Bishop declares Year of the Family in the Diocese of Victoria

JANET JONES
The Catholic Lighthouse

This year will be one to remember. Not just because of all the problems. But because the problems that slammed the doors shut on many a great plan also have created unexpected opportunities. And a lot more family time.

Bishop Brendan Cahill is declaring Year of the Family to begin in the Diocese of Victoria which begins Oct. 4. That coincides with the start of the second Rosary Congress which goes from Oct. 4-11. He said inspiration for the marriage of these two concepts comes from the words of St. John Paul II’s Apostolic letter Rosarium Virginis Mariae which declared October 2002 to October 2003 “Year of the Rosary.” In it, St. John Paul II emphasizes the importance of the prayers for parents and children. (See the See Bishop declares Year of the Family, pg. 16

Knights of Columbus reaching out to next generation

JANET JONES
The Catholic Lighthouse

Men, the devil is trying to destroy you and your family. That’s the message the Knights of Columbus is trying to get across in the powerful film series “Into the Breach.” They are calling for more Catholic men to step up as leaders of their families and defenders of the faith.

“We really are focusing on family life and supporting young families,” said Bishop Brendan Cahill, who recently became the chaplain for the Texas State Council of the KofCs, and will serve in that capacity for the next two years.

In this time of pandemic and great need, the Knights are focusing on an initiative to “leave no neighbor behind,” said Bishop Cahill. “In a time of crisis, it focuses on the importance of staying connected.”

Alfredo Vela, the new state deputy for the Texas council, has chosen “Be Not Afraid” as his theme for the new term. Bishop Cahill said a “no excuses” call for men to be bold leaders of their families and in the Church.

“The Knights are kind of the backbone of many parish communities,” said Justin Reyes, Family Evangelization Director for the Diocese of Victoria. Reyes incorporated an “Into the Breach” film into his “Get in the Game” men’s conference earlier this year. “We need to find that next generation of male leaders,” he said

Kenneth Trochta, diocesan deputy for the State Council of the Knights of Columbus said, “We need to get some young blood in there. The Knights of Columbus has a new plan, and we are refocusing on the family now and the programming.”

See Knights of Columbus reaching out, pg. 14
Dear Brothers and Sisters,

At a Board meeting for Catholic Rural Life, one of the members introduced a concept that was new to me. We were working on strategic plans for three and five years, and he said we need to be flexible because we can’t anticipate all the changes in the future. He then used a term “VUCA” with the admonition to be prepared for times that are “volatile, uncertain, complex and ambiguous.”

That term seems to be a correct description of what we are going through right now. It seems even hard to plan for six days in the future, much less six months or six years.

In the midst of volatile and uncertain times, there are stable anchors to see us through. As we are looking ahead to the school year, it has become apparent to me that the anchors of faith in Jesus Christ and the family as the Domestic Church are not only helping us weather the storm, but actually are making us stronger evangelizers. Many families have shared that a surprising blessing in the midst of the daily challenges is the gift of time together and the opportunity to re-orient time towards the family relationships.

The leaders of the Church at the Second Vatican Council turned their attention toward the family and culture when they were considering some of the greatest challenges of modern society. Writing in a document addressed to the role of the Church in the Modern World, they acknowledged many of the cultural forces around the world working against the family and then declared:

“All these situations have produced anxiety of consciences. Yet the power and strength of the institution of marriage and family can also be seen in the fact that, time and again, despite the difficulties produced, the profound changes in modern society reveal the true character of this institution in one way or another.” (Gaudium et Spes 47)

With this in mind I want to invite us to see 2020-2021 as a Year of the Family. Beginning on Oct. 4, with the opening of our Second Rosary Congress, we can pray and work together to increase the knowledge of Jesus and His teachings in each of our homes. The Rosary Congress itself, lasting Oct. 4-11 is a time devoted to Eucharistic Adoration and the public praying of the Rosary. Last year we held Eucharistic Processions in town squares, showed the movie “Power in My Hands” in local movie theaters, scheduled men and women as individuals and with groups to pray the rosary at every hour, and honored our Lord in many other ways. For me it was a beautiful witness of our faith, and a powerful way to experience the challenge of St. Pope John Paul II at the beginning of the new millennium: “Contemplate the Face of Christ with Mary.”

The graces received from last year’s Rosary Congress helped develop the true character of our families as homes striving to live virtuous lives in union with Jesus and the Holy Family. My prayer is that we can continue this growth and bring the message of hope and healing in Jesus Christ to every home in our area. In a world that truly is “VUCA,” our homes can be both a shelter of protection in the storm and a light to give hope to others in the darkness. Jesus is truly risen and alive, present in body and blood, soul and divinity in the Holy Eucharist, and present in the heart of the believer united to Him in prayer.

In the coming months we will be highlighting programs like “Walking with Moms in Need,” the Catholic Conference, consecrations of parishes, the Rosary Congress itself, lasting Oct. 4-11 is a time dedicated to the knowledge of Jesus and His teachings in each of our homes. The Rosary Congress itself, lasting Oct. 4-11 is a time devoted to Eucharistic Adoration and the public praying of the Rosary. Last year we held Eucharistic Processions in town squares, showed the movie “Power in My Hands” in local movie theaters, scheduled men and women as individuals and with groups to pray the rosary at every hour, and honored our Lord in many other ways. For me it was a beautiful witness of our faith, and a powerful way to experience the challenge of St. Pope John Paul II at the beginning of the new millennium: “Contemplate the Face of Christ with Mary.”

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In the coming months we will be highlighting programs like “Walking with Moms in Need,” the Catholic Conference, consecrations of homes to Mary and to Joseph, consecrations of homes to the Sacred Heart of Jesus, catechetical and evangelization programs for the home and your neighborhood, a program for young adults called “Journeying Together: an Intercultural Encounter,” the performance of the play “Tolton.”

In the coming year, let’s take up the words of St. Paul in the 10th chapter of his letter to the Romans, and work so that “Everyone hears the Word proclaimed”:

“But how can they call on him in whom they have not believed? And how can they believe in him of whom they have not heard? And how can they hear without someone to preach? And how can people preach unless they are sent? As it is written, ‘How beautiful are the feet of those who bring [the] good news!’ But not everyone has heeded the good news; for Isaiah says, ‘Lord, who has believed what was heard from us?’ Thus faith comes from what is heard, and what is heard comes through the word of Christ.” (Romans 10:14-17)

May God bless you and your families in these volatile and uncertain times with the solid and certain knowledge of His love and presence in your homes, and may we not be afraid to be witnesses of this greater love to all of our neighbors and friends in the Crossroads.

+Brendan

Todos escuchan la Palabra proclamada

Queridos Hermanos y Hermanas,

En una reunión de la Junta de Catholic Rural Life, uno de los miembros presentó un concepto que era nuevo para mí. Estuvimos trabajando en planes estratégicos durante tres y cinco años, y dijo que debíamos ser flexibles porque no podemos anticipar todos los cambios en el futuro. Luego usó un término “VUCA” con la advertencia de estar preparado para tiempos que son “volátiles, inciertos, complejos y ambiguos.” Ese término parece ser una descripción correcta de lo que estamos pasando en este momento. Parece incluso difícil plantearlo para seis días en el futuro, mucho menos seis meses o seis años.

En medio de tiempos volátiles e inciertos, hay anclas estables para ayudarnos. Al mirar hacia el año escolar, se me ha hecho evidente que los anclajes de la fe en Jesucristo y en la familia como Iglesia Doméstica no solo nos están ayudando a capear la tormenta, sino que también nos están haciendo evangelizadores más fuertes. Muchas familias han compartido que una bendición sorprendente en medio de los desafíos diarios es el regalo del tiempo juntos y la oportunidad de reorientar el tiempo hacia las relaciones familiares.

Los líderes de la Iglesia en el Concilio Vaticano II volvieron su atención hacia la familia y la cultura cuando consideraban algunos de los mayores desafíos de la sociedad moderna. Escribiendo en un documento dirigido al papel de la Iglesia en el mundo moderno, reconocieron a muchas de las fuerzas culturales de todo el mundo que trabajan contra la familia y luego declararon: “Todas estas situaciones han producido ansiedad en las conciencias. Sin embargo, el poder y la fuerza de la institución del matrimonio y la familia también se pueden ver en el hecho de una manera como la institución de una manera u otra.” (Gaudium et Spes 47)

Con esto en mente, quiero invitarnos a ver 2020-2021 como un Año de la Familia. A partir del 4 de Octubre, con la apertura de nuestro Segundo Congreso del Rosario, podemos orar y trabajar juntos para aumentar el conocimiento de Jesús y sus enseñanzas en cada uno de nuestros hogares.

El Congreso del Rosario en sí, que dura del 4 al 11 de Octubre, es un tiempo dedicado a la Adoración Eucarística y al rezo público del Rosario. El año pasado celebramos procesiones eucarísticas en las plazas de las ciudades, mostramos la película “El poder en mis manos” en los cines locales, programamos a hombres y mujeres como individuos y con grupos para rezar el rosario a cada hora, y honramos a nuestro Señor de muchas otras maneras.

Para mí fue un hermoso testimonio de nuestra fe y una forma poderosa de experimentar el desafío de San Juan Pablo II al comienzo del nuevo milenio: “Contemplar el
August

1: Mass with Carmelite Sisters, Meyersville
   5 p.m. Installation Mass for Fr. Bob Knippenberg at Queen of the Holy Rosary, Hostyn

2: 8:30 a.m. Mass at IWBS Convent

4: Communities of Faith meeting, Virtual

6: 6:20 a.m. Mass for Sister Rosario’s renewal of vows at IWBS Convent Chapel, Victoria

7: 3 p.m. Holy Hour, Chancery

8: Mass with Carmelite Sisters, Meyersville

9: 9 a.m. Mass at the Cathedral of Our Lady of Victory, Victoria

10: 5 p.m. Liturgical Commission meeting

12: Priest Study Day at Holy Family Church, Victoria

15: Mass with Carmelite Sister, Meyersville

16: 9 a.m. Mass at the Cathedral of Our Lady of Victory, Victoria

18: 6:30 a.m. Call in to Relevant Radio

20: 2 p.m. Catholic Rural Life Board Meeting, Virtual

19: 4 p.m. Building Board Meeting, Chancery

21: Bishop ordination of Most Reverend David L. Toups, Beaumont

21-22: KC State Officers meeting, Beaumont

23: 9 a.m. Mass at the Cathedral of Our Lady of Victory, Victoria

27- Sept. 3: Vacation

September

4: 3 p.m. Holy Hour, Chancery

5: Mass with Carmelite Sisters, Meyersville

In Memoriam

Msgr. Gerard “Gerry” Cernoch


His family lived in Weimar, Corpus Christi and Praha, where he started school at St. Mary’s. In 1945, his family returned Weimar where he attended St. Michael’s School, graduating from 8th grade in 1952. He graduated from St. John’s Seminary High School in 1956 and entered Assumption Seminary in San Antonio.

Monsignor Cernoch was ordained to the priesthood in the Archdiocese of San Antonio on May 28, 1964, by Archbishop Robert E. Lucey.

The following is a timeline of his ministry:

• 1964, associate pastor of St. Cornelius Church, Karnes City
• 1964, associate pastor, St. Philip the Apostle Church, El Campo

Sr. Mary Grace Korenek, IWBS

VICTORIA – Sister Mary Grace Korenek, died July 24, 2020. She was born March 8, 1920, in Plum to the late William and Albina Samohyl Korenek. She was the third child in a family of four children – three boys and one girl.

Sister Mary Grace completed grammar

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

Rev. Antonio Perez 08/18/90 Our Lady of Mount Carmel Catholic Church, Wharton

Lord, I know you love me and have great plans for me. But sometimes I am overwhelmed by the thought of my future. Show me how to walk forward one day at a time. May I take heart while I search openly for what it is you want me to do with my life. Inspire me wisdom and understanding to see your vision for my life and respond with openness to whatever you call me to be. Show me your way Lord!

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

Rev. Msgr. Celestino Say 8/04/2015
Rev. James Kelly 8/20/1986
Rev. Alphonse Padalecki 8/24/1992

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 burs 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 >.

July 23, 2020

- General Seminary Burs
  Acolyte
  In memory of Richard Cernosek by Joan Prihoda Family

- Rev. Daniel P. Kahlich Seminary Burse
  Lector
  In honor of Rev. Daniel P. Kahlich’s retirement by:
  Charles and Theresa Wagner
  Gary and Shirley Antosh
  Patrick & Patsy Janda
  Irene Janda
  Robert and Clara Smith
  Lambert and Doris Lidiak
  Robert and Sandra Martinek
  E.F. and Helen Muras
  Henry and Maxine Holub
  Georgia Belota
  Reuben and Marta Knapa
  Beverly and Gene Kruppa
  Mary Jane Muras
  Harold and Brenda Fietasam
  CDA Hostyn Court #2282

  Acolyte
  In memory of Mike Ottis by
  M/M Bernard Rother
  In memory of Edward Ottis by
  M/M Bernard Rother

- Rev. Timothy Kosler Seminary Burse
  Acolyte
  In memory of Brother Knight Leroy J. Schindler by
  K of C Council #2902, Schulenburg

- Rev. Msgr. John C. Peters Seminary Burse
  Candidate
  In honor of my retirement by
  Rev. Daniel P. Kahlich

To contribute to an existing Seminary Endowment Fund, send contributions with the appropriate fund designation to:
Diocese Of Victoria
Seminary Endowment Fund
P. O. Box 4070
Victoria, TX  77903

Education of Seminarian Fund

The Education of Seminarian Fund is a fund in which all of the monies donated to this fund, as well as the earnings, are available to cover the cost of educating seminarians. The proceeds of the special collection on Holy Thursday are deposited into the Education of Seminarian Fund. Publication of this fund will appear when new contributions are received. Donation categories: Lector – $0.01 - $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
  Ronnie & Diane Bolbom

Acolyte

- Knights of Columbus #1329, Victoria
  in Memory of Frank Nevlud

Candidate

- Seadrift Seafood Processing, Inc.

Happy Birthday to Our Seminarians


Caleb Krische is in Theology I at St. Mary’s Seminary in Houston. Caleb’s hometown is St. John. His birthday is August 30. Write to Caleb at: St. Mary’s Seminary, 9845 Memorial Dr, Houston, TX 77024.

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

Continued from pg. 3

Sister Guadalupe Guillen, MCHS

VICTORIA – Sister Guadalupe Guillen, MCHS, 91, died July 23, 2020. She was born Dec. 31, 1928, in Comitan Chiapas, Mexico, to the late Gilardo Guillen and Esther Mandujando. She has been a member of the Missionary Catechists of the Sacred Hearts of Jesus and Mary since 1951. Her first profession was in 1954 and she took her perpetual vows in Mexico City in 1958.

Her missionary life included pastoral work in Mexico, Tenton, N.J., Lubbock, Wharton, Rosenberg and Victoria. Her last parish was Our Lady of Sorrows in Victoria.

Sister Guadalupe is survived by one sister, Maria del Rosario Guillen.

Because of the restrictions of the COVID-19 pandemic, her services are still pending. She will be buried in Victoria.
Some of us are experiencing isolation because we don’t want to expose ourselves or our loved ones to the virus that causes COVID. Some of us may feel we have been exposed to it, have some signs of it, have been tested and are waiting for the results, so we have isolated ourselves to protect others in case we have it. And then there are those who have tested positive and have been ordered to self-quarantine at home. Others have such severe symptoms that they need hospitalization, which requires extreme isolation from family and loved ones.

Many of us are getting tired of this condition which is getting worse instead of improving.

Some of us use social media and phones to keep in touch. I like the TV spot that reminds us that, “You are not alone.” I hope that such reminders can alleviate this feeling of isolation for some. I especially applaud those who make an effort to call or text those who may need the social contact.

There are some folks who have such a strong relationship with God that they never feel isolated or alone. I once knew a very elderly woman who complained that although she prayed all day, the day was too short for her to pray for all those for whom she had promised to pray. You may know some of these folks who have such a strong relationship with God that they realize that God is with them all the time; they are not alone.

This sounds like a good time to develop or deepen our own relationship with our God. How?

Perhaps reading the Bible slowly and reflecting on passages that grab our attention can get us started. Or a favorite spiritual book may be helpful. Creation may be a starter for some. Just watch how the flowers and birds and butterflies reflect God’s beauty. Just marvel at how God may have caused the garden you may have started in spring — or the one you plan to plant when it gets cool enough to work outdoors — to produce. If one cannot get out into the back yard to enjoy God’s presence, a window may grant a view to God’s world.

Go ahead with whatever leads you in your efforts to bask in the presence of our loving Lord.

And together let us pray for COVID’s speedy demise.

Let us pray, dearly beloved, for a swift end to the coronavirus pandemic that afflicts our world, that our God and Father will heal the sick, strengthen those who care for them, and help us all to persevere in faith:

Almighty and merciful God, source of all life, health and healing, look with compassion on our world, brought low by disease; protect us in the midst of the grave challenges that assail us and in your fatherly providence grant recovery to the stricken, strength to those who care for them, and success to those working to eradicate this scourge. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.
Riotto has been working since last September on the new rectory – Casa San Roberto.

The Rev. Philip Brune, pastor of St. Robert, has been working since last September with the Rev. Kristopher Fuchs, pastor of St. Mary’s in Victoria, who has an architectural degree from Texas A&M, Ken Shanks, the architect, Rafael Hernandez, the builder, Mark and Kurt Pratka, woodworking specialists at Tin Roof, Patricia Hoelscher, interior designer, and Dina Krenke, landscape designer, to start the designing and building process for the new rectory.

Father Brune also has been in conversation with the Rev. Greg Korren, now pastor of Our Lady of Lourdes in Victoria, who built the last rectory in the Diocese of Victoria at Holy Family, also in Victoria. He and other priests have given valuable insight into the layout of the future rectory.

The floor plan of the house will have two priest suites, each having a bedroom, sitting room, bathroom and walk-in closet. One priest suite will be located upstairs, along with the bedroom, bathroom and closet for a seminarian, and the other priest suite will be downstairs. The entire downstairs area will be ADA wheelchair accessible and will have an enclosed two-car garage. Within Casa San Roberto there will be a chapel for prayer for the clergy and it will be called Capilla Santa Elena in honor of the first church established in Pierce in 1928. The old church altar will be used in the chapel and will also have the Blessed Sacrament for priests to spend time alone in prayer with our Lord.

In the center of the building is a great room that has an open-concept kitchen, dining room table for 12 and living room. This will be a place where priests can invite parishioners, organizations, family and friends over to spend time together. This is not possible in the current rectory. There also will be porches on the west and east sides of the casa. The rectory will be a place where the clergy can also go outside and enjoy privacy or entertaining guests.

Several considerations have been made in the design of Casa San Roberto so it can be a low-maintenance home that can last a century or more. As the property originally given to St. Robert’s is in the floodplain, the rectory will be built 5 feet above the base flood elevation of 101 feet to prevent future flooding. D-A-M Services has started building the pad for the rectory. (We like to call it “Mount St. Robert’s.”) The casa will be built to withstand winds of 120 mph and made of materials such as stone and Spanish roofing tiles to withstand time and the elements.

Our Spanish/Mexican architectural heritage has inspired the design of the casa. It will feature arches and beams like the church and will use elements such as natural pecan wood from Wharton County, tile, and talavera. Wood from a hackberry tree that was on the property will be used for the bathroom counters. The colors will be warm tans and reds, just like the parish buildings.

On July 8, Bishop Brendan Cahill blessed the new rectory site and participated with the leaders of the parish in a ground-breaking ceremony. The message of his homily was that, whatever we do and whatever we build, the focus must be on evangelization.

“Please join us in praying for the intercession of St. Joseph the Worker and St. Robert Bellarmine as we begin construction and please pray for vocations from our parish. May St. Robert Bellarmine Parish always be a place of welcome, evangelization and a home for everyone,” said Terri Beltran, parishioner and Catholic Daughters of the Americas Court #2275 regent.

In Pierce in 1928. The old church altar will be used in the chapel and will also have the Blessed Sacrament for priests to spend time alone in prayer with our Lord.

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Participating in a July 8 ground-breaking ceremony for the new rectory at St. Robert Bellarmine in El Campo are, from left, (front row) Brandy Flores, parish catechetical leader; Rosanne Suaceco, St. Vincent de Paul president; Elissa Garcia, youth group; Terri Beltran, Catholic Daughters of the Americas Court #2275 regent; Sofia Medina, Junior Catholic Daughters Court #2275 president; Guadalupe Gavilla, Junior Catholic Daughters Court #2275 chair; Cathy Garcia, Guadalupanas president; (back row) Frank Flores, staff; Albert Cavazos, festival co-chair; Ken Shanks, architect; Adrian Canales, deacon candidate; the Rev. Philip Brune, pastor of St. Robert; Raphael Hernandez, of H Builders Inc.; Bishop Brendan Cahill; Roy Rodriguez, Grand Knight of the Knights of Columbus Council #9393; and Joe Holik, staff. (Contributed Photo)

Donations for the construction of the new rectory are appreciated and can be given online at https://sanrobertochurch.org/donations.
What school looks like these days

Teachers and students are trying to get ready for another school year and stay healthy. Top left, St. Joseph High School teachers get together – but not too close – for some training. Teachers have prepared “to go” supplies and the new lockers are milk crates beside the desk at Our Lady of Victory. OLV Principal Justin Matias is shown in the school library where desks have been spaced out to create more classroom space.

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

Wendy Eggert, Director
Shannon Thomas, Associate Director
ym@victoriadiocese.org
(361) 573-0828
www.victoriadiocese.org/youth-young-adult-ministry

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Parenting is hard, but worth it

By Justin Reyes

I would be the first to tell you that parenting is hard. Having three boys of my own, I can say this from experience. But the truth was revealed to me years ago in a college course on marriage and family. The professor presented a graph showing happiness in married couples over time. Between about 2 and 25 years of marriage it showed a dip. Why? This is when couples are raising children and contemplating important decisions such as education, healthcare, discipline and finances.

So why put ourselves through this? Why have children?

First, God has written it in our hearts. In the Garden of Eden, he told Adam and Eve to be fruitful and multiply. We have an innate desire to produce offspring and subdue the earth.

Second, it stretches us to become more holy and humble. Having children will quickly show you just how selfish you are, as you may crave time to yourself when your children really need you (i.e. 3 a.m. diaper changes or comforting that is needed because of nightmares). Want to be humbled? Have kids. They will help you get to heaven.

And, third, having children is one of the greatest joys we can have. Any parent will tell you that some of their greatest happiness has come through their children. As scripture says, “Certainly sons are a gift from the Lord, the fruit of the womb, a reward.” Psalm 127:3 (NABRE).

So how do we make it through that dip described earlier? One answer is through one another; we help each other be the best parents we can be. For this reason, we have put together a three-part online workshop series starting this month entitled “Be an Amazing Parent.” You can find more information at www.victoriadiocese.org/amazing-parents. Please consider joining us, not just to receive, but to also share your own advice about parenting. Each of us has something to share. We all know each child is made differently, and, as the adage goes, “It takes a village to raise a child.”

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 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.

The Catholic Lighthouse
Page 8 — August 2020
EDITOR'S NOTE: The following is from a sermon written for the Sixteenth Sunday in Ordinary time, Cycle A.

The parable about the leaven and the dough could come straight from the kitchen of almost anyone’s home. Mrs. Baird says on TV that the Baird Family still bakes bread just like his grandmother used to bake it.

In Palestine, bread was baked at home. The yeast was a little piece of dough saved from the previous baking, which had fermented and which was mixed in with the new dough. My mother used to call it everlasting yeast. She would keep it in a pint jar with a glass lid. This yeast would rise and tilt the lid and she would say, “It’s tipping its hat.”

The point of the parable of the yeast lies in one thing – the transforming power of yeast. The yeast changes the whole character of the bread. Unleavened bread is hard and dry and unappetizing, but bread baked with leaven is soft and spongy and tasty.

Just as leaven transforms bread dough, so too the coming of Christ’s kingdom transforms human life.

Christianity transforms life for the individual. St. Paul, in writing to the Corinthians, gathered together a list of the most terrible and disgusting kinds of sinners and then commented, “And such were some of you.” Christ transforms the victim of temptation into its conqueror.

Secondly, Christianity transforms life for women. The Jew, in his morning prayer, thanked God for not making him a Gentile, a slave, or a woman. In many an ancient civilization, a woman was a nobody. She was good only for childbearing and working. On a journey, she often carried the baggage while the man rode.

Thirdly, Christianity transforms life for the sick and the weak. In one ancient civilization, each newborn baby was submitted to a board of examiners. If it was weak or deformed, it was thrown off a cliff, and its little bones were left to bleach in the sun.

The first asylum for the blind, the first free dispensary, the first hospital were all founded by Christians. Christianity was the first religion to be interested in the broken things of life.

Fourthly, Christianity transforms life for the aged. Like the weak, the aged were in the way once their work was done. They were fit only to be cast aside like any worn out discard. Among the Indians, there was the custom of giving the aged a few provisions and taking them to some abandoned spot to die alone. Christianity was the first religion to value human beings as persons with lasting dignity.

Fifthly, Christianity transforms life for the child. Where the marriage relationship had broken down and the home was in peril and children were a disaster, Christianity restored and established the sanctity of marriage and made it the ideal setting for the transmission of life and its enrichment.

There can be no doubt about the fact that Christianity has transformed the individual and the world, and still continues to do so.

Men crucified Christ because he greatly disturbed their way of life. Christianity is disruptive and disturbing, so many resent and refuse and persecute it because it has the power to change and remake them and society.

Although our world is still far from perfect, today is a fine day to express our gratitude and appreciation for the many ways in which Christianity has improved life on earth. Hospitals, nursing homes, rehabilitation centers, careers for women, for the handicapped, for minorities – all are evidence of the effectiveness of the yeast of which the Lord Jesus spoke. As a Christian, you are yeast. So keep mixing in. Try at every opportunity to help promote the things we considered today.

Lord Jesus, thank you for giving us the power to change the world. Help us always to promote respect for the individual, for women, for the sick and the weak, for the aged, and for children. Grant that our transforming power in the world may become ever more visible in the world around us. Amen.

Show grandparents, the elderly that you care, pope tells young people

By Carol Glatz
Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Pope Francis called on young people to reach out to their grandparents or the elderly who may be lonely or on their own.

“Do not leave them by themselves,” he said after praying the Angelus with visitors in St. Peter’s Square July 26.

“Use the inventiveness of love, make phone calls, video calls, send messages, listen to them and, where possible, in compliance with health care regulations, go to visit them, too. Send them a hug,” he said before leading visitors in giving a big round of applause for all grandparents.

The pope made his remarks on the memorial of Sts. Joachim and Anne — Mary’s parents, Jesus’ grandparents and the patron saints of grandparents.

Pope Francis said he wanted to mark the day by inviting all young people to make a concrete “gesture of tenderness toward the elderly, especially the loneliest, in their homes and residences, those who have not seen their loved ones for many months” because of rules in place to curb the spread of the coronavirus.

In part, because of such regulations in place, he asked young people to be creative and inventive in finding ways to show they care while respecting current directives.

Grandparents and the elderly are “your roots” and having a strong bond or connection with one’s roots is important, he said, because “an uprooted tree cannot grow, it does not blossom or bear fruit.”

Because the pandemic has affected older people especially hard, the Dicastery for Laity, the Family and Life launched a campaign July 27 after being inspired by Pope Francis’ invitation to reach out safely and creatively to the elderly.

“It is possible to reduce the isolation felt by elderly people while also strictly observing health guidelines for COVID-19,” it said in a statement, adding that “respecting social distancing rules does not mean accepting a destiny of loneliness and abandonment.”

Inspired by the pope’s words after the Angelus, the dicastery decided “to launch a campaign called, ‘The elderly are your grandparents,’” which encourages young people around the world “to do something that shows kindness and affection for older people who may feel lonely.”
Catechetical ministry office announces conference speakers

The Diocese of Victoria’s 33rd Annual Catholic Conference workshpso will focus on the four parts of the Catechism of the Catholic Church – profession of faith, the Creed and the celebration of the Christian Mystery; the sacraments (life in Christ) morality and Christian prayer.

Christella Alvarex, director of the Office of Catechetical Ministry said each workshop will be 40 minutes and will be offered in English and Spanish.

The conference is set to take place Oct. 17 at five locations in the diocese – St. Joseph High School (English) and Our Lady of Sorrows (Spanish) in Victoria, St. Robert (Spanish) and St. Philip (English) in El Campo, and Sacred Heart in Hallettsville (English).

Bishop Cahill will offer the keynote presentation with a focus on community and relationship. The following presenters are confirmed:

The following is a list of the workshops and the presenters:

**ENGLISH**
- Profession of Faith by Sister Misty Garriaga of the Congregation of Divine Providence in San Antonio. She serves on the vocation core team for her congregation.
- Sacraments (sponsored by Loyola Press) by Bill Smith of Loyola Press. Bill Smith has served as a catechetical leader for the past 36 years in a variety of parish settings, mostly within the Archdiocese of San Antonio.
- Life in Christ (sponsored by Sadlier) by the Rev. John Hurley
- Prayer by Sister Digna Vela, Incarnate World and Blessed Sacrament

**SPANISH**
- Profession of Faith by the Rev. Nelson Gonzales, Pastor of St. Anthony in Columbus
- Sacraments by Fr. Eliecer Patino, parochial vicar for Our Lady of Sorrows
- Life in Christ (Diocese of Austin) by Gustavo Rodriguez, director of Evangelization and Catechesis for the Diocese of Austin
- Prayer by Sister Miriam Perez, MSCH

Sunday Readings from August 9 - September 13

August 9 ~ Nineteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time
1 Kings 19:9A, 11-13A
Psalms 85:9, 10, 11-12, 13-14
Romans 9:1-5
Matthew 14:22-33

August 16 ~ Twentieth Sunday in Ordinary Time
Isaiah 56:1, 6-7
Psalms 67:2-3, 5, 6, 8
Romans 11:13-15, 29-32
Matthew 15:21-28

August 23 ~ Twenty-first Sunday in Ordinary Time
Isaiah 22:19-23
Psalms 138:1-2, 3-6, 8
Romans 11:33-36
Matthew 16:13-20

August 30 ~ Twenty-second Sunday in Ordinary Time
Jeremiah 20:7-9
Psalms 63:2, 3-4, 5-6, 8-9
Romans 12:1-2
Matthew 16:21-27

For daily and Sunday readings, as well as a daily reflection video, www.usccb.org/bible/readings.

Brought to you by: Catholic Communications Campaign

From www.catholicrurallife.org

Praise and honor to you Creator, God.
For many years our family has lived on this land. We now come to know and accept your great love in the changing of seasons and the cycles of life. We give thanks for the memories, the good times and the hard, the times of birth, growth, and harvest, the times of death, worry, and fear.

Bless our children now as they take ownership and responsibility for the future of this land. May they have peace and prosperity. May they pass on to others a love of the land and the values of justice, respect and stewardship. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Pastoral Institute explores the Sacraments of Initiation

BY CHRISTELLA ALVAREZ

Director of Catechetical Ministry for the Diocese of Victoria

As salt of the earth and light for the world (cf. Mt 5:13-16), adult disciples give witness to God’s love and caring will so that, in the power of the Spirit, they “renew the face of the earth.” Through the Pastoral Institute courses are offered to help promote the three major areas listed above.

This fall, the Rev. Bob Knippenberg will be teaching a six-week course on the Sacraments of Initiation. The sacraments are the source of our life in Christ or, as the Catechism of the Catholic Church puts it, “The sacraments are efficacious signs of grace, instituted by Christ and entrusted to the Church, by which divine life is dispensed to us” (n. 1131).

Father Knippenberg says, “This course will introduce the concept of grace, the first sin, our responsibilities toward the sacraments, material things as instruments of grace and what is meant by ‘efficacious signs of [sanctifying] grace.’ We will then examine each of the sacraments of initiation: 1) baptism, 2) confirmation, and 3) Eucharist, looking at the theology of the sacrament, the origins of the sacrament, and the way in which each sacrament is practiced in the Catholic Church.”

The overall objective of this course is to lead the adult participant into an intimate relationship with Jesus Christ, who is “the key, the center and the purpose of the whole of human history” (Gaudium et spes, n. 10) by helping them more intimately encounter the Christ of the sacraments and the liturgical life of the Church.

According to the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, three major areas to guide and direct our efforts in adult faith formation. The first is to invite and encourage ongoing conversion to Jesus; the second is to promote members of the faith community to be actively involved in the mission and life of the Christian community; the third is to prepare adult Catholics to live as disciples of Jesus in the world.

“The most valuable gift that the Church can offer to the bewildered and restless world of our time is to form within it Christians who are confirmed in what is essential and who are humbly joyful in their faith.” (Our Hearts Were Burning Within Us: A Pastoral Plan for Adult Faith Formation in the United States, #59)

This course will be offered at Holy Rosary Catholic Church in Hostyn and at the Chancery in Victoria using distance learning technology. Cost is $30 for the six-week course. A textbook entitled “The Sacraments from Midwest Theological Forum” is optional (cost is $35). Call the Pastoral Institute office at 361-573-0828 for more information or to register.
DIOCESE

Texas dioceses still assessing damage from Hurricane Hanna

WASHINGTON (CNS) -- Some dioceses in the state of Texas had services affected and some are still trying to determine damage from the July 25 landfall of Hurricane Hanna.

The hurricane hit southern Texas -- a region already battered by the coronavirus -- particularly hard, causing widespread damage, though no casualties were reported, at least in the U.S.

“The Diocese of Corpus Christi is currently evaluating the damages caused by Hurricane Hanna to its parishes and schools,” the diocese said in a July 28 news release. “Several parish communities in the diocese experienced varying degrees of damage as a result of Hurricane Hanna.”

Disaster teams were evaluating and “assisting with the mitigation and stabilization of affected buildings to prevent further damages and to lessen any possible issue with mold,” the diocese said.

Hurricane Hanna is said to have made landfall about 90 miles south of Corpus Christi and later barreled through parts of Mexico, where at least four casualties have been reported. The first Atlantic hurricane of the 2020 season also affected the Rio Grande Valley, where the Diocese of Brownsville, Texas, is located.

“RGV has been severely affected by Hurricane Hanna. Many have lost their homes,” said a July 27 tweet by Catholic Charities of the Rio Grande Valley, the charitable arm of the Diocese of Brownsville, as it was seeking donations to respond to the damage.

Though in limited numbers, the Diocese of Brownsville had been able to open facilities for religious services, but some were affected by the weather event.

Brownsville Bishop Daniel E. Flores, in the July 27 interview with Catholic News Service, said the diocese was still receiving reports about damage to properties, but there was general damage to homes, particularly roofs in the area. The diocese was ready to help those affected and used a facility run by the local Catholic Charities, known as the respite center, to shelter those seeking refuge from Hanna.

“The response from people has always been very generous,” he said.

But damage was different in various parts of the city. Though there were branches on some streets and flooding in others, he was still able to tend to confirmations for a group of 13 young Catholics at San Felipe de Jesus Parish a day after the hurricane.

Be an Amazing Parent!

3 online workshops with local leaders!

6:30 – 7:45pm each night

Register for 1, 2, or all 3 at www.victoriadiocese.org/amazing-parents

August 19
Fr. Gary Janak and Justin & Laura Reyes
Diocese of Victoria

MARRIAGE: THE CORE OF PARENTING

August 26
Ashley Silvas and Valeria Dubourdieu
The Emmaus Center: Counseling & Spiritual Direction in the Catholic Tradition

COMMUNICATING WITH YOUR CHILDREN

September 2
Missionaries to the Family
3 couples ministering to families in the local area

CREATING A FAMILY CULTURE

Questions? Contact Justin Reyes, Director of Family Evangelization, Diocese of Victoria
(361) 573-0828 x 2265, jreyes@victoriadiocese.org
Casa San Roberto es un sueño hecho realidad

Especial para The Lighthouse

EL CAMPO -- Cuando la rectoría de la Iglesia Católica St. Robert Bellarmine se construyó originalmente en la década de 1960, contaba con cuatro habitaciones, dos oficinas, una sala de estar, cocina y comedor. Con los años, el espacio ha cambiado. Las cuatro habitaciones se convirtieron en cuatro oficinas y se convirtió en la oficina de la iglesia en lugar de la residencia de los sacerdotes. Actualmente, la habitación del pastor se encuentra en el garaje original para dos autos y, como muchos rectores en la Diócesis de Victoria, comparte una cocina con el personal, evitando que el sacerdote tenga algún tipo de privacidad.

Con el crecimiento de la parroquia en mente y el deseo de poder acomodar a otro sacerdote y seminarista, St. Robert’s ha comenzado la construcción de una nueva rectoría: la Casa San Roberto.

El Reverendo Philip Brune, pastor de St. Robert, ha estado trabajando desde septiembre pasado con el Reverendo Kristopher Fuchs, pastor de St. Mary’s en Victoria, quien tiene un título en arquitectura de Texas A&M, Ken Shanks, el arquitecto, Rafael Hernández, el constructor, Mark y Kurt Pratka, especialistas en carpintería en Tin Roof, Patricia Hoelscher, diseñadora de interiores, y Dina Krenek, diseñadora de paisajes, para comenzar el proceso de diseño y construcción de la nueva rectoría.

El padre Brune también ha estado conversando con el Reverendo Greg Korenek, ahora pastor de Nuestra Señora de Lourdes en Victoria, quien construyó la última rectoría en la Diócesis de Victoria en Holy Family, también en Victoria. Él y otros sacerdotes han dado información valiosa sobre el diseño de la futura rectoría.

El plan de la casa tendrá dos suites para sacerdotes, cada una con un dormitorio, sala de estar, baño y vestidor. Una suite sacerdotal se ubicará arriba, junto con el dormitorio, el baño y el armario para un seminarista, y la otra suite sacerdotal estará abajo. Toda el área de la planta baja tendrá acceso para silllas de ruedas ADA y tendrá un garaje cerrado para dos autos. Dentro de la Casa San Roberto habrá una capilla para la oración del clero y se llamará Capilla Santa Elena en honor a la primera iglesia establecida en Pierce en 1928. El antiguo altar de la iglesia se usará en la capilla y también tendrá al rostro de Cristo con María.

Las gracias recibidas del Congreso del Rosario del año pasado ayudaron a desarrollar el verdadero carácter de nuestras familias como hogares que luchan por vivir vidas virtuosas en unión con Jesús y la Sagrada Familia. Mi oración es que podamos continuar este crecimiento y llevar el mensaje de esperanza y sanación en Jesucristo a cada hogar en nuestra área.

En un mundo que realmente es “VUCA,” nuestros hogares pueden ser tanto un refugio de protección en la tormenta como una luz para dar esperanza a otros en la oscuridad. Jesús está verdaderamente resucitado y vivo, presente en cuerpo y sangre, alma y divinidad en la Sagrada Eucaristía, y presente en el corazón del creyente unido a Él en oración.

En los próximos meses destacaremos programas como “Caminando con Mamá Necesitadas;” la Conferencia Católica, consagraciones a María y a José, consagraciones de hogares al Sagrado Corazón de Jesús, programas de catequesis y evangelización para el hogar y su vecindario, un programa para adultos jóvenes llamado “Viaje Juntos: un Encuentro Intercultural,” la representación de la obra de teatro “Tolton,” y que muestra películas con mensajes edificantes de fe y esperanza.

En el próximo año, tomemos las palabras de San Pablo en el décimo capítulo de su carta a los romanos, y trabajemos para que todos puedan escuchar la palabra de Cristo proclamada a través de nosotros: Pero: “¿Cómo pueden invocar a aquel en quien no han creído? ¿Y cómo pueden escuchar sin alguien para predicar? ¿Y cómo puede la gente predicar a menos que sean enviados? Como está escrito, “¿Qué hermosos son los pies de aquellos que traen [las] buenas noticias!” Pero no todos han escuchado las buenas noticias; porque Isáías dice: “Señor, ¿quién ha creído lo que se escuchó de nosotros?” Así, la fe proviene de lo que se oye, y lo que se oye viene por la Palabra de Cristo.” (Romanos 10:14-17)

Que Dios los bendiga a ustedes y a sus familias en estos tiempos volátiles e inciertos con el conocimiento sólido y seguro de su amor y presencia en sus hogares, y que no tengamos miedo de ser testigos de este mayor amor a todos nuestros vecinos y amigos en el Crecce,
Los talleres de la 33rd Conferencia Católica Anual de la Diócesis de Victoria se centrarán en las cuatro partes del Catécismo de la Iglesia Católica: la profesión de fe, el Credo y la celebración del misterio cristiano; Los sacramentos (vida en Cristo) moral y oración cristiana.

Christella Alvarez, directora de la Oficina del Ministerio de Catequesis, dijo que cada taller durará 40 minutos y se ofrecerá en inglés y español.

La conferencia tendrá lugar el 17 de octubre en cinco ubicaciones de la diócesis: St. Joseph High School (Inglés) y Our Lady of Sorrows (Español) en Victoria, St. Robert (Español) y St. Philip (Inglés) en El Campo y Sagrado Corazón en Hallettsville (en inglés).

El obispo Cahill ofrecerá la presentación principal con un enfoque en la comunidad y la relación. Se confirmarán los siguientes presentadores:

La siguiente es una lista de los talleres y los presentadores:

**INGLÉS**
- Profesión de Fe de la Hermana Misty Garriga de la Congregación de la Divina Providencia en San Antonio. Ella sirve en el equipo básico de vocación para su congregación.
- Sacramentos (patrocinado por Loyola Press) por Bill Smith de Loyola Press. Bill Smith ha servido como líder catequético durante los últimos 36 años en una variedad de entornos parroquiales, principalmente dentro de la Arquidiócesis de San Antonio.
- La vida en Cristo (patrocinado por Sadlier) por el reverendo John Hurley
- Oración por Sister Digna Vela, Incarnate World y Blessed Sacrament

**ESPAÑOL**
- Profesión de Fe de la Rev. Nelson Gonzales, Pastor of St. Anthony in Columbus
- Sacramentos por estos dos conceptos proviene de las palabras de la carta apostólica de San Juan Pablo II Rosarium Virginis Mariae, que declaró de Octubre de 2002 a Octubre de 2003 “Año del Rosario.”
- La vida en Cristo (Diocese of Austin) por Gustavo Rodríguez, Director de Evangelización and Catequesispera la Dio
- Oración por Sister Miriam Perez, MSCH

**PODCAST**
- Los sacramentos (vida en Cristo) moral y oración cristiana. Sin embargo, el poder y la fuerza de la institución del matrimonio y la familia también se pueden ver en el hecho de que una y otra vez, a pesar de las dificultades producidas, los cambios profundos en la sociedad moderna revelan el verdadero carácter de esta institución de una manera u otra ...

- de “Gaudium et Spes” (“Alegria y esperanza”), escrito durante el Concilio Vaticano II.

**POR JANET JONES**

The Catholic Lighthouse

Este año será uno para recordar. No solo por todos los problemas. Pero debido a que los problemas que cerraron las puertas de un gran plan también han creado oportunidades inesperadas. Y mucho más tiempo en familia.

El Obispo Brendan Cahill declara que el Año de la Familia comenzará en la Diócesis de Victoria, que comienza el 4 de Octubre. Eso coincide con el inicio del segundo Congreso del Rosario que va del 4 al 11 de Octubre.

Dijo que la inspiración para el matrimonio y familia fue que, hagamos lo que hagamos nunca estaremos solos.

**Casa San Roberto es un sueño hecho realidad**

Beato Sacramento para que los sacerdotes pasen tiempo solos en oración con nuestro Señor.

En el centro del edificio hay una gran sala que tiene una cocina de concepto abierto, una mesa de comedor para 12 personas y una sala de estar. Este será un lugar donde los sacerdotes pueden invitar a feligreses, organizaciones, familiares y amigos a pasar tiempo juntos. Esto no es posible en la rectoría actual. También habrá porches en los lados oeste y este de la casa. La rectoría será un lugar donde el clero también pueda salir y disfrutar de la privacidad o el entretención de los invitados.

Se han hecho varias consideraciones en el diseño de Casa San Roberto, por lo que puede ser una casa de bajo mantenimiento que puede durar un siglo o más. Como la propiedad originalmente entregada a St. Robert está en la llanura de inundación, se usará para los mostradores del baño. Los colores serán cálidos bronceados y rojos, al igual que los edificios de la parroquia.

El 8 de Julio, el Obispo Brendan Cahill bendijo el nuevo sitio de la rectoría y participó con los líderes de la parroquia en una ceremonia innovadora. El mensaje de su homilía fue que, hagamos lo que hagamos y construyamos, el enfoque debe estar en la evangelización.

“Por favor, únanse a nosotros para orar por la intercesión de San José el Trabajador y San Robert Bellarmine al comenzar la construcción y oren por las vocaciones de nuestra parroquia. Que la Parroquia St. Robert Bellarmine sea siempre un lugar de bienvenida, evangelización y un hogar para todos,” dijo Terri Beltrán, feligrés y regente de la Corte Católica de las Hijas de las Américas # 2275.

Las donaciones para la construcción de la nueva rectoría son apreciadas y se pueden dar en línea en https://sanrobertochurch.org/donations.
Knights of Columbus reaching out to next generation

Continued from pg. 1

Trochta said getting younger men interested means changing some traditions. For example, initiation into the Knights was once shrouded in secrecy, as many fraternal organizations’ initiations are, but now they have ceremonies that are a family affair.

Richard Zahn, a member for 22 years in Council #3262 said, “Our council is an older council, age wise, as far as the members.” He, at 53, has been one of the younger members of his council for a long time. Council #3262 has about 325 members from parishes in Wharton, Hungerford and Boling.

“Our membership has been really slow in this area,” he said. “We get one or two (new members) here or there.” But they do take on a lot of tasks and help out where needed. They have done a lot of work since Hurricane Harvey giving support to the ongoing effort to get hurricane victims into permanent housing.

The Knights of Columbus began as a fraternal organization and Catholic insurance company to provide for the protection and care of women and children. Father Michael McGivney, who served his flock during a pandemic until he died of pneumonia himself, started the organization in Connecticut in 1882. It has since become one of the largest Catholic organizations in the world and McGivney has been recently beatified. The organization is now awaiting another miracle to be approved before he can be canonized.

The namesake is Christopher Columbus, a Catholic man credited with bringing Christianity to North America. In recent months, his image has been under attack as have images of St. Junipero Serra and even Jesus and the Blessed Virgin Mary.

Vela answers those attacks in a letter to his brother Knights: “These are not merely attacks on statues and history. They are increasingly attacks on Catholics and people of faith. In the late 19th century, the Knights of Columbus took its name at a time of intense anti-Catholicism. Our founding members wanted to show that Catholics played an essential role in the exploration and development of America since its earliest days, and that a Catholic could be both a good citizen and a good Catholic. However, anti-Catholicism persists. In the 1920s, the Ku Klux Klan tried to stop Columbus Day celebrations and opposed Columbus statues simply because Columbus was a Catholic. We opposed the KKK then and have continued to stand up against bigotry directed at Catholics and others.”

For more information on the Knights of Columbus, visit www.tkofc.org. The film series “Into the Breach” is posted on the Diocese of Victoria’s website, www.victoriadiocese.org.

Beatification of Father McGivney to take place Oct. 31 in Hartford, Conn.

By Catholic News Service

HARTFORD, Conn. (CNS) -- Father Michael McGivney, the founder of the Knights of Columbus, will be beatified during a special Mass Oct. 31 at the Cathedral of St. Joseph in Hartford.

On May 27, the Vatican announced that Pope Francis, who met with the board of directors of the Knights of Columbus in February, had signed the decree recognizing a miracle through the intercession of Father McGivney, clearing the way for his beatification. Once he is beatified, he will be given the title "Blessed.”

Details of the beatification ceremony have not been released, including what COVID-19 restrictions might still be in place in the fall, such as limiting congregation size, social distancing and the wearing of facial coverings.

The miracle recognized by the Vatican 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.

That baby, Mikey Schachle, is now 5. His parents, Dan and Michelle Schachle, of Dickson, Tennessee, prayed to Father McGivney to intercede with God to save their son, still in his mother’s womb, who was given no hope of surviving a life-threatening case of fetal hydrops.

Father McGivney (1852-1890), the son of Irish immigrants, was born in Waterbury, Connecticut, and was ordained a priest in 1877 for what is now the Archdiocese of Hartford. He founded the Knights of Columbus at St. Mary’s Parish in New Haven, Connecticut, in 1882.

He originally started the Knights as a service organization to help widows and orphans. At the time, Father McGivney was an assistant pastor at St. Mary’s Parish. He is buried in New Haven.

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.

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.

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

By Catholic News Service

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EVENTS

Shiner Catholic Church Picnic from a Distance
Sunday~September 6
In lieu of our annual Fall Picnic, we will be offering an online auction, raffle tickets and a chance to win a brand new tractor!
Please visit our website and facebook page for more information and up to date details.

What’s on the web?

All Ministries and Ongoing Activities at this time are scheduled to change with the pandemic. Before attending a meeting please call ahead to verify that the meeting is being held.

Cinco Preguntas
This is a Spanish-language series during which five questions are asked and answered by Bishop Cahiil, a parish priest or another minister. You will also find these on the Diocese of Victoria Family Evangelization Facebook page.

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 – Ministries 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.couragecc.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.

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.


Gabriel Project of the Crossroads – 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_heysquierdo@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.

I.d.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 anormeous@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 Follaton. 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.raphaelsrrefuge.org.

Retrouvaille – Retrouvaille, meaning “rediscovery,” is a marriage-healing ministry offered in the diocese to couples in difficult marriages. Contact John and Jennifer Vincent at 361-470-2230 or call 800-758-2070; or visit ashleyfay09@gmail.com.

Sacred Heart Parish

Fall Picnic

Hallettsville

Cancelled

Raffle Drawing

Sunday, September 6 at 5 pm

The Fall Picnic has been cancelled. We will have the Regular Raffle Tickets and have the drawing on Sunday, September 6. The Kawasaki tickets will continue to be sold until Sunday, September 6. The total number of tickets sold will remain at 2,000 at $35 each or 3 for $100.

We will be accepting No Picnic Donations and for the Pastor’s Cake.

For more information contact:
Sacred Heart Church Rectory at 361-798-5888

Our Lady of Guadalupe

Cuero

Annual Jamaica Cancelled

Sunday, September 6

Raffle Tickets Available

Tamales for Sale

BBQ Brisket Plates at $10 p/p

11 am-1pm TO GO ONLY

Call Jon Eric Rodriguez or the Church Office for raffle tickets, pre-sale tickets or more information at 361-275-3554
Prayer for Students

Lord our God, in your wisdom and love you surround us with the mysteries of the universe.

Send your Spirit upon these students and fill them with your wisdom and blessings.

Grant that they may devote themselves to their studies and draw ever closer to you, the source of all knowledge.

We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen. 

~from Catholic Household Blessings and Prayers