SENDING PRAYERS ASEA

JANET JONES
The Catholic Lighthouse

POINT COMFORT – People who work on the seas have been harder to reach at the exact time when they need ministers the most. Crew changes and shore leave were canceled for hundreds of thousands of people who work on the sea when the pandemic hit, and chaplains and others who minister to seafarers have been prohibited from going aboard.

Bishop Brendan Cahill asked people everywhere to pray for these men and women during National Day of Prayer and Remembrance for Mariners and People of the Sea on May 22. He helped lead a virtual national vigil on May 20.

Rhonda Cummins, the maritime associate working with the Diocese of Victoria chapter of Stella Maris in Point Comfort, said things are starting to look up as vaccines become available to seafarers in the hopes that they can end the seemingly endless quarantine at sea. She said it is getting done in some places but there is no consistent supply or organized system right now.

The first vaccines for seafarers in Point Comfort – the one-shot Johnson & Johnson variety – were administered May 17 to citizens of India aboard the Stavenger Pride.

The first recipient was James Vincent, the chief engineer on the ship. Cummins said his vaccine was administered on his arm just above a tattoo of a woman with two children walking along a shoreline. Vincent told Cummins, “This is my family. This is why I do this.”

Because of regulations in India, the crew has not been allowed shore leave, so Cummins reached out to the Port Lavaca Clinic and brought nurses Wendy Talbott and Olda Flores and Dr. John Wright with 12 vaccines to the ship.

During the May 20 vigil, Sister Joanna Okereke, national director of Stella Maris for the USCCB, called for “all hands on deck” to bolster the ministry. The vigil included prayers for seafarers and a sharing of experiences and ideas on ways to grow the ministry that serves the men and women move 90 percent of the goods that are the lifeblood of the economy. The people at sea are often out of sight, out of mind for

See Sending Prayers Asea, pg. 16

Faithful voice for the unborn, Paul Tasin, dies

ELENA WATTS
Special to the Lighthouse

Paul Tasin lived a prayerful life, loved his family and got things done.

For many years, he distributed flyers, wrote letters to the editor of the Victoria Advocate, held signs on street corners, started organizations, organized events, picketed outside clinics and pulled a trailer carrying a huge sign behind his car — all to bring awareness to the importance of protecting the unborn.

Tasin, who was instrumental in building the anti-abortion movement in Victoria, died May 16 at the age of 84.

Tasin was born in San Antonio in a home for unwed mothers, and the Tasins, his foster family, adopted him after 18 months. Missy Dewey, Tasin’s daughter, believed that her father’s early life sparked his love for fighting for the lives of the unborn.

“He could have been aborted, with his mother not being married and having a baby,” Dewey said.

See Faithful voice, pg. 14

Faith formation teachers rise to new challenges

JANET JONES
The Catholic Lighthouse

Switching to a different model for faith formation classes during the peak of the pandemic turned out to be a positive at St. Joseph Catholic Church in Inez, according to Stephanie Charbula, parish catechetical leader for St. Joseph.

“I thought it was really one of the best years,” Charbula said. She has been involved in CCD for six years and said this was a record year for attendance by students, who come once a month for in-person instruction.

And there has been another positive development: “I’ve had more contact with parents than any other year,” Charbula said.

With the good result, she decided to keep the same structure for the coming fall. “I told everyone, ‘I just don’t know how to put that genie back in the bottle now,’” she said.

For the weeks that the learners are not in the classroom, they are given online resources to study independently. Charbula said she was amazed at how many of them worked on their faith formation education when the winter weather prevented schools from opening.

Charbula is also going to offer a class for parents to give them the confidence to help teach at home. She said some worry about their ability to be teachers, but she tells them, “Faith isn’t taught; it’s caught.” In other words, she said, parents who practice their faith are the perfect – and rightful – teachers.

The new way also reinforces that faith development doesn’t happen on Wednesday nights and Sunday mornings only. Charbula

See Faith formation, pg. 16
Dear Brothers and Sisters,

St. John Paul II called for the Feast of the Sacred Heart of Jesus to be a World Day of Prayer for the Sanctification of Priests.

In our diocese this year, I will be joining our priests on June 10 for a time of Eucharistic Adoration and prayer, followed by a dinner together. This prayer will especially focus on our call to holiness, aligning our hearts with the Sacred Heart of Jesus. The Catechism of the Catholic Church (1589) teaches that “the Priesthood is the love of the heart of Jesus,” referencing a quote often used by St. John Vianney.

At the beginning of the Year of the Priest in 2009, Pope Benedict XVI invited the entire Church to pray for holy priests: ‘Hearts afire’

“...Hearts afire:” What a beautiful image for me and my brother priests and bishops for our ministry.

As I’m writing this article, I’m thanking God for the many priestly hearts on fire across our diocese. I’m also asking God for the gift of His presence and consolation for the priestly hearts that are struggling today. As I do so, I know that God is faithful and listens to our prayers.

“One in heart and mind with Jesus,” the community of the priesthood begins in the heart. The heart united to Jesus stores its “treasure” (Matthew 6:21) in the message of hope and salvation for people. As we’re praying for our priests, we can add to our prayer the petition for more men to hear the call to the Catholic priesthood by different paths, and have come to share the same heart afire with the heart and mind of Jesus.

The two men who will be ordained deacons this month have heard that call to the priesthood and with God’s grace will be ordained priests in January 2022. As you will be able to see, they have come to the call to Catholic priesthood by different paths, and have come to share the same heart afire with the heart of Jesus.

May God bless you and your families this month, and may our families be homes where the call to serve the Lord as a consecrated Sister, diocesan priest or religious brother could be heard and encouraged with joy. Let’s keep each other in prayer!

+Brendan

Happy anniversary
On June 29, Bishop Brendan Cahill celebrates the sixth anniversary of his ordination as bishop of the Diocese of Victoria. On May 19, he celebrated 31 years as a priest. (CNS photo)
Welcome, Father

VICTORIA — Bishop Brendan Cahill celebrated an installation Mass for the Rev. Pat Knippenberg at Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Church on May 12. He said, “We celebrate the Lord as our Shepherd. The pastor, in the name of Jesus, serves as the shepherd of our souls on earth.” Father Pat said he was touched by the presence of many parishioners from Lourdes as well as friends from Holy Family, where he served as parochial vicar before his assignment at Lourdes. Bishop Cahill will celebrate installation Masses for the Very Rev. Kirby Hlavaty, newly appointed pastor/rector of The Cathedral of Our Lady of Victory, on June 9 at 5:30 p.m., and the Rev. Greg Korenek as the new pastor at Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary parish in Ganado on June 23 at 6 p.m. (Janet Jones/The Catholic Lighthouse)

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

- Rev. Ty J. Bazar 06/01/2002 Immaculate Conception Church, Goliad
- Rev. Matthew H. Huehlefeld 06/01/1996 St. Joseph Church, Yoakum
- Rev. Roger R. Hawes 06/02/2001 Holy Cross Church, Yorktown
- Rev. Peter Oscar Kofi-Amo 06/04/2016 Our Lady of Guadalupe Church, Bay City
- Rev. Christopher L. Fuchs 06/06/2015 St. Philip Church, El Campo
- Rev. Scott J. Hill 06/06/2015 Our Lady of the Gulf Church, Port Lavaca
- Rev. Gabriel D. Espinosa 06/16/2007 Sacred Heart Church, Hallettsville
- Rev. Michael J. Lyons 06/08/1996 Holy Rosary Church, Victoria
- Rev. George Henninger 06/08/1985 Our Lady of Sorrows Church, Victoria
- Rev. Francis T. Nguyen III 06/06/2015 Holy Cross Church, Yorktown
- Rev. Michael J. Lyons 06/08/1996 Sts. Peter and Paul Church, Frelsburg
- Rev. George Henninger 06/08/1985 St. Philip Church, El Campo
- Rev. Robert E. Knippenberg 06/10/2000 Holy Rosary Church, Hostyn
- Rev. Gabriel D. Espinosa 06/16/2007 Our Lady of the Gulf Church, Bay City
- Rev. Tommy Chen 06/21/2008 Our Lady of Guadalupe Church, Victoria
- Most Rev. Brendan J. Cahill 06/29/2015 Bishop Diocese of Victoria

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

- Rev. Sean Donohue 06/03/1989 Immaculate Conception Church, Goliad
- Rev. Msgr. James C. Brunner 06/04/2010 St. Joseph Church, Yoakum
- Rev. William Halata 06/11/2000 Holy Cross Church, Yorktown
- Rev. Msgr. A.J. Morkovsky 06/11/1990 St. Patrick Church, Bloomington

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

Education of Seminarian Fund

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

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

Lector
Paz & Andrea Morales
in Memory of Father Dan Morales

CDA Court Our Lady of the Court #1190
in Memory of Estelle Heimann

Joe & Sheryl Rhodes
Karen & Jimmie Jedlicka
Alan & Betsy Lockley
Irvin Ullmann
Rebecca McKnight
Marla Martinez
Wadler, Perches, Kerlick
Attorneys at Law
Bob & Debbie Quarles
JC & Liz Grissom
Keith & Amy Ermis
in Memory of Felix & Linda Sopcak

Carol Anders
Hamilton H. Redmon
Charles & Patty Schaar
Rita Anders Kasper
Luis & Linda Rodriguez
in Memory of Msgr. Arnold Anders

CDA Court St. Michael #347, Cuero
in Memory of Msgr. Arnold Anders

Candidate
CDA Court St. Theresa the Little Flower
#1350, Edna

Joe Neskor
in Memory of Msgr. Arnold Anders;
in Honor of Father Tim Kosler
50th Anniversary;
in Honor of Msgr. John Peters

Transitional Deacon
The KJT Catholic Union of Texas

Priest

~

Happy birthday to our seminarians

Philippe Dubourdieu finished Theology 1 at St. Mary’s Seminary in Houston. Philippe’s hometown is Bay City. His birthday is June 2. Write to Philippe at: Diocese of Victoria, PO Box 4070, Victoria, TX 77903

Tran Dinh finished Theology IV at Holy Apostles Seminary in Cromwell, Conn. Tran will be ordained as a transitional deacon on June 12. Tran’s hometown is Palacios. His birthday is June 10. Write to Tran at: St. Mary Church, PO Box 2448, Victoria, TX 77902.

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

Seminary Endowment Fund

Seminary Endowment Fund (formerly known as Seminary Burses) is a permanent fund used for the education of future priests for the Diocese of Victoria. The goal of each burse is $15,000. The interest from this amount is applied yearly to the education of seminarians. The burses are in memory of or in honor of an individual priest or layperson, living or deceased. Publication of the burses will appear periodically when new contributions are received.

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

May 21, 2021

• General Seminary Burse
Lector
In memory of Leroy Lebeda by Joan Prahoda

• Rev. Wayne Flagg and Rev. Philip Brune Seminary Burse
Lector
In memory of Ed Mazoch by Bernice Leihardt
Acolyte
Donation by James and Stacy Goodwyn

• Josephat R. Janak Seminary Burse #2
Lector
In honor of Auxiliary Bishop Gary W. Janak on his 33rd anniversary to the priesthood on May 14, by Rose Marie and Family
Acolyte
In memory of Josephat R. Janak on his son’s honor as Bishop Gary W. Janak by Margaret Kutac

• Rev. Dan Morales Seminary Burse in Honor of his Work for Vocations
Lector
In memory of Mary Duran by Catholic Daughters Court Our Lady of the Sea #2133

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

To contribute to the Education of Seminarian Fund, send contributions to:
Diocese Of Victoria
Education of Seminarian Fund
P. O. Box 4070
Victoria, TX 77903
Blessed are the peacemakers

EDITOR’S NOTE: The following sermon was written for the fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time, Cycle A, and was titled, “The Beatitudes.”

The word Beatitude comes from the Latin word for beatus, which means happy.

The Beatitudes are the different kinds of happiness that come to those who faithfully carry out the teachings of Christ. They represent happiness here and now rather than promise of happiness that is still in the future.

In His teaching, Jesus named nine Beatitudes.

My favorite Beatitude is the happiness of being a peacemaker. There are many kinds of unrest, so there are also many opportunities for peacemaking. Anyone can do it.

Let’s take, for example, the art of dealing with arguments.

One lady used to bring her disagreements to a close gracefully by saying, “You could be right,” meaning, “If you weren’t wrong.”

Others simply say, “I disagree, and here’s why.” This approach often leads the other person to say, “Say, I hadn’t thought of that.”

A desk clerk at a bus station would deal courteously with angry complainers on the phone by saying, “Yes sir,” “Of course,” “Fine, you’re right,” while making scratch pads full of notes that say, “The hell you say,” “The hell you say,” “The hell you say.”

Yes, it takes two to start an argument, but it only takes one to end it.

Another wide-open field for peacemaking is the art of dealing with chronic complaints. Complaints are not arguments, but many of their effects are the same.

So often when ONE individual voices a complaint, others do the same.

Complaining seldom accomplishes anything useful. It has a way of generating ill feelings in those who make the complaints as well as in those who hear them. It spreads disrespect and discontent and often harms someone’s reputation by broadcasting faults that are no one else’s business.

If you want to be a peacemaker in the midst of complaints, there are several things you can do.

First, you can resist the temptation to join in. Even saying, “Ain’t THAT the truth,” can set the stage for more complaints.

Secondly, you can try saying something positive and encouraging like, “Oh, it’ll all work out,” or “Oh, we’ll get it done,” or “We’ve faced worse things than that.”

Thirdly, you can use the time-tested Christian approach of leaving to God those persons and events that are out of control. “We need to pray about it” is a good way to say it.

Today, we have considered only one of the nine Beatitudes, but as Christians we are committed to them all. So this is a fine day to rejoice in the celebration of all nine.

In conclusion, let us consider again the theme with which we began, namely, that as followers of Jesus Christ, we are already possessed of much happiness in this life.

But let us add that our great consolation is that, once our struggles here are over, we will find that the Beatitudes were only a prelude to our final happiness with Him whom we now faithfully serve.

***

Lord Jesus, thank you for teaching us about the happiness we can find in serving you. Help us to practice our faith in you ever more fully. Grant that, after a full measure of happiness in this life, we may find our final happiness with you. Amen.
It’s time to rejoice

It’s a blessed time indeed! We rejoice that we’re getting back to a resemblance of normality, a normality we may not have appreciated adequately before we had lost it during the pandemic.

Let us together praise God for a decrease of COVID-19 while remembering with gratitude all those who served so persistently and valiantly in the health care and service areas and those who worked so diligently to develop vaccines to help control this pernicious virus.

Let us continue to practice recommended precautions to safeguard others and ourselves while remembering all those who have lost their lives, or their health, or livelihoods during this trying time. And let us be thankful for the relief that we are experiencing.

Now let us focus on all those who have had and continue to have “dad” roles in our lives and all those who influence society through their lives of fidelity to their spouses, families and neighbors. Let us all imitate St. Joseph who played a quiet dependable role as a foster father to Jesus.

The Bible doesn’t tell us much about Joseph except in important events in his life when he immediately followed divine manifestations of God’s will. However, we know of his love of God, so we honor and imitate him especially during this year of St. Joseph as proclaimed by Pope Francis.

At times like this, it’s normal to look at what is happening in the church with its numerous calls to advance in our lifetime journey towards greater union with God. We look at the new saints approved by our Pope and think about their journeys on this earth. Great! They and all the saints in heaven, named and unnamed, manifested their love by giving their lives, adhering to God’s plan.

They’re not the only ones. Just look around and see examples of heroism and fidelity living among us. Many around us are faithfully living lives of great love and sacrifice for their children and their neighbors. All of us need to open our eyes to recognize God’s mission being accomplished through their lives and prayers so that we can draw inspiration and encouragement from them.

If we open our spiritual eyes we can so often see signs God’s action among us. For example, every day as the candles in our chapel are extinguished after Mass, I watch the smoke that wafts upward. I think of it as representing my prayer and actions spiraling up towards God. However, sometimes a draft is blowing and the smoke is directed sideways until it dissipates. Could this represent distractions that disrupt the trajectories of my actions and prayers?

Let’s all direct our lives in such a way that expresses gratitude for God’s response to prayer, and may we continue to live the lives of sanctity to which we are all called.

And to all of you dads: Happy Father’s Day!

Happy Father’s Day to all Fathers, Godfathers and anyone who took the place in someone’s life as a ‘Father'
HR staff glad to be on the road again

MELISSA SALINAS  
Human Resources Director for the Diocese of Victoria

As 2021 began, the pandemic was still very active in our diocese, so we were unsure if travel would be allowed to the parishes and schools during our annual benefit open enrollment period that allows members to review coverage and add or drop dependents or coverage which occurs each May.

Marie Garcia, diocesan human resources assistant, and I were optimistic that we would have the opportunity to visit each of our benefit-eligible staff members when the time came.

We began preparing in March to determine our final coverage providers for medical, prescription, dental, vision, life insurance, and the wellness programs and the fees associated for the locations and the employee payroll deduction amounts.

In April, during the school principal meeting at the chancery, we discussed our possible travel plans to their schools and wanted their feedback and were hopeful they would agree.

They happily agreed to our on-site visits and provided us feasible dates for group meetings or one-on-one meetings based on their end-of-year school calendar.

Marie and I began scheduling our on-site visits for the parishes, deaneries and schools and also produced approximately 425 personalized benefit packets for the DOV priests, benefit-eligible lay staff and our payroll/benefit location administrators.

The outreach and networking with our location staff is paramount as insurance language such as deductibles, out-of-pocket expenses, and in/out of network providers may be cumbersome, and we want to ensure that we are a resource for them in their time of need or medical life change event.

The annual benefit open enrollment period was held from May 4 through May 27. During this time, Marie and I traveled 16 days to 53 locations (parishes and schools) totaling 1,325 miles and met with approximately 385 benefit-eligible staff.

The DOV is very blessed for the many parishioners and benefactors who graciously donate through the annual Diocesan Services Appeal (DSA), weekly parish collections, and other avenues that provide church and school staff with funds to cover the cost for employee-only medical coverage.

We thank the parishes and schools for their generosity and hospitality during our on-site meetings with the staff. We are grateful for the opportunity to build our relationships with the locations as we provide guidance and assistance as needed.

That’s a wrap for the 2021-22 open enrollment road show. … Until next time.

You may view the video of our visited locations at: www.victoriadiocese.org/human-resources.

State poetry winner

WEIMAR — Emma Koeth, a sixth-grade student at St. Michael Catholic School in Weimar, receives a first-place award in Division 2 Poetry at the state level in the Catholic Daughters of the Americas Education Contest. District 11 Deputy Janet Purdy, representing Court 359, presented the award. Her poem will go on to the national level of competition. (Contributed Photo)
WEIMAR – Join Hands Day, a national day celebrated each year to unite the older generation with the younger generation in a day of volunteering, turned into a two-day event this year for St. Michael Catholic School and Catholic Life.

Catholic Life Branch #5 coordinated two projects, beginning with the prayer garden outside of St. Michael Catholic Church. Local ladies from the Master Gardeners had been taking care of the garden, but the snowstorm in February froze most of their shrubs and plants.

For Join Hands Day, St. Michael students were on hand to assist as flowerbeds were cleaned and replanted with shrubs, roses and flowers. They did the project just before Easter so families could enjoy the prayer garden and take photos there after weekend Masses.

The second part of Join Hands Day happened April 21 outside of St. Michael Catholic School when branch officers from Catholic Life joined junior high students and teachers to give the front flowerbeds a face-lift. Students helped with weeding and pulling out shrubs that also froze in the winter storm; then new plants and mulch were added.
Top Grads for Catholic High Schools

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE 2021 TOP GRADUATES OF OUR CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOLS IN THE DIOCESE OF VICTORIA.

St. Joseph High School
Victoria

Reed Rivera, Valedictorian, son of Dr. David and Mary Rivera
He plans to attend
Texas A&M University, College Station

Maiya Tillman, Salutatorian, daughter of Katherine Limoges and Dr. Tywaun Tillman
She plans to attend
Stanford University, California

Jenna Eastham, Historian, daughter of Donald and Amy Eastham
She plans to attend
Fordham University, New York

St. Paul High School
Shiner

Braden Clampit, Valedictorian, son of Rusty and Melissa Clampit
He plans to attend
Texas A&M University, College Station

Tristin Davis, Salutatorian, daughter of Garrick and Jennifer Davis
She plans to attend
Texas A&M University, College Station

Jane Twyford, Historian, daughter of Kevin and Wendi Twyford
She plans to attend
Christendom College, Virginia

Sacred Heart High School
Hallettsville

Abigail Clark, Valedictorian, daughter of John Paul and Shanna Clark
She plans to attend
Texas A&M University, College Station

Elizabeth Ventura, Salutatorian, daughter of Victor and Mary Ventura
She plans to attend
Texas A&M University, College Station

Ronald Ridgeway, III, Historian, son of Ronald and Misti Ridgeway
He plans to attend
Texas A&M University, College Station
First Communion celebrated

YOAKUM – The Very Rev. Matthew Huehlefeld is pictured with two groups of children who celebrated their First Communion at St. Joseph Catholic Church on May 2. (Contributed Photos)

Catholic Daughters give education awards

SCHULENBURG – Catholic Daughters of Court St. Rose presented award certificates to Education Contest winners from St. Rose of Lima Catholic School recently.

Essay winners in Division 1 are Miranda Bonner (first at state competition), first place; Ashtyn Schaefer, second; and Layne Besetzny, third. Essay winners in Division 2 are Claire Oeding (third at state), first place; Kenna Oliver, second; and Reagan Dusek, third.

Poetry contest winners in Division 1 are Bo Brossmann (first at state); first place; Reese Dusek, second; and Allen Ballard, third. Division 2 poetry winners are Marcus Seger (third at state), first place; Landry Zapalac, second; and Denim Sommer, third.

Art contest winners for Division 1 are Courtney Magliolo, first; Bo Brossmann, second; and Will Taylor, third. Division 2 art winners are Madison Kunschick (second at state), first; Cheyenne Henneke, second; and Morgan Steinhauser, third.

May blooms for Mary

YORKTOWN — Lilly Francis, daughter of Sam and Jaclyn Fogelle, on the day of her baptism, had the privilege of crowning the Blessed Virgin Mary with flowers. There were eight baptisms the same weekend at Holy Cross Catholic Church. Lilly also made her First Communion on May 9 with 11 other communicants. The church celebrated a Consecration to St. Joseph on May 1 as well. “May is filled with celebrations of Mary and sacraments,” stated Helen Mikus, church secretary. “What a beautiful way to celebrate springtime and our Heavenly Mother Mary!”

KC Family of the Year

The Knights of Columbus Council #2490 from El Campo were excited to find out that the Lynn and Janice Cox Family received the honor of State Family of the Year for 2020. This is the seventh family from Council #2490 in the past 19 years that have been received this honor.

Congratulations to all students as they complete another school year. Check the July edition of The Catholic Lighthouse for more end-of-the year award announcements.
Queridos hermanos y hermanas,
San Juan Pablo II pidió que la Fiesta del Sagrado Corazón de Jesús sea una Jornada Mundial de Oración por la Santificación de los Sacerdotes.

En nuestra diócesis este año me uniré a nuestros sacerdotes el 10 de junio para un tiempo de adoración Eucarística y oración, seguido de una cena juntos.

Esta oración se centrará especialmente en nuestro llamado a la santidad, alineando nuestro corazón con el Sagrado Corazón de Jesús. El Catecismo de la Iglesia Católica (1589) enseña que “el sacerdocio es el amor del corazón de Jesús”, haciendo referencia a una cita de uso frecuente de San Juan Vianney.

Al comienzo del Año Sacerdotal en 2009, el Papa Benedicto XVI invitó a toda la Iglesia a orar por los santos sacerdotes: “La Iglesia necesita sacerdotes santos; ministros capaces de ayudar a los fieles a experimentar el amor misericordioso del Señor y testigos convenciados de ese amor. En la Adoración Eucarística que sigue a nuestra celebración de las Vísperas, pidamos al Señor que encienda el corazón de cada sacerdote con esa ‘caridad pastoral’ que puede hacerlo uno en corazón y mente con Jesús el Sumo Sacerdote, y así imitar a Jesús en completa entrega de sí mismo”.

“Corazones ardiendo en llamas”: Qué hermosa imagen para mí y mis hermanos sacerdotes y obispos para nuestro ministerio. Mientras escribo este artículo, agradezco a Dios por los muchos corazones sacerdotales ardiendo en llamas en toda nuestra diócesis. También le pido a Dios el don de su presencia y el consuelo para los corazones sacerdotales que hoy luchan. Al hacerlo, sé que Dios es fiel y escucha nuestras oraciones.

“Uno en corazón y mente con Jesús”, la comunidad del sacerdocio comienza en el corazón. El corazón unido a Jesús almacena su “tesoro” (Mateo 6:21) en el mensaje de esperanza y salvación para las personas. Mientras oramos por nuestros sacerdotes, podemos agregar a nuestra oración la petición de que más hombres escuchen el llamado al sacerdocio y ofrezcan su corazón por la salvación de las almas.

Los dos hombres que serán ordenados diáconos este mes han escuchado ese llamado al sacerdocio y con la gracia de Dios serán ordenados sacerdotes en enero de 2022.

Como podrán ver, han llegado al llamado al sacerdocio católico por diferentes caminos, y hemos venido a compartir el mismo corazón ardiente con el corazón y la mente de Jesús.

Que Dios los bendiga a ustedes y a sus familias este mes, y que nuestras familias sean hogares donde el llamado a servir al Señor como Hermanas consagradas, sacerdotes diocesanos, o Hermanos religiosos pueda ser escuchado y animado con alegría.

¡Mantengamos el uno al otro en oración!

+Brendan

Día de reflexión
El 1 de mayo de 2021, la oficina diocesana del Ministerio Hispano celebró su primera conferencia bilingüe en la Iglesia Católica Our Lady of the Gulf en Port Lavaca. Este fue un día de reflexión para las mujeres de la diócesis y por ser el año de San José, él fue elegido como tema. Aldo Camacho, coordinador del ministerio hispano de la Diócesis de Victoria y la hermana Ma. del Rosario Resendez, IWBS presentaron simultáneamente diferentes reflexiones sobre San José, ya sea en inglés o en español, y luego presentaron nuevamente en el otro idioma para que todas las damas presentes recibieran ambos mensajes en su idioma preferido. Cerca del final del día de reflexión, el padre Tommy Chen y la Hermana Rosario (en la foto aquí) llevaron a cabo un foro de preguntas y respuestas para las invitadas. A pesar de que hubo mucha lluvia e inundaciones ese día, no impidió que el evento tuviera éxito y oramos por el éxito de los eventos que están por venir. Consulte nuestra página web y nuestros medios de comunicación sociales para mantenerse informado sobre las próximas conferencias: https://www.victoriadiocese.org/hispanic-ministry
CUERO – The Cuero Knights of Columbus presented the Rev. Jasper Liggio a plaque in appreciation for his service as pastor of St. Michael Catholic Church from 2017 to 2021. They also presented a gift to seminarian Luke Prihoda who served this past year at the church. Father Liggio, who also served the Cuero KCs as chaplain, is leaving the church to assume the role of spiritual director for St. Mary’s Seminary in Houston, and Prihoda is heading to Lubbock to continue his education in hospital chaplaincy at Covenant Health System Hospital, and then returning to St. Mary’s Seminary in Houston in the fall. Bill Morrow, Cuero Knights of Columbus Grand Knight is pictured presenting the award and gift. (Contributed photos)

Sunday Readings from June 6 - July 11

June 6 ~ The Solemnity of the Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ
- Exodus 24:3-8
- Psalms 116:12-13, 15-16, 17-18
- Hebrews 9:11-15
- Mark 14:12-16, 22-26

June 13 ~ Eleventh Sunday in Ordinary Time
- Ezekiel 17:22-24
- Psalms 92:2-3, 13-14, 15-16
- 2 Corinthians 5:6-10
- Mark 4:26-34

June 20 ~ Twelfth Sunday in Ordinary Time
- Job 38:1-8, 11
- Psalms 107:23-24, 25-26, 28-29, 30-31
- 2 Corinthians 5:14-17
- Mark 4:35-41

June 27 ~ Thirteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time
- Psalms 30:2, 4, 5-6, 11, 12, 13
- 2 Corinthians 8:7, 9, 13-15
- Mark 5:21-43 or 5:21-24, 35b-43

July 4 ~ Fourteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time
- Ezekiel 2:2-5
- Psalms 123:1-2, 2, 3-4
- 2 Corinthians 12:7-10
- Mark 6:1-6

July 11 ~ Fifteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time
- Amos 7:12-15
- Psalms 85:9-10, 11-12, 13-14
- Ephesians 1:3-14
- Mark 6:7-13

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

Safe Environment

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

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

and

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

or

- Bishop or Chancellor of the Diocese of Victoria, (361) 573-0828 Written allegations can be mailed to Office of the Bishop P.O. Box 4070 Victoria, TX 77903 marked “Personal and Confidential”

If sexual abuse by a member of clergy has occurred in another diocese, the Diocese of Victoria will help bring your concerns to church officials. For assistance contact Vicki Pyatt at (361) 827-7186 or pastoralcare@victoriadiocese.org.

Pathways with Patti

Islands of New England
Sept. 16 - 23, 2021
See Website or call for a brochure
Sign-up Ends Soon

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(361) 552.2695 or (361) 920.3216
email: zkmmnt@tisd.net
www.pathwayswithpatti.com
We are still celebrating the Year of St. Joseph, and what a great day on Father’s Day we have to honor this beloved saint.

St. Joseph is our spiritual father. Without him, it’s possible we would not have Jesus. Some call him “the savior of the savior” as he led the Blessed Virgin Mary and Jesus out of Egypt to avoid King Herod’s decree to kill all first-born children.

As St. Madeleine Sophie Barat said, “Jesus wished to become indebted to St. Joseph for the necessities of life, and of this holy patriarch alone it may be said that he saved the life of his Savior.”

We, too, are indebted to St. Joseph. We have much for which to thank him, and it can be easy to take this “silent saint” for granted, as we never hear him speak in the Gospels. But his witness was powerful in his actions described throughout the Bible.

Blessed William Joseph Chaminade said, “We wonder why the Gospel makes so little mention of St. Joseph. But did it not say everything when it taught us that he was the husband of Mary?”

What true words. St. Joseph was chosen by God to protect the Holy Family. What more do we need to know?

I’d like to offer a few suggestions on practical ways to honor St. Joseph on Father’s Day. I plan on practicing this with my own family.

First, say some of the traditional prayers to St. Joseph as a family. You can find these by a simple online search, but some of the classics include the Memorare to St. Joseph, the Litany of St. Joseph, and the St. Joseph Chaplet.

Second, make a pilgrimage to a religious site dedicated to St. Joseph. We are blessed to have five churches named after him in our diocese – in Boling, Inez, Moulton, Port O’Connor and Yoakum. Perhaps you can attend Mass there on Father’s Day, or simply stop by to take a picture as a family and recite one or more of the prayers mentioned above.

Third, watch a show or movie featuring St. Joseph, but choose carefully. Some portray him in a not-so-positive light, and this may be because of the theological foundation of these films. Not all Christian denominations hold St. Joseph in such high esteem as we do as Catholics. But some that portray him well include “The Chosen” (He makes a brief appearance in Season 1, Episode 5.) and “Joseph of Nazareth” available on formed.org.

If you want more information about St. Joseph and resources to foster a greater devotion to him, I recommend visiting yearofstjoseph.org. There you will find quotes, devotions, and more.

I pray this short article has helped you consider the ways you and your loved ones can honor St. Joseph on Father’s Day. May it become a new tradition in all homes, taking time on this day each year to honor this glorious saint.

“Devotion to St. Joseph is one of the choicest graces that God can give to a soul, for it is tantamount to revealing the entire treasury of our Lord’s graces. When God wishes to raise a soul to greater heights, he unites it to St. Joseph by giving it a strong love for the good saint.” – St. Peter Julian Eymard.

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.
Faithful voice for the unborn, Paul Tasin, dies

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Her father’s greatest legacy is his family. He was married to his wife, Marjorie Tasin, for 56 years, and they had three children, Dewey, Trevor Tasin and Holly Seesholtz, and 13 grandchildren. Paul Tasin graduated from St. Joseph High School in 1956. He was Lutheran before he converted to Catholicism at the age of 18.

“His legacy first and foremost is our family. He loved the family and showing his love to us and my mother,” Dewey said.

Trevor Tasin said his father was always full of joy and never lost his temper. He also never gave up on anybody. For example, a family friend’s child was in jail, and Paul Tasin visited the child every day to preach the love of God. That child turned his life around and his parents were forever grateful for Tasin’s help.

In the ’80s and ’90s, Paul Tasin also experienced time in jail for blocking entrances to abortion mills. “After he was in jail, he continued evangelizing to the prisoners,” his son said.

Seesholtz said her father not only talked the talk but walked the walk. The life lessons he left behind involve faith, family and loving one another. He also taught his children that what everyone else does is not always right. “That’s who he was. He was not out to be rich or have the most possessions,” Seesholtz said. “He was all about — God will take care of me and God will take care of my family.”

Dewey believes her father would want to be remembered as a loving, faith-filled man who always had a joke or story to tell and was fearless in proclaiming God’s love.

Barbara McCain-Williams remembers holding up anti-abortion signs near the H-E-B on Rio Grande with Paul Tasin. Tasin believed that abortion is murder, and he was well known for his many letters to the editor in the Victoria Advocate stating such. He composed his first anti-abortion letter to the editor in 1968.

Tasin, McCain-Williams, Emily Yeary and Dorothy Statthis started the Gabriel Project, a nonprofit organization that helps women through crisis pregnancies. “He and his wife were a big support system for the Gabriel Project,” McCain-Williams said. “And he stuck by it all these years.”

When the foursome first started the nonprofit, Tasin offered encouragement when the endeavor became tough, McCain-Williams said. He helped the others stay positive and focused.

McCain-Williams noted that sometimes people let their causes fall by the wayside as time passes, but Tasin always remained a strong anti-abortion advocate.

Tasin believed in life from conception to natural death, and he was against the use of contraception. He did not sugarcoat anything, and in his advocacy, he sometimes displayed images of aborted babies that angered some people. McCain-Williams said.

Tasin was very diligent in his research and knew his facts, and McCain-Williams said she would turn to him for help when she needed information.

More than 30 years ago, Tasin and a small group of others formed Lifew Family Advocates, which started hosting the annual anti-abortion candlelight marches and the Life Chain events in Victoria. He was editor for the Life and Family Advocates newsletter. “I feel in my heart that it’s people like him who get things done and make a difference,” McCain-Williams said.

Bernie and Robert Seale said Tasin was determined, passionate about his beliefs and outspoken. Tasin and his wife served as role models when the Seales started the St. Gianna Pro-Life Ministry at Holy Family Church.

Bernie Seale called the Tasins a “beautiful couple.” She said they just went hand-in-hand and always supported each other.

Tasin also held up graphic signs with images of aborted babies at the corner of Main and Rio Grande streets, which some people did not like, Bernie Seale said. “He stood there no matter what and shined a light on abortion and what it was,” she said.

• Elena Watts is a reporter for The Victoria Advocate

The Chancery will be closed
Monday, July 5

The Chancery will resume normal hours
Tuesday, July 6
at 8:30 a.m.
**Retrouvaille** meaning “rediscovery,” is a marriage-healing ministry offered in the diocese to couples experiencing separation or divorce. For more information, please contact the Office of Family Evangelization at 361-573-0828 x 2265. Before attending a meeting please call ahead to verify that the meeting is being held.

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**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.

**Courage** – Ministers to persons with same-sex attractions and their loved ones. The ministry also has an outreach, EnCourage, which ministers to relatives, spouses, and friends of persons with same-sex attractions. It is a Roman Catholic Apostolate endorsed by the Pontifical Council for the Family. For information, visit http://www.courage4net.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.

**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.

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**What’s on the web?**

**Weekly Wednesday Webchats** Each week Justin Reyes, director of Family Services, posts an interview with someone in our diocese. 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/UGR46RC739AntJp8. 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.walkingwithmoms.com.

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**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: 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. Convant. Light supper included. For angel workshop/training dates, contact Lisa Kainer at 361-676-3264 or lisa_hayesquierdo@yahoo.com; DeWitt County meetings have changed: For meetings, or to 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.

**id9:16 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 amormeux@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 CREIGHTON MODEL Fertility Care System (CrMS) featuring NaPro TECHNOLOGY™ contact Susanne Koch in Wharton at 505-710-9003 or mailto:susannekoch614@gmail.com. Also in the Cuero area contact, Ashley Rodriguez at 361-293-0700 or e-mail ashleyray09@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.raphelsrefuge.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 jbvjo@sbcglobal.net or 361-580-2770; or call 800-470-2230; or visit http://www.helpourmarriage.org
Faith formation teachers rise to new challenges

Continued from pg. 1

said. It is something that families should be doing at home more often.

Christella Alvarez, director of Catechetical Ministry for the Diocese of Victoria agrees that having more parents involved is a win and the COVID year forced PCLs to work more closely with parents and families. “Some PCLs even said it was like a refresher for the parents,” she said.

However, some parish catechetical leaders (PCLs) are more than ready to get back to the normal weekly in-person class, Alvarez said. It wasn’t the right structure for everyone to learn, because not everyone is set up with ideal technology for virtual learning or don’t get enough support from their parents.

Patsy Krenek, PCL for Holy Cross in East Bernard said she is hoping to go back to face-to-face classes for all students this fall. This past year, only second-graders preparing for First Communion and high-school students did face-to-face classes while others were given online lessons. Each catechist had a church-assigned e-mail address to keep in touch with parents.

Some students and parents did work above and beyond what was required. Unfortunately, Krenek said, others’ enthusiasm for doing the lessons waned too quickly and many did none of the work online. Many parents didn’t respond to e-mails from the catechists either.

The lack of participation in the different format, Krenek said, makes her wonder if people will come back in the fall. “When you break your habits, it’s a hard thing to get re-established,” she said.

Overall, according to Alvarez, most PCLs were pleased that they did not lose as many students as they thought they might because of the pandemic. “One thing that is for certain, not even the Covid-19 pandemic can stop the Holy Spirit from touching the hearts of God’s people,” she said.

land-locked consumers, but are essential in providing necessities to all nations.

Cahill, who is bishop promoter for Stella Maris in the U.S., said it’s his calling is to reach out to other bishops and encourage them to help by availing priests and/or financial resources to the seafarer ministry. He said many people who might be involved in other ministries are not aware of the work being done at the ports by the few who are dedicated to the ministry.

Ministers who attended the virtual vigil agreed that there is definitely a need to become better organized in working with port authorities and other groups who work in and around the industry.

The Rev. Father Bruno Ciceri, international director of Stella Maris at the Vatican, gave a recorded talk to the participants, thanking Bishop Cahill for his work as well as the work of chaplains and all friends of Stella Maris. He said Stella Maris started in Scotland more than 100 years ago and now serves all over the world, offering counseling and material and spiritual support. Despite a year of not being able to meet seafarers in person, they have always been in the hearts of the maritime ministers. “Let’s not be discouraged and be inspired by the original mission of the founders – to reveal Christ to them.”

Sister Okereke said that the ministry, for her, calls to mind the words of St. Teresa of Avila that “Christ has no body but yours” and that Stella Maris partners must be the hands, feet and eyes of Christ for the seafarers.

Bishop Cahill offered thanks to God for the chaplains and for their presence and those who support their presence: “I honor all the