After a morning Mass on March 13, a Eucharistic procession from the Cathedral of Our Lady of Victory to the Cathedral Center began the first in-person men’s conference organized by the Diocese of Victoria’s Office of Family Evangelization. Deacon Richard Barfield carries the thurible with incense ahead of Bishop Brendan Cahill, who is followed by Father Jacob Mendoza and Father Mitch Pacwa, SJ, one of the speakers at the conference. Following the priests are more than 150 men who participated in the conference. See On the Table by Justin Reyes on Page 13 for more information.

Bishop Janak bids farewell to DOV faithful

EDITOR’s NOTE: The following is a message from Bishop Gary Janak, who will be installed as auxiliary bishop in the Archdiocese of San Antonio at 2 p.m. on April 20. The faithful of the Diocese of Victoria can see the ordination Mass on the Facebook pages and YouTube channels of the archdiocese, Catholic television of San Antonio (CTSA) and Today’s Catholic newspaper. The Diocese of Victoria will share the link on our Facebook Page.

To the Faithful in the Diocese of Victoria:
As I prepare to depart from the Diocese of Victoria, and begin my episcopal ministry in the Archdiocese of San Antonio, I do so with mixed feelings. I am grateful for the opportunity to be obedient to what the Church has asked of me, and honored by the trust Pope Francis has placed in me, yet I am overwhelmed at having to leave my home. The Diocese of Victoria is the only diocese I have ever known.

Being one of the first of five collegiate seminarians for the newly formed Diocese of Victoria in May of 1982, I have had the unique opportunity to witness the unfolding of faith and the development of the diocese, which will celebrate its 40th anniversary next year.

Bishop Charles Grahmann ordained me in Palacios on May 14, 1988. After two years of ministering with him, he was transferred to the Diocese of Dallas.

In 1990, Bishop Fellhauer became our bishop and I ministered with him for more

See Bishop Janak bids farewell, pg. 16
Pray constantly, as the Apostles and Mary have taught us

A Shepherd's Message

By Bishop Brendan Cahill

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

As State Chaplain for the Knights of Columbus, I have the opportunity to learn about many service projects being done across our state. At one of our officer meetings last year, a police officer from Fort Worth gave me a wristband with a blue line that says, “ Shield a Badge with a Prayer.” Along with the wristband was a card on which I could write the name of a particular officer and commit to praying for him or her regularly. I’ve been praying for this officer ever since.

The action of offering a prayer for someone may be the most valuable service project any of us can perform. Prayer itself is the foundation of the Church, without which all of our actions would make us look like the “whited sepulchers” scorned by Jesus (Matthew 23:27).

After Jesus ascended into heaven, 40 days after Easter, the Apostles, Mary and other women and men prayed “constantly” (Acts 1:14). They had no idea what their future held, yet they knew in their heart the importance of coming together to pray.

As we begin this Easter season, we live in a world with much uncertainty and anxiety. In the midst of this tension, Christians can join those original disciples in prayer, with hope and trust in the power of the Holy Spirit!

Here is a prayer to the Holy Spirit written many years ago by St. Augustine:

“Breathe in me, O Holy Spirit, that my thoughts may all be holy.
Act in me, O Holy Spirit, that my work, too, may be holy.
Draw my heart, O Holy Spirit, that I love but what is holy.
Strengthen me, O Holy Spirit, to defend all that is holy.
Guard me, then, O Holy Spirit, that I always may be holy. Amen.”

+Brendan

2 catechists reflect on how God called them

JANET JONES

The Catholic Lighthouse

Christians all are called to evangelize, but a catechist plays a special role in nourishing the seeds of faith so they will grow and bear fruit.

Helen Hernandez of Our Lady of Mount Carmel in Wharton and Vicky Limas of St. Robert in El Campo have both been catechists for many years and both describe the experience as a symbiotic sort of relationship in which their faith grows as they help the children grow in faith.

Now, after decades of teaching the faith, both have decided to step aside. For Hernandez, the COVID-19 pandemic forced her to choose to stay home and protect her health as she is in a higher-risk category. She and her husband both had the virus and were hospitalized with pneumonia, but thankfully recovered. Limas also has had some life-changing circumstances and experienced the loss of two family members. She decided that this was her last year, though she still has the desire to be a part of it.

Both expressed how much they have loved being in the classroom.

Hernandez started in the faith development of children when she was just a 17-year-old in Pierce and got recruited to help. She said, “You just sort of get chosen.”

When she married and started having children who attended CCD the Sisters would ask Hernandez to help here and there, sometimes just to call roll. But the day came when one of the Sisters approached her and said they needed catechists. She remembered she was standing right in front of the altar; in front of the crucifix, a difficult place to say “no” to such a calling.

“I had to pray about it,” she said. “I thought ‘I’m not worthy of teaching these children. I don’t know anything.’”

But she knew enough to do the job and to educate herself, too, as she continued year after year, well past the time her children had all become adults. And it was the children that kept her coming back. She said she would see them in the store or at church or somewhere in the community and they would ask, “Are you going to be there next year?”

“They hunger to know about Jesus,” Hernandez said. “And while they’re learning, I’m learning.”

Limas, a catechist at St. Robert’s in El Campo, who has taught the faith for 26 years said, “I’m 53 and I’m still learning. I still search. We have so much rich history and tradition . . .”

Christella Alvarez, director of the Office of Catechetical Ministry for the Diocese of Victoria, has known both Limas and Hernandez for a long time and has admired their level of dedication to catechesis.

“I know them personally, and can attest to the light of Christ radiating through them as they allow God’s spirit to work in their daily life.”

See 2 catechists reflect, pg. 14

Letter to Bishop Cahill

Dear Bishop Cahill,

I want to thank you and the faithful of the Diocese of Victoria for the wonderful gift that you are sending to us. We are very happy that Bishop-elect Gary W. Janak will be joining us in San Antonio and are looking forward to working with him. The Archdiocese of San Antonio has been very vibrant and was so much in need of another auxiliary. Now with a total of three Bishops in the Archdiocese, we can better minister to the people of God entrusted to us. On behalf of all the faithful in the Archdiocese of San Antonio, I thank you.

I know that you will greatly miss Bishop-elect Janák, but rest assured that we will take good care of him. With sincere gratitude, and looking forward to seeing you soon, I pray that the Lord may continue to bless you in your service to the Church.

Fraternally yours in Christ,
Most Rev. Gustavo Garcia-Siller, MSpS
Archbishop of San Antonio

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

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

April
1 6:30 p.m., Holy Thursday Mass at the Cathedral of Our Lady of Victory; Victoria
2 Noon, Live Stations of the Cross followed by Good Friday Service at Santísima Trinidad; Victoria
3 8 p.m., Easter Vigil Mass at the Cathedral of Our Lady of Victory; Victoria
4 9 a.m., Easter Sunday Mass at the Cathedral of Our Lady of Victory; Victoria
5 7 p.m., Confirmation Mass at Our Lady of Victory, Victoria
6 11 a.m., Confirmation Mass for Our Lady of Lourdes; Victoria
7 1 p.m., Confirmation Mass at the Cathedral of Our Lady of Victory; Victoria
11-12 Texas Catholic Conference of Bishops meeting; Austin
13 Day of Prayer at Holy Name Retreat Center; Houston
14 Daytime prayer and luncheon with priests in honor of Bishop-elect Gary Janak; Victoria
15 8 a.m., School Mass and visit with St. Michael School; Weimar
16 8:15 a.m., School Mass and Visit at St. Anthony School; Columbus
17 7 p.m., Confirmation Mass at Our Lady of Guadalupe; Bay City
18 Noon Confirmation Mass for Sacred Heart; Hallettsville
19-20 Ordination for Most Rev. Gary Janak; San Antonio
21 11 a.m., Catholic Rural Life Executive and Finance Committee meeting; virtual
• 3 p.m., Building Board meeting; Chancery
• 6 p.m., USCCB Journeying Together Intercultural Dialogue session; virtual
22 10 a.m., Livestream Event – Rosary for Healing and Protection of Children
• Noon, Lunch with the IWBS Sisters at Incarnate Word Convent
• 6 p.m., Confirmation Mass for Our Lady of Mt. Carmel; Wharton
• 8:30 a.m., Mass at the Cathedral of Our Lady of Victory followed by Diocesan Women’s Gathering at the Cathedral Center; Victoria
• 6:30 p.m., Confirmation Mass at St. Joseph Church; Yoakum
25 9 a.m., Mass for Blue Sunday (Child Abuse Awareness Month) at the Cathedral of Our Lady of Victory; Victoria
• 5 p.m., Confirmation Mass for St. Cyril & Methodius; Shiner
26 6:30 p.m., Confirmation at St. John; Hungerford
27 9:30 a.m., Legion of Mary Praesidium meeting; Cathedral Center
• Noon Mass with Missionary Catechists
28 Priest Cont. Education Seminar at Holy Family Church; Victoria
29 7 p.m., Eighth-grade Bishop’s Awards at the Cathedral of Our Lady of Victory; Victoria
30-May 2 Texas State Council Knights of Columbus 117th Annual State Convention; Houston
May
4 9:30 a.m., Legion of Mary Praesidium meeting; Cathedral Center

Official Appointments / Announcements

Father Michael Lyons, pastor of Sts. Peter and Paul Catholic Church in Freiburg and St. Roch Catholic Church in Mentz has announced his retirement effective June 30. Father Michael will be celebrating 25 years of priesthood on June 8.

Father Timothy Kosler, pastor of St. Rose of Lima Catholic Church in Schulenburg; the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary in High Hill; St. John the Baptist in Ammannsville and the mission at St. Wenceslaus in Holman has announced his retirement effective June 30. Father Tim will be celebrating 50 years of priesthood on April 23.


Father Kirby Hlavaty, pastor of Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary in Ganado, will become the new rector of the Cathedral of Our Lady of Victory, Victoria effective May 3, 2021. In addition, he will be the Executive Director of the Emmaus Center.

Father Patrick Knippenberg, parochial vicar of Holy Family Catholic Church in Victoria has been appointed as Pastor of Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Church; Victoria effective May 3, 2021.

Father Jasper Liggio pastor of St. Michael Catholic Church and Our Lady of Guadalupe Catholic Church in Cuero, Sts. Peter and Paul Catholic Church in Meyersville and its mission, Saint Aloysius in Westhoff, has accepted to become a spiritual director at St. Mary’s Seminary in Houston effective July 1, 2021.

Bishop Fellhauer’s Confirmation Schedule

April
11 9 a.m., Confirmation Mass at Holy Cross Church; East Bernard
18 4 p.m. and 6 p.m., Confirmation Masses for Our Lady of the Gulf, St. Patrick’s, St. Ann, St. Joseph; Port Lavaca
25 10 a.m., Confirmation for Holy Family; Wharton

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

Rev. Timothy Kosler 04/23/1971 St. Rose of Lima Church, Schulenburg
Rev. Msgr. John Peters, VG 04/26/1974 Sacred Heart Church, Hallettsville

Let us pray for more vocations to the priesthood. “Dear young people, do not bury your talents, the gifts that God has given you! Do not be afraid to dream of great things!” — Pope Francis

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

Rev. Msgr. Michael Harrold 04/02/2015
Rev. Henry Rachunek 04/03/2013
Rev. Msgr. Edward Bartisch 04/04/2010
Rev. Peter Kapinski 04/07/2003
Rev. Michael Malloy, O.Ss.T. 04/12/1986
Rev. Henry Pscencik 04/14/1989
Rev. Msgr. Thomas C. McLaughlin 04/17/2017
Rev. Charles Sonnier 04/22/2016

“Eternal rest granted unto them, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them. May they rest in peace.”
Edightment of Seminarian Fund

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

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

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. Donations to DSA are tax deductible. Donations to Seminary Burses are tax deductible.

March 20, 2021

- CDA of the Americas Court Our Lady Queen of Peace #1374 Seminary Burse
  - Acolyte Donation by the CDA Court Our Lady Queen of Peace #1374, El Campo
- Rev. Wayne Flagg and Rev. Philip Brune Seminary Burse
  - Lector In honor of Rev. James Dvorak’s birthday by Mark and Sharon Kubicek
- Rev. Timothy Kosler Seminary Burse
  - Lector In memory of Daniel Miksch by Henrietta Veselka
- Josephat R. Janak Seminary Burse #2
  - Acolyte In honor of Most Rev. Gary J. Janak by Mary McQuillen
- Rev. Michael Lyons Seminary Burse
  - Acolyte In honor of Rev. James Dvorak’s birthday by M/M DeWayne Dvorak
- John E. and Josephine B. Meismer Seminary Burse #2
  - Acolyte In memory of Charles Meismer by:
    - Joella and Ed Vclavik
    - Barbara and Bob Menconi
    - Christine and Stephen Moore
    - Suzy and John Meismer
- Rev. Msgr. John C. Peters Seminary Burse #8
  - Lector In memory of Gladys Besetzny by Milton and Diane Holub
- Rev. Michael Rother Seminary Burse
  - Lector In memory of Larry Minks by M/M Bernard Rother
- St. Mary’s Church, Nada Seminary Burse
  - Acolyte In memory of Gertrude Wied by M/M Anthony Kallina
- Henry A. Schoenfeld Seminary Burse
  - Lector In memory of Jude Golla and Chris Golla by Bernice Schoenfeld
- St. John the Baptist Church, St. John Seminary Burse #2
  - Lector In memory of Gladys Besetzny by:
    - Ralph and Bonnie Besetzny
    - Albert and Dorothy Olsovsky
    - Stuart and Joanie Krischke
    - Perry Krupala
    - Andy Besetzny

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

In Memoriam

Father Florez’s mother passes away

Please pray for the eternal peace of the soul of Delfina Garcia, the mother of Father Parmenio Florez. She passed away on March 19, 2021, and the funeral Mass was held in her hometown of Malaga, Santander, Colombia on March 23, 2021. Father Parmenio returned home for the funeral and will be back soon, let’s pray for his safe travels. Condolences may be sent to him at Our Lady of Sorrows in Victoria or you can email him directly at ppflorez@hotmail.com.

We are the Church together

The 2021 Diocesan Services Appeal has been mailed to parishioners throughout the diocese. Each parish has a goal amount to raise for the DSA to help support various programs and resources for the Diocese of Victoria.

Visit www.victoriadiocese.org/DSA-2021-1 to learn how your dollars help others.

Blessing the bells

INEZ – Bishop Brendan Cahill joined the Rev. Barnabas Kyeeah and Deacon Steve Borowicz at St. Joseph’s Catholic Church for a Bell Blessing Ceremony on Feb. 27. The new Carillon bell system in the bell tower is replacing the bell that was installed in the early 1960s after St. Joseph had burned down and was rebuilt. (Contributed Photo)
The following sermon was written for the Sixth Sunday of Easter, Cycle A. Father Kram titled it, “Diversity in Unity.” It is unknown in what year this was written, but the final paragraph before mentions Father Gary (now Bishop Gary Janak), Bishop Fellhauer (now Bishop Emeritus Fellhauer), and Pope John Paul II, which puts it in the mid to late ’90s.

During a disagreement, a man said to his friend, “You have a perfect right to your ridiculous opinion.” Although the person who said this did not agree with the other’s viewpoint, at least he tolerated it and admitted his friend’s rights and freedom.

Some persons say, “I never talk about religion or politics,” but the fact is that there are too many viewpoints on both subjects for us to take an ostrich-like attitude and never mention them. Everyone must take a stand sometimes. It is possible to disagree agreeably; to tolerate those things that we do not like, but at the same time, to love those with whom we disagree.

Years ago, the Christian denominations cooperated very little with each other, but now, while we each remain faithful to our science, we tend to admit that we do not each have exclusive possession of all the truth and goodness there is.

An important thing in the success of the Church or of any other institution is that if it is to last and to prosper, those who follow its founder must accept his teachings wholeheartedly and be faithful disciples. At the same time, as conditions change, they must be willing to adjust.

As you know, there have been many changes in the Catholic Church in recent years, some of which have greatly upset some members, even to the point of ceasing to practice their faith any more.

Yet, what if the Church has relaxed the rules on fasting and abstinence? What if lay people now read the Scriptures at Mass and distribute Holy Communion? What if Communion is now given in the hand? What if marriages can now be annulled and married men be ordained deacons? What if, at Mass, the priest now faces the people and speaks English?

Actually it is still the same Church. Modern-day changes in the Church are essentially the way of the early Church adapted herself to the needs of the times. History shows that changes in the Catholic Church in recent years, some of which have greatly upset some members, even to the point of ceasing to practice their faith any more.

Yet, what if the Church has relaxed the rules on fasting and abstinence? What if lay people now read the Scriptures at Mass and distribute Holy Communion? What if Communion is now given in the hand? What if marriages can now be annulled and married men be ordained deacons? What if, at Mass, the priest now faces the people and speaks English?

Actually it is still the same Church. Modern-day changes in the Church are essentially a return to the ways of the early Church, and the way of the early Church adapted herself to the needs of the times. History shows that changes in the Catholic Church in recent years, some of which have greatly upset some members, even to the point of ceasing to practice their faith any more.

Yet, what if the Church has relaxed the rules on fasting and abstinence? What if lay people now read the Scriptures at Mass and distribute Holy Communion? What if Communion is now given in the hand? What if marriages can now be annulled and married men be ordained deacons? What if, at Mass, the priest now faces the people and speaks English?

Actually it is still the same Church. Modern-day changes in the Church are essentially a return to the ways of the early Church, and the way of the early Church adapted herself to the needs of the times. History shows that
Recent struggles bring us closer to Jesus’ passion and victory

I think that all of us have grown in our ability to accompany the suffering Jesus during the last week of His life. During the past year, many of us have experienced loneliness during the isolation that COVID-19 caused. Could this help us, at least to a small degree, to understand the anguish Jesus felt when so many of His disciples abandoned Him during His terrible ordeal?

Moreover, we know many folks who suffered in homes or hospitals and died without the presence of loved ones to console and pray for them. Could this knowledge enable us to more fully appreciate Jesus’ extreme sense of abandonment during His death struggle -- a sense of abandonment that compelled Him to cry out in the words of the psalmist, “My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me?” (Psalm 22:2a)

As we continue to practice safety measures to protect one another during the remainder of the pandemic, let us continue to reflect on the events of Jesus’ passion and death, which brought about our salvation as we prepare for Easter. Let us remember that Jesus said that whoever suffers with Him will also rise with Him. So let us then offer up the distress of the trials we experience in union with the sufferings of Jesus.

Then as we celebrate Easter, let us rejoice in Jesus’ triumph over suffering and death. Also, let us use this opportunity to thank God for providing for the salvation of all faith-filled people through Jesus’ suffering and death. And let us thank God for the mentality and goodness of those who participate in God’s healing mission through discovery and service.

And as we observe Easter, hopefully with our faith communities in our places of worship, let us view the symbols of Easter through spiritual eyes: the bunny which pops up out of the ground as a symbol of Jesus rising during the resurrection; the egg which represents new life which we are experiencing after Jesus’ salvific accomplishments; and the vibrant blossoming of nature about us.

Then, as we watch the birds building their nests and hear their songs in anticipation of new life, and as we see new growth spring up from dead-looking stems or seeds in our gardens and fields, and as we admire flowers in full splendor in pots, yards, and pastures, let us sing, “Thank you, Jesus, for suffering and dying for us so that we can look forward to eternal happiness with You.” Alleluia and Happy Easter!
There’s a new face at the entrance of the chancery. Bianca Estrada joined the staff on March 8 as the front desk coordinator.

She is responsible for the overall front desk duties including management of the reception and lobby area, while providing exceptional customer service for incoming phone calls, welcoming visitors, and working with department staff.

“The chancery is a peaceful place filled with genuine people who are willing to support me in my new role. I am excited to begin this new journey with each of them,” she stated. “Victoria is my hometown– born and raised. I am grateful to have received many first sacraments at Our Lady of Sorrows. I grew up mainly serving and attending Masses and retreats with Our Lady of Sorrows Catholic Church. However, I have had the joy of fellowship throughout our diocese. At Our Lady of Sorrows, I was honored to be the first female alter server along with one other young lady. Over the years I participated in the choir, Life Teen, community service of all sorts, retreats, festivals such as the Jamaica, and as a proud sister cheering for OLS Ballet Folklorico. In the Austin area, I had the privilege of serving as a catechist in religious education for kinder, first, and second grades. My walk with God is always growing and I strive to follow Him where He leads me.”

Estrada brings a wealth of customer service experience with concentration studies in the medical field and finance. She spent the majority of her working years in the optometry field beginning in 1998. She worked as a high-performing general manager with VisionWorks for 10 years. In 2018, she followed her territory director from VisionWorks to work with America’s Best Contacts and Eyeglasses.

In 2019, Estrada had the opportunity to work on the operations team for Idea Public Schools as their business clerk. She is licensed with the State of Texas to help families sign up for life insurance and is studying for her securities license.

She has two sons and strives daily to instill in them the love of the faith. Her family attends Our Lady of Sorrows Catholic Church in Victoria. Estrada can be reached at bestrada@victoriadiocese.org.

**Breaking ground**

SWEET HOME – Queen of Peace Catholic Church has broken ground for a 40x100 foot parish center that will serve as a multipurpose building to house the parish office and six classrooms. It will also have a large kitchen and family area for various activities. Leroy Hermes is the architect and K&T Construction is the builder. The groundbreaking ceremony on Saturday, March 6, followed the vigil Mass. Bishop Brendan Cahill celebrated the Mass with the Rev. Dominic Antwi-Boasiako, pastor. Building board members are Elaine Berkovsky, Lynette Havel, Kirk Harrell, Charles Hermes, J.O. Hermes, Harvey Matusek, Bruce McConnell and Allan Monk. The group gave special recognition to Joe Bostwick who donated land to the church in 1951 in memory of his mother, Teresa. The land was sold recently to make the project possible. Parishioners and friends of Queen of Peace and St. John the Baptist were thanked for generous donations. Photo by Regina Matus Janak, The Catholic Lighthouse

**Teacher’s love for Catholic education goes beyond her job**

SCHULENBURG — Bishop Brendan Cahill was at St. Rose of Lima Catholic School on March 25 to make a special presentation to teacher Donna Kunz following a morning Mass.

The Texas Catholic Conference of Bishops made Donna Kunz their choice for 2021 Elementary Teacher of the Year, and she is the first in the Diocese of Victoria to receive this honor.

Kunz also celebrates 35 years on the St. Rose faculty where she currently teaches English and math in grades six through eight.

According to a press release from TCCB, “Her energy and enthusiasm for teaching is evident in her pursuit of professional development, the individual attention she gives to students, and the mentorship she provides to her colleagues. Mrs. Kunz attends 20-30 hours annually of continuing education and had been training on Google classroom prior to the pandemic. When the schools closed, she was a leader among the staff, and her knowledge, along with her positive spirit, helped ease the transition to remote learning. In the classroom, she tailors her instruction to meet the individual needs of each student, providing multiple opportunities for success which she celebrates no matter how small.”

Mrs. Kunz is also an alumna of St. Rose of Lima and received her bachelor’s degree from Sam Houston State University. She is married to her high school sweetheart, and they have two grown, successful children and a seven-month-old granddaughter.

She and her husband are charter members of Friends for Catholic Education, an organization that financially assists families at both St. Rose and Sacred Heart Catholic High School in Hallettsville. She has served as vice-president for many years, helping to make Catholic education more accessible to everyone.
Diocese of Victoria’s Year of the Family coincides with pope’s call for celebration

BY SHANNON THOMAS
Special to the Lighthouse

Pray. Eat. Play. These are things that we strive to do daily with our families. However, in the midst of our business, these three simple things can often get lost in the shuffle.

Last October, Bishop Cahill declared the Year of the Family for our diocese. It has been a time to refocus on what – and who – is most important, especially in the middle of a pandemic unlike anything most of us have ever experienced.

Now that we are halfway through the celebration in our diocese, we can double down, so to speak, on the Year of the Family since Pope Francis has asked us to celebrate the “Year of Amoris Laetitia Family,” which began on the Feast of St. Joseph, March 19.

This worldwide initiative can help bring new energy to what we are already doing in our diocese. Amoris Laetitia means the joy of love. Pope Francis writes the exhortation in 2016, and the worldwide Year of the Family is partly a celebration of the five-year anniversary of the document.

According to a press release from the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops Office of Public Affairs, “The ‘Year of Amoris Laetitia Family’ is meant to be an opportunity for reflection and appreciation of the Holy Father’s apostolic exhortation. In launching this initiative, the Vatican is upholding the important role that families play, which has been highlighted during the COVID pandemic. The spiritual, pastoral, and cultural content and resources for the initiative are meant to reach families around the world and are meant to be implemented at the local level in parishes and dioceses, as well as in universities, by ecclesial movements, and family associations.’’

This Year of the Family for our diocese is a time to evaluate our priorities and commit ourselves to being intentional with the people God has placed in our lives.

PRAY. St. Teresa of Calcutta encourages us to “bring prayer back into your family life and you will experience unity – and a joyful love that will bind you together.” One of my greatest joys each night is praying with my daughter before bed. I start the prayer by saying, “Thank you God for the fun day that we had.” Next, I say, “Thank you for…” and let her fill in the blank. Whether she is thankful for her cousin she got to play with that day, her milk, or her baby doll, it is beautiful to hear her talking to our Heavenly Father.

EAT. The following is from our Year of the Family web page:

When was the last time your family enjoyed a meal together? Pope Francis said, “Sitting at table for the family dinner, sharing our meal and the experience of our day, is a fundamental image of togetherness and solidarity.” We often find ourselves so busy that meals slip by without much thought. However, “it was also in the context of a dinner where He (Jesus) gave the disciples his spiritual testament and instituted the Eucharist,” Pope Francis reminds us. Remember to take time during this year to celebrate the importance of eating together as a family, both at home and in the Mass.

PLAY. In this Year of the Family, let’s enjoy all of the gifts God has given us. Get outside and take a walk! See the beautiful wildflowers that bloom each year. Let your kids or grandkids pick out a game to play together. Enjoy each other’s company without the distraction of the phone or tv. Just be.

For resources from the Diocese of Victoria, visit the USCCB’s website to celebrate the Year of Amoris Laetitia Familly.

See Diocese of Victoria Year of the Family, pg. 10

The following is from our Year of the Family web page:

For more information, call 361-645-3752.

Office of Youth & Young Adult Ministry

Wendy Eggert, Director
Shannon Thomas, Associate Director
ym@victoriadiocese.org
(361) 573-0828
www.victoriadiocese.org/year-of-the-family

Office of Youth & Young Adult Ministry

ST. ROSE OF LIMA
CATHOLIC SCHOOL
Excellence Through Jesus
Now Enrolling Grades 3K-8

Mrs. Donna Kunz
TCCBED Elementary Teacher of the Year

St. Rose of Lima
Since 1889

ST. ROSE OF LIMA
CATHOLIC SCHOOL
Excellence Through Jesus
Now Enrolling Grades 3K-8

Mrs. Donna Kunz
TCCBED Elementary Teacher of the Year

Heavenly Helpers
Christian Store
(979) 543-2850
1603 N Mechanic
El Campo, TX 77437
M-F: 9:30 - 5:30  Sat: 9:30 - 3:00

First Communion, Confirmation, Bibles, Books, Rosaries, Medals, Statues, Baptism & Wedding Items
Inspirational Gifts

Presidio La Bahia
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.
Why was Jesus baptized?

Paul Barrett
Special to the Lighthouses

In January we celebrated the Baptism of our Lord. This momentous event in the life and inaugural ministry of Jesus prompts an interesting theological question. If John the Baptist was baptizing for the repentance of sin, why did Jesus, who was without sin, submit himself to be baptized by John?

Matthew’s Gospel (3:13-15) reveals that this question originated with John the Baptist who stated, “I need to be baptized by you, and yet you are coming to me?” Jesus replied, “Allow it now, for thus it is fitting for us to fulfill all righteousness.”

The answer to our question resides within the words “to fulfill all righteousness.”

The “righteousness” Jesus refers to is woven within the Old Testament scriptural salvation theology of Messianic prophesies. In the purity of this “righteousness,” Jesus will serve as God’s divine agent of change in converting all that had been promised in prophesy into all that was to be fulfilled within God’s plan of salvation and deliverance from sin. In accordance with God’s salvation plan, this “righteousness” of the Son of God is given in exchange for the sins of the world so that the world might become “righteous.” (2 Co 5:21) In His baptism, “to fulfill all righteousness,” the Son of God becomes the Son of Man and takes upon himself the sins of man as the atoning “Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world.” (John 1:29, 35)

For a deeper, personal perspective on this momentous spiritual event, let us consider it in the manner of scriptural contemplation set forth by St. Ignatius and practiced by the Jesuits. Let us mentally place ourselves within the scripture as witnesses to the events as described. Let us imagine …

We are in a large group of Jewish pilgrims gathered on the east bank of the Jordan River at a historic river crossing site used for centuries by travelers and caravans. Jewish tradition believes it to be the river crossing used by Joshua to lead the children of Israel into the Promised Land. Word of John’s baptism for repentance has spread widely throughout Judea bringing the penitent and the curious to this historic site on the river.

We are holding the cloak and prayer shawl of a young man from Nazareth who has waded out into the water to be baptized by John. There appears to be an exchange of words between John and the young man. We hear the young man respond, “Allow it now, for thus it is fitting for us to fulfill all righteousness.” John gently lowers him back-wards beneath the water. As he is raised out of the water, the young man appears to be in prayer. Suddenly the whole scene is illuminated in a brilliant luminescence coming from a bright cloud out of which an orb of light, bright as the sun, descends like a dove above the scene. An audible, authoritative voice speaks clearly from the heavens in our language, “This is my beloved son with whom I am well pleased.”

In a moment the visual and audible phenomenon of the theophany is over. As in the days of the patriarchs and the prophets, God has truly spoken. Isaiah 40:5: “Then the glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together: for the mouth of the Lord has spoken.”

Spiritual Renewal Center

The Spiritual Renewal Center (SRC) is located on approximately 40 acres nestled along the banks of the San Antonio River and about a 25-minute drive from Victoria. The SRS is open for small or large group which can be a one-day or overnight with a kitchen staff to provide meals. There is also an open pavilion for outdoor activities.

Handicap accessible.

For more information or to reserve the SRC contact Matthew Boyle, director, by email src@victoriadiocese.org or at 361-572-0836.

Western United Life Assurance Company
Navigator Elite MVA

3-Year Guaranteed Effective Annual Yield

Also featuring:
- No annual charges or fees
- Tax deferred accumulation
- 10% Penalty-free withdrawals per contract year
- Minimum premium $10,000
- Minimum 15-day free-look period
- Available to age 97
- Market Value Adjustment

Case A Hollub
979-725-8459

The Navigator Elite MVA is an annuity offered by Western United Life Assurance Company from its home office in Spokane, Washington. It is not FDIC insured and it is not the product of, nor is it guaranteed by any bank. During the surrender charge period, partial surrenders in excess of the penalty-free partial surrender amount and full surrenders are subject to a surrender charge and MVA for the contract year of the surrender. The surrender charges by Contract year are 8%, 7%, 6%, and 0% thereafter. Surrenders prior to the age of 59½ may be subject to an IRS penalty tax of 10% on the taxable income. Other restrictions may apply. Form Numbers ICC02-SPM10G-MVA-ELITE, ICC02-WUNVE3 WUNVE3-AD_0920
Sacred Heart swim teams medal at state meet

HALLETTSVILLE — The Sacred Heart swim team brought home numerous medals from the state swim meet that was recently held at Josh Davis Natatorium in San Antonio. Both the boys and girls teams placed fifth overall.

Individual Girls Results:
- Katie Kostelnik, Beth Ventura, Kayla Immekus (from Columbus) - 3rd place in both the 200 Medley Relay and the 200 Freestyle Relay
- 100 Backstroke - Katie Kostelnik - 3rd; Chloe Alex-Hartensteiner - 6th
- 50 Freestyle - Katie Kostelnik - 8th, Beth Ventura - 12th, Allyshia Grahmann - 20th, Chloe Alex-Hartensteiner - 21st
- 100 Freestyle - Beth Ventura - 10th, Alex Coufal - 11th, Allyshia Grahmann - 12th

100 Breast stroke - Kayla Immekus - 9th

Individual Boys Results:
- 200 Medley Relay - 4th - Ethan Jacobs (from Schulenburg), Brett Sestak (from Weimar), Dallas Layton, Garrett Ridgeway
- 200 Freestyle Relay - 4th - Ethan Jacobs, Luke Riehl (from Columbus), Garrett Ridgeway, Dallas Layton
- 50 Freestyle - Garrett Ridgeway - 9th, Ethan Jacobs - 10th, Dallas Layton - 12th, Luke Riehl - 17th
- 100 Freestyle - Ethan Jacobs - 9th, Dallas Layton - 13th, Garrett Ridgeway - 14th
- 100 Breast Stroke - Brett Sestak - 5th
- 100 Backstroke - Luke Riehl - 4th

Academic All-State Honors:
- Beth Ventura, Alexandria Coufal

Diocese of Victoria’s Year of the Family coincides with pope’s call for celebration

Continued from pg. 8

• Monthly reflections by the staff of the USCCB’s Secretariat for Laity, Marriage, Family Life, and Youth on each of Pope Francis’s “Twelve Ways to Walk with Families”
• Resources for pilgrims who plan to attend the World Meeting of Families in Rome
• Resources for dioceses preparing simultaneous events to celebrate the World Meeting of Families locally.

More information for the initiative may be found at: https://www.usccb.org/topics/marriage-and-family-life-ministries/year-amoris-laetitia-family.

• Shannon Thomas is chairperson of the Diocese of Victoria’s Year of the Family Committee and the associate director of the Office of Youth and Young Adult Ministry.

Catholic Life Insurance winner

SCHULENBURG — St. Rose of Lima Catholic School is pleased to announce Jesse Vacek as their $1,000 Visa gift card local winner of the 2021 Catholic Schools Sweepstakes sponsored by Catholic Life Insurance. Pictured accepting the prize on his behalf is son, Nathan, and wife, Lezlie. Presenting the prize is Principal Rosanne Gallia. The raffle sales totaled $13,705. School families earned tuition credits totaling $4,872.50. Overall, $8,832.50 was donated to St. Rose of Lima Catholic School. (Contributed Photo)
Los apóstoles originales nos mostraron la importancia de la oración

Queridos hermanos y hermanas,

Como capellán estatal de Caballeros de Colón, tengo la oportunidad de conocer muchos proyectos de servicio que se están realizando en todo el estado. En una de nuestras reuniones de oficiales el año pasado, un oficial de policía de Fort Worth me dio una pulsera con una línea azul que dice “Protege una insignia con una oración”. Junto con la pulsera había una tarjeta en la que podía escribir el nombre de un oficial en particular y comprometerme a orar por él con regularidad. He estado orando por este oficial desde entonces.

La acción de ofrecer una oración por alguien puede ser el proyecto de servicio más valioso que cualquiera de nosotros puede realizar. La oración en sí es el fundamento de la Iglesia, sin la cual todas nuestras acciones nos harían parecer los “sepulcros blanqueados” despreciables por Jesús (Mateo 23:27). Después de que Jesús ascendió al cielo, cuarenta días después de la Pascua, los Apóstoles, María y otras mujeres y hombres oraron “constantemente” (Hechos 1:14). No tenían idea de lo que les deparaba el futuro, pero sabían en el fondo de su corazón la importancia de reunirse para orar.

Al comenzar esta temporada de Pascua, vivimos en un mundo con mucha incertidumbre y ansiedad. En medio de esta tensión, los cristianos pueden unirse a esos discípulos originales para orar por un nuevo derramamiento del Espíritu Santo sobre nosotros y el mundo. Lo que me he dado cuenta en la vida es que a menudo es a través de estos momentos de estrés que puedo aceptar y confiar en la presencia de Dios en todo momento. Todo lo que digo o hago depende de Dios. Dios es quien me da la habilidad de escribir estas palabras y tú la habilidad de leer estas palabras.

Para el cristiano, hemos llegado a creer que no solo Dios existe, sino que Dios elige comunicarse con las personas. Aquellos discípulos originales que se reunieron en oración eran personas reales con experiencias verdaderas. María conoció a Jesús personalmente desde el momento de su concepción hasta el momento en que ascendió al cielo. Confiamos en sus palabras y en el poder del Espíritu Santo que se les dio a los apóstoles para transmitir a las generaciones futuras la verdad de Jesucristo como el Salvador del mundo.

¡Que nuestras familias estén unidas en oración en esta temporada de Pascua, con esperanza y confianza en el poder del Espíritu Santo! Aquí hay una oración al Espíritu Santo escrita hace muchos años por San Agustín:


+Brendan

Eventos planeados para recordar a las víctimas de abuso

UNA ORACIÓN DE SANACIÓN VÍCTIMAS DE ABUSO

Dios del amor infinito,
Siempre presente, siempre justo;
Tú nos cuidas y nos proteges
Y nos díste a tu único Hijo
Para salvarnos con su sangre en la cruz.

Jesús manso, pastor de la paz,
Dignate unir a tu propio sufrimiento
El dolor de todos los que han sido heridos
De cuerpo, mente y espíritu
Por parte de aquellos que traicionaron la confianza puesta en ellos.

Escucha el clamor de nuestros hermanos y hermanas
Que han sido lastimados gravemente,
Así como el clamor de aquellos que los aman,
Dales la esperanza que mitigue el desosiego de sus corazones,
Dales la fe que calme sus espíritus perturbados.
Concédeles justicia para su causa,
Ilumínales con tu verdad.

Espíritu Santo, consolador de corazones,
Curar las heridas de tus hijos e hijas
Y devuélvete la integridad a lo que ha sido quebrantado.
Concédenos el valor y la sabiduría,
La humildad y la gracia, para actuar con justicia.
Sopla tu sabiduría en nuestras oraciones y empeños.
Que todos los que han sido heridos por el abuso encuentren paz y justicia.
Te lo pedimos por Cristo, nuestro Señor. Amén.

Abril es el Mes de la Prevención del Abuso Infantil y la Diócesis de Victoria participará en varios eventos este mes para ayudar a crear conciencia sobre el tema.

Primero, se comparará una Oración por la Sanación en el sitio web de la Diócesis de Victoria en inglés y español. El 22 de abril a las 10 a.m., el obispo Brendan Cahill desde la capilla de la cancillería dirigirá un Rosario por la Sanación y la Protección transmitido en vivo.

El obispo Cahill celebrará una misa del domingo azul el 25 de abril a las 9 a.m. La misa se transmitirá en vivo y se transmitirá por la KAVU.

Además, la diócesis se asocia con el Departamento de Servicios para la Familia y de Protección de Texas. Un presentador experto en el área de abuso y negligencia de niños y adultos estará disponible para brindar sesiones educativas en toda la diócesis.

Las parroquias y escuelas individuales tendrán la ventaja de participar en una variedad de campañas de donación y oportunidades de participación con las poblaciones del DFPS. Hope Shelton es la persona de contacto del DFPS, 210-452-2321, Hope.Shelton@dfps.state.tx.us.

Más información está disponible en www.dfps.state.tx.us/Community.
Pastoral Institute class on morality open for registration

The Rev. Greg Korenek will instruct the next Pastoral Institute offering, “Catholic Morality” that begins April 13.

Participants will study the Church’s teaching on the moral life based on Scripture and its Covenant concept and with Catholic tradition. The course will guide the adult participant to become familiar with the many concepts included in a comprehensive analysis of moral theology, along with specific issues. The participants will also examine the effectiveness of their own moral decision-making process and gain insights into human development.

The Office of Catechetical Ministry has already begun registration for the six-week course. Cost is $30. The text for the class, “Catechism of the Catholic Church,” is optional. Cost is $25 when purchased through the Pastoral Institute. It is also available on Amazon or at the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops website.

The schedule for the course is 9:15-11:30 a.m. on Tuesday mornings through May 18. The second session only will take place on Monday, April 19, at the same time.

There are several ways to take the course. Participants can come to the chancery for sessions that will be taught in real time through an online meeting software. Others may choose to attend virtually from home or another place offsite (synchronously), or take the class on demand though the diocesan website (asynchronously).

Anyone interested can register at www.victoriadiocese.org/extended-program or call 361-573-0828, Ext. 2223. For information, contact Director of Catechetical Ministry Christella Alvarez at 361-827-7171 or 361-676-8579. You can email Alvarez at calvarez@victoriadiocese.org.

Planning underway for next Catholic Conference

At the April 25 planning meeting, the conference committee had many decisions to make, the first being whether or not to have a conference. After deciding it to go forward, the event changed to a multi-site event with limited attendees at each site. There were three sites for English workshops and two for Spanish language workshops. The keynotes address from Bishop Brendan Cahill and other presenters recorded their sessions and provided handouts and contact information. Vendors and sponsors were included as well on recorded messages.

Although nothing has been set in stone, the committee is considering the feedback they received from the event this past fall. One of the things people liked was having the workshops available in towns close to their homes. They are also considering keeping the event to a half-day instead of a full day. Traditionally it is a full day that ends with a Mass, but last year the event was shortened and simplified to minimize any chance for spreading the coronavirus and out of consideration for the new set of logistics.

The committee will meet again in May to continue discussing the format, possible venue(s), theme, speakers and workshop topics.

Committee members are Christella Alvarez, director of the Office of Catechetical Ministry; Sister Rosario Resendez, administrative assistant for Bishop Cahill; the Rev. Jacob Koether, pastor of Our Lady of Sorrows in Victoria; Deacon Ed Molina, Our Lady of Sorrows; Ryan Leos, campus minister at St. Joseph High School; Cesar Hernández, V Encuentro delegate; Greg Bentz, director of the DOV Liturgical Commission; Janet Jones, DOV director of communications; Justin Reyes, DOV director of the Office of Family Evangelization; Brunilda Ortiz, Office of Catechetical Ministry assistant; and Aldo Camacho, DOV coordinator of Hispanic ministry.

Sunday Readings from April 4 - May 9

April 4 ~ Easter Sunday The Resurrection of the Lord
Acts 10:34a, 37-43
Psalms 118:1-2, 16-17, 22-23
Colossians 3:1-4
John 20:1-9

April 11 ~ Second Sunday of Easter
Sunday of Divine Mercy
Acts 4:32-35
Psalms 118:2-4, 13-15, 22-24
1 John 5:1-6
John 20:19-31

April 18 ~ Third Sunday of Easter
Psalms 4:2, 4, 7-8, 9
1 John 2:1-5a
Luke 24:35-48

April 25 ~ Fourth Sunday of Easter
Acts 4:8-12
Psalms 118:1, 8-9, 21-23, 26, 28, 29
1 John 3:1-2
John 10:11-18

May 2 ~ Fifth Sunday of Easter
Acts 9:26-31
Psalms 22:26-27, 28, 30, 31-32
1 John 3:18-24
John 15:1-8

May 9 ~ Sixth Sunday of Easter
Psalms 98:1, 2-3, 3-4
1 John 4:7-10
John 15:9-17

For daily and Sunday readings, visit www.usccb.org/bible/readings.
Success of men’s conference a reason to be hopeful

If ever we feel discouraged about participation numbers in the Church, we must always remember there are reasons for hope, and things we can do to make a difference. I am here to tell you there are many reasons for hope right here in our own diocese.

One Saturday, March 13, more than 150 men gathered from around our diocese to partake in a Spirit-filled men’s gathering. Speakers included our own Bishop Brendan Cahill, Father Mitch Pacwa, SJ, from EWTN, Michael Fonseca from God’s Embrace Ministries, and Sam Meier, an expert on purity and chastity. The results were astounding.

As a result of that day, nine men wanted to start a new men’s group at their parish, 40 joined our e-mail list for men’s ministry, more than 30 men joined our “Men of the Diocese of Victoria” Facebook group in the week following, and 15 men wanted to join a men’s group at their parish. Participants gave glowing reviews and many said they looked forward to returning next year on March 5.

On the Table

By Justin Reyes

My friends, there is hope for the church. We just need to keep trying, keep believing, and God will open the doors for His Gospel to be spread. But He calls on us to do our part. God can do anything He wants, but He chooses to use human people to accomplish His purposes.

Will you answer the call? Will you help “rebuild” the church like St. Francis of Assisi was called to do when he began his ministry? We are all called to be another St. Francis, another St. Joseph, another Virgin Mary, and, most importantly, another Christ by our “yes” to God’s invitation to follow Him and help others do the same. No matter your age, I invite you to embrace the call, follow Him more deeply, and invite others. Get involved in a ministry or start a new one, and above all just keep trying. Do your best, and God will do the rest.

The women of our diocese have a unique opportunity to answer this call with our Diocesan Women’s Gathering coming up on Saturday, April 24. Bishop Brendan will be present, along with another EWTN personality in Father Cedric Pisegna, CP, and author/speaker/musician Janice Carleton. Space is limited, so any women ages 18 and up should register as soon as possible at www.victoriadiocese.org/arise. When you buy four tickets, you get the fifth free. This event is great for groups, and I have no doubts will yield the same fruits as the men’s gathering referenced above.

Heed His call to make disciples and making Him known and loved. If you’re wanting to answer this call and not sure where to start, give me a call at 361-573-0828, Ext. 2265 or send me an e-mail at jreyes@victoriadiocese.org. I’d be happy to help you discern where He may be calling you.

Until next time, I hope this reflection is something you can discuss with your family “at the table.” The Gospel call is for all ages, from womb to tomb. Even children can be used by God in miraculous ways to draw people closer to Him. After all, Our Lord admonishes us to follow their example, “Let the children come to me, and do not prevent them; for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these.” – Matthew 19:14 (NABRE).

God bless!

• Justin Reyes is the director of the Office of Family Evangelization for the Diocese of Victoria. Contact him at jreyes@victoriadiocese.org or 361-573-0828, Ext. 2265.

Everyone can participate in stewardship

From the Catholic Rural Life website

Editor’s Note: The following excerpt has been adapted from the Fall 2011 edition of the “Catholic Rural Life” magazine.

Not everyone has the ability to start their own farm or make drastic changes to their lifestyle right away. Still, there are ways everyone can begin to practice good stewardship and appreciate agriculture right where they’re at.

The simplest way is to try to grow some of the food they eat. You’ll see how marvelous it is and you’ll appreciate how much the miracle of creation will do the rest.

Still, there are ways everyone can participate in good stewardship and appreciate agriculture right where they’re at.

You’ll see how marvelous it is and you’ll see how difficult it is. You’ll also appreciate how much you participate in God’s Providence, how much the miracle of creation occurs in your own backyard.

Families can also be more thoughtful about where their food comes from, how it’s produced and the quality of it. Make homemade food together, including bread, and be more conscious about how resources are being spent. Some foods may be more expensive, but families can be encouraged to think about tithing a portion of their grocery bill to purchase something that’s more thoughtfully prepared.

Parishes, too, could be more thoughtful about where they get food for parish occasions. Also, urban parishes could link up with rural parishes or organic Catholic producers to draw on resources.

If we can demonstrate that we want to spend money on food that’s thoughtfully prepared, more sustainably prepared and respectfully prepared, then that economy will develop.

• By Dr. Christopher Thompson, a moral theologian at the St. Paul Seminary School of Divinity and a Catholic Rural Life board member. He is also the author of “The Joyful Mystery: Field Notes Toward a Green Thomism.” You can purchase a copy of his book at www.catholicrurallife.org.
2 catechists reflect on how God called them

Continued from pg. 2

“After reading the Catechesis Today and the Catechist, it reminds me of how precious time is. In a world of instant gratification, when it comes to faith, we must find peace and serenity in our hearts. We must find quality time for God, for spending time for prayer, and reflection. Finding time to just be with Jesus is so important as a catechist. For me, during this time of ‘just being’ with the Lord allows the Holy Spirit to do his work within me. Once I can have that time, I feel I can go forth and pray and plan to have my lesson ready. Through being prepared spiritually, and full of joy, I can fully carry out my role of teaching, inspiring and implementing who we are as Catholics in our faith journey. “After reading Forming Evangelizing Catechists, it reminds me of the passion and excitement I share with not only my students, but with people I encounter when I have a discussion of religion. In my daily walk, I carry and know that I am a daughter of the Lord, and want to share the message of God’s love. I hope that through my example of living that I can be an example for my family, friends and all I encounter.”

Catechesis Development – This reading makes me reflect on how far we have come in the world of technology. I share with my students that although technology is great, it brings on a busier time for each person. In other words, 30 years ago, it was much simpler of living. In today’s time, everything is at our fingertips. How we can witness to serve our community and our parish is by at times leaving the world of technology behind … and just take some time to spend with Jesus in Adoration, reading and reflecting on scripture, etc.”

Limas said she told her confirmation students on March 24 that this was her last time to teach another grade or do something else,”

she said. “With that being said, I felt such a peace last night and today. I am at peace with my decision. Again, I will miss seeing the fruits of my labor, but I really feel God has other plans for me, and so I have to say, May I do His will, not mine.”

Hernandez, when asked what words of encouragement she might give someone considering becoming a catechist said, “It brings you closer to God. You plant that little seed that God is going to direct. And there’s so much more that they give back to you. Their little minds are grabbing at knowledge, but they are also opening their hearts.”

Her comments were in regard to the ones who are still very young and preparing for their First Communion. She said the little ones, at first, may still be asking about the Man on the cross – “Why is he up there?” She said the simple answer, “Because he love us,” can open their hearts and make them want to know more.

And the question of whether she is worthy of being a catechist? She explains that she keeps in her mind the image of the sinner on the cross next to Jesus and the words of the priest who told her, “It takes a sinner to see the sacrifice of the cross – “Why is he up there?” She said the simple answer, “Because he love us,” can open their hearts and make them want to know more.

2 catechists reflect on how God called them

Events planned to remember victims of abuse

April is Child Abuse Prevention Month and the Diocese of Victoria will be participating in several events this month to help bring awareness to the topic.

**A PRAYER FOR HEALING VICTIMS OF ABUSE**

God of endless love, ever caring, ever strong, always present, always just; You gave your only Son to save us by his blood on the cross.

Gentle Jesus, shepherd of peace, join to your own suffering the pain of all who have been hurt in body, mind, and spirit by those who betrayed the trust placed in them.

Hear the cries of our brothers and sisters who have been gravely harmed, and the cries of those who love them. Soothe their restless hearts with hope, steady their shaken spirits with faith. Grant them justice for their cause, enlightened by your truth.

Holy Spirit, comforter of hearts, heal your people’s wounds and transform brokenness into wholeness. Grant us the courage and wisdom, humility and grace, to act with justice. Breathe wisdom into our prayers and labors. Grant that all harmed by abuse may find peace in justice. We ask this through Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Copyright © 2016. United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, Washington, DC. All rights reserved. To order publication no. 7-495, visit usccb.org or call 877-871-3173.

Pathways with Patti

Subject to change due to COVID

**Bus Tour: Noah’s Ark, Nashville & Branson**

June 2-10 2021

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Ireland</th>
<th>Israel</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>July 19-29 2021</td>
<td>October 2021</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

~ Germany & Austria ~

Christmas Markets December 2021

Call or email for more details.

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

**Hollub Agency**

Do you have a CD or IRA Maturing?
Or need to review your ANNUITY?
Please Note:

1. We have various maturities on our Annuities. Consequently, a companion Annuity Ad in this publication is focusing on a shorter maturity of 3 years this month.
2. We have other maturities so please ask the terms and rates.
3. As an Independent Agent we present multiple opportunities (company products) to our clients to enhance their interest rate returns and provide that sense of diversification needed to protect our clients holdings. This competitive landscape is beneficial to our clients in terms of better interest rates and portfolio diversification. Hollub Agency is not captive. Not solely connected to any one company which in general brings substantial benefit to you, our clients. Call us and set an Appointment to discuss how our independence can benefit you.

OUR TEAM: Monica Stock, Rebecca Klima, Casey A. Hollub, Lupe Mata & Carol B. Hollub

“Pursuing independent financial products and services to better serve client needs and their investment options.”

CALL TODAY!
(979) 725-8459

Weekly Events

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>April 14</td>
<td>April is Child Abuse Prevention Month</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April 22</td>
<td>First, a Prayer for Healing will be shared on the Diocese of Victoria website in both English and Spanish.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>On April 22 at 10 a.m., a livestreamed Rosary for Healing and Protection will be led by Bishop Brendan Cahill from the chancery chapel.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>A Blue Sunday Mass will be celebrated by Bishop Cahill on April 25 at 9 a.m. The Mass will be livestreamed and broadcast on the KAVU.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Furthermore, the diocese is entering into a partnership with the Texas Department of Family and Protective Services. An expert presenter in the area of child and adult abuse and neglect will be available to provide educational sessions throughout the diocese.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Individual parishes and schools will have advantages to participate in a variety of donation drives for and engagement opportunities with the DFPS populations.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Hope Shelton is the contact person for the DFPS, 210-452-2321, <a href="mailto:Hope.Shelton@dfps.texas.gov">Hope.Shelton@dfps.texas.gov</a>.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>More information is available at <a href="http://www.dfps.state.tx.us/Community">www.dfps.state.tx.us/Community</a>.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Victoria – Our Lady of Sorrows and Santísima Trinidad 2021 Raffle Sale will be held April 18, at Our Lady of Sorrows after the 2 p.m. Mass. Tickets are $5 each for a chance at 30 prizes (need not be present to win). To purchase tickets they will be sold before and after Mass, at the Rectory, or call Louis Rodriguez 361-648-3971, Cruz Cervantes 361-676-6258, Susie Verver 361-218-8320, or Mercedes Robles 361-218-5839.

Yorktown – San Luis Catholic Church is hosting its Jamaica April 25 after 8 a.m. Mass. The event includes a raffle, bake sale and silent auction. There is no meal this year. Raffle drawing is at 10 a.m., silent auction closes at noon after the raffle. There is an early bird drawing for a $100 gift card and those entries will be placed back in the barrel for future drawings. Tickets are $5 each or 5 for $20. To purchase, call the church office at 361-564-2893.

Shiner – A new program of prayer and exercise, called Soul Core, is taking place on Wednesdays at 6:45 p.m. at The Studio. Anyone interested should contact Sharon Patek at the Sts. Cyril and Methodius Catholic Church, 361-594-3836 or e-mail theshinerstudio@gmail.com. All ages are invited.

Victoria – Arise: Life in the Spirit Women’s Gathering takes place Saturday, April 24, at Our Lady of Victory Cathedral Center from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Speakers are the Rev. Cedric Pisegna, CP, an EWTN personality, and Janice Carleton, author and musician. This is for women 18 and up. Cost is $25. For more information visit www.victoriadiocese.org/arise or call Justin Reyes, director of Family Evangelization for the diocese at 361-573-0828, Ext. 2265.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS: The 34th annual Catholic Conference for the Diocese of Victoria will take place Sept. 25. The event is still in the planning stage and more details will be published later.

Help Support Parish/School Fundraisers

Gatherings to raise money for churches are not happening as much right now. Many spring picnics have been cancelled or scaled back due to COVID-19 pandemic. The parishes and schools depend on the events to help many projects they have throughout the year. Many are trying different non-gathering events to raise funds. Please remember to help local parishes, schools and organizations with your donations.

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.

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.

ACTS Retreats – Anyone needing any information regarding ACTS retreats in the diocese should e-mail 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.

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.

Surviving Divorce – Surviving Divorce will help you work through the emotional upheaval of separation and divorce; find personal healing and hope; discover a deeper understanding of God’s love for you; gain wisdom and comfort from experts and others who share your experience; navigate new concerns like custody, court hearings, and finances. We have a group currently meeting and registration is closed for this season. We plan to host another group in Fall 2021. If you have any questions or need support, please contact the Office of Family Evangelization at 361-573-0828 x 2265 or jreyes@victoriadiocese.org

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

Engaged Encounter – 2021 Dates: April 16-18; June 4-6; September 17-19; November 12-14. Registration is on a first-come, first-served basis. Fee must accompany registration form. For information, call 361-573-0828 or visit http://www.victoriadiocese.org.

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 workshops/training dates, contact Lisa Kainer at 361-676-3264 or lisa_beyquiertod@yahoo.com; DeWitt County meetings have changed: For meetings, call or text the coordinator for the Dewitt chapter, Wayne Smith at 361-491-0339.

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.

l.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 Sister Louise Marie Jones at 361-575-7111 or e-mail amormeus@yahoo.com.

Mothers of Grace – A mothers’ group at the Cathedral of Our Lady of Victory. For information, contact Leslie Book 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 CREIGTON MODEL Fertility Care System (CrMS) featuring NaPro TECHNOLOGY™ contact Susanne Koch in Wharton at 505-710-0903 or mailto:susannekoch614@gmail.com. Also in the Cuero area contact, Ashley Rodriguez at 361-293-0700 or e-mail ashleyay09@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 http://www.raphaelsrefuge.org.

Retrouvaille – Retrouvaille, meaning “rediscovery,” is a marriage-healing ministry offered in the diocese to couples in difficult marriages. Contact John and Jennifer Vincent at jbvjov@sbcglobal.net or 361-580-2770; or call 800-470-2230; or visit http://www.helpourmarriage.org

Weekly Wednesday Webchats
Each week Justin Reyes, director of Family Services, posts an interview with someone in our diocese. Sometimes he will interview a member of the clergy, and sometimes it is the personal story of one of the faithful. Look on Facebook at https://www.facebook.com/dovfe. Or you can search out the podcasts by going to http://www.buzzsprout.com/1404520.

Year of the Family Prayer Jar
Did you know we have a prayer jar for special intentions during this Year of the Family? Place your intentions in the prayer jar by going to https://forms.gle/UGR46RC739AnH7p8. Visit http://www.victoriadiocese.org to learn more about the Year of the Family resources.

Walking with Moms in Need
This is a special project that the USCCB is encouraging in parishes around the nation to help struggling mothers. Find out ways you can help by visiting https://www.walkwithmoms.com.
The bishop’s coat of arms

The symbols in the coat of arms for Bishop Gary W. Janak reflect his spiritual life and episcopal ministry. The blue field represents the Living Water promised by Jesus for those who ask for it and is also the traditional color of the Blessed Virgin Mary. It includes a fishing net that recalls Jesus’ call to the disciples to “put out into the deep water and let down your nets for a catch.” It also alludes to the coastal city of Palacios, Bishop Janak’s hometown, where he first responded to his vocation and where it was lovingly nurtured.

The crescent moon, taken from the coat of arms of the Diocese of Victoria, where Janak was ordained a priest, represents the South Texas region of the Golden Crescent. It points upward, symbolic of his journey north from the Diocese of Victoria to the Archdiocese of San Antonio as an auxiliary bishop. Silver in color, the crescent recalls the one beneath the feet of Our Lady of Guadalupe, and her gentle rule in things both in heaven and on earth.

The gold band at top of the shield represents the presence of God over creation. In it are symbols for the Holy Family. On the far left are the traditional symbols for Saint Joseph: a lily and carpenter’s square. Shown interlocked, they are symbolic of the inseparable unity between Saint Joseph’s work in the plan of salvation and his purity of heart. It also recalls Bishop Janak’s father, Josephat (Joe), and the faith and strong work ethic he shared with his children. It is also a reminder of the importance and dignity of human labor.

At the middle is the Sacred Heart of Jesus encompassed by a crown of thorns on fire with love. Janak chose this because it is a traditional devotion in Czech homes. It recalls Janak’s heritage and spirituality.

To the right of the Sacred Heart emblem is a rose that honors the Blessed Virgin Mary under her title, Our Lady of Guadalupe. Recalling the Castilian roses collected in the tilma (outer garment) of St. Juan Diego, the rose also recalls Bishop Janak’s mother, Rose Marie, and his hometown of Palacios, a multi-lingual and multi-cultural community, with a deep devotion to Our Lady of Guadalupe and the Immaculate Heart of Mary.

The gold cross in back of the shield symbolizes the office of bishop. And the hat, called a galero, with its six tassels in three rows on either side of the shield, all in green, denotes the rank of bishop.

Finally, it includes his chosen motto: “Give your servant a listening heart.”

The Rev. Jordan M. Hainsey, KHS, designed and drew the coat of arms according to Janak’s choices of symbols.

New bishop sees archdiocese up close and personal

By JORDAN MCMORROUGH

Special to the Lighthouse

In preparation for his episcopal ordination, Bishop-elect Gary Janak learned more about the archdiocese during a series of pastoral visits to locations throughout San Antonio on March 19, the feast of St. Joseph.

The day began with a televised concelebrated Mass at Our Lady’s Chapel at Assumption Seminary with Archbishop Gustavo García-Siller, MSpS, and Auxiliary Bishop Michael Boulette. On that day the archbishop was celebrating his 18th anniversary of episcopal ordination, while Bishop Boulette was marking his 45th anniversary of priestly ordination and the fourth anniversary of his ordination as an auxiliary bishop. It was a special time for Bishop Janak as well as he was preparing to observe his 59th birthday on March 22.

Prior to the conclusion of the liturgy the bishops blessed the new Blessed Stanley Rother Shrine just inside the doors of the chapel. Blessed Stanley Rother, a priest of the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City who was martyred in Guatemala, was a former seminarian at Assumption Seminary.

Following the Mass, the bishops visited San Fernando Cathedral and talked with Father Victor Valdez, rector.

After lunch, the trio arrived at Mount Sacred Heart Catholic School for a tour led by Principal Kim Brooks and archdiocesan Superintendent of Catholic Schools Marti West. The group spoke to students and met with parents and Mount Sacred Heart benefactors.

In honor of the feast of St. Joseph, the bishops then traveled to Mission San José for an update with Father Rogelio Martinez, OFM, pastor, and walked the grounds of the historic mission, speaking with tourists.

Lastly, the three men took part in a tour of the Catholic Charities St. Stephen’s CARE Center on Zarzamora Road. They heard presentations from Catholic Charities President/CEO J. Antonio Fernández and his staff regarding the multitude of services provided at the facility, and also saw the mobile relief units Hope and Faith.

• Jordan McMorrough is the director of communications for the Archdiocese of San Antonio.