission, San Luis.

Father Eliecer Patino will succeed Father Nguyen as parochial vicar of St. Anthony Catholic Church in Palacios.

Father James Dvorak, ordained May 30, will become the parochial vicar at Our Lady of the Gulf in Port Lavaca and its mission churches of St. Ann in Point Comfort, St. Joseph in Port O’Connor and St. Patrick in Seadrift.

Father Max Landman, who has been serving as parochial vicar in Port Lavaca will be in residence at St. Mary’s in Victoria while he waits to begin his formation in the Jesuit order of priests.

**How to Support DSA**

The Diocesan Services Appeal (DSA) is committed to fund administration offices and programs that help bring the light of Christ to each of the priorities of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops in the Crossroads. Evangelization, Marriage and Family, and Human Life and Dignity are a few that Bishop Cahill has chosen as his focus. DSA also supports the retired and infirm priests, Permanent Diaconate, Spiritual Renewal Center, Emmaus Center, and many other ministries. To support the DSA contact Rene Garcia at 361-573-0828.
What's on the web?

Ever since the community has been limited in its ability to participate in services on church grounds, the diocese has made great efforts to feed spiritual needs through the Internet. Justin Reyes, director of family evangelization for the Diocese of Victoria has initiated several new online features:

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. You will also find these on the Diocese of Victoria Family Evangelization Facebook page.

New Outreaches for Families
- **Be an Amazing Parent! Live & Virtual Workshops**
  8/19, 8/26, and 9/2 featuring presentations by Fr. Gary Janak, Emmaus Center staff, and local couples. Childcare provided if attending in-person. Please promote using the webpage: www.victoriadiocese.org/amazing-parents
- **Witness to Love FREE info sessions for PASTORS and MARRIAGE MINISTRY LEADERS.**
  This world-class resource for marriage ministry is coming to our diocese with live info sessions in English AND Spanish on Friday, September 11, at 6:30 p.m. (dinner provided) and Saturday, September 12, at 9 a.m. (breakfast provided). Sign up and bring anyone you’d like! Featured on EWTN: www.youtube.com/watch?v=xAM1BBPtjJE

Fully Alive Video Series!
Conversion stories of local men that can help others in their journey of faith – new video released every Friday with accompanying resources and questions for men to discuss in groups or on their own: https://www.victoriadiocese.org/fully-alive

ACTS Retreats–Anyone needing any information regarding ACTS Retreats in the diocese should email dovactschapter@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.nacflm.org.

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

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.

Emmanuel Center – Offers individuals, 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. 


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_hyesquierdo@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.

Id.9:16 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 armorneus@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 361-293-0707 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. The next retreat weekend in the Diocese of Victoria will be July 31-August 2. Contact John and Jennifer Vincent at jbjov@sbcglobal.net or 361-580-2770; or call 800-470-2230; or visit www.helpourmarriage.org or www.retrouvaille.org.

For more pilgrimages, see Journeys of Faith with Ceci on pg. 17.

Do you have any calendar of events for the Lighthouse?

Submit to lighthouse@victoriadiocese.org
DIOCESE

Above is the logo for the 2020 Catholic Conference “Communio: Together with Christ,” which will take place Oct. 17. “Communio” is a Latin word for “in union.” The format has changed in light of the pandemic, but the conference committee decided to accept the challenge of making sure the conference would go on for its 33rd year.

‘With prayer, our supportive bishop, and dynamic conference committee members, we are preparing for a conference unlike any in the past.”

Catholic Conference 2020 will be different

Continued from pg. 1

it’s only a one-day commitment.”

Although the large gathering was a blessing for her, she appreciates the fact that it has had to be modified as she is currently working on how to organize the fall faith formation in her parish.

Alvarez admitted that she was surprised the committee chose to have the conference. She asked the committee members to give input on whether it should be canceled or changed to a virtual format and everyone agreed to go forward with some sort of virtual format. She said that was, for her, a sign from God that the conference must go on.

The committee decided smaller groups could meet in various locations around the diocese and participate together with social distancing in place. The plan is to have three locations for workshops in English and two locations for Spanish.

The format could even be beneficial to those who prefer not to drive long distances. And because surrounding dioceses have canceled their conferences, some Catholics in those areas might want to join at a site within the Diocese of Victoria. “That’s a whole new angle and a whole new possibility for us,” Alvarez said.

A finalized list of locations and speakers will be released in the near future. Once the diocese releases the list of conference sites and opens registration, those who want to attend can choose where they want to go since each will offer the same workshops.

“Bishop Brendan Cahill will offer the keynote address. There will be workshops from dynamic and faith-filled presenters and virtual vendors throughout the day. The pastor from each location will offer a closing address and a blessing at the end of the day to send us forth to continue bringing the ‘Good News’ by accepting, listening, relating and helping one another each day as we offer God’s love and hope in the world in which we live,” Alvarez stated.

“This is a time of epic change in our world: a global pandemic (Coronavirus aka COVID-19), record unemployment, the education of our children being challenged, and the ungodly violence and torture of human beings in our country and around the world. Also, the challenges immigrants are facing, racial intolerance and social injustices for so many of God’s people,” Alvarez said. “Therefore, with God’s grace, we hope that the 33rd Annual Catholic Conference will provide an opportunity to remember who we are as church. That we are a community of believers of all races, ages, and genders. We are ‘Communio – Together with Christ.’ With prayer, our supportive bishop, and dynamic conference committee members, we are preparing for a conference unlike any in the past.”

• For more information check the diocesan website and the Facebook page, or call Christella Alvarez or Brunilda Ortiz in the catechetical office at 361-573-0828. Additional information will be coming soon in the Catholic Lighthouse, parish bulletins and other social media communications.

Unity is needed to fight racism

Continued from pg. 1

A child holds up a sign during a recent protest against racial injustice. Victoria communities of faith are encouraging peaceful discussions about how to break the cycle of racism and the abuse of power everywhere.

Signed by: Communities of Faith members:
• Gary Branfman, President, Temple B’Nai Israel
• Rev. Fred H. Hobbs, Mount Nebo Missionary Baptist Church
• Jim For, President, Unitarian Universalist Church of Victoria
• Intern Kara Hairell-Speed, Christ in the Country Cooperative
• Rev. Willie Mae Ford, Pastor of Salter Chapel AME Church
• Imam Osama Hassan, Victoria Islamic Center
• Brendan Cahill, Catholic Bishop of Victoria
• Danna Cole, Executive Director, Center for Peace Victoria
• Stephana Marbach, Catholic Sister at Incarnate Word Convent
• Laurel Graham, People of Hope ELCA
• Sister Rebecca Jancek, Executive Director of Promise Pointe
• Cheryl Kester-Schmidt, Christ the Victor Lutheran Church ELCA
• Mildred Truchard, Catholic Sister at Incarnate Word Convent
• Brendan Cahill, Catholic Bishop of Victoria
• Laurel Graham, People of Hope ELCA
• Sister Rebecca Jancek, Executive Director of Promise Pointe
• Cheryl Kester-Schmidt, Christ the Victor Lutheran Church ELCA
• Mildred Truchard, Catholic Sister at Incarnate Word Convent
• Rev. Dr. Wm C. “Bill” Hassel, People of Hope, ELCA
• Nafees Ali, Victoria Islamic Center
• Dr. John Carmona, Jerusalem Family Praise Center
• Paul Morrison, People of Hope ELCA